UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/5/Add.1
27 April 2012**

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Sixteenth meeting
Montreal, 30 April - 5 May 2012
Item 6.1 of the provisional agenda *

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY:

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT ON THE DESCRIPTION OF AREAS MEETING THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS[1]

Addendum

Note by the Executive Secretary

BACKGROUND

1. In paragraph 36 of decision X/29, the Conference of 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), with regards to fisheries management, to organize, including the setting of terms of references, subject to the availability of financial resources, a series of regional workshops, before a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 and 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.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1.

** Reposted to incorporate the corrigendum.

[1] The designations employed and the presentation of material in this note do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

/…

2. In paragraph 42 of the same decision, the Conference of Parties to the Convention requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (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 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.

3. Pursuant to the above request, a series of regional workshops were convened either by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity or by competent intergovernmental regional organizations in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including: (i) the Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD Scientific Workshop on the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the North-East Atlantic, held in Hyères, France, on 8-9 September 2011; (ii) CBD Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs held in Nadi, Fiji, from 22 -25 November 2011; and (iii) CBD Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs held in Recife, Brazil, from 28 February to 2 March 2011.

4. The summary of the results of these regional workshops are provided in tables 1, 2 and 3 below, respectively, while full application of the criteria are provided in the annexes to the respective reports of the workshops (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6, and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7).

5. Table 4 presents the outcome of the work carried out within the framework of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. The synthesis report on this work is being made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8).

6. In paragraph 26 of decision X/29, the Conference of Parties noted that the application of the ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) criteria is a scientific and technical exercise, that areas found to meet the criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures, and that this can be achieved through a variety of means, including marine protected areas and impact assessments, and emphasized that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Key to the tables

RANKING OF EBSA CRITERIA

Relevance

H: High
M: Medium;
L:Low;
-:No information

CRITERIA

- **C1**: Uniqueness or rarity
- **C2**: Special importance for life-history stages of species
- **C3**: Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
- **C4**: Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery
- **C5**: Biological productivity
- **C6**: Biological diversity
- **C7**: Naturalness

Table 1. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in North-East Atlantic region

(Details are described in annexes 8 - 17 of the Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD Scientific Workshop on the Identification of EBSAs in the North-East Atlantic, in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5)

Location and brief description of areas (Note: Criteria 7 was not considered by this workshop)	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
1. Reykjanes Ridge south of Iceland EEZ • Location: Northernmost part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (bordering Iceland and Greenland EEZs, extending eastwards to the abyssal plains). • Reykjanes Ridge is part of the major topographic feature in the Atlantic Ocean, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It is an important feature in the hydrography and circulation of the area, playing an important role in the open ocean ecosystem, and also provides a hard-bottom substrate for the colonization of benthic communities. Sharp gradients in environmental conditions have allowed colonization of benthic fauna from very remote regions. There is evidence from recent surveys of several vulnerable species and groups of animals, including *Lophelia pertusa*, deep-sea sponge communities, deep-sea fish communities and several shark and ray species. There are also surveys showing whales and birds in the area. There has been fishing in the area over the years, but it remains largely unquantified. This site meets several of the criteria for an EBSA and although there are extended continental shelf submissions in the area it warrants designation.	M	M	H	H	H	M	
2. Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone and Sub-Polar Frontal Zone of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge • Location: Central part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, between Iceland and the Azores. • The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is not only the major topographic feature of the Atlantic Ocean within the OSPAR maritime area, but it is also an important benthic habitat and is integral to the circulation of the Atlantic Ocean. The area is important for cold water corals, demersal (benthopelagic) fish fauna, and pelagic productivity. Several areas along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge have been protected with either bottom fishing closures (as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) and/or have been designated as OSPAR High Seas Marine Protected Areas in the last few years. Much of the data that has informed these decisions came from the MAR-ECO research project. This information is used again within this proposal to show that the productive frontal region around the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone meets the EBSAs criteria.	-	-	M	H	H	H	
3. Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores • Location: North of the Azores encompassing a section of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge together with two neighbouring seamounts (Altair and Antialtair). • The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is not only the major topographic feature of the Atlantic Ocean within the OSPAR Maritime Area, but it is also an important benthic habitat and is central to the circulation of the Atlantic Ocean, influencing the pelagic environment and its biology. Several areas along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge have been protected with either bottom fishing closures (as Vulnerable Marine	H	M	H	M	M	M	

Location and brief description of areas (Note: Criteria 7 was not considered by this workshop)	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
Ecosystems [VME]) and/or have been designated as OSPAR High Seas Marine Protected Areas in the last few years. Much of the data that has informed these decisions came from the MAR-ECO research project. This information is used again within this proposal to show that the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores warrants recognition as an EBSA. In general terms the area selected is distinct in terms of biodiversity and, thus, biogeography from two other northern EBSA proposed for the MAR at northern latitudes. It comprises three OSPAR Marine Protected Areas, partly coincident with NEAFC VME, and the recently discovered deep-sea hydrothermal vent Moytirra. Biological features highlighted include the taxonomic structure of the bathyal bentic fauna particularly echinoderms, sponges and anthozoa; a high density of migrating mesopelagic assemblages; cold water corals; and large deep-water fish. The area is also considered as important for foraging of Corys Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*).							
4. The Hatton and Rockall Banks and the Hatton-Rockall Basin • Location: North-East Atlantic continental margin south of the Greenland to Scotland ridges. • The Hatton and Rockall Banks, and associated slopes, represent unique offshore bathyal habitats (200 to 3000 m) and constitute a most prominent feature of the NE Atlantic continental margin south of the Greenland to Scotland ridges. The banks and slopes have a high habitat heterogeneity and support a wide range of benthic and pelagic faunas. Seabed communities include cold-water coral formations, rocky reefs, carbonate mounds, polygonal fault systems, sponge aggregations, steep and gentle sedimented slopes. Pelagic communities comprise those inhabiting bathy-, meso- and epi-pelagic zones, including zooplankton, fish, cetaceans, turtles and seabirds. The area is subject to significant fishing impact, including bottom trawling, long-lining, and mid-water fisheries.	M	M	H	H	M	H	
5. Around Pedro Nunes and Hugo de Lacerda Seamounts – IBA MA04 • Location : coordinates are as follows: A - 41°16'N, 15°31'W B - 41°16'N, 14°54'W C - 40°24'N, 15°31'W D - 40°24'N, 14°54'W • This site is around 485 km away from Berlengas and 890 km from Desertas. It has been identified as a pelagic feeding and resting area for Cory's Shearwater. The area is characterized by the presence of seamounts. This area includes two seamounts - Pedro Nunes and Hugo de Lacerda - which act as natural boosters of the likely increased richness of this site. Besides, there are four other significant seamounts in the surrounding area.	M	H	M	M	-	-	
6. North east Azores-Biscay Rise – IBA MA03 • Location: coordinates are as follows: A - 43°50'N, 18°20'W B - 43°50'N, 17°23'W C - 42°08'N, 18°20'W D - 42°08'N, 17°23'W	M	H	M	M	-	-	

