



## **EBSA BRIEFING: ORGANIZING REGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO DESCRIBE ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS (EBSAs)**

*Sunday, 29 April 2012, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., ICAO Building, CR6*

### **I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

1. The Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, requested the Executive Secretary to work with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), with regards to fisheries management, to organize, including the setting of terms of references, subject to the availability of financial resources, a series of regional workshops, before a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of scientific criteria in annex I of decision IX/20 as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 (paragraph 36, decision X/29).

2. Pursuant to the above request, regional workshops to describe EBSAs have been convened by the Executive Secretary for the Western South Pacific as well as Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic regions, and by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the North East Atlantic region. These workshops described areas that meet scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant criteria, and also identified future needs for scientific collaboration and capacity-building to further elaborate the description of EBSAs in each region.

3. The Executive Secretary is also planning regional workshops in the following regions: (i) Indian Ocean (Mauritius, 30 July – 3 August, 2012, in collaboration with FAO); (ii) Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific (Galapagos, Ecuador, 27 – 31 August 2012, in collaboration with CPPS); (iii) North Pacific (Russia, TBD 2012); and (iv) South-east Atlantic (TBD, 2013).

### **II. PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING**

4. In order to closely collaborate with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives in convening the planned regional workshops, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is convening this briefing session for participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The briefing will focus on the process for organizing regional workshops, including the nomination/selection of experts;

development of the workshop terms of reference, provisional agenda and organization of work; compilation, synthesis and mapping of scientific information for the workshop; and engaging regional/international scientific partnerships.

### **III. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS**

5. Expected participants include the following:

(a) Representatives from Parties and other Governments involved in the organization of regional workshops to describe areas meeting EBSA criteria;

(b) Representatives from relevant international/regional organizations, e.g., FAO, OBIS-IOC/UNESCO, OBIS/SEAMAP, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, OSPAR/NEAFC, SPREP, UNEP/CEP, UNEP/MAP.

### **IV. COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES**

6. This briefing will be complemented by:

(a) EBSA presentation by workshop co-chairs at the start of discussion on agenda item 6.1 in working group II on the results of EBSA regional workshops (scheduled for 1 May 2012); and

(b) EBSA side event on the scientific issues related to the application of EBSA criteria (scheduled for Monday 30 April 2012, 1.15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.).

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