



Convention on Biological Diversity

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WIDER CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN MID-ATLANTIC
REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE
DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
(EBSAs)

Brazil, 28 February to 2 March 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 (decision X/29, para. 36).
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 including 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 (para. 42) and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, as well as relevant international organizations, Parties and other Governments.
4. Pursuant to the above request and with financial support from the European Union, the Executive Secretary is convening the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP). This workshop will be hosted by the Government of Brazil and will take place in Recife, Brazil, from 28 February to 2 March 2012.
5. A list of documents for the workshop is attached as annex I.

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6. 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.

7. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 28 February 2012.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

8. Representatives of the Government of Brazil, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and CEP will open the workshop at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 28 February 2012.

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

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

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

11. 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

12. 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) the workshop background, including relevant other global processes; (ii) scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), as contained in annex I to decision IX/20; (iii) a regional overview of biogeographic information on open-ocean water and deep-sea habitats and the geographic scope of the workshop; and (iv) overview of relevant scientific programmes at regional scale.

ITEM 4. REVIEW OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA/INFORMATION/MAPS COMPILED THROUGH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREA (EBSA) REPOSITORY SYSTEM AND OTHER CREDIBLE, QUALITY-CONTROLLED SOURCES

13. Under this item, participants will have before them a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/2) transmitting a compilation of the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations of scientific information to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic region made in response to the Secretariat's notification SCBD/STTM/JM/JLe/JG/78386 dated 3 January 2012. 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=RWEBSA-WCAR-01>).

14. 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 EBSAs.

ITEM 5. DESCRIPTION OF EBSAs 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

15. 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 break-out groups to consider the description of EBSAs through the application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria: (i) group 1: pelagic group; and (ii) group 2: benthic group. Depending on the number of participants, further sub-groupings can be made as advised by the workshop co-chairs, in consultation with the Secretariat.

16. 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 candidate EBSAs proposed by the break-out group sessions and consider them for inclusion in the final list of describing EBSAs.

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

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

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

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

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. 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

20. The workshop is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 2 March 2012.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS

Official Documents	Title
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/2	Compilation of submissions of scientific information to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic region
Other Documents	
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
	Training Manual for the Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in Open-Ocean Waters and Deep-sea Habitats (draft)

Annex II

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Tuesday, 28 February 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"> • Theme presentations • Plenary discussion
11 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 4. Review relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled through the Convention on Biological Diversity ecologically or biologically significant marine area (EBSA) repository system and other credible, quality-controlled sources <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme presentations: (i) Review of scientific information compiled and (ii) Review of site-based submissions • Plenary discussion
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>)

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

9 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 5. Description of EBSAs 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"> • Sharing views and suggestions on describing EBSAs <i>Break-out group sessions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Pelagic Group • Group 2: Benthic Group <i>Plenary session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of the results of break-out group session • Consideration of candidate EBSAs proposed by break-out groups
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, 1 March 2012

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<p>Agenda item 6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing EBSAs, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and a proposal for future scientific collaboration</p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme presentation • Sharing views and suggestions on necessary capacity development and collaboration activities
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, 2 March 2012

9 a.m. to noon	Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
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