Location and brief description of areas (Note: Criteria 7 was not considered by this workshop)	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
• This site is around 740 km away from the Berlengas islands and 1,080 km from Deserta Grande. It has been identified as a pelagic feeding and resting area for Cory's Shearwater. Its presence may be explained by upwellings that are thought to occur in the area. This large area is located at an elevation of the seabed (Azores - Biscaia) which may be the cause for an upwelling phenomenon in this area, increasing its productivity. This effect appears to be confirmed through the satellite pictures obtained for this location and period, both SST and CHL.							
7. Evlanov Seamount Region • Location: Max. Lat. 50.078, Min. Lon. -34.072, Max. Lon. -39.807, Min. Lat. 45.102. • This site to the North West of the Azores EEZ and west of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge has been identified for a number of seabird species which satellite tracking data shows use the area. Different species use the site at different times of year, for the primary species considered here the period of importance runs from April to November. 7 out of the 8 species considered have been found here. A wide range of supporting information is available for this site from published sources. The site covers an area of 146,635 km2, with depths ranging from 4686 m to 3110 m and averaging at 4326m. Chlorophyll a concentration ranges from 0.22 mg m-3 to 0.79 mg m-3, averaging at 0.37 mg m-3, while Sea surface temperature ranges from 12.22°C to 18.41°C, averaging at 15.44°C (IOC et al., 2003, Feldman and McClain, 2011).	M	H	H	M	-	M	
8. North-West of Azores EEZ • Location: Max Lat 44.348, Min Lon -30.83, Max Lon -36.538, Min Lat 39.8. • This site borders the Azores EEZ on the North-western corner. It has been identified for a number of seabird species which satellite tracking data shows use the area. Different species use the site at different times of year. For the primary species considered here, the period of importance runs from April to November. Seven out of the eighth species considered have been found here. A wide range of supporting information is available for this site from published sources. This site includes part of the MAR North of the Azores High seas MPA. In addition it includes the Important Bird Area MA01 (Ramirez et al 2008). The site covers an area of 91,243km2, with depths ranging from 4569 m to 2692 m and averaging at 4326 m. Chlorophyll a concentration ranges from 0.15 mg m-3 to 0.35 mg m-3, averaging at 0.21 mg m-3, while Sea surface temperature ranges from 17.08°C to 21.51°C, averaging at 19.37°C (IOC et al., 2003, Feldman and McClain, 2011).	M	H	H	M	-	M	
9. The Arctic front – Greenland/Norwegian Seas • Location: Arctic front and its adjacent waters • The area proposed as EBSA reflects the meridional, inter-annual and seasonal variability of the Arctic	-	H	H	-	H	H	

Location and brief description of areas (Note: Criteria 7 was not considered by this workshop)	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
front with adjacent Atlantic waters to the east (warm side) and Arctic waters up to the marginal ice zone to the west. The frontal processes are the power machine for the ecosystem, generating seasonally a huge biomass production on all trophic levels, but best visualized by the large schools of feeding pelagic fish.							
10. The Arctic Ice Habitat – multiyear ice, seasonal ice and marginal ice zone 1 • Location: Central Arctic Basin extending to the North Pole and the southern limit of the summer sea ice extent and marginal ice zone (including on the shelf of East Greenland). • The permanently ice covered waters of the high Arctic provide a range of globally unique habitats associated with the variety of ice conditions. Multi-year sea ice only exists in the Arctic and although the projections of changing ice conditions due to climate change project a considerable loss of sea ice, in particular multiyear ice, the Eurasian Central Arctic high seas are likely to at least keep the ice longer than many other regions in the Arctic basin. Ice is a crucial habitat and source of particular food-web dynamics, the loss of which will affect also a number of mammalian and avian predatory species. The particularly pronounced physical changes of Arctic ice conditions as already observed and expected for the coming decades, will require careful ecological monitoring and eventually measures to maintain or restore the resilience of the Arctic populations to quickly changing environmental conditions.	H	H	H	-	-	-	

Table 2. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in Western South Pacific region

(Details are described in Appendix to Annex 5 of Report of the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop on EBSAs, in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6)

