



## Assembly

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### **Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of Conservation International**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

1. On 12 April 2012, Conservation International submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter with the additional information provided by the applicant is contained in the annex to the present note. Additional information provided is circulated separately in the language of submission.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly, and upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the secretariat in the quantities and languages in which the statements are submitted.



## Annex

### **Letter dated 12 April 2012 from Sebastian Troëng, Vice-President, Global Marine Division of Conservation International**

1. In accordance with part XVI, Observers, rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, Conservation International (CI) is seeking to participate in meetings of the International Seabed Authority as an observer.
2. CI approaches its activities in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction through three types of partnerships, in the areas of Knowledge, Finance/Business, and Communications. Currently, CI is partnering with the United Nations Environment Programme Global Resource Information Database (UNEP-GRID)-Arendal to support capacity-building and enhancing understanding of marine ecosystems and resources, including of the international seabed area, and to secure effective management outcomes, including through implementation of international agreements.
3. In 2012, CI, Geoscience Australia, and UNEP-GRID-Arendal will complete a project to integrate scientific knowledge generated over the past 30 years and produce a new Global Seabed Geomorphology map based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Etopo-1 data set. The work will also produce an inventory of features classified by the International Hydrographic Organization, which can also be used with regional and biogeographic classifications. This map, which covers all seabed areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, will be used, inter alia, for the United Nations regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects. The map will provide a Geographic Information System (GIS) base layer that can underpin a more complete understanding of work being undertaken globally, regionally and locally, and contribute to capacity-building and knowledge transfer.
4. Further work is planned through a Global Ocean Habitats project — involving the editors of “Seafloor Geomorphology as Benthic Habitat — GEOHAB Atlas of Seafloor Geomorphic Features and Benthic Habitats” (2012); as well as a complementary project to map possible contributions that potential energy, living and non-living marine resources can make to sustainable development and the achievement of a “green economy in a blue world”, as well as assessing impacts of global change. These maps and projects will develop GIS information and data, which can be used for analysis (including gap identification) and synthesis, to inform management processes and communicate more widely the value of the natural capital, ecosystems, goods and services of the oceans.
5. This work will also inform the implementation of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO), announced by the President of the World Bank at the World Oceans Summit, held from 22 to 24 February 2012 in Singapore. The work of GPO and CI in areas beyond national jurisdiction will continue to be developed in the run-up to and beyond the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Participation in meetings of the International Seabed Authority would comprise a key element of that development, and CI would therefore like to request observer status at relevant meetings.
6. CI hopes that the International Seabed Authority will agree that the contributions to developing understanding and capacity-building for cooperation on

matters of common interest and effective management, identified herein, are worthwhile initiatives, and looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Authority and States parties and to the work of competent regional organizations and other competent international organizations and competent bodies.

7. Conservation International respectfully requests that its application to be granted observer status in the International Seabed Authority be considered at the Authority's next session, in 2012. CI would like to nominate Jonas Rüpp, Director, Marine Policy — High Seas Issues, as the CI representative at meetings of the International Seabed Authority.

*(Signed)* Sebastian **Troëng**  
Vice-President, Global Marine Division

  

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