

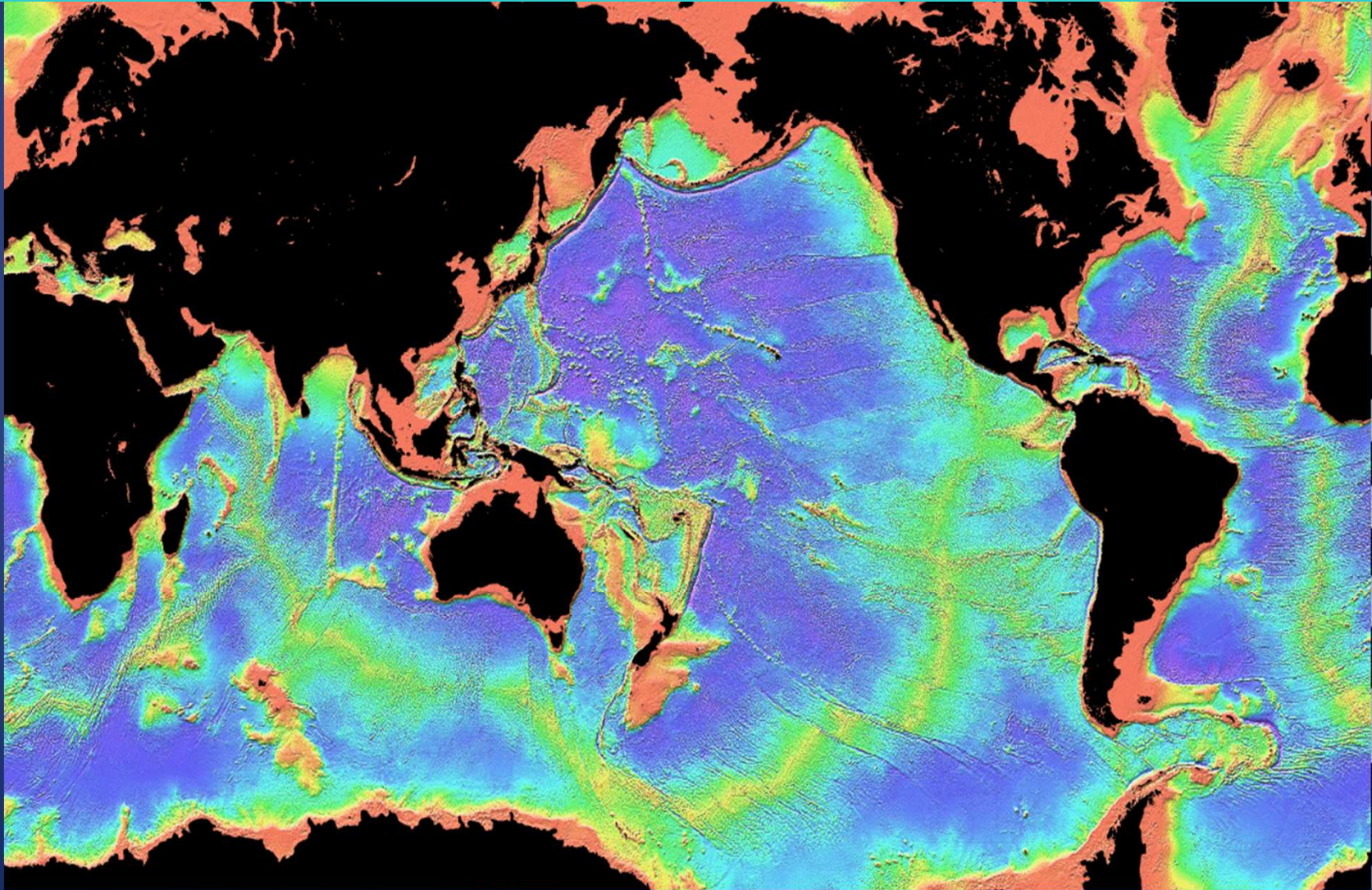
# EBSA Briefing: Organizing Regional Workshops to Describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

*Dedicated Experts Working Together to Understand Our Oceans Better*





Open oceans and deep seas, the largest biomes of our biosphere in both surface area and volume