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
1. Phoenix Islands • Location: The Phoenix EBSA includes all of the Kiribati islands of the Phoenix archipelago and the surrounding sea mounts. • The Phoenix Islands have a diverse bathymetry, a number of Bioregions and several shallow seamounts. There are 6 seamounts within this area, strong eddy fields in the surface water and upwelling occurs which heightens the concentration of rich (minerals) nutrients for phytoplankton and zooplanktons. This nutrient rich area leads to high levels of biodiversity and species of economic importance including sharks, billfish, tuna and other by-catch species. There are 5 Important Bird Areas which makes the Phoenix Islands important for a specific life stages for endangered species. There are numerous kinds of sea crabs and turtles and other highly migratory species are common. There was a high catch of Sperm whales in the Phoenix during the early 1900s.There are several IUCN Red List Species documented and the OBIS dataset shows a high number of species.	M	H	H	H	H	H	H
2. Ua Puakaoa seamounts • Location: Approximately 164 ° west and 21° south. • A seamount system characterized by a seamount located within 300m of the sea surface, another approximately 1000m below the surface, with strong current eddies at the surface, most likely caused by significant upwellings. It is likely to have high benthic biodiversity, and possibly a high degree of endemism, which can be associated with isolated seamount systems.	M	-	-	H	L	M	H
3. Seamounts of Norfolk ridge • Location: North boundary: South of New Caledonia; South boundary: species dependent, around 30°S (south of Norfolk Island) if based on fish communities. (Clive and Roberts 2008; Zintzen 2010). • An ecoregional analysis of New Caledonia held in 2005 has indentified Seamounts of Norfolk ridge within New Caledonia EEZ as of international relevance based on 8 national criteria.	H	H	M	H	H	H	H
4. Remetau group: SW Caroline Islands and northern New Guinea • Location: Bounded by 6.9°N, 137.7°E and 2.8°S, 146.6°E at its north-west and south-eastern most limits. • The oceanic islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), also known as the Caroline Islands, are home to some of the most biologically diverse coral reefs in the world. Many individuals, communities, agencies and organizations are acting to conserve the irreplaceable natural resources of	H	H	M	-	M	M	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
the FSM. The EBSA encompasses this priority area and the north-west extent of the Papua New Guinea EEZ. The area supports high seamount diversity, a marine Important Bird Area defined by a key non-breeding foraging concentration of Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*, an area of high tuna catch rates and historically high Sperm Whale harvest.							
5. Kadavu and the Southern Lau Region • Location: between 18-23° S, and 173-179° E. • Kadavu is the fourth largest island in the Fiji Group, of volcanic origin and is biogeographically connected to the Southern Lau group. Kadavu islands are surrounded by a very productive barrier reef system and have the second largest barrier reef system in Fiji, the Great Astrolobe Reef. It supports two endemic bird species. The Southern Lau islands contain some volcanic islands and several isolated limestone oceanic atoll islands with a range of habitats including seagrass beds, oceanic patch reefs, extensive barrier reef systems, seamounts, submarine canyons and the Lau Ridge. The isolated oceanic conditions provide a distinct range of habitats and species diversity and provide important breeding and nesting areas for seabirds, Green and Hawksbill turtles. The marine area also supports an important migration corridor for a number of great whale species including Humpback, Minke, Sei and Sperm whales, and a number of smaller whales and dolphin species. The area has been identified by OBIS as a very rich and productive fishing ground for all species within the inner reefs, offshore pelagic and deepwater benthic fisheries, and also have typical seamount associated fisheries, corals and invertebrates.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
6. Kermadec-Tonga- Louisville Junction • Location: The site is centred on about 25°S, 175°W. • There is a triple junction area at about 25°S, 175°W where the Louisville Seamount Chain subducts into the Kermadec and Tonga Trench region. It features seamount and trench habitat, with specialized fauna in each environment. The Kermadec and Tonga Trenches have endemic species of fish, scavenging amphipod species are prominent in both trenches, and there is a bathyal deep-sea seamount fauna on the Louisville Seamounts.	H	-	M	M	M	H	H
7. Monowai Seamount • Location: Boundaries are latitudes -25.7 to -25.94, longitudes 182.5 to 183.0. • Monowai seamount comprises an active volcanic cone, with a caldera that has extensive hydrothermal venting at depths of about 1200 m. Vent communities comprise tubeworms, dense beds of bathymodiolid mussels, lithodid crabs, and zoarcid fishes. The seamount is at the northern end of a series of vent communities along the Kermadec back arc which has broadly similar fauna.	H	-	M	M	H	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
8. New Britain Trench Region • Location: The New Britain Trench and hydrothermal vents clusters is located in the North-east of Papua New Guinea including the passage between New Ireland and New Britain. • The southern waters of New Britain lie over the New Britain Trench. The area poses high species productivity and richness. This region extends to include clusters of fishable seamounts and hydrothermal vents aggregation in the western, northern to eastern sides of New Ireland, indicating spots of ecological and biological importance.	M	L	M	M	M	M	H
9. New Hebrides Trench Region • Location: Between New Caledonia and Vanuatu, from a northern extent of 17.921°S, 166.975°W to a southern extent of 21.378°S, 170.961°W. • The New Hebrides Trench is a large oceanic trench between New Caledonia and Vanuatu. The EBSA extends from the south extent of Papua New Guinea, wrapping around the southern extent of Vanuatu. The New Hebrides Trench region includes both Abyssal and Lower Bathyal features and seamounts within the national jurisdiction of Vanuatu but straddles portion of the New Caledonia waters. The site surrounds three major islands – Efate, Tanna and Erromango. The EBSA covers a range of habitats including seamounts, deep trenches (up to 7600m deep).	H	H	-	M	L	H	H
10. Rarotonga Outer Reef Slopes • Location: located at latitude 21°12′S and longitude 158°46′W. • From the currently available data, it shows that the outer reef of Rarotonga contains 12 endemic fish species occurring at depths to 300m but possibly deeper. The available OBIS data indicates that the area contains several IUCN vulnerable and threatened species including corals but other IUCN species such as whales and sharks also inhabit the area. The area also has a high value for shallow water species as reflected in the OBIS data sets.	H	-	H	-	-	H	-
11. Samoan Archipelago • Location: Approximately 15 °S and between 166 °W and 174 °W. • The Samoan Archipelago consists of 6 islands and 1 atoll in American Samoa, and 2 large islands and 4 islets in Independent Samoa. The islands of the archipelago comprise a biodiversity hotspot within the western South Pacific and they show considerable connectivity, from the micro-faunal (e.g. coral larvae) to the mega-fauna (whales and turtles).	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
12. Suwarrow Seabird Foraging Area • Location: Suwarrow is a remote atoll in the northern Cook Islands (central Pacific Ocean) at latitude 13°14′S and longitude 163°05′W. • Suwarrow is an important seabird breeding and foraging area for several species in the central Pacific	-	H	M	-	M	-	-

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
Ocean. Suwarrow is a breeding and foraging site for 9% of the global Lesser Frigatebird population and 3% of the global Red-tailed Tropicbird population however these percentages will be revised in the near future and increase to 13% and 4% respectively. The populations on Suwarrow are recognized as being important for maintaining and managing seabird populations on other islands. The importance of Suwarrow is reflected in its status as a Birdlife International Important Bird Area (IBA), being the most significant seabird nesting and foraging site in the Cook Islands.							
13. South of Tuvalu/Wallis & Fortuna/North of Fiji Plateau • Location: The central point is 180.122°W 12.36°S. • The area has been identified from the high catch activity and high productivity and has multiple large submarine canyons. This pocket of high seas partially sits along the Wallis & Fortuna plateau with a depth ranging from 3000 to 5500+ meters. It has consistent high catches of marlin and tuna, and seamount density. This EBSA contains IUCN red list species; is a turtle migration route; and has a high proportion of potential deep sea coral habitats.	L	-	M	H	H	M	M
14. Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaiviti, Fiji • Location: Deep channel and submarine canyons between Viti Levu and Vanua Levu covering Bligh Waters from the edge of the Yasawa Island group and western edge of the Great Sea Reef, through the Vatu-i-Ra Passage, and covering the deep waters around Namena Marine Reserve and islands of Lomaiviti province to the southeast. • The Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaiviti region is a hotspot for charismatic megafauna (cetaceans, sharks, turtles, seabirds), as well as a diversity center for deep species. Despite the relatively small overall area, there is a diverse benthic geomorphology, including channels, submarine canyons and seamounts. The area is surrounded by shallow coastal areas with globally significant marine value.	M	M	H	M	M	H	M
15. South Tasman Sea • Location: Between 36˚S (NW), 40˚S (NE) and 45˚S (S). • The South Tasman Front is an area of rapid change in physical and chemical oceanography, frontal density, and primary productivity (www.oregonstate.edu/oceanproductivity). The highest bird densities in the SPREP area occur in this region and it contains foraging areas for both breeding and non-breeding seabirds (Global Procellariiform Tracking Database). Two seamounts in the northwest are categorized as high risk (Clark and Tittensor 2010), indicating the likely presence of cold water coral communities that have not been impacted by deep water trawling.	M	H	H	H	H	M	M
16. Equatorial High Productivity Zone • Location: latitudes of approximately 5°N to 5°S of the equator, and longitudes of approximately 120°W (the limit of workshop geographic scope) to approximately 165°E.	H	L	L	-	H	L	L

