



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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**EXPERT WORKSHOP ON ECOLOGICAL
CRITERIA AND BIOGEOGRAPHIC
CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS FOR MARINE
AREAS IN NEED OF PROTECTION**
Azores, Portugal, 2-4 October 2007

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to refine, consolidate and, where necessary, develop further scientific and ecological criteria for the identification of marine areas in need of protection, and biogeographical and other ecological classification systems, drawing on expertise and experience at the national and regional scale. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties decided to convene a scientific expert workshop and requested the Executive Secretary to provide the results of this workshop to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to its ninth meeting as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the purpose of informing the process under the General Assembly of the United Nations (decision VIII/24, para. 46).
2. In pursuance of paragraph 46 of decision VIII/24, the Executive Secretary, with the generous financial support from the Government of Portugal, is organizing an Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection from 2 to 4 October 2007 in Azores, Portugal. The Workshop will be held at the Hotel Marina Atlântico.
3. The terms of reference of the Workshop are, as described in annex II of decision VIII/24, to:
(i) refine and develop a consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, building upon existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally; (ii) compile biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, building on existing broad classification systems, and including more detailed subregional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach, and initiate future development by making recommendations for further work to fill gaps; and (iii) compile a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats.
4. A list of documents for the Workshop is attached as annex I hereto.

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

6. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 October 2007.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

7. A representative of the host Government will open the meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 October 2007. The representatives of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also welcome the participants.

ITEM 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. After a brief self-introduction of the participants, the participants will be invited to elect a Chair based on proposals from the floor. Participants will then be invited to consider the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EWS.MPA/1/1) and adopt it following any amendments if needed.

9. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will describe the terms of reference and the expected outputs of the Workshop. The Workshop will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex II.

10. The Workshop will be organized in plenary and break-out sessions. Break-out sessions will address key framing questions, as described in annex III. The Workshop Chair will nominate chairs and rapporteurs for break-out groups, in consideration of expertise and experiences of the workshop participants and in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ITEM 3. REFINING AND DEVELOPING A CONSOLIDATED SET OF SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS IN NEED OF PROTECTION, IN OPEN OCEAN WATERS AND DEEP-SEA HABITATS, BUILDING UPON EXISTING SETS OF CRITERIA USED NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY

11. For the consideration of this item, the Workshop will have before it two documents, UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/16 (Protected areas: consideration of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas) and UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/39 (Report of the scientific experts' workshop on criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas beyond national jurisdiction- 6-8 December 2005, Ottawa). The first document (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/16) provides a synthesis of the existing ecological criteria, based on submissions made by Parties and international and regional organizations. The second document (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/39) is the report of the scientific expert workshop on criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas beyond national jurisdiction, held from 6 to 8 December 2005, in Ottawa. A number of other relevant publications listed in annex I under "Other documents" were circulated among participants in the workshop.

12. The Workshop will also have before it a compilation of e-mail communications on this topic following a request by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity prior to the Workshop and focusing on key framing questions listed in annex III below.

13. Under this agenda item, participants are invited to review and discuss in a plenary session existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally. In addition, a theme presentation on the overview of existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally, will be made by a resource person.

14. It is proposed that participants will then address the key framing questions in depth in two break-out groups. Break-out group 1 will consider criteria for open ocean waters, and break-out group 2. criteria for deep-sea habitats. The break-out groups will build on the compilation of the electronic communications and make recommendations for refining and developing a consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection.

ITEM 4. COMPILING BIOGEOGRAPHICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS FOR DELINEATING OCEAN REGIONS AND ECOSYSTEMS, BUILDING ON EXISTING BROAD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS, AND INCLUDING MORE DETAILED SUBREGIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS WHERE THEY EXIST IN A NESTED APPROACH, AND INITIATING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT BY MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK TO FILL GAPS

15. For the consideration of this item, the workshop will have before it documents containing the summary results of the Scientific Experts' Workshop on Biogeographic Classification Systems in Open Ocean and Deep Seabed Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, held from 22-24 January 2007, at the National University of Mexico, Mexico City, as a joint expert effort under the co-sponsorship of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Australia, Canada, Mexico and the J.M. Kaplan Fund. The workshop will also have before it UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/34 (Global coastal and marine biogeographic regionalization as a support tool for implementation of CBD programmes of work) as well as its updated version published in *Bioscience* (Vol.57, No.7, pp. 573-583), which describes a new global system for coastal and shelf areas: the Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW), a nested system for 12 realms, 62 provinces and 232 ecoregions, and other information documents provided by the workshop participants and relevant partners, as listed in annex I.

16. In addition, two presentations will be made on: (i) overview of existing biogeographical and ecological classification systems, and (ii) key results and recommendations of the Mexico City Workshop as well as the on-going and planned follow-up activities.

