



Ref.: SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JA/JMQ/84624

6 May 2015

NOTIFICATION

Submission of information and suggestions on the development of a specific workplan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision XII/23, paragraph 16, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity noted that deep-water corals and many other cold-water organisms are vulnerable to the impacts of ocean acidification and are impacted by additional stressors that are different from those affecting warm-water coral reefs. The Conference of the Parties also recognized the need for further work to identify the location and condition of deep-water corals and to understand the impacts of human activities on these corals. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, a draft specific workplan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas, building upon the elements of a workplan on physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs, including cold-water corals (decision VII/5, annex I, appendix 2) and in close linkage with relevant work under the Convention, such as the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and with relevant work of competent organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for its work on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), and to submit the draft specific workplan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Pursuant to the above request, Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are invited to submit: (i) information on the location and condition of deep-water corals, as well as the impacts of human activities on these corals; and (ii) suggestions regarding the development of a draft specific workplan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas. The submission may include relevant scientific and technical literature/reports/documents, case studies, lessons learned, tools and guidance, and relevant management plans at sub-national, national or regional levels, as well as specific suggestions for inclusion in the development of a draft specific workplan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas.

Kindly provide your submissions as soon as possible but no later than **31 August 2015**, to facilitate the timely compilation of information and the development of a draft specific workplan. Contributions should be submitted to the Executive Secretary via e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int or faxed to +1 514 288 6588.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the Convention.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other relevant organizations



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