EBSA BRIEFING: ORGANIZING REGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO DESCRIBE ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS (EBSAs)

Sunday, 29 April 2012, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., ICAO Building, CR6

BRIEFING NOTE

I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, 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 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 (paragraph 36, decision X/29).

2. Pursuant to the above request, regional workshops to describe EBSAs have been convened by the Executive Secretary for the Western South Pacific as well as Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic regions, and by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the North East Atlantic region. These workshops described areas that meet scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant criteria, and also identified future needs for scientific collaboration and capacity-building to further elaborate the description of EBSAs in each region.

3. The Executive Secretary is also planning regional workshops in the following regions: (i) Indian Ocean (Mauritius, 30 July – 3 August, 2012, in collaboration with FAO); (ii) Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific (Galapagos, Ecuador, 27 – 31 August 2012, in collaboration with CPPS); (iii) North Pacific (Russia, TBD 2012); and (iv) South-east Atlantic (TBD, 2013).

II. PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING

4. In order to closely collaborate with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives in convening the planned regional workshops, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is convening this briefing session, in an informal setting, for participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

5. This briefing note contains the details of organizing regional workshops, including the nomination/selection of experts; development of the workshop terms of reference, provisional agenda and

organization of work; compilation, synthesis and mapping of scientific information for the workshop; and engaging regional/international scientific partnerships.

III. ORGANIZATION OF EBSA REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

1. Western South Pacific regional workshop

Summary

- *Official title of the regional workshop*: Western South Pacific Regional workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)
- *Date*: 22-25 November 2011
- *Venue*: Nadi, Fiji
- *Hosting organization*: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- *Technical Support:* Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) through the Government of Australia
- *Funding source*: Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund
- *Notifications issued*: 2011-07-22 (call for nominations: 2011-136); 2011-08-29 (reminder call for nominations: 2011-160); 2011-10-11 (request to submit scientific information in support of the workshop objectives: 2011-198)
- *Notification to*: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points in Western South Pacific Region; other Governments; competent organizations and regional initiatives
- *Number of workshop participants* (i.e., Parties, organizations, SCBD resource persons): 35

Nomination/selection of experts

- *CBD Parties in the region/SPREP members invited to submit nomination*: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France (includes French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, USA (includes American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands), Vanuatu;
- *CBD Parties in the region/SPREP members that submitted a nomination:* American Samoa Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France/New Caledonia, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- *CBD Parties in the region/SPREP members that attended the workshop*: American Samoa Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France/New Caledonia, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Development of the workshop terms of reference, provisional agenda, and organization of work

The draft terms of reference, provisional agenda and organization of work were prepared in consultation with the hosting organization (SPREP) and the technical support team (CSIRO/Australia), circulated to all the Parties and other Governments and adopted by the workshop:

- *Terms of reference* (circulated with notification 2011-136 and attached as **appendix 1**)

- *Provisional agenda* (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/1, made available on the CBD website at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/rwebsa-wspac-01/official/rwebsa-wspac-01-01-en.pdf and attached as **appendix 2**)
- *Organization of work* (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/1/Add.1, made available on the CBD website at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/rwebsa-wspac-01/official/rwebsa-wspac-01-01-add1-en.pdf and attached as **appendix 3**)

Compilation, synthesis and mapping of scientific information for the workshop

Data compiled (Compilation of Submissions of Scientific Information to Describe EBSAs in the Western South Pacific Region, UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/2, made available on the CBD website at http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/rwebsa-wspac-01/official/rwebsa-wspac-01-02-en.pdf):

- GOODS Biogeography
- Biological Data: Important Bird Areas, seabird densities, interactions between tuna and seamounts, catches of commercial pelagic species—tuna, marlin, swordfish, other—patterns of turtle movements, predictions of deep sea corals, OBIS data, all species—shallow species, deep species, mammals, turtles, IUCN Red List Species—historical whale catches;
- Physical Data: seamount locations, global seascapes, distribution of canyons, vents and seeps, physical ocean climatologies (temperature climatology, salinity climatology, oxygen climatology, nitrate climatology, silicate climatology, phosphate climatology, sea surface altimetry, SeaWiFS chlorophyll-a concentration, VGPM Global Ocean Productivity, mixed layer depth climatology, frontal index, eddy kinetic energy, summary of currents;

In addition, scientific information was submitted prior to the workshop by: Fiji and New Caledonia and attached to the document indicated above, which is also attached as **appendix 4**.