17. Building on the compilation of electronic communications contributed by participants prior to the workshop under this agenda item in response to the key framing questions listed in annex III below, the workshop participants will review existing biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, including more detailed subregional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach.

18. Participants will then be invited to split into two break-out groups to consider classification systems for (i) open waters, and (ii) deep-sea habitats, and make recommendations for compiling biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems.

ITEM 5. COMPILING A CONSOLIDATED SET OF SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR REPRESENTATIVE NETWORKS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, INCLUDING IN OPEN OCEAN WATERS AND DEEP-SEA HABITATS

19. For the consideration of this item, the workshop will have before it two documents, UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/16 (Protected Areas: Consideration of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas) and UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/39 (Report of the scientific experts' workshop on criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas beyond national jurisdiction- 6-8 December 2005, Ottawa). The Workshop will also have before it a compilation of the electronic communications contributed by participants prior to the Workshop in response to the questions listed in annex III below. In addition, a resource person will present an overview of existing set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas.

20. Building on the above documents and presentation, the group will then split into two break-out groups to consider in depth criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas in: (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep-sea habitats, using the questions listed in annex III below.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

21. Under this item, participants may wish to consider any other matters of relevance raised by workshop participants.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

22. 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 Chair.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

23. The Workshop is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 4 October 2007.

Annex I

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR EXPERT WORKSHOP ON ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA AND
BIOGEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS FOR MARINE AREAS IN NEED OF
PROTECTION**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/EWS.MPA/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/EWS.MPA/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda

Information documents

Item 3 & 5

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/16. Protected Areas: Consideration of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas. An information document submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held from 20 to 31 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil.

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/39. Report of the scientific experts' workshop on criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas beyond national jurisdiction- 6-8 December 2005, Ottawa, Canada. An information document presented to the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 20-31 March 2006, Curitiba, Brazil.

Item 4

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/34. Global coastal and marine biogeographic regionalization as a support tool for implementation of CBD programmes of work. An information document submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 20-31 March 2006, Curitiba, Brazil. (updated version of the Spalding et al. article is available at <http://www.bioone.org/perlserv/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1641%2FB570707>)

Other documents (*contributions from workshop participants and relevant partners, as of 31 August 2007*)

Items 3 and 5

International Maritime Organization (IMO). Revised guidelines for the identification and designation of particularly sensitive sea areas. Assembly 24th Session, agenda item 11. 6 Feb. 2006. Resolution A. 982 (24), Adopted on 1 December 2005 (Agenda item 11).

Roberts, C.M., Mason, L. and Hawkins J.P. (Innerspace version, year not specified). Roadmap to Recovery: A global network of marine reserves. Greenpeace International. Environmental Department, University of York, York, U.K.

Item 4

UNESCO, IOC, IUCN, Australia, Canada, Mexico and J.M. Kaplan Fund (2007, unpublished). An Update on Work Related to Biogeographic Criteria for the Classification of Open and Deep Ocean Areas, a joint expert effort under the co-sponsorship of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Australia, Canada, Mexico and the J.M. Kaplan Fund. Presented at the Side Event of the Eighth Meeting of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea. United Nations, New York, 25 June 2007. Background Notes and Slide Presentation.

Grant, S., Constable, A., Raymond, B. and S. Doust (2006). Bioregionalization of the Southern Ocean, Report of the Experts Workshop (Hobart, September 2006), organized by WWF-Australia and Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.

Leathwick, J., Julian, K., and M. Francis (2006). Exploration of the use of reserve planning software to identify potential marine protected areas in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone. Prepared for the Department of Conservation, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. Ltd.

Snelder, T. H., Leathwick, J.R., Dey, K.L., Rowden, A.A., Weatherhead, M.a., Fenwick, G.D., Francis, M.P., Gorman, R.M., Grieve, J.M., Hadfield, M.G., Hewitt, J.E., Ricardson, K.M., Uddstrom, M.J., and Zeldis, J.R. (2006). Development of an ecologic marine classification in the New Zealand Region, *Environmental Management*, Vol. 39, No. 1. pp. 12-29.

Spalding, M.D., Fox, H.E., Allen, G.R., Davidson, N., Ferdana, Z.A., Finlayson, M., Halpern, B.S., Jorge, M.A., Lombana, A., Lourie, S.A., Martin, K.D., McManus E., Molnar, J., Recchia, C.A., and Robertson, J. (2007). Marine ecoregions of the world: A bioregionalization of coastal and shelf areas, *BioScience*, Vol.57, No. 7. pp. 573-583.

Vierros, M. (2007). Approaches to biogeographic classification of the world's oceans. Presented as a background document at the CCAMLR Bioregionalisation Workshop (Brussels, Belgium, 13-17 August 2007).