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
• The Central Pacific high productivity zone EBSA is a large scale oceanographic feature, comprising the western extent of flow from the Pacific south equatorial current. This westerly flowing cool upwelling tongue of water brings high nutrients to the surface waters of the central Pacific Ocean supporting high primary production over a large area. There is strong benthic-pelagic coupling, with benthic secondary production in the 4000-5000m abyssal plains being strongly related to the surface primary productivity. Historically, high sperm whale abundance was recorded in this area. This large scale oceanographic feature is highly influenced by El Nino events and is potentially susceptible to climate change.							
17. Central Louisville Seamount Chain • Location: Extends from latitudes 31° S to 40° S and longitudes 172°30' W to 167°00' W. • The Louisville Seamount Chain extends 4000km into the western South Pacific east of New Zealand. It is a unique set of oceanic seamounts in this region, with no other features rising to upper bathyal depths between the New Zealand Plateau and the East Pacific Rise. The seamounts host a variety of deepwater fish species, and are spawning grounds for orange roughy. The area has been extensively fished (mainly for orange roughy), but this site has been chosen to include a range of seamount and guyot features which cover a wide variety of topographic characteristics and depths (and hence different habitats and faunal communities), some or parts of which have not been fished. Species records from bycatch in fisheries include cold-water corals, sponges, and deep-sea echinoderms which are frequently found on seamounts around New Zealand. The seamounts are likely to have productive and diverse benthic invertebrate communities, and be important for orange roughy and other fish populations.	H	H	M	M	M	H	M
18. Pacific high aragonite saturation state zone • Location: Zone from approximately 12 – 16 ° S, from 174 - 156 ° W • An area of the western south Pacific, located in the South Equatorial Current currently has aragonite saturation rates that are the highest in the present day and are projected to be last to drop below the key thresholds of 3 and 3.5. Therefore, this area has special biological and ecological value as an area where the impact from ocean acidification will be slowest and from which recovery may potentially be the quickest.	H	M	-	-	-	-	-
19. Clipperton Fracture Zone Petrel Foraging Area • Location: Bounded by 12.9°N, 137.9°W and 0.2°N and 130.6°W at its North-Western and South-Eastern limits. • It encompasses key non-breeding foraging areas for Pycroft's Petrel, a threatened seabird that breeds in northern New Zealand. The area is equatorial and lies on and to the north of the Pacific Equatorial Upwelling zone. This is an area of strong equatorial current and parallel countercurrents which cause ocean mixing and high levels of primary productivity.	M	H	H	M	M	L	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
20. Northern Lord Howe Ridge Petrel Foraging Area • Location: Bounded by 22.7°S, 160°W and 31.9°S and 165.9°W at its North-Western and South-Eastern limits. • The site qualifies as an Important Bird Area under BirdLife criteria and has primarily been identified as the core foraging area for the endemic New Caledonian subspecies of Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera caledonica* (representing 50-65% of the global population). As well as being important as a foraging area, the site has been shown to be used in transit by birds moving to foraging grounds further to the south.	M	H	M	M	-	L	-
21. Northern New Zealand/South Fiji Basin • Location: Extends from the South Fiji basin to the north of New Zealand and west of the Kermadec Ridge centered on 31°S, 176°E. • It encompasses key foraging areas utilized by breeding Parkinson's Petrel, a threatened seabird that breeds on Great Barrier and Little Barrier islands in northern New Zealand.	M	H	H	H	L	L	-
22. Taveuni and Ringgold Islands • Location: North-east Fiji Islands encompassing Taveuni and the Ringgold Islands centered on 16°S, 179°W. • This site created on the waters surrounding the north-east Fiji Islands supports a diverse array of communities and habitats within a compact area. It supports globally and regionally significant populations of marine turtles, Humpback Whales, seabirds, semi-nomadic reef fish and is projected to hold concentrations of cold-water corals. The area represents key foraging areas surrounding Fiji's most significant nesting sites for Hawksbill and Green Turtles, and the last remaining nesting site in Fiji for the latter. It also encompasses four marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that identify foraging areas based upon seaward extensions around nesting colonies.	L	H	H	M	M	M	M
23. Manihiki Plateau • Location: Approximately 155 W, 18 S. • The Manihiki Plateau is an oceanic plateau in the southwest Pacific Ocean. The Manihiki Plateau was formed by volcanic activity 125 to 120 million years ago during the mid-Cretaceous period at a triple junction plate boundary called the Tongareva triple junction. Surveys over a long period, aimed at identifying important deposits of sea bed minerals, have noted that there are sediment eating organisms present, but these have not been identified.	M	L	-	L	M	L	M
24. Niue-Beveridge and Haran Reef System • Location: Around Niue, 19°S, 169.50°W, extending South East for 125 nm to encompass Beveridge Reef	H	-	M	-	L	-	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
• The isolated island of Niue is the world's largest single coral island, and is not part of any archipelago. The waters around Niue have been identified as a part of an important migratory route for endangered humpback whales. A number of other endangered marine mammals have been sighted in Niue's waters. The endemic black banded sea krate is also reported to be found from near shore areas out to approximately 100 km from Niue fringing reef. Beveridge reef is an isolated patch reef rising sharply from the sea floor, and is included in the EBSA as it is likely to contain some endemic species due to this isolation.							
25. Palau Southwest Area (Dims) • Location: Deep ocean area southwest of the main Palauan archipelago. • This area contains a number of notable characteristics with regards to offshore oceanic environments. Within the region, this convergence of clustered sea mounts, high-energy eddies, and various deepwater benthic communities suggest a potential counterpoint for interactions between deep-sea, pelagic marine and oceanic-going avian species.	M	M	M	-	-	M	L
26. Tonga Archipelago • Location: Between 15°S and 23° 30" S, and 173° to 177° W, • The waters surrounding the islands of the Tongan Archipelago contain unique geomorphic features, notably the Tonga Trench. It is the most important breeding location for the endangered Oceania population of humpback whales and supports globally-significant populations of eight seabird species.	H	H	H	H	M	M	M

Table 3. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic region

(Details are described in Appendix to Annex 4 of Report of the Regional Workshop on EBSAs, in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7)

