



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/1/Add.1
6 February 2014

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EXPERT WORKSHOP ON UNDERWATER
NOISE AND ITS IMPACTS ON MARINE
AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY
London, 25-27 February 2014

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its decision XI/18 A, requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments, and competent organizations, including the International Maritime Organization, the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Whaling Commission, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, to organize an expert workshop with a view to improving and sharing knowledge on underwater noise and its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity, and developing practical guidance and toolkits to minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, including marine mammals, in order to assist Parties and other Governments in applying management measures, as appropriate, and to make the report of the workshop available for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The decision further noted that the workshop should cover issues such as the development of acoustic mapping of areas of interest, among other things.
2. Pursuant to this request, the Executive Secretary is convening, with financial support from the European Commission, an Expert Workshop on Underwater Noise and its Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, to be held at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 25-27 February 2014.
3. In this regard, the Secretariat issued notification 2014-001 (Ref. no. SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JA/83033), dated 8 January 2014, requesting Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit relevant information concerning the objectives of the workshop. Submissions received are compiled and made available as information to participants at this workshop.
4. To further facilitate effective contribution of inputs to this expert workshop, the Secretariat has commissioned a background study, with financial support from the European Commission, to contribute to the development of practical guidance and toolkits to minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity. The results of this study are submitted for consideration to the workshop as an information document (UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/INF/1).
5. A list of the working and information documents for the workshop is attached as annex I to the present document. Other documents, including, in particular, contributions from Parties, other

/...

Governments, and relevant organizations, and relevant individual experts can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MCBEM-2014-01>.

6. 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.

7. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 25 February 2014.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. Representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the International Maritime Organization will open the meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 25 February 2014.

ITEM 2. ELECTION OF THE MEETING CO-CHAIRS, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

9. The participants will be invited to elect the meeting co-chairs based on proposals from the floor. Participants will then be invited to consider the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/1) and adopt it following any amendments if needed.

10. The meeting co-chairs will describe the objectives and the expected outputs of the workshop. Participants will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work as contained in annex II below.

ITEM 3. IMPROVING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON UNDERWATER NOISE AND ITS IMPACTS ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

11. In its consideration of this item, the workshop will have before it:

(a) Scientific synthesis on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/12), prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6);

(b) Information document UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/INF/1 prepared by the Executive Secretary, based on the results of the background study, as described above in paragraph 4; and

(c) Submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in response to the above-mentioned notification dated 9 January 2014 (ref. No. 2014-001), which were made available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MCBEM-2014-01>.

12. Workshop participants will be invited to share, through open discussions, their global, regional and national experiences and knowledge on underwater noise and its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity, including information on short- and long-term negative consequences for marine animals and other biota in the marine environment.

13. For its deliberations, the workshop will focus on:

(a) Role of sound in the behaviour and well-being of marine species and ecosystems;

(b) Major sources, and trends in the prevalence and magnitude, of underwater noise;

(c) Impacts of underwater noise on various types of species, as well as broader impacts on ecosystem health, including implications of cumulative impacts of multiple sources of noise;

(d) Major knowledge gaps regarding the short- and long-term negative consequences for marine animals and other biota in the marine environment, as well as socioeconomic implications.

ITEM 4. DEVELOPING PRACTICAL GUIDANCE AND TOOLKITS TO MINIMIZE AND MITIGATE THE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS OF ANTHROPOGENIC UNDERWATER NOISE ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY, INCLUDING MARINE MAMMALS, IN ORDER TO ASSIST PARTIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN APPLYING MANAGEMENT MEASURES

14. In its consideration of this item, based on the above-mentioned information document (UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/INF/1) and the submissions, and building on deliberations of the workshop under agenda item 3, participants will then discuss the development of practical guidance and toolkits to minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, including marine mammals, in order to assist Parties and other Governments in applying management measures.

15. For its deliberations, in both plenary and break-out group sessions, the workshop will focus on:

(a) Gaps and limitations in existing guidance, including the need to update it in the light of improving scientific knowledge, and recognizing a range of complementary initiatives under way;

(b) Development of acoustic mapping of areas of interest;

(c) Means to promote research with a view to further improving understanding of the issue;

(d) Means to promote awareness of the issue among relevant stakeholders, both nationally and regionally;

(e) Potential measures, as appropriate, to minimize the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine biodiversity, including the full range of best available technologies and best environmental practices where appropriate and needed, drawing upon existing guidance;

(f) Indicators and frameworks for monitoring underwater noise for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity; and

(g) Best management practices and capacity-building needs, particularly in data-poor regions.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

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

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. 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 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

18. The workshop is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 27 February 2014.

Annex I

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR UNDERWATER NOISE AND ITS IMPACTS ON MARINE AND
COASTAL BIODIVERSITY**

Working documents	Title
UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
Information documents	Title
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/12	Scientific synthesis on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats
UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/1/INF/1	Background document on the development of practical guidance and toolkits to minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2014

9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland • Representative of the Executive Secretary of the CBD • Representative of the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization
9.30 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.	Agenda item 2. Election of the meeting co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.15 a.m. to 12 noon	Agenda item 3. Improving and sharing knowledge on underwater noise and its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity <i>Presentation of the background study prepared by the Secretariat</i> <i>Theme presentation</i> <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of sound in the behaviour and well-being of marine species and ecosystems • Major sources, and trends in the prevalence and magnitude, of underwater noise • Impacts of underwater noise on various types of species, as well as broader impacts on ecosystem health, including implications of cumulative impacts of multiple sources of noise • Major knowledge gaps regarding the short- and long-term negative consequences for marine animals and other biota in the marine environment, as well as socioeconomic implications.
12 noon to 1 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	<i>Continuation of agenda item 3</i>
3 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Developing practical guidance and toolkits to minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, including marine mammals, in order to assist Parties and other Governments in applying management measures <i>Presentation of the background study prepared by the Secretariat</i> <i>Theme presentation</i>

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2014

9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	<p><i>Continuation of agenda item 4</i></p> <p><i>Plenary/Break-out group sessions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future development of practical guidance and toolkits to minimize and mitigate the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, including marine mammals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Gaps and limitations in existing guidance, including the need to update it in the light of improving scientific knowledge, and recognizing a range of complementary initiatives under way; (b) Development of acoustic mapping of areas of interest; (c) Means to promote research with a view to further improving understanding of the issue; (d) Means to promote awareness of the issue among relevant stakeholders, both nationally and regionally; (e) Potential measures, as appropriate, to minimize the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine biodiversity, including the full range of best available technologies and best environmental practices where appropriate and needed, drawing upon existing guidance; (f) Indicators and frameworks for monitoring underwater noise for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity; (g) Best management practices and capacity-building needs, particularly in data-poor regions.
10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11 a.m. to 12 noon	<i>Continuation of agenda item 4</i>
12 noon to 1 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	<i>Continuation of agenda item 4</i>
3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	<i>Continuation of agenda item 4</i>

THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2014

9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 5. Other matters
10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11 a.m. to 12 noon	<i>Report preparation</i>
12 noon to 1 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 6. Adoption of the report
3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<i>Continuation of agenda item 6</i>
5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 7. Closure of the meeting
