



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JLe/rg/77432

7 September 2011

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Caribbean and Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) 28 February to 2 March 2012, Praia do Forte, Brazil

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision X/29, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to organize a series of regional workshops, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through 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.

The Conference of the Parties further requested that the Executive Secretary, in organizing the above-mentioned regional workshops, 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).

Pursuant to this request, I have the pleasure to inform you that, with financial support from the European Union, the Secretariat is convening a Greater 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. This workshop will be hosted by the Government of Brazil and take place from 28 February to 2 March 2012, in Praia do Forte, Brazil.

I invite you to nominate, at your earliest convenience but no later than **20 October 2011**, an expert who can participate in this workshop and provide scientific information in support of the workshop objectives prior to the workshop. The selection of experts will be based on scientific expertise and experience, taking into account the guidance of COP in its decision X/29, and will be carried out using the following criteria:

CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points in Greater Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Region; other Governments; competent organizations and regional initiatives

- Good scientific knowledge related to, and research experience in describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through 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;
- Good scientific knowledge related to, and experience in the application of scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20; and
- Good scientific knowledge related to, and experience in developing and applying biogeographic classification systems of open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats

Draft terms of reference and provisional agenda for the workshop are annexed to this notification for your reference. Meeting documents will be forwarded to the selected experts and posted on the CBD website in due course. The meeting will be conducted in English.

Nominations should be submitted to the CBD Secretariat via an official signed letter addressed to the Executive Secretary by the above deadline (faxed to +1 514 288-6588 or as a scanned attachment to an email addressed to secretariat@cbd.int) together with a curriculum vitae that clearly indicates the areas of expertise and experience of the nominee.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support of the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaoui
Executive Secretary

Attachment

**Annex 1. Draft Terms of Reference for the CBD Regional Workshops
To Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas -
EBSAs (paragraph 36, decision X/29)**

1. Describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of the scientific criteria adopted through decision IX/20 and contained in annex I to that decision, 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;
2. Collate, review, analyse and synthesize relevant scientific data/information/maps collected through the CBD EBSA repository system called for in decision X/29 (paragraphs 39, 42 and 43), to undertake the above activity in paragraph 1;
3. Collate, review, analyse and synthesize relevant scientific information data/information/maps from other credible, quality-controlled sources, to undertake the above activity in paragraph 1;
4. Compile and produce regional EBSA reports for consideration by SBSTTAs; and
5. The regional workshops will be convened by the Executive Secretary in collaboration 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.

Annex 2. Draft Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the workshop scope and output
3. Workshop background: EBSAs process and its linkage to other relevant global processes
4. Review relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled through the CBD EBSA repository system and other credible, quality-controlled sources
5. Describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs (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 EBSAs
6. Identify gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing EBSAs, including the need for scientific capacity development and a proposal for future scientific collaboration
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report
9. Closure of the meeting