

## *WWF statement/reply to LTC ISA 23*

**Thank you Mr President,**

**Thanks LTC chair**

Our comments refer to paras 27-through to 30 regarding data management and EMPs.

Regarding Environmental Base line data, although we are pleased to see the development of the data mgt strategy

There is still a great need for much further quantification of the existing environment, including capturing environmental variability against the baseline through good quality, time series comparable scientific data in the context of potential DSM activities in the Area. The need for transparency in this context is also paramount.

In view of this independent scientific research should be encouraged/funded in order to complement contractor data and to aid in the development and population of environmental baseline databases. It is only through transparency of such data that accountability will be achieved regarding the credible/realistic assessment of environmental impacts and putting in place measures which are sufficient and will protect the marine environment.

Without the provision of such data, the use of mangement tools such as EIA, EMP's and monitoring and assessment will be impossible, hence it is in all stakeholders interest for this data to be provided in a transparent manner and in doing so supporting the developmet of such management tools in all areas of exploration.

REMPs

**Additionally as new data comes to light, there is an urgent need to review the CCZ EMP and to formulate other REMPs in areas of exploration, in view of this we are pleased to see decisions regarding holding specific workshops which will deal with these issues including workshops regarding APEI's/IRZ/PRZ again it is essential the development of EMPs is open and transparent with full stakeholder engagement and consider significant adverse impacts and serious harm to the marine environment. In particular as was referred to yesterday this was highlighted by the lack of consideration of EBSA descriptions in the latest claim and as we have also seen this week there is little or no data regarding pelagic impacts which are also relevant to the development of EMPs.**

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Thank you ... ----- / end /-----