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
1. Mesoamerican Barrier Reef • Location: The Mesoamerican Reef region is comprised of over 1000 km long of continuous barrier reef considered to be the second largest in the western Hemisphere. It runs parallel to the coast, starting in the northernmost Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, through Belize and Guatemala all the way up to the Bay Islands in Honduras. • The reef supports the second longest barrier reef in the world, a diverse array of fauna and flora, numerous rich nursery/feeding grounds and oceanic waters important for larval transport and dispersion. The rich resources in the region have important ecological, aesthetic, and cultural value to its inhabitants. Productive fishing grounds support valuable commercial and artisanal fisheries. Millions of tourists, attracted to the sandy beaches and teeming reefs, provide important economic revenue to the people and their governments.	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
2. Miskito Cays • Location: 14°25'42.14"N, 82°47'6.72" W • This area, part of the Nicaraguan National System of Protected Areas, has been recognized by RAMSAR and is identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International. It covers 512 ha and includes the Miskito Cays and other land formations. It contains seagrass beds (Thalassia testudinum) that provide food for sea turtles and afford protection to various species of fish in the larva and juvenile stages. It is estimated that at least 300 species of fish live here (annex 2), including dogfish sharks and rays in the waters of the autonomous regions (Herrera, 1984; PAANIC, 1993). In addition, some 120 fish species have been found to inhabit the coral reefs. Less than 5 per cent of these species are currently being exploited. These include snappers (Lutjanidae), sea basses (Serranidae), robalos (Centropomidae) and sharks (Carcharhinidae).	M	M	M	M	M	H	H
3. Corn Island • Location: 12° 6'37.61"N, 82°20'28.77"W There is general information on the biology of approximately 300 species of fish living in the shallow waters off the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua (INPESCA 2004, Ryan 2003); information on deep-water fish found along the continental shelf slope has recently been compiled (Pasenic-INPESCA 2008), including species of snapper (Lutjanidae) and sea bass; they contribute to the second-largest group of deep-water fish	M	M	L	M	M	M	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
captured. All these species are found throughout the Caribbean. They are related to a specific substratum of deep-water (habitat), and each species apparently has a close relationship with its habitat, unlike the types of fish that swim constantly, such as pelagic fish.							
4. Tortuguero – Barra del Colorado • Location: Extends north from Tortuguero National park to Barra del Colorado in the border with Nicaragua. • The Tortuguero-Barra del Colorado area has been broadly studied for more than five decades (since 1955) due to its significance for the natural history of marine turtles, especially green turtles (Chelonia mydas). Tortuguero beach is known as the largest remaining green turtle rookery in the Atlantic (Troeng 2005). The area is also used by leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and in rare occasions by hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The Tortuguero-Barra del Colorado area also includes coastal lagoons, marine bird nesting and feeding areas, manatee concentration areas and sea turtle aggregation and nesting areas.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
5. Cahuita – Gandoca • Location: Extends south from Cahuita National Park to the mouth of the Sixaola River in the border with Panama. • The areas of Cahuita and Gandoca-Manzanillo contain important patches of seagrasses (*Thalassia testudinum*) as well as the most important coral reef areas in the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Cahuita is the site with the highest reef-building diversity in Costa Rica (31 species) as well as a high diversity of octocorals (19 species). In Gandoca, the most important mangrove area of the Costa Rican Caribbean is found, associated to a coastal lagoon. Gandoca also presents leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) seaturtle nesting areas. Finally, the proposed area also presents aggregation areas for the spiny lobster, conch, tucuxi dolphins, manatees and marine bird feeding areas.	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
6. Pedro Bank, Southern Channel and Morant • Location: The identified area is located in oceanic waters south east to south west of Jamaica and encompasses from Jamaica the Pedro Bank and Cays (16° 43’ N and 17 35 N and 77° 20’ and 79° 02’ W); the Morant Cays and deep channels around; from Honduras and Nicaragua the Rosalind Bank (16°26′N 80°31′W16.433°N 80.517°W. It), and from Colombia and Jamaica; the Serranilla Bank (15° 41´- 16°04’N and 80°03’ - 79° 40´W), Alice Bank (15° 57´- 16° 10´N and 79° 28´ - 79° 16´W) and New Bank (15° 47´ - 15° 56´N and 78° 49´ - 78° 31´W). • The proposed area contains remote atolls with their associated banks and deep sea areas. They appear to share common oceanic dynamics which demonstrate relatively high biological diversity and productivity developed within an array of complex structured benthic habitats and complex bathymetry.	H	H	M	M	M	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
At present, the entire area provides substantial queen conch, spiny lobster and reef fish fisheries which are threatened by the lack of regional considerations for its sustainable use.							
7. Navassa Island • Location: 35 miles west of Haiti; 80 miles east of Jamaica. 18024'00.00"N, 75000'39.79"W • Navassa Island, associated shallow shelf (~30m) communities, and surrounding deeper shelf including Navassa Knoll (400m feature to the southeast). Fairly extensive scientific information is available regarding marine resources at Navassa along the coast and 30m shelf. Much less is known regarding the abyssal shelf or Navassa Knoll. The important characteristics of the shallow shelf (largely coral reef and associated hard bottoms) include robust, genetically distinct population of endangered elkhorn coral.	H	-	H	M	-	L	M
8. Caracol/Ft. Liberté/Monte Cristi (Northern Hispaniola Binational Area) • Location: Northeastern Haiti • Characterized by fringing/barrier reef, mangrove forests, and seagrass beds	L	M	M	H	M	L	L
9. Marine Mammal Sanctuary Banco de la Plata y Banco de la Navidad • Location: Located about 80 nautical miles off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, extends from the western boundary of the Silver Bank of Bank of Christmas to the Bay of Samana from Punta Balandra and Miches. • This area represents unique environment for the reproduction of North Atlantic humpbacks whales. Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) come from the high latitudes of the North Atlantic, to the waters of the Dominican Republic to reproduction activities between December and April each year. Of all the whales that make this migration, 85% of these whales visit the areas off short banks of the Banco de la Plata and Banco de la Navidad and Samana Bay.	H	H	H	H	L	H	L
• **10. Seaflower** Location: Seaflower is an open-ocean area surrounding the inhabited islands and including the coastal and oceanic coral reefs of the San Andres Archipelago, which is a Colombian administrative department in the south-western Caribbean. This area contains the largest, most productive open-ocean coral reefs in the Caribbean; provides rare, unique and unusual reef environments; contains remote areas demonstrating high integrity and little anthropogenic influence; and displays a continuum of habitats that support significant levels of marine biodiversity. With the presence of 192 Red-Listed species, it is an important site for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of global concern.	H	H	H	H	-	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
11. Saba Bank • Location: 17o25' N, 63030' W • The Saba Bank is a unique and highly significant area. Biophysically it is a submerged atoll, the largest actively growing atoll in the Caribbean, and one of the largest atolls in the world, measuring 1,850 km^2 (above 50m depth contour). The area is significant in terms of its unique ecological, socio-economic, scientific and cultural characteristics, with extensive coral reefs, fishing grounds and algal beds.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
12. Eastern Caribbean • Location: The islands arc from Anguilla located at 18°12.80N and 63°03.00W and curve around to Tobago located at 10° 2' to 11° 12' N and 60° 30' to 61° 56' W. • The region harbours a variety of rich ecosystems associated with small islands masses, many being volcanic and some being limestone in origin. The region supports many productive ecosystems, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove swamps. It is also home to unusual features such as a major underwater volcano, Kick Em Jelly (Grenada), and hydrothermal vents and seamounts. The region harbours significant larval stocks, which potentially serve as a source for commercially important species such as the Caribbean Spiny lobster and Queen Conch. The area also provides essential conditions for the survival of several migratory species such as turtles, fishes and sea birds.	M	M	H	H	L	H	M
13. The Sargasso Sea • Location: The Sargasso Sea is surrounded by the Gulf Stream to the west, the North Atlantic Drift to the north, the more diffuse Canary Current to the east, and the North Equatorial Current and the Antilles Current to the south, extending between 22o – 38oN and 76o – 43oW, centred on 30oN and 60oW. • The Sargasso Sea is home to an iconic pelagic ecosystem with the floating *Sargassum* seaweeds, the world's only holopelagic algae, as its cornerstone. It hosts a diverse community of associated organisms that includes ten endemic species, and provides essential habitat for key life stages of a wide diversity of species, many of which are endangered or threatened. The Sargasso Sea is the only breeding location for European and American eels, the former being listed as critically endangered, and is on the migration route of numerous other iconic and endangered species. A variety of oceanographic processes impact productivity and species diversity, and the area plays a disproportionately large role in global ocean processes of oxygen production and carbon sequestration. The sea floor has two large seamount chains, home to specialized, fragile and endemic communities, and models predict the presence of numerous other isolated seamounts.	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
