

Summary Report

DCMC 'Oceans and Climate Change'

Monday, April 6th, 2009

The Inter-American Development Bank hosted the April DC Marine Community (DCMC) meeting on 'Oceans and Climate Change'. It was also the largest DCMC meeting to date, with over 85 participants from numerous organizations, including IUCN, NOAA, EPA, USAID, GEF, World Bank, US State Department, UNEP, TNC, CI, WWF, MCBI, Oceana, Ocean Conservancy, WCS, WRI, and many others.

After a brief opening by IUCN Marine Program Officer Jennifer Palmer, the IUCN presented 'Oceans and Climate Change,' its initiative to launch a publication highlighting the impacts of climate change on the ocean, the consequences for marine ecosystems, and the vulnerable people that could be affected by these changes. Thomas Laughlin, Deputy Head of IUCN's Global Marine Program, explained that the purpose of this project is to fill a gap in consideration of important ocean issues that the marine community identifies in most discussions of climate mitigation and adaptation. Specifically, he identified the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), convening in Copenhagen this December, as a potential target for the publication. Other potential targets identified include the IPCC, scientific advisors to these diplomats, other UN agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and regional and national players who will implement mitigation and adaptation strategies, directly. Following this introduction, Dorothee Herr, IUCN Marine Program Assistant, presented the workings of the draft document, which had been made available to all DCMC members during the previous week. Dorothee discussed the document's structure, highlighted specific policy/management recommendations that should be stressed, and pointed out potential holes that DCMC expertise was encouraged to fill.

Three short talks on climate-related ocean issues followed IUCN's presentation. Bill Eichbaum (WWF, VP for Arctic and Marine Policy) presented 'An Arctic perspective on the impacts of global climate change;' Ellycia Harrould-Kolieb (Oceana, Science Fellow) presented 'Acid Test- Can we save our oceans from CO₂?;' and Giuseppe Di Carlo (Conservation International, Manager Marine Climate Change) summarized CI's work, 'Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Biodiversity and Associated Human well-being in the Galapagos Islands.'

The floor was then opened up to the full DCMC group to comment on IUCN's working paper and the potential outcomes and audiences. Comments can be grouped as follows:

- 1) Inclusion of topics that were not sufficiently covered in the existing draft document, e.g. ocean acidification's implications on noise propagation;
- 2) Onshore climate change impacts and their effect on the oceans, e.g., melting glaciers;
- 3) Impacts of marine climate change and links to other anthropogenic impacts, such as eutrophication;
- 4) Need to summarize action points in a conclusive manner at the end of each chapter;
- 5) Economic issues should strongly be incorporated into the report. Especially given that Copenhagen will concentrate on economic issues of climate change and economic issues resonate best with policy makers.

IUCN extends further external comments to be submitted until **April 23th**. IUCN's tentative timeline for this project is found below.

Future steps in Elaboration of IUCN Working Document, 'Oceans and Climate Change'

Over the next several weeks, external comments will be reviewed and included in the future draft. Potential project partners will also be identified. Over the summer, each section of the document will be completed. A final draft of the full document will be circulated to the DCMC by September 2009. At that time, members and partners can make the decision to endorse the document. The final publication will be made available by November and officially launched at a side-event in Copenhagen in December 2009.

IUCN 'Oceans and Climate Change' Time line 2009

April /May

- Review and consideration of comments
- Identification of external experts
- Identification and discussion of further policy apertures for UNFCCC process

June/July/August

- Coordination of and collaboration with partners and experts will aid to further develop the paper and highlight specific actions
- Provide information to the IPCC AR5 Scoping Meeting in July (13th – 17th) in Venice, Italy

September

- Final draft text made available and opened for endorsement by NGOs and others

November

- Final publication available

December

- Official launch at UNFCCC COP15 Copenhagen, Denmark

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