General background

Ardron, J. (2007, unpublished). Overview of existing high seas spatial measures and proposals with relevance to high seas conservation. Submitted to German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

Gjerde, K. M. (2007, unpublished). High Seas MPAs and Deep-Sea Fishing. Prepared for the Expert Consultation on Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (Bangkok, Thailand, 21-23 Nov. 2006).

Vierros, M. and W.L. Cheung (2007, unpublished). Synthesis and Review of the Best Available Scientific Studies on Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction. Submitted to SCBD.

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2007

9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting
9:30 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.	Agenda item 2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
9:45 a.m. to 10 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of purpose and expected outputs of the Workshop
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<p>Agenda item 3. Refining and developing a consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, building upon existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally</p> <p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally, for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection: Presentation and discussion <p><i>Break-out Group Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For refining and developing a consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, building upon existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Break-out Group 1. Set of criteria for open ocean waters Break-out Group 2. Set of criteria for deep sea habitats
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Continuation of agenda item 3
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of break-out group session results • Discussion

WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2007

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Compiling biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, building on existing broad classification systems, and including more detailed subregional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach, and initiating future development by making recommendations for further work to fill gaps
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	<p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of existing biogeographical and ecological classification systems, including more detailed subregional classification systems : Presentation and discussion • Report of results and follow-up activities of the Mexico City Workshop on Biogeographic Classification Systems in Open Ocean and Deep Seabed Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (January 2007) : Presentation and discussion <p><i>Break-out Group Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For compiling biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, building on existing broad classification systems, and including more detailed subregional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach, and initiating future development by making recommendations for further work to fill gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Break-out Group 1. Classification system for open ocean waters II. Break-out Group 2. Classification system for deep sea habitats
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Continuation of agenda item 4
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of break-out group session results • Discussion

THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER 2007

9 a.m. to noon	<p>Agenda item 5. Compiling a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats</p> <p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of existing sets of criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas : Presentation and discussion <p><i>Break-out Group Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For compiling a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Break-out Group 1. Criteria for representative networks of MPAs in open ocean waters II. Break-out Group 2. Criteria for representative networks of MPAs in deep sea habitats
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noon. to 1 p.m.	<i>Plenary Session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of break-out session results• Discussion
2 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Agenda item 6. Other matters
3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Agenda item 7. Adoption of the report
4.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Closure of the meeting

*Annex III***KEY FRAMING QUESTIONS***(To be used for e-mail discussion prior to the Workshop as well as for break-out group sessions)*

Agenda item	Key framing questions
Item 3. Refining and developing a consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, building upon existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should we describe marine areas that are: (i) ecologically and biologically significant and (ii) in need of protection? 2. Do we agree that scientific criteria include, not only criteria relating to biology or ecology, but also socio-economic and cultural factors? 3. How should we understand a consolidated set? 4. What is the existing set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection being used nationally, regionally and globally, in (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep sea habitats? 5. Do the information documents and other documents listed in annex I cover all existing scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, used nationally, regionally and globally? Can you identify any additional relevant documents? 6. Can some of the existing scientific criteria be refined? How? 7. Should we have two separate sets of scientific criteria for (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep sea habitats? Should we divide them using other parameters, e.g. rapid assessment/ long-term in-depth assessment, for short-term/ long-term need of protection, identification/ selection? 8. Which criteria should be included in a consolidated set?

Agenda item	Key framing questions
<p>Item 4. Compiling biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, building on existing broad classification systems, and including more detailed sub regional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach, and initiating future development by making recommendations for further work to fill gaps</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should we describe: (i) ocean regions and (ii) ocean ecosystems? 2. How should we describe: (i) biogeographical classification systems and (ii) ecological classification systems? 3. What are the existing biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating: (i) ocean regions and (ii) ocean ecosystems, bearing in mind the CBD's definition of ecosystem (<i>a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit</i>, as defined in Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity)? 4. Do the information documents and other documents listed in annex I cover all existing biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems? Can you identify any additional relevant documents? 5. What are the broad classification systems and more detailed subregional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach? 6. When compiling existing biogeographical and ecological classification systems, can we organize them under some headings? Can you list such headings? 7. Should we have two separate sets of biogeographical and ecological classification systems for (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep sea habitats? 8. What gaps do we see in the existing classification systems? 9. What recommendations can be made for further work to fill the gaps?
<p>Item 5. Compiling a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is referred as the representative networks of marine protected areas in: (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep sea habitats? 2. What is the existing set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, relating to (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep sea habitats?

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Do the information documents and other documents listed in annex I cover all existing scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats? Can you identify any additional relevant documents? 4. How can the existing sets of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas be consolidated and compiled, relating to (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep sea habitats? 5. Should we have two separate sets of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, for (i) open ocean waters and (ii) deep sea habitats?
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