Engaging regional/international organizations

- *Organizations that attended the workshop*: SPREP, International Seabed Authority (ISA), Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)/IOC–UNESCO, IUCN Regional Office for Oceania, University of the South Pacific (USP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), BirdLife International, Conservation International Pacific Islands Program, and Wildlife Conservation

Official recognition of EBSA process by regional partner

Pacific Regional Environment Programme Strategic Plan 2011-1015, page 21, attached as **appendix 5.**

2. Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic regional workshop

Summary

- *Official title of the regional workshop*: Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

- *Date*: 28 February to 2 March 2012
- *Venue*: Recife, Brazil
- *Hosting country*: Brazil
- *Technical Support:* GOBI expert commissioned by the SCBD
- *Co-organizer*: United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP)
- *Funding sources*: European Commission, Government of Brazil, and the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund
- *Notifications issued*: 7 September 2011 (call for nominations: 2011-166); 2 November 2011 (reminder call for nominations: 2011-207); 3 January 2012 (request to submit scientific information in support of the workshop objectives: 2012-001)
- *Notification to*: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points in Greater Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Region; other Governments; competent organizations and regional initiatives
- *Number of workshop participants* (i.e., Parties, organizations, SCBD resource persons): 51

Nomination/selection of experts

- *CBD Parties in the region/CEP member states/SPAW Protocol signatories, in addition to Brazil, invited to submit nomination*: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba (Netherlands), Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cayman Islands (UK), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France (French Guyana), Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Monserrat (UK), Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands (UK), UK, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, USA, Venezuela

- *CBD Parties in the region/ CEP member states/SPAW Protocol signatories, in addition to Brazil, that submitted a nomination*: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda/United Kingdom, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana/France, Guatemala, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), United States of America

- *Countries that attended the workshop*: Barbados, Belize, Bermuda/United Kingdom, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, French Guiana/France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), United States of America

Development of the workshop terms of reference, provisional agenda and organization of work

The draft terms of reference, provisional agenda and organization of work were prepared in consultation with the hosting country (Brazil) and the technical support team (GOBI expert commissioned by the SCBD), circulated to all the Parties and other Governments prior to the workshop, and adopted by the workshop:

- *Terms of reference* (circulated with notification 2011-166 and attached as **appendix 1**)

- *Provisional agenda* (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/1, made available on the CBD website at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/rwebsa-wcar-01/official/rwebsa-wcar-01-01-en.pdf and attached as **appendix 6**)

- *Organization of work* (included in *Annotations to the Provisional Agenda*, UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/1/Add.1, made available on the CBD website at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/rwebsa-wcar-01/official/rwebsa-wcar-01-01-add1-en.pdf and attached as **appendix 7**)

Compilation, synthesis and mapping of scientific information for the workshop

Data compiled (Compilation of Submissions of Scientific Information to Describe EBSAs in the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Region, UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/2, made available on the CBD website at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/rwebsa-wcar-01/official/rwebsa-wcar-01-02-en.pdf):

- Biogeography: Global Open Ocean and Deep Seabed (GOODS) biogeographic classification, Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW), Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), Longhurst Marine Provinces;

- Biological Data: distribution of coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves, historical whale captures, catches of commercial pelagic species, turtle tagging data aggregated by OBIS-SEAMAP, SWOT/WIDECAST nesting beaches, Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) data (all species, mammals, turtles, shallow species, deep species, IUCN Red List species), predictions of deep sea corals, Important Bird Areas;