14. Sinú upper continental shelf break • Location: The Sinú upper continental shelf region includes sites that extend from latitude 9 12'14"N to 10 4'38"N and between longitudes 76 34'30"W and 76 6'59"W.	H	-	-	H	M	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
• The Sinú upper continental shelf region is found in the southern Caribbean off the Colombian coast at a depth of 180 to 1000 m; it is characterized by the presence of geological formations that are typical of water flow systems, such as canals, canyons and continental aprons, and structural forms such as ridges, slopes, domes and troughs, which are associated with a high level of biodiversity. Deep-water corals are also present, especially Madracis myriaster, whose significance is growing from an ecological point of view. The presence of oxidizing methane at cold seeps is also becoming more environmentally important. The natural status of these sites makes them ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the southern Caribbean region, although the possibility of future hydrocarbon exploration makes this region vulnerable.							
15. Magdalena upper continental shelf break • Location: The Magdalena upper continental shelf break includes sites that extend from latitude 11 3'34"N to 11 55'40"N and between longitudes 75 33'3"W and 74 2'28"W. The Magdalena upper continental shelf region is located in the central sector of the Caribbean coast of Colombia at a depth of 200 to 3000 m. It is characterized by the presence of canyons and seamounts associated with high biodiversity. It also has deep-water corals, especially Madracis myriaster, which are becoming increasingly important in environmental terms. The natural status of these sites makes them ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the southern Caribbean region.	H	-	-	H	-	H	H
16. Amazonian-Orinoco Influence Zone • Location: N 14.517, E: -45.144, S: -0.565, W: -60.981 (The proposed area encompasses the productivity flow from Northern Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana and Eastern Trinidad.) • The Orinoco River drains an area of 1.1 x 10 6 km2 within Venezuela (70%) and Colombia (30%) (Lewis 1988). Together with the Amazon, these two major rivers play an extremely important role in transporting dissolved and particulate material from terrestrial areas to the coasts and open ocean. Their impact is evidenced by the overall extremely high productivity associated with the marine area extending from northern Brazil, to French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, all the way to Trinidad and Tobago. Associated with this high productivity are high levels of biodiversity inclusive of endangered, threatened and endemic species of turtles, mammals, invertebrates, fishes and birds.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
17. Parcel do Manuel Luiz e Banco do Álvaro • Location: Covers two main areas including Parcel do Manuel Luiz (69 km^2 centered on 00^{o}50′S, 044 ^{o}15′W) and Banco do Álvaro (30 km^2 centered on 00 ^{o} 17.5′S, 044 ^{o} 49.5′W) • Parcel do Manuel Luiz is the most northern coral communities known in Brazil. In some areas milleporids predominate on the reef walls, followed by the octocoral *Phyllogorgia dilatata* (endemic to Brazil). There are records of 50% of the Brazilian hard corals species in the area, six of which were not	M	M	H	H	-	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
previously reported in the Northeastern adjacent coast. The fire coral *Millepora laboreli* is endemic to the area and has been recently included as EN in the Brazilian List of Endangered Species. The presence and great abundance of Caribbean reef organisms, which do not occur along the eastern coast of South America, provide additional evidence that these reefs may be one of the main faunal stepping stones between the Caribbean and the Brazilian coast. The region represents an important area of feeding and reproduction of elasmobranchs.							
18. Banks chain of northern Brazil and Fernando de Noronha • Location: Covers the North Brazilian Chain (1 ° S to 4 ° S / 37 ° W to 39 W) and Fernando de Noronha Chain (3 ° to 5 ° S / 32 º to 38 º W). • The North Brazil Current interacts with the submarine topography generating upwellings that promote productivity. Chains are inserted in oligotrophic environment and Fernando de Noronha and Rocas Atoll are seen as a "hotspot" due to the presence of coral reef formations, high biodiversity and endemism. The area is a spawning site and / or feeding site for turtles, elasmobranchs, reef fish and pelagic fish. The area is a feeding site for breeding seabirds at Fernando de Noronha and covers part of the most important seabird migration corridor in the Atlantic, both sites which qualify as BirdLife Important Bird Area (IBA) for both threatened species and congregations. Some birds, elasmobranchs and turtles species listed in the IUCN red list as threatened occur in the area. Sharks, reef fishes and lobsters are target for fisheries carried out in the region. Fishing exploitation is a traditional activity in the area. Sea turtles are also subject to incidental catch by pelagic longline and ghost nets. The Rocas Atoll has the highest rate of endemism in the region and Fernando de Noronha has the highest species richness when compared to other Brazilian oceanic islands. Fernando de Noronha and Rocas Atoll fauna display great similarity which is attributed to the presence of shallow oceanic banks that function as steps tones in the area. Larvae of coastal species suggest connectivity with the continental slope area.	H	H	H	M	M	H	H
19. Northeastern Brazil Shelf-Edge Zone • Location: The northeastern shelf-edge zone extends along the Brazilian outer shelf and upper slope, from depths of 40m to 2000m and between parallels 3ºS to 16ºS, from south Bahia up to the Ceará states, where the Brazilian continental shelf is narrow and breaks abruptly at depths between 50 to 80m. • The continental shelf-edge zone is a marine ecotone where different components of the demersal, benthic and benthopelagic communities of the continental shelf, upper slope and adjacent pelagic biota coexist in a narrow strip along the continental margin. Biogenic reef formations associated to outer shelf channels, ravines and deeper canyons represent important traditional fishing grounds. The northeastern Brazilian shelf-edge zone contains distinct habitats and unusual geomorphological features such as shelf-edge reefs that represent a last refuge for some rare or endemic reef fishes distributed across the continental margin, including threatened (IUCN) commercial species of the snapper-grouper complex,	M	H	H	H	L	H	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
currently depleted at the Brazilian EEZ jurisdiction. The shelf-edge harbour critical habitats for the life cycle of many sea turtles, whales, sharks and reef fish species, including migratory corridors and fish spawning aggregation sites. The area covers part of the most important seabird migration corridor in the Atlantic, a site which qualifies as a Birdlife Important Bird Area (IBA) for both threatened species and congregations. This region corresponds to a portion of the breeding ground of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) off the northeastern coast of Brazil.							
20. Atlantic Equatorial Fracture Zone and high productivity system • Location: The proposed area extends approximately 1.9 m km^2 across the Equatorial Atlantic Ocean from the western border of the Guinea Basin (10°W) in the east to the northeast limit of Brazilian continental margin (32°W) in the west. • The proposed area combines both benthic and pelagic habitats of the Equatorial Atlantic, as defined by the seafloor topography, surface and deepwater circulation patterns and the equatorial primary productivity regimes. It can also be characterized by particular pelagic and benthic biodiversity patterns.	H	H	M	M	H	H	M
21. Abrolhos Bank and Vitória-Trindade Chain • Location: The Abrolhos Region is an enlargement of the Brazilian continental shelf located in the eastern shore of Brazil, in the southern of Bahia and northern of Espírito Santo States. • Abrolhos Bank harbours the highest marine biodiversity in the South Atlantic, the largest coral reefs in Brazil, and relatively large populations of several endemic and endangered marine species. It presents a mosaic of different habitats, like mangroves, seagrasses meadows, rhodolith beds, submerged and emergent reefs, and a group of small volcanic islands. Abrolhos also has unique biological formations, such as the large mushroom shaped reef formations – "chapeirões", and unique geological formations, such as the "buracas" – distinctive depressions in the shelf plain (up to 20 meters deep and 70 meters large). The region is an important breeding and/or fishing site for several flagship species such as humpback whales, sea turtles and sea birds. • The Vitória Trindade Chain, located on the central coast of Brazil, is composed of seven seamounts and an island complex (Archipelago of Trinidad and Martin Vaz). The substrate of the mountains and ocean islands is composed of living reefs of coralline algae, on which is also observed the presence of different species of corals, sponges and algae. The mountains and islands have a fauna of reef fish that is still preserved, with a significant biomass and abundance of species, harbouring many sharks and spawning aggregation phenomena of important fishery resources. Moreover, the reef fish fauna includes at least 11 endemic species. Also, this area is the only breeding site for three endemic populations of seabirds, the Trindade petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*), the Atlantic lesser frigatebird (*Fregata minor nicolli*), and the Atlantic greater frigatebird (*Fregata ariel trinitiatis*).	H	H	H	H	M	H	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 2						
22. Southern Brazilian Sea • Location: Extending from Chuí (Brazil-Uruguay boundary) (*ca*. 34°S) to the proximity of the Santa Marta Grande Cape (Santa Catarina State) (ca. 29°S). The western and eastern limits are the shoreline (ca. 53°W) and the 4000 m isobath (ca. 39°W), respectively. • Interactions between the Subtropical Convergence, continental runoff from the La Plata River (Argentina/Uruguay) and Patos Lagoon, and topographic features favors high biological productivity, and make this region an important reproduction, nursery and feeding grounds for pelagic and demersal fish stocks and a crucial feeding ground for threatened cetacean, seabirds and marine turtles species.	M	H	H	M	H	M	L

