



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE
DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN AND
TRAINING SESSION ON ECOLOGICALLY OR
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
Stockholm, 22-27 September 2019

ANNOTATED 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 (EBSAs) through the application of the scientific criteria given in decision IX/20, annex I, 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](#) (see decision [X/29](#), para. 36).
2. Subsequently, at its eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, the Conference of the Parties reviewed the outcomes of regional workshops conducted, and requested the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as contained in the annexes to decisions [XI/17](#), [XII/22](#), [XIII/12](#) and [14/9](#), in the repository of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and to transmit the summary reports to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes, as well as to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations, in line with the purpose and procedures set out in decisions X/29, XI/17 and XII/22.
3. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its thirteenth meeting, also requested the Executive Secretary, in line with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, paragraph 12 of decision XI/17 and paragraph 6 of decision XII/22, to continue to facilitate the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the organization of additional regional or subregional workshops where Parties wish workshops to be held. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its fourteenth meeting, invited Parties to submit descriptions of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs in the North-East Atlantic.
4. Pursuant to the above requests and with financial support from the Governments of Sweden, France, Germany and Denmark, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is convening the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, in Stockholm, from 23 to 27 September 2019, preceded by a training session on EBSAs, on 22 September 2019. The workshop will be hosted by the Government of Sweden and organized in collaboration with the Secretariat of the [Convention for the Protection of the Marine](#)

[Environment of the North-East Atlantic](#) (OSPAR Commission) and the [North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission](#) (NEAFC). Scientific and technical support for this workshop is being provided by a team from Duke University.

5. A list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex I.
6. The Secretariat issued an [information note for participants](#) containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the workshop. The workshop will be conducted in English.
7. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 23 September 2019.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

8. Representatives of the [Ministry of Environment of Sweden](#), the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the OSPAR Commission and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission will open the workshop at 9 a.m. on Monday, 23 September 2019.

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

9. After a brief explanation by the representative of the Secretariat on procedures, 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 ([CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/1](#)) and the proposed organization of work, as contained in annex II below, and adopt them following any amendments deemed necessary.
11. The workshop will be organized in plenary and breakout-group sessions. The workshop co-chairs will nominate facilitators and rapporteurs for the plenary and breakout sessions on the basis of the expertise and experience of the workshop participants and in consultation with the Secretariat.

ITEM 3. WORKSHOP BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND OUTPUT

12. The representative of the Secretariat will give an overview of the EBSA process under the Convention on Biological Diversity, objectives and expected outputs/outcomes of the workshop. Selected experts will also be invited to provide presentations on the following:
 - (a) Scientific guidance on the application of the EBSA criteria;
 - (b) Overview of relevant scientific programmes on a regional scale;
 - (c) Regional overview of biogeographic information on open-ocean water and deep-sea habitats and a proposed geographic scope for the workshop.
13. Participants will be invited, building upon the presentations, to exchange views on the geographic scope of the workshop and the workshop outputs/outcomes.

ITEM 4. REVIEW OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA/INFORMATION/MAPS COMPILED FOR THE WORKSHOP

14. Under this item, participants will have before them a compilation of the submissions of scientific information submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic region (CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/2) prepared in response to notification 2019-050, dated 28 May 2019.¹ Participants will also have before them a compilation and synthesis of scientific data in support of the

¹ Ref. No. SCBD/SPS/SBG/AS/JA/JG/88146.

workshop objectives (CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/3). The documents/references submitted prior to the workshop are being made available for the information of workshop participants on the meeting webpage.²

15. 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 areas meeting EBSA criteria.

ITEM 5. DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA (DECISION IX/20, ANNEX I)

16. Under this item, on the basis of the compilation mentioned above and building on the above-described presentations and deliberations of the workshop in plenary session, participants will be invited to split into breakout groups (details of groupings to be determined by the workshop plenary) to consider the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs.

17. The results of the breakout groups will be reported to the plenary for consideration. Participants in the plenary session will review potential areas that meet the scientific criteria for EBSAs proposed by the breakout group sessions and consider them for inclusion on the final list of areas meeting the EBSA criteria.