- Physical Data: seamounts, vents and seeps, bathymetry (GEBCO), distribution of large submarine canyons, total sediment thickness of the world's oceans & marginal seas, global seascapes, physical ocean climatologies (temperature climatology, salinity climatology, oxygen climatology, nitrate climatology, silicate climatology, phosphate climatology, mixed layer depth climatology, sea surface height, VGPM Global Ocean Productivity, SeaWiFS chlorophyll-a concentration, eddy kinetic energy, sea surface temperature front probability, summary of currents;

In addition, scientific information was submitted prior to the workshop by: Brazil, Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina (CORALINA), Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, St. Lucia, Sargasso Sea Alliance, NOAA, CRFM Secretariat, Colombia, Universidad Federal de Pernambuco, Dominican Republic, FAO, Guatemala, Honduras, Netherlands, CARICOM Secretariat, Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management (CaMPAM) Network and Forum and attached to the document indicated above, which is also attached as **appendix 8.**

Engaging competent regional/international organizations

- *Organizations that attended the workshop:* BirdLife International, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme, Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network and Forum/Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Caribbean Regional fisheries Mechanism Secretariat (CRFM), Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), SEAMAP, Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina (CORALINA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), Institute of Marine Affairs (Trinidad and Tobago), Sargasso Sea

Alliance, Universidad Federal de Pernambuco, University of the West Indies, Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Trust (WIDECAST)

Official recognition of EBSA process by regional partner

The next meeting of Parties to the SPAW Protocol and Cartagena Convention, which are held biennially, is expected to develop recommendations or decisions on EBSAs (October 2012).

3. Regional workshops being convened after SBSTTA 16

3.1 Southern Indian Ocean regional workshop

- Official title of the regional workshop: Southern Indian Ocean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)
- Date: 30 July to 3 August, 2012
- Venue: Mauritius (to be determined)
- Collaborating organization : FAO *(to be convened in collaboration with FAO's Indian Ocean regional workshop on VMEs database)*
- Technical Support: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) through the Government of Australia
- Funding sources: Government of Japan through Japan Biodiversity Fund
- Notification issued: 25 April 2012 (call for nominations: 2012-059)

3.2 Eastern Tropical and Temperate regional workshop

- Official title of the regional workshop: Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific Southern Indian Ocean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)
- Date: 27-31 August 2012
- Venue: Galapágos Islands, Ecuador
- Hosting organization: Secretariat of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
- Funding sources: Government of Japan through Japan Biodiversity Fund
- Notification issued: 26 April 2012

Official recognition of EBSA process by regional partner

ACTA DE LA XVIII REUNIÓN DE LA AUTORIDAD GENERAL DEL PLAN DE ACCIÓN PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DEL MEDIO MARINO Y ÁREAS COSTERAS DEL PACÍFICO SUDESTE
1 de marzo de 2012. Guayaquil, Ecuador, attached as **appendix 9**

3.3 North Pacific regional workshop

- In communication with the Government of Russia for their potential hosting of a regional workshop in December 2012.

4. Other relevant information

Official recognition of EBSA process by OSPAR

- Agenda item 20, Meeting of the OSPAR Commission, London, 20-24 June 2011, attached as **appendix 10**

- Bergen Statement, Meeting of the OSPAR Commission, Bergen, 20-24 September 2010, section 30, attached as **appendix 11**

Official recognition of EBSA process by Contracting Parties to the Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention

- Paris Declaration from 7th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to take place on 8 - 10 February 2012 in Paris, France, attached as **appendix 12**

Appendix 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.

Appendix 2

UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/1
31 October 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

WESTERN SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP
TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF
ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY
SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
Nadi, Fiji, 22-25 November 2011

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the workshop.
2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Workshop background, scope and output.
4. Review relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled through the Convention on Biological Diversity ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) repository system and other credible, quality-controlled sources.
5. Description of EBSAs through application of their scientific criteria (decision IX/20, annex I) and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of EBSAs.
6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing EBSAs, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and a proposal for future scientific collaboration.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