Table 4. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in Mediterranean region

(Details are described in the appendix to the synthesis report in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8)

Explanation of scores: how important is the polygon for the criterion?
4 = completely
3 = a lot
2 = somewhat
1 = a little
0 = not at all

n.	name of polygon	sub-region	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	Notes
1	Djibouti Seamount	Alborán	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
2	Alborán Crest	Alborán	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
3	Motril Seamount	Alborán	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
4	Seco de los Olivos Seamount	Alborán	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
5	E Malaga coast	Alborán	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	not ABNJ: Important foraging ground for seabirds within the Alborán context.
6	Bay of Almeria	Alborán	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	not ABNJ: important breeding colonies of gulls and terns that use the adjacent sea to forage
7	Alborán island	Alborán	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	holds one of the most important colonies of Audouin's gull in the world
8	Chafarinas Islands	Alborán	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	not ABNJ: holds the second most important colony of Audouin's gull at global level
9	Al-Mansour Seamount	Alborán								
10	Torrox Seamount	Alborán								
11	Gibraltar Strait	Alborán	4	3	3	2	3	4	1	Unique location is key for long-term survival of seabird populations that move between Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
12	Alborán Sea	Alborán	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	Area of high (primary) productivity: acts as feeding area for locally-breeding bird populations, as winter area and most importantly for migration/passage
13	Seco de los Olivos Seamount	Alborán	3	3	4	4	3	4	2	presence of black corals, red coral, sponges, gorgonian gardens, coralligenous, maerl, marine turtles, cetaceans and commercial species.
14	Alborán and Algerian	Alborán, W Medit	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
15	Polygon 4	Alborán		3						*Scyliorhinus canicula* nursery area
16	Alborán Sea	Alborán	2	4	4	3	4	3	1	Common dolphin, striped dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, Cuvier's beaked whale, pilot whale
89	SW Alborán	Alborán	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
17	Aguilas Seamount	W Medit								
18	Emile Baudot Seamount	W Medit								
19	Palamos Canyon	W Medit								
20	Cap de Creus Canyon	W Medit	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	*Lophelia*, *Madrepora*, 218 m, ROV, submersible (Orejas et al. 2008)
21	Balearic Sea	W Medit	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	Bluefin tuna spawning ground, sperm whale habitat
22	Gulf of Lion	W Medit	3	3	3		4			High primary productivity of pelagic waters

23	Ebro River system	W Medit	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	Key area for feeding of globally-threatened and other seabird species of conservation concern that concentrate for breeding in Ebro Delta (gulls, terns) and in Balearic Is (shearwaters)
24	Gulf of Lion - Hyères Islands	W Medit	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	High-productivity area; important for feeding of globally-threatened and other seabird species of conservation concern: Procellariiforms from Hyères, Corsica & Balearics, gulls & terns from Camargue, wintering seabirds from Atlantic
25	Palos Seamount	W Medit	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	corals, gorgonian gardens, sponges, marine turtles, cetaceans, elasmobranchs and commercial species.
26	Emile Baudot Seamount	W Medit	3	3	4	3	2	4	3	coralligenous, maërl, gorgonian gardens, corals (included some black corals), bryozoans, marine turtles, cetaceans and commercial species.
27	Menorca Canyon	W Medit	3	3	3	3	4	4	2	gorgonian gardens, corals, sponges, coralligenous, maërl, sharks and commercial species.
28	Gulf of Lion - fin whale habitat	W Medit	3	4	1	2	4	4	0	
29	Gulf of Lion - striped dolphin habitat	W Medit	2	2	1	2	2	4	0	
30	Spanish shelf + Balearic	W Medit	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
31	Polygon 5	W Medit		3						*Galeus melastomus* nursery area
73	Gulf of Lion canyons	W Medit								Lacaze-Duthiers Canyon, *Madrepora*, at 300 m, submersible, dredges (Zibrowius 2003), Cassidaigne Canyon, *Madrepora*, 210-510 m, submersible (Bourcier & Zibrowius 1973)
81	Catalan coast	W Medit	1	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
90	Balearic Sea	W Medit								important habitat for sperm whales
32	N Tyrrhenian	Tyrrenian	2	1			2			High primary productivity of pelagic waters
33	Corsica - Sardinia - Tuscan Is.	Tyrrenian	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	Important area for feeding of endemic and other seabird species of conservation concern that concentrate for breeding in Corsica-Sardinia-Tuscan archipelagos
34	Aceste Seamount	Tyrrenian	2	3	3	2	4	3	3	corals, elasmobranchs (specially high quantity of sharks) and commercial species.
35	Enareta Seamount	Tyrrenian	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	corals, sponges and sharks.
36	Polygon 10	Tyrrenian		3	3	3	3	3		*Scyliorhinus canicula, Raja clavata, R. asterias, Carcharinus brachyurus, Galeus melastomus, Etmopterus spinax* nursery area
37	Polygon 11	Tyrrenian		3						*Squatina oculata* probable nursery area
38	Polygon 5 bis	Tyrrenian		3						*Scyliorhinus canicula* nursery area
39	Waters around Ischia	Tyrrenian	2	3	4	3	2	2	1	Common dolphin, striped dolphin, Risso's dolphin, sperm whale
40	Bluefin tuna breeding area	Tunisia Plateau	3	4	4	4	1	3	3	
41	Tunisia Plateau area 1	Tunisia Plateau		2	3			3		*Carcharodon carcharias* nursery area
42	Tunisia Plateau area 2	Tunisia Plateau		2	3			3		Several batoids and white shark nursery, loggerhead turtle feeding and wintering area, Maerl beds
43	Strait of Sicily	Tunisia Plateau	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	High-productivity area: important for feeding of Procellariiforms nesting in Tunisia (Zembra is), Sicily (Egadi is) and Pantelleria
44	Malta - Outer Gabés	Tunisia Plateau	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	New data from BirdLife Malta LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project show importance of the extensive area SE of Malta for feeding of this Mediterranean endemic species.
45	Tunisian - Inner Gabés	Tunisia Plateau	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	loggerhead turtle habitat
46	Strait of Sicily, Ionian	Tunisia Plateau, Ionian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat

47	Polygon 8	Tunisia Plateau		3						*Carcharodon carcharias* probable nursery area
48	Polygon 9	Tunisia Plateau		3				3		*Carcharodon carcharias* probable nursery area
49	Waters around Lampedusa	Tunisia Plateau	2	4	3	3	4	2	2	Fin whale winter feeding grounds
50	Waters around Malta	Tunisia Plateau	1	4	3	3	2	1	2	Common dolphin
74	*Lophelia*, *Madrepora* in Strait of Sicily	Tunisia Plateau								Urania Bank, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 509-613 m, ROV (this study), Linosa Trough, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 669-679 m, ROV (this study), off Malta, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 453-612 m, ROV (this study), off Malta, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 392-617 m, demersal trawl (Schembri et al. 2007)
87	Inner Tunisian Plateau, N part	Tunisia Plateau		2						
88	SW Sicily	Tunisia Plateau	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
51	Northern and central Adriatic	Adriatic	0	3	3	3	3	3	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
52	Polygon 1	Adriatic		2	2	2				*Squalus acanthias* nursery area
53	Polygon 2	Adriatic		3						*Scyliorhinus canicula* nursery area
76	*Lophelia* and *Madrepora* in S Adriatic of Puglia	Adriatic								Bari Canyon, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 306-640 m, ROV (this study), Gondola Slide, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 674-714 m, ROV (this study)
82	Central western Adriatic	Adriatic	1	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
54	Ionian	Ionian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
55	Polygon 6	Ionian		3						*Raja clavata* nursery area
56	Eastern Ionian Sea	Ionian	1	4	4	3	3	2	2	Common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, Cuvier's beaked whales, fin whales, sperm whales
57	Hellenic Trench	Ionian, Levantine	2	4	4	3	4	3	2	Sperm whales, Cuvier's beaked whales
75	*Lophelia* and *Madrepora* in Gulf of Taranto	Ionian								Santa Maria di Leuca, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 300-1100 m, dredges, ROV (Taviani et al. 2005a, this study), off Gallipoli, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 603-744 m, ROV (this study)
78	*Lophelia* reefs	Ionian								
58	Polygon 3	Aegean		3						*Carcharinus plumbeus* breeding area
59	Northern Aegean Sea	Aegean	2	4	4	3	3	2	2	Common dolphin, harbour porpoise, monk seal, beaked whale
60	Eastern Aegean Sea	Aegean	2	4	4	3	3	2	2	Common dolphin, monk seal, beaked whale
77	*Lophelia* and *Madrepora* reefs off Thasos	Aegean								off Thasos, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 300-350 m, dredging (Vafidis et al. 1997)
83	N West Aegean	Aegean	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
84	N Aegean	Aegean	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
85	SW Aegean	Aegean	3							
61	Bluefin tuna breeding area	Levantine	3	4	4	4	1	3	3	
62	Bluefin tuna breeding area	Levantine	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	Importance: One of the 3 spawning grounds of Blue Fin Tuna (Thunnus thynnus)
63	Monk seal 1	Levantine	4	4	4	2	0	0	2	not ABNJ. Importance: The largest and the only viable monk seal colony along the Turkish coast
64	Monk seal 2	Levantine	4	3	3	4	2	2	3	not ABNJ. Importance: Very pristine area, intact Cystoseira and Posidonia meadows; important (breeding) habitat for seal, breeding site for Audouin's Gull (Larus audouini).

65	Keldag	Levantine	4	3	3	4	2	2	4	not ABNJ. Importance: May be the last spot representing intact rocky Levantine coast. Also holds a small breeding monk seal colony
66	Rhodes Gyre	Levantine	4	3	2	1	4	2	0	Very significant oceanographic feature driven by strong upwelling. Biological importance is not well known however we have sampled significant amount of egg and larvae (Clupeid and Swordfish) on the periphery of the upwelling region. The region is rich in Cephalopods. Therefore the region may also be important for Cetaceans. (the largest number of whale stranding from Turkish fishermen are reported there).
67	Rhodes Gyre	Levantine	3	2			4			High primary productivity of pelagic waters
68	Egyptian shelf	Levantine	0	3	3	3	3	3	2	loggerhead and green turtle habitat
69	Cyprus - Turkey - Syria	Levantine	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	loggerhead and green turtle habitat
70	Polygon 7	Levantine		3						*Rhinobatos rhinobatos* nursery area
71	Off S Turkey, Syria	Levantine	1	4	4	3	4	2	2	beaked whales, monk seal
72	Off Nile Delta, S Israel	Levantine	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	Common dolphin
79	Eratosthenes Seamount	Levantine								
80	Cold seeps	Levantine								
86	Rhodes Gyre	Levantine	3							
