



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**






Distr.  
GENERAL

5 October 2023

ENGLISH ONLY

**TECHNICAL AND LEGAL WORKSHOPS TO REVIEW  
MODALITIES FOR MODIFYING THE DESCRIPTIONS OF  
ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT  
MARINE AREAS AND DESCRIBING NEW AREAS (EBSAs)  
Oslo, Norway, 20-24 November and 23-27 November 2023**

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## 1. Opening and Registration

Two back-to-back technical and legal workshops on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) will be held in Oslo, Norway from Monday, 20 November to Friday, 24 November (Technical workshop) and Thursday, 23 November to Monday, 27 November (Legal workshop). The Technical workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 20 November 2023, and registration of participants will take place at the venue at between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

## 2. Venue

The workshops will be held at:

### **Håndverkeren Oslo**

Conference and Function rooms

Rosenkrantz' gate 7, 0159 Oslo

Contact [henriette@skagstind.no](mailto:henriette@skagstind.no)

Website: [Håndverkeren Oslo – Håndverkeren Oslo \(xn--hndverkerenoslo-hlb.no\)](http://Håndverkeren Oslo – Håndverkeren Oslo (xn--hndverkerenoslo-hlb.no))

## 3. Working language

The workshops will be held in English.

## 4. Workshop Documents

Documents will be made available under each meeting:

- Technical expert workshop to review modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-EM-2023-01>
- Legal expert workshop to review modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-EM-2023-02>

In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the meeting and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. WIFI access will be provided.

## 5. General information on access to Oslo

Oslo is serviced by the Oslo Gardermoen Airport which is about 35 km from the city centre. The airport express train - Flytoget costs about NOK 230 (about US \$22), the Regional and local trains - VY costs about NOK 118 (about US \$12) all trains bring you to the central station in downtown Oslo, and the trip takes about 20 minutes. Taxis are also available at the airport, it is recommended that you go to the taxi booking machine located outside the terminal building, ground level (near taxi pick up), book using the booking machine which will show prices, taxi should arrive

within 3-5 minutes of booking. The approximate cost of a taxi is about NOK 945 during the day (US \$92) and NOK 11,56 (US \$113) between 17:00 and 06:00 and on weekends.

## 6. Visa information



Participants that do not require a Schengen visa to enter Norway are listed at the following link : <https://www.udi.no/en/want-to-apply/visit-and-holiday/to-visit-norway-without-a-visa/>

Participants from all other countries are required to obtain a Schengen visa to enter Norway and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Norwegian diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.**

Information on visa procedures for entry into Norway, including online visa application can be found at: <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/norway/visa/>. Also the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) has a visa information website at: <https://www.udi.no/en/want-to-apply/visit-and-holiday/>

Information on the list of relevant Norwegian diplomatic/consular missions abroad can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway at the following link: <https://www.norway.no/en/>

## 7. Health information

All COVID-19 entry requirements for Norway have been lifted. Therefore, vaccinations, pre-boarding testing, are not required for all travellers. However, it is recommended that you carry your vaccination certificates in case of need. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to recommend the use of masks by the public in specific situations, masks are recommended following a recent exposure to COVID-19, when someone has or suspects they have COVID-19, when someone is at high-risk of severe COVID-19, and for anyone in a crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated space. Participants are requested to bring their own masks.

## 8. Hotel information



Participants are kindly reminded that they **must make their own hotel reservations and should do so as soon as possible.**

A listing of hotels in Oslo can be found on the website of the visit Norway at the following link: <https://www.visitnorway.com/places-to-go/eastern-norway/oslo/where-to-stay/>

There is a wide range of hotel options in the city centre, the following few hotels are in the area of the venue:

- Scandic Grenden
- Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz
- Scandic Byporten
- Thon Hotel Astoria

## 9. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

The relevant portion of DSA will be disbursed to funded participants on the first day of the meeting in the form of a prepaid credit card (Swiss Bankers card). These funded participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes on the first day of the meeting. These will be photocopied and returned to participants during the meeting. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA. Please note that the funds can take up to 24 hours to be loaded on the cards.

**IMPORTANT:** If you were provided with a Swiss Bankers card for a previous meeting, please inform the Secretariat and bring it with you to the meeting (if it is still valid) so that it may be reused. Please make sure you remember the PIN, otherwise contact the bank to request that they reset the PIN.

### **Swiss Bankers Contacts:**

Swiss Bankers Prepaid Services Ltd, Customer Service  
(forgotten PIN numbers, card replacements or transaction claims)

**Tel: +41-31 710 12 15**

Email: [info@swissbankers.ch](mailto:info@swissbankers.ch)

Opening hours:

Mon-Sun: 8.00-22.00 Swiss time. Closed on Swiss bank holidays.

## 10. Official languages

There are two official languages in Norway, Norwegian and Saami, English is spoken in hotels and restaurants.

## 11. Weather and time zone information



In November, the average temperatures in Oslo typically range between +3°C in the daytime and -1°C at night. Please bring appropriate clothing for cold conditions. The current weather conditions may be found at <https://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=21>.

The standard time zone for Oslo is CEST (Central European Standard Time) which is GMT/UTC +2 hours.

## 12. Electricity

The electrical currents in Norway are 220-240 Volts, 50 Hertz same as in Europe and plugs are as shown below.



### 13. Currency



The currency in Norway is the Norwegian Kroner (NOK or kr). The current exchange rate as of 5 October 2023 is USD \$1 = NOK 10.97 and €1 = NOK 11.57 (source: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com), rates are subject to change).

Currency exchange facilities are readily available in banks and hotels.

### 14. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

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