

---

Draft for Australian submission in response to CBD Notification 2009-159:  
Request for submissions of views and information on the proposals for new and  
emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

---

This submission provides Australia's initial views on the identification of potential new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

It was noted that a total of 24 submissions were received in response to notifications 2008-083 and 2008-084, listed at <http://www.cbd.int/convention/emerging.shtml>, and a total of five proposals were made available for review based on their use of justification in accordance with paragraph 11 of decision IX/29. Namely, the following proposals from the United Kingdom Global Biodiversity Sub Committee, titled Ocean acidification, Arctic Biodiversity, and Impact of ground level ozone on biological diversity; the proposal from the Royal Society titled Impact of ground level ozone on biological diversity; and the proposal from the Okeanos Foundation and Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society titled Marine Protected Areas and Undersea Noise.

Australia has reviewed the proposals in the context of the Conference of the Parties decision IX/29, taking into account their guidance for proposals (paragraph 11) and the criteria to use (paragraph 12) regarding the identification of potential new and emerging issues. Australia considers that the issues outlined in the proponents' submissions do not provide a case for further consideration for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

#### **Impact of ground level ozone on biological diversity**

Australia considers this issue, as outlined in the proponents' submissions, would be more relevant and appropriate in other fora, such as the Montreal Protocol and UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution working group, given the bundled nature of cross-cutting issues for human health, environment and biodiversity from ozone as well as other air and ground pollution.

#### **Marine Protected Areas and Undersea Noise**

TBA – based on Marine/Cetaceans comments.

#### **Arctic Biodiversity**

Australia considers this issue, as outlined in the proponent's submission, does not provide a case for further consideration for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. UNFCCC is the best forum to assess Arctic marine ecosystem and carbon cycle response to future rapid climate change.

#### **Ocean Acidification**

Australia considers this issue, as outlined in the proponent's submission, does not provide a case for further consideration for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The role of atmospheric carbon dioxide in ocean acidification suggests UNFCCC is the more appropriate forum.

---

### Background (for internal use only)

The decision IX/29 the Conference of the Parties includes guidance on the procedure to incorporate (section B, paragraph 11) and the criteria to use (section B, paragraph 12) in the identification of potential new and emerging issues.

In accordance with this decision, the Executive Secretary issued a notification for submissions in July 2008. As of 19 November 2009, nine proponents had provided submissions: four from government (UK, Mexico, Iran, Suriname), UNESCO, two from research organisations (UK, Canada), and from an agribusiness organisation (Colombia), and a joint proposal from 2 NGOs (international and Germany).

As multiple submissions were provided by most proponents, there are a total of 24 documents outlining proposed issues. Only 5 proposals which were accompanied by a detailed justification in accordance with paragraph 11 of decision IX/29 were made accessible through the CBD website by the SCBD.

United Kingdom Global Biodiversity Sub Committee	15-Dec-08	Ocean acidification
United Kingdom Global Biodiversity Sub Committee	15-Dec-08	Arctic Biodiversity
United Kingdom Global Biodiversity Sub Committee	15-Dec-08	Impact of ground level ozone on biological diversity
Royal Society	19-Dec-08	Impact of ground level ozone on biological diversity
Okeanos Foundation and Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society	23-Nov-09	Marine Protected Areas and Undersea Noise

### Decision IX/29 – paras 11 and 12

11. Decides that proposals for emerging issues should, where possible, be accompanied with information on:

- (a) Why the issue needs urgent attention by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (including how it impacts biodiversity);
- (b) How it affects the attainment of the objectives of the Convention (citing relevant articles);
- (c) Thematic programmes of work and/or cross-cutting issues that could contribute to the resolution of the issue;
- (d) Work already under way by relevant organizations addressing the issue; and
- (e) Credible sources of information, preferably from peer-reviewed articles;

12. Further decides that the following criteria should be used for identifying new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- (a) Relevance of the issue to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its existing programmes of work;
- (b) New evidence of unexpected and significant impacts on biodiversity;
- (c) Urgency of addressing the issue/imminence of the risk caused by the issue to the effective implementation of the Convention as well as the magnitude of actual and potential impact on biodiversity;
- (d) Actual geographic coverage and potential spread, including rate of spread, of the identified issue relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (e) Evidence of the absence or limited availability of tools to limit or mitigate the negative impacts of the identified issue on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (f) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on human well-being;
- (g) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on productive sectors and economic well-being as related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

13. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review and discuss the proposals and, as appropriate, identify new and emerging issues and elaborate a scientific and technical analysis with options for action for consideration and to submit this analysis to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration;

---

Quick Notes (internal use only)

Okeanos Foundation and Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society  
Submission in response to notification 2008-083 and 084 on 23-Nov-09  
**Marine Protected Areas and Undersea Noise**

This joint NGO submission was submitted after the 31 October 2009 deadline .....it maintains that the impacts of noise on marine life can threaten biodiversity, food security, sustainable use, and conservation. It focuses on the use of MPAs in managing for ocean noise as a mechanism to protect marine life from noise impacts if they incorporate this into their management.

Furthermore, the point is made that passive acoustic monitoring can be a cost-effective means to detect trends in marine animal distribution and noise levels, to study the impacts of noise on marine animals, to correlate noise levels with population and ecosystem health.

It also raises in one sentence the issue of ocean acidification issue suggesting this also could contribute to greater transmission of sound over greater distances

DRAFT