



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

### THIRD MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS

Videoconference – 12-13 April 2022  
9 a.m. and 7 p.m., Montreal EDT

## ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 11 of [decision XIII/12](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to establish an informal advisory group on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), subject to available financial resources, to facilitate implementation of the voluntary practical options referred to in paragraph 9 and annex II of the same decision. The Conference of the Parties requested that the Executive Secretary follow the guidance on expert groups contained in the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ([decision VIII/10, annex III \(h\)](#)) and the terms of reference for this informal advisory group on EBSAs, as provided in [annex III to decision XIII/12](#), as follows:

(a) Provide scientific and technical advice on matters relating to revising and further developing existing scientific guidance, particularly regarding information collection, protocol for data quality control and sharing, gap analysis, systematic assessment against the EBSA criteria, and improvement of the functionality of the EBSA repository;

(b) Provide scientific and technical advice regarding the need for additional workshops at the appropriate scale, based on an analysis of new information and a representativeness analysis with regard to geographic coverage beyond national jurisdiction as well as coverage of existing areas meeting the EBSA criteria in areas beyond national jurisdiction.<sup>1</sup>

2. Pursuant to the above request, the Secretariat issued notification [2017-058](#), dated 21 June 2017, inviting Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, and indigenous peoples and local communities to nominate scientific and technical experts to participate in the informal advisory group on EBSAs. A total of 112 nominations were received; 78 nominations were submitted by 32 Governments, and 34 nominations were submitted by 25 organizations, including three from two indigenous peoples and local community organizations.

3. The selection process took place in line with the criteria outlined in the above-mentioned notification, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, taking into account the need to ensure geographical distribution and gender balance. Thirty experts were selected, as indicated in notification [2018-056](#), dated 14 June 2018.

4. With financial support from the Government of Sweden, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity convened the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on EBSAs<sup>2</sup> in Montreal,

<sup>1</sup> The activities described in this subparagraph only relate to areas meeting the EBSA criteria in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In cases where the EBSA is located both within and beyond national jurisdiction, the activities only relate to the portion of the EBSA that is beyond national jurisdiction.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-OM-2018-01>

Canada, from 30 June to 1 July 2018, immediately preceding the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

5. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in November 2018, amended the terms of reference of the informal advisory group on EBSAs in annex III to decision 14/9 to include the following:

(a) In line with decision XIII/12, paragraph 8, develop guidance for the Executive Secretary on the organization of new workshops to facilitate the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria; identify the need for scientific gap analysis and/or thematic analysis, which could complement regional workshops; and, as appropriate, provide advice to the Executive Secretary, based on the results of such analysis, and submit draft guidance to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration;

(b) Advise the Executive Secretary in the planning of EBSA workshops to ensure the provisioning of scientific and technical knowledge, as well as traditional knowledge, at appropriate scales;

(c) Advise the Executive Secretary in developing draft voluntary guidelines for scientific peer-review processes.

6. The Secretariat convened the second meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas on 1 August 2019, which was held virtually by videoconference.

7. Building on the results of the first two meetings, the Secretariat is convening the third meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas on 12 and 13 April 2022, which, like the second meeting, will be held by videoconference.

8. Each session of the meeting will be conducted at two different times each on 12 and 13 April to accommodate participants joining from different time zones.

9. A list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex I.

10. The meeting will be conducted in English.

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

11. A representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will open the meeting at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on Tuesday, 12 April 2022.

### **ITEM 2. MEETING BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

12. A representative of the Secretariat will deliver a presentation to review the meeting background, scope and expected outputs/outcomes.

### **ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION**

13. Under this item, participants will hear theme presentations and engage in discussion on various issues, with a focus on addressing key questions prepared by the Secretariat.

14. A Secretariat resource person will deliver a theme presentation on a draft updated training manual on EBSAs. This will be followed by a plenary discussion.

15. Next, a Secretariat resource person will deliver a theme presentation on draft voluntary guidance for peer-review processes for supporting the identification of new and/or modification of descriptions to existing designated marine areas of significance. This will be followed by a plenary discussion.

16. Next, the Secretariat will provide an update and discussions on various intergovernmental processes and implications for work on EBSAs. This will be followed by a plenary discussion.

17. Lastly, participants will discuss potential future modalities for the EBSA informal advisory group. On this issue, a brief introductory presentation will be delivered by a representative of the Secretariat, followed by plenary discussion.

**ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS**

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

**ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

19. The meeting is expected to close at 1 p.m. and 11 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) Wednesday, 13 April 2022.

*Annex I*

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE MEETING**

<i>Official documents</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/EBSA/OM/2022/1/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/EBSA/OM/2022/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/EBSA/OM/2018/1/2	Report of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas on its first meeting
CBD/EBSA/OM/2019/1/2	Report of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas on its second meeting
	Draft revised training materials on EBSAs
	Draft Guidance for Peer-Review Processes for Supporting the Identification of New and/or Modification of Descriptions to Existing Designated Marine Areas of Significance
	Background Document for Peer-Review Processes for Supporting the Identification of New and/or Modification of Descriptions to Existing Designated Marine Areas of Significance

*Annex II*

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**Tuesday, 12 April 2022**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (EDT)

7 to 11 p.m. (EDT)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting activities</b>
30 minutes	<b>Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting</b>
15 minutes	<b>Agenda item 2. Meeting background, scope and expected outputs</b>
1 hour and 15 minutes	<b>Agenda item 3. Issues for in-depth discussion</b> (a) Updated training manual on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) (i) Theme presentation (ii) Plenary discussion
15 minutes	Break
1 hour and 45 minutes	<b>Agenda item 3. Issues for in-depth discussion (continued)</b> (b) Draft voluntary guidance for peer-review processes for supporting the identification of new and/or modification of descriptions to existing designated marine areas of significance (i) Theme presentation (ii) Plenary discussion

**Wednesday, 13 April 2022**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (EDT)

7 to 10:30 p.m. (EDT)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting activities</b>
1 hour	<b>Agenda item 3. Issues for in-depth discussion (continued)</b> (b) Draft voluntary guidance for peer-review processes for supporting the identification of new and/or modification of descriptions to existing designated marine areas of significance (continued) (i) Plenary discussion (continued)
1 hour	<b>Agenda item 3. Issues for in-depth discussion (continued)</b> (c) Update and discussions on various intergovernmental processes and implications for work on EBSAs (i) Theme presentation (ii) Plenary discussion
15 minutes	Break
45 minutes	<b>Agenda item 3. Issues for in-depth discussion (continued)</b> (d) Potential future modalities for the EBSA informal advisory group

	(i) Theme presentation (ii) Plenary discussion
30 minutes	<b>Agenda item 4. Other matters</b> <b>Agenda item 5. Closure of the meeting</b>

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