Convention on  
Biological Diversity



22 May 2012  
INTERNATIONAL DAY  
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Marine Biodiversity

## WSSD Plan of Implementation 2002

32. In accordance with chapter 17 of Agenda 21, promote the conservation and management of the oceans through actions at all levels, ... to:

- (a) Maintain the productivity and biodiversity of important and vulnerable marine and coastal areas, **including in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction**; [...]
- (c) Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012 and time/area closures for the protection of nursery grounds and periods, proper coastal land use and watershed planning and the integration of marine and coastal areas management into key sectors;



## COP 10 guidance on EBSAs (decision X/29)

- COP 10 noted the application of **scientific criteria for identifying EBSAs, adopted by COP in decision IX/20 (annex I)**, presents a tool,,,,,towards implementation of **ecosystem approaches** in relation to areas both **within and beyond** national jurisdiction
- COP 10 noted :
  - the application of EBSAs scientific criteria is a **scientific and technical exercise**
  - that areas found to meet the criteria may require **enhanced conservation and management measures**, including MPAs and impact assessments
  - EASAs identification and selection of conservation and management measures is a **matter of States and competent intergovernmental organizations**





## **CBD scientific criteria for ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) (annex I, decision IX/20)**

1. Uniqueness or Rarity
2. Special importance for life history stages of species
3. Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
4. Vulnerability, Fragility, Sensitivity, or Slow recovery
5. Biological Productivity
6. Biological Diversity
7. Naturalness

## **FAO criteria for VMEs**

- Uniqueness or rarity
- Functional significance of the habitat
- Fragility
- Life-history traits of component species
- Structural complexity



## COP 10 guidance on EBSAs (decision X/29, para 36)

- COP 10 requested 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 a series of regional workshops to facilitate the description of EBSAs** through the application of scientific criteria (annex I to decision IX/20) and other relevant criteria



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## COP 10 guidance on EBSAs (decision X/29, para 42)

- COP 10 requested SBSTTA to prepare **reports based on scientific and technical evaluation of information from the workshops, setting out details of areas that meet the criteria** in annex I to decision IX/20 for consideration and **endorsement in a transparent manner by the Conference of the Parties** to the Convention with a view to **include the endorsed reports in the repository and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction**



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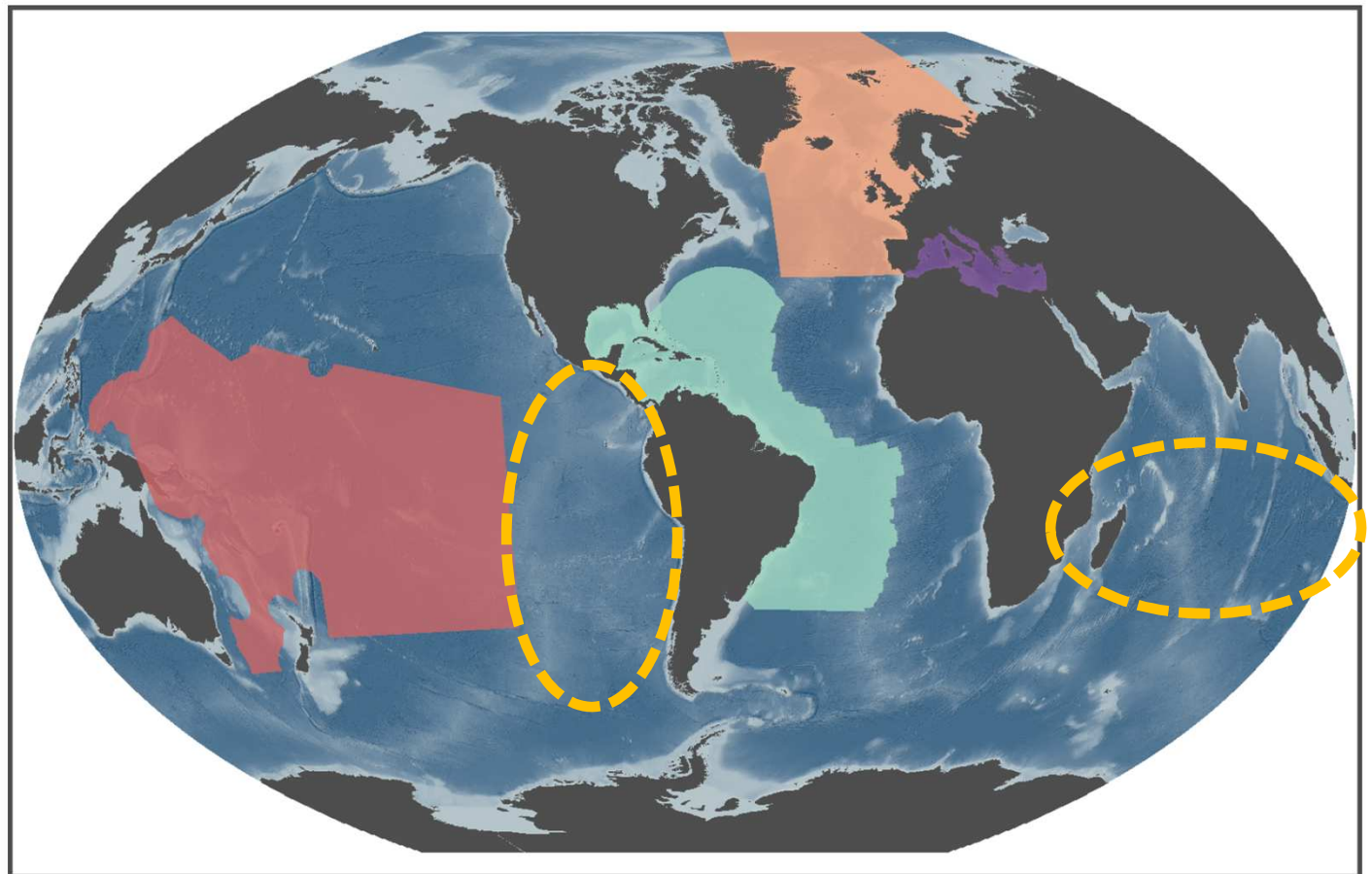
Ocean area covered by the EBSA regional workshops: 104.4 million sq.km  
*(about 29% of total estimated ocean area, 361 million sq.km)*