ITEM 6. IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS AND NEEDS FOR FURTHER ELABORATION IN DESCRIBING AREAS MEETING THE EBSA CRITERIA, INCLUDING THE NEED TO DEVELOP SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY AND FUTURE SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

18. Building on the workshop deliberations on describing areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs, workshop participants will be invited to identify, through thematic presentations and open plenary discussion, gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing areas meeting the EBSA criteria, including the need to develop scientific capacity and scientific collaboration.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

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

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

20. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the workshop on the basis of a draft version, to be prepared and presented by the workshop co-chairs.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE workshop

21. The workshop is expected to close at 5 p.m. on Friday, 27 September 2019.

² <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-WS-2019-01>.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Official documents</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/2	Compilation of submissions of scientific information to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean
CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/3	Data to inform the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean
<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Title</i>
	Information note for participants
Brochure	Azores Scientific Criteria and Guidance for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and designing representative networks of marine protected areas in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats
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
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/SBSTTA/16/INF/9	Training Manual for the Description of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in Open-Ocean Waters and Deep-sea Habitats (draft)
EBSA Brochure	EBSA
Website	EBSA website

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Sunday, 22 September 2019—Training session on EBSAs

Time	Workshop activity
9 to 9.30 a.m.	Opening and introduction of participants
9.30 to 10.30 a.m.	Session I. Global context of marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD work on marine and coastal biodiversity, including EBSAs • Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Sustainable Development Goals and relevant global processes • Plenary discussion
10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Session II. Regional context of marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme presentations on regional and subregional efforts to facilitate achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals • Plenary discussion
12 to 1.30 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30 to 2.30 p.m.	Session III. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific criteria for EBSAs • Description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria • Use of EBSA information for the application of the ecosystem approach
2.30 to 3 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
3 to 5 p.m.	Session III (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group exercise on using scientific data to describe areas meeting the EBSA criteria

Monday, 23 September 2019

Time	Workshop activity
9 to 10 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the workshop Agenda item 2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
10 to 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/tea break

Time	Workshop activity
10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	<p>Agenda item 3. Workshop background, scope and output</p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD EBSA process • Workshop objectives and expected outputs/outcomes • Regional overview of biogeographic information on open ocean water and deep-sea habitats and a proposed geographic scope for the workshop • Plenary discussion
12.30 to 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 to 3.30 p.m.	<p>Agenda item 4. Review of relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled for the workshop</p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme presentations: (i) Review of scientific information compiled and (ii) Review of site-based submissions • Plenary discussion
3.30 to 4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4 to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (continued)

Tuesday, 24 September 2019

Time	Workshop activity
9 to 10.30 a.m.	<p>Agenda item 5. Description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the application of the scientific criteria (decision IX/20, annex I)</p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing views and suggestions on describing areas meeting the EBSA criteria <p><i>Breakout group sessions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups based on the results of plenary discussion <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of the results of breakout group session • Consideration of potential areas meeting the EBSA criteria proposed by breakout groups
10.30 to 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
12.30 to 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
3.30 to 4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4 to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)

Wednesday, 25 September 2019

Time	Workshop activity
9 to 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
10.30 to 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
12.30 to 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
3.30 to 4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4 to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)

Thursday, 26 September 2019

Time	Workshop activity
9 to 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
10.30 to 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
12.30 to 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 to 5 p.m.	<p>Agenda item 6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing areas meeting the EBSA criteria, including the need to develop scientific capacity and future scientific collaboration</p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme presentation <p>Sharing views and suggestions on necessary capacity development and collaboration activities</p> <p>Agenda item 7. Other matters</p>

Friday, 27 September 2019

Time	Workshop activity
9 to 10.30 a.m.	Preparation of the draft workshop report by the chair, facilitators and rapporteurs
10.30 to 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Adoption of the report
12.30 to 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 8 (continued)
3.30 to 4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4 to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 9. Closure of the workshop