Appendix 3

Annex II

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2011

9 a.m. to 9.15 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the workshop
9.15 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	Agenda item 2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Agenda item 3. Workshop background, scope and output *Plenary Session* • Theme presentations • Plenary discussion
11 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 4. Review of relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled through the Convention's ecologically or biologically significant marine area repository system and other credible, quality-controlled sources *Plenary Session* • Theme presentations: (i) Review of each EBSA criterion and (ii) Review of site-based submissions • Plenary discussion
noon. to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4 *(continued)*

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2011

9 a.m. to noon.	Agenda item 5. Description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of their scientific criteria (decision IX/20, annex I) and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of EBSAs *Plenary session* • Sharing views and suggestions on describing EBSAs *Break-out group sessions* • Group 1: Pelagic Group • Group 2: Benthic Group *Plenary session* • Reporting of the results of break-out group session • Consideration of candidate EBSAs proposed by break-out groups

noon p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 *(continued)*

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2011

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Agenda item 6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing EBSAs, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and a proposal for future scientific collaboration *Plenary session* • Theme presentation • Sharing views and suggestions on necessary capacity development and collaboration activities
11 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 7. Other matters
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2011

9 a.m. to noon	Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs
noon to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Adoption of the report
4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 9. Closure of the meeting

Appendix 4

UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/2
14 November 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THE WESTERN SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
Fiji, 22-25 November 2011

COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION TO DESCRIBE EBSAS IN THE WESTERN SOUTH PACIFIC REGION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith a compilation of submissions of scientific information to describe EBSAs in the Western South Pacific region submitted by Parties and organizations in response to CBD notification (Ref. No. 2011-198), for the information of participants in the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, being convened in Fiji, from 22 to 25 November 2011, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

2. This compilation consists of the followings:

(a) A list of submissions made by Parties and organizations. The original submissions are available at http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RWEBSA-WSPAC-01; and

(b) A background document on "Data to inform the CBD Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas", which was prepared by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), with financial support from the Government of Australia, in support of the CBD Secretariat in its technical preparation for the above-mentioned regional workshop.

3. This compilation of submissions is circulated in the form and language in which they were received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Compilation of submissions received as of 14 November 2011 (in response to CBD Notification Ref. No. 2011-198)

Authors	Background	CONTENTS OF SUBMISSION	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF SUBMISSION
Aisake BATIBASAGA [File name: WWW-Fiji]	This expedition was initiated and lead by WWF-Fiji Country Programme, and partners - Vodofone Foundation, the University of the South Pacific Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), the Packard Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation	FIJI'S GREAT SEA REEF (GSR): The first marine biodiversity survey of Cakaulevu and associated coastal habitats + DRAFT MAP (Ecoregions in the Pacific) + MACUATA TRADITIONAL TABU AREAS MAP	The report proposes for the first time a biodiversity survey method and protocol designed to map sites and measure biodiversity contents in Fiji and the neighbouring Pacific region.
This report (WWF document) was prepared by Veena NAIR, Etika RUPENI, Lisette WILSON, Dermot O'GORMON, Cat HOLLOWAY, Gaya SRISKANTHAN, Kesaia TABUNAKAWAI, Daniel AFZAL, Francis AREKI and Monifa FIU. [File name: WWW-South Pacific]	The workshop was organized and funded by WWF_South Pacific Program (2003), with technical support provided by Bronwen Golder-Fyfe, Ghislaine Llewelyn, Tom Allnutt, Louise Heaps, Elizabeth Erasito, Cherie Morris, David Olson and Avisake Ravuvu.	Identifying key areas of biodiversity importance	The unique natural characteristics and vibrant cultural heritage of the Fiji Islands Marine Ecoregion are today coming under increasing pressure from a variety of forces. Climate change, cyclones and tidal waves can have a devastating impact on the state of the regions biodiversity and the people who depend on it. Rapid population growth, expanding commercial interests and decision making constrained by incomplete information, are individually and collectively, also contributing to the diminished health and sustainability of the region.

S. ANDREFOUET a, L. WANTIEZ b [File name : New Caledonia-1]	a Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, B.P. A5 98848 Nouméa Cedex, New Caledonia b LIVE, Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, B.P. R4 98851 Nouméa Cedex, New Caledonia	Characterizing the diversity of coral reef habitats and fish communities found in a UNESCO World Heritage Site: The strategy developed for Lagoons of New Caledonia	To support the designation of areas within the 36.000 km2 of New Caledonia coral reefs and lagoons as world Heritage Site, the natural value and diversity of the proposed zones needed to be demonstrated. To exhaustively identify each configuration of shallow habitats, high resolution remote sensing images were used to select the sampling sites. This optimal scheme resulted in the selection of nearly 1300 sampling sites, and was then simplified to render its application realistic. In the final sampling plan, only the most common or the most remarkable coral zones were selected.
Mayeul DALLEAU (1) et al [File name: New Caledonia-2]	(1) Institut de Recherche pour le D´eveloppement, Centre de Noum´ea, B.P. A5, 98848, Noum´ea, New-Caledonia	Use of Habitats as Surrogates of Biodiversity for Efficient Coral Reef Conservation Planning in Pacific Ocean Islands	Many criteria exist to design MPA networks, but generally, it is recommended that networks conserve a diversity of species selected for, among other attributes, their representativeness, rarity, or endemicity. Because knowledge of species' spatial distribution remains scarce, efficient surrogates are urgently needed. We used five different levels of habitat maps and six spatial scales of analysis to identify under which circumstances habitat data used to design MPA networks for Wallis Island provided better representation of species than random choice alone.

L. WANTIEZ (1), P. THOLLOT (1), M. KULBICKI (2) [File name : New Caledonia-3]	(1) Consultant in Environment and Marine Resources, BP 9239, 98807 Nouméa Cedex, New Caledonia (2) ORSTOM, Centre de Nouméa, BP A5 Nouméa Cedex, New Caledonia	Effects of marine reserves on coral. reef fish communities from five islands in New Caledonia	The aim of the present study was to assess the effects of marine reserves on coral reef fish communities by comparing fish populations on five islands from the southwest lagoon of New Caledonia, before and after fishing prohibition. Species richness, density and biomass were compared and size distribution and community structure were studied. These islands supported substantial amounts of recreation fishing (spear fishing, hand line and gillnets), before the South Lagoon Marine Park was created by the South Province of New Caledonia.

Camilo Mora et al., 2011 [File name : Camilo Mora et al]	Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, (Canada) and other large international network of researchers	Global Human Footprint on the Linkage between Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning in Reef Fishes	Using a global survey of reef fish assemblages, we show that in contrast to previous theoretical and experimental studies, ecosystem functioning (as measured by standing biomass) scales in a no saturating manner with biodiversity (as measured by species and functional richness) in this ecosystem. Our field study also shows a significant and negative interaction between human population density and biodiversity on ecosystem functioning (i.e., for the same human density there were larger reductions in standing biomass at more diverse reefs). Human effects were found to be related to fishing, coastal development, and land use stressors, and currently affect over 75% of the world's coral reefs. Our results indicate that the consequences of biodiversity loss in coral reefs have been considerably underestimated based on existing knowledge and that reef fish assemblages, particularly the most diverse, are greatly vulnerable to the expansion and intensity of anthropogenic stressors in coastal areas.

Laurent WANTIEZ [File name : Fiji Coral Reefs]	Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji	Coral Reef Initiative for the Pacific (CRIP) - STATUS OF CORAL REEFS IN THE FIJI ISLANDS, 2007	The Fiji branch of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) was started in Fiji in 2000, when Reef Check and the GCRMN began a co-operative project to train a network of survey teams that could report on the health of the country's coral reefs.
Olivier CHATEAU & Laurent WANTIEZ [File name: New Caledonia-4]	University of New Caledonia, Aquarium des Lagons, BP R4, 98851 Noumea cedex, New Caledonia.	Movement patterns of four coral reef fish species in a fragmented habitat in New Caledonia: implications for the design of marine protected area networks	The information gathered in this study demonstrates the ability of the fish to carry out medium-scale movements in a fragmented habitat. Consequently, the effectiveness