OSPAR: 13.5 m

MAP: 2.5 m

CAR: 27.8 m

SPREP: 60.6 m



Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University (2012)





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## Fiji workshop: 13 countries/ 12 organizations

- ❑ American Samoa Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France/New Caledonia, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- ❑ Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), International Seabed Authority (ISA), Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)/IOC–UNESCO, IUCN Regional Office for Oceania, University of the South Pacific (USP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), BirdLife International, Conservation International Pacific Islands Program, and Wildlife Conservation

## Recife workshop: 23 countries/15 organizations

- ❑ Barbados, Belize, Bermuda/United Kingdom, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, French Guiana/France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), United States of America
- ❑ United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme, BirdLife International, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network and Forum/Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Caribbean Regional fisheries Mechanism Secretariat (CRFM), Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), SEAMAP, Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina (CORALINA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), Institute of Marine Affairs (Trinidad and Tobago), Sargasso Sea Alliance, Universidad Federal de Pernambuco, University of the West Indies, Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Trust (WIDECAT)



## Funding Sources for Fiji and Recife Workshops

- ☐ Government of Japan through Japan Biodiversity Fund
- ☐ European Commission
- ☐ Government of Australia/CSIRO
- ☐ Government of Brazil

## In-Kind Contributions for Fiji and Recife Workshops

- ☐ Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- ☐ United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme
- ☐ Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative
- ☐ Various organizations who sent their experts on their own funding



## Information provided in the EBSA Briefing Note

*Everything you may want to know about organizing regional workshops*

- Official Title
- Date/Venue
- Hosting Country/Organization
- Technical Support
- Funding Sources
- Notification issued
- Parties, other Governments and organizations involved
- Nomination/Participation
- Workshop TORs
- Provisional Agenda
- Organization of Works

### Scientific Data Compilation/ Synthesis/ Mapping

- Biogeography
- Biological Data
- Physical Data
- Oceanographic Data

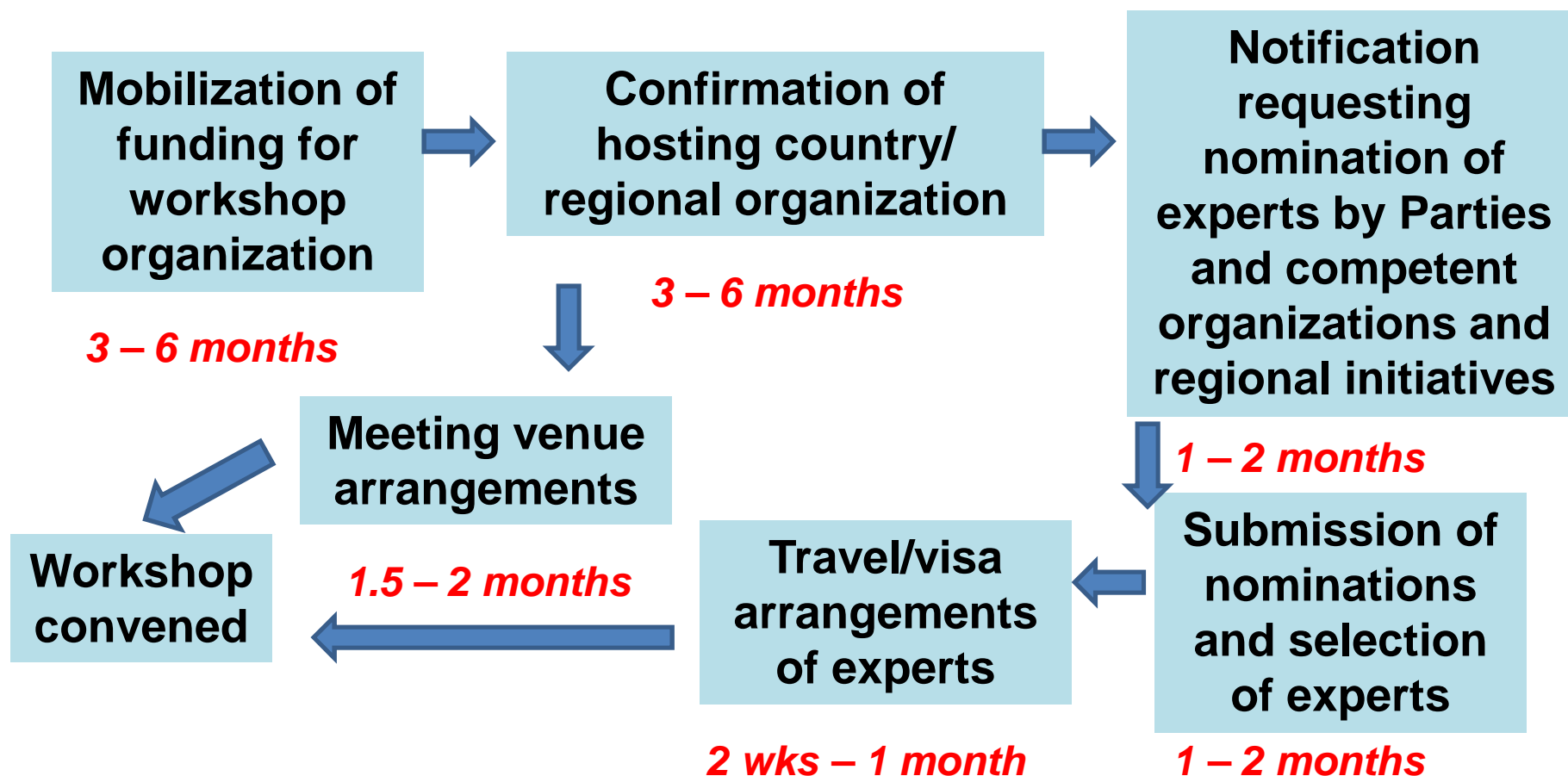
List of scientific information submitted by experts from Parties, other Governments and organizations prior to the workshop

Official recognition of EBSA process by regional intergovernmental bodies through strategic plan, decisions, statement, declaration



