



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF  
ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY  
SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS  
Flic en Flac, Mauritius, 31 July to 3 August 2012

### ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

#### INTRODUCTION

1. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 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) to organize, including the setting of terms of reference, a series of regional workshops, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the 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 of decision X/29).
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested that the Executive Secretary make available the scientific and technical data and information and results collated through the workshops referred to above to participating Parties, other Governments, intergovernmental agencies and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for their use according to their competencies.
3. The Conference of the Parties also 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 its consideration and endorsement in a transparent manner, with a view to include the endorsed reports in the repository referred to in paragraph 39 of decision X/29 and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, as well as relevant international organizations, Parties and other Governments (paragraph 42 of decision X/29).
4. Pursuant to the above requests, and with financial support from the Government of Japan, the Executive Secretary is convening the Southern Indian Ocean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This workshop will be hosted by the Government of Mauritius and will take place in Flic en Flac, Mauritius, from 31 July to 3 August 2012. It is being held immediately following a training workshop on

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EBSAs, being convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (30 July in Flic en Flac, Mauritius).

5. This workshop is also being held in partnership with FAO's Regional Workshop on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Indian Ocean (25 to 27 July 2012 in Flic en Flac, Mauritius), in order to facilitate collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity's work on EBSAs and FAO's work on VMEs, as requested by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

6. A list of documents for the workshop is attached as annex I.

7. The Secretariat will be issuing an information note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the meeting. The language of the workshop will be English.

8. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 31 July 2012.

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP**

9. Representatives of the Government of Mauritius and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will open the workshop at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 31 July 2012.

### **ITEM 2. ELECTION OF THE WORKSHOP CO-CHAIRS, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

10. After a brief self-introduction, the participants will be invited to elect the workshop co-chairs, based on proposals from the floor.

11. Participants will then be invited to consider the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/1) and the proposed organization of work, as contained in annex II below, and adopt them following any amendments, if needed.

12. The workshop will be organized in plenary and break-out-group sessions. The workshop co-chairs will nominate facilitators and rapporteurs for break-out groups, based on the expertise and experience of the workshop participants and in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### **ITEM 3. WORKSHOP BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND OUTPUT**

13. The representative of the Secretariat will give an overview of the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop. Selected experts will also be invited to provide presentations on: (i) a regional overview of biogeographic information on open-ocean water and deep-sea habitats and the geographic scope of the workshop; and (ii) overview of relevant scientific programmes at regional scale.

### **ITEM 4. REVIEW OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA/INFORMATION/MAPS COMPILED AND SUBMITTED FOR THE WORKSHOP**

14. Under this item, participants will have before them a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/2) transmitting a compilation of the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations of scientific information to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the southern Indian Ocean region, made in response to the Secretariat's notification SCBD/STTM/JM/JL/JG/79841 (2012-073), dated 16 May 2012. Participants will also have before them a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/3) transmitting a compilation and synthesis of scientific data in support of the workshop objectives. The documents/references submitted prior to the workshop are being made available for the information of workshop participants on the meeting website (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSA-SIO-01>).

15. Workshop participants will be invited to review, through individual presentations and open plenary discussion, relevant scientific data/information/maps in relation to their potential contribution to describing areas meeting EBSA criteria.

**ITEM 5. DESCRIPTION OF AREAS MEETING EBSA CRITERIA THROUGH APPLICATION OF THEIR SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA AND OTHER RELEVANT COMPATIBLE AND COMPLEMENTARY NATIONALLY AND INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA, AS WELL AS THE SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF EBSAS**

16. Under this item, based on the compilation mentioned above and building on the above presentations and deliberations of the workshop in plenary session, participants will be invited to split into two or three subregional break-out groups (details to be determined by the workshop plenary) to consider the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria. Depending on the number of participants, further sub-groupings can be made as advised by the workshop co-chairs, in consultation with the Secretariat.

17. The results of the break-out groups will be reported at the plenary for consideration. The workshop participants in the plenary session will review the potential areas that meet the scientific criteria for EBSAs proposed by the break-out group sessions and consider them for inclusion in the final list of describing areas meeting EBSA criteria.

**ITEM 6. IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS AND NEEDS FOR FURTHER ELABORATION IN DESCRIBING AREAS MEETING EBSA CRITERIA, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY AND A PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION**

18. Building on the workshop deliberation on describing areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs, workshop participants will be invited to identify, through the theme presentations and open plenary discussion, gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing areas meeting EBSA criteria, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and a proposal for future scientific collaboration.

**ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

19. Under this item, consideration may be given to any other matters of relevance raised by workshop participants.

**ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

20. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the workshop on the basis of a draft report to be prepared and presented by the workshop co-chairs.

**ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

21. The workshop is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 3 August 2012.

*Annex I*

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE SOUTHERN INDIAN CCEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
TO FACILITATE THE DESRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY  
SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS**

<b>Official Documents</b>	<b>Title</b>
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/2	Compilation of submissions of scientific information to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the southern Indian Ocean region
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/SIO/1/3	Data to Inform the Southern Indian Ocean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Areas meeting the Scientific Criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
<b>Other Documents</b>	
UNEP/CBD/EW-BCS&IMA/1/2	Report of the Expert Workshop on Scientific and Technical Guidance on the Use of Biogeographic Classification Systems and Identification of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in Need of Protection, Ottawa, 29 September–2 October 2009
UNEP/CBD/EWS.MPA/1/2	Report of the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, Azores, Portugal, 2-4 October 2007
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/9	Training Manual for the Description of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in Open-Ocean Waters and Deep-sea Habitats (draft)

*Annex II*

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

***Tuesday, 31 July 2012***

9 a.m. to 9.15 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the workshop
9.15 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	Agenda item 2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Agenda item 3. Workshop background, scope and output  <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme presentations</li> <li>• Plenary discussion</li> </ul>
11 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 4. Review of relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled and submitted for the workshop  <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme presentations: (i) Review of scientific information compiled and (ii) Review of site-based submissions</li> <li>• Plenary discussion</li> </ul>
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4 ( <i>continued</i> )

***Wednesday, 1 August 2012***

9 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 5. Description of areas meeting EBSA criteria through application of their scientific criteria and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of EBSAs  <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing views and suggestions on describing areas meeting EBSA criteria</li> </ul> <i>Break-out group sessions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups based on subregions</li> </ul> <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting of the results of break-out group session</li> <li>• Consideration of potential areas meeting EBSA criteria proposed by break-out groups</li> </ul>
Noon p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 ( <i>continued</i> )

**Thursday, 2 August 2012**

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Agenda item 6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing areas meeting EBSA criteria, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and a proposal for future scientific collaboration  <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme presentation</li> <li>• Sharing views and suggestions on necessary capacity development and collaboration activities</li> </ul>
11 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 7. Other matters
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs

**Friday, 3 August 2012**

9 a.m. to noon	Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	Lunch
1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Adoption of the report
4.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 9. Closure of the meeting

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