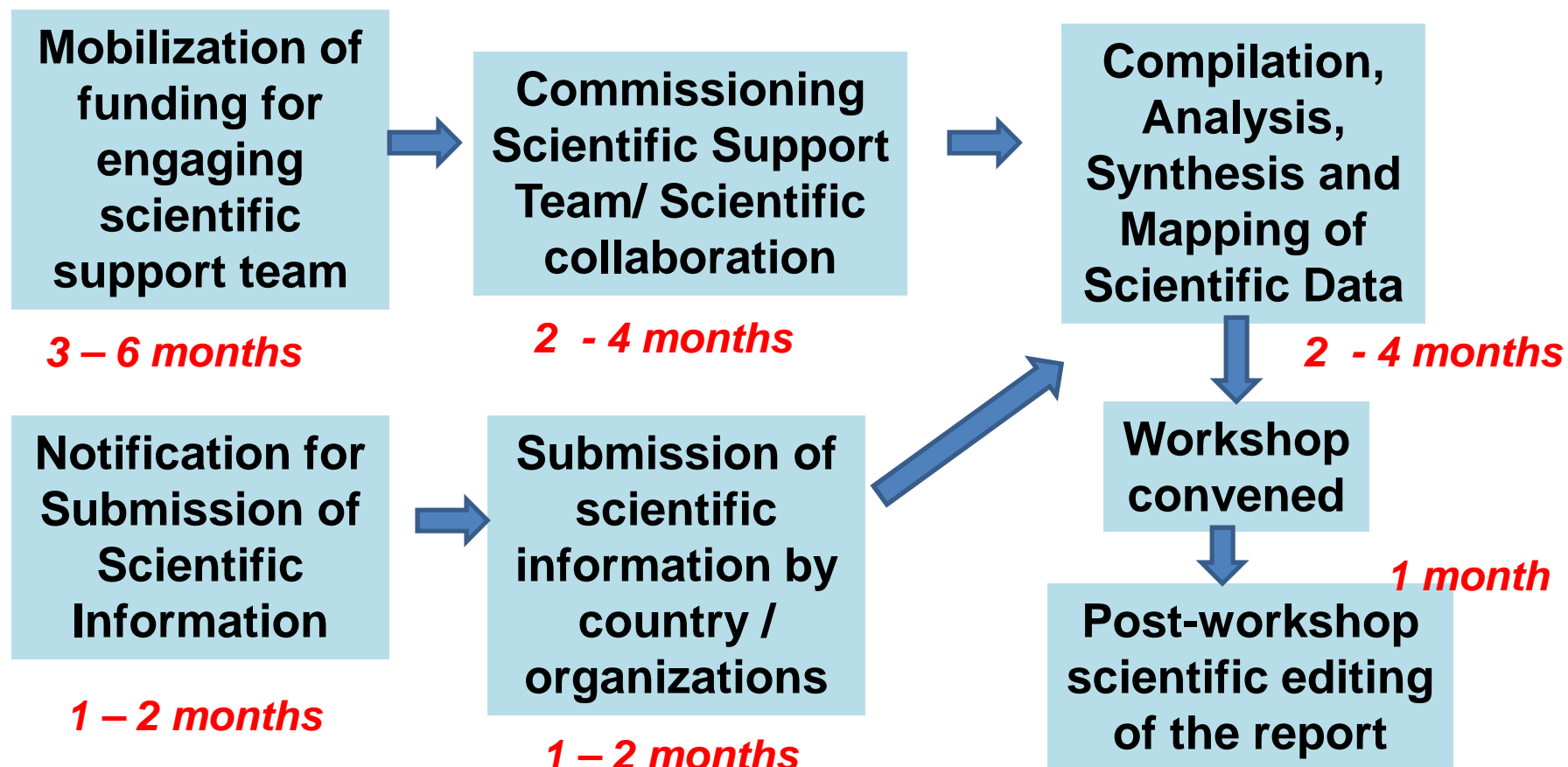
## Organizing EBSA regional workshops

*Working with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives (decision X/29, para 36)*



## Scientific Work for EBSA regional workshops

*Working with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives (decision X/29, para 36)*





## Concluding Message

*EBSA regional workshops are the results of close and dynamic collaboration between the Secretariat, Parties, other Governments, competent organizations and regional initiatives, and dedicated individual experts!*

- **Nomination of experts** by countries required coordination between CBD national focal agency and fishery/ocean agencies
- **Scientific preparation** for the workshop required national/regional/global level interdisciplinary, interagency information sharing
- **Clear understanding of EBSA process** by workshop participants, as requested by COP, was important
- **Full participation of country experts** in the region was critical, but difficult to achieve without timely cooperation by CBD NFPs
- **Interaction between country experts and international experts** with long-term experiences in applying EBSAs criteria was helpful
- **Sharing experiences between different regional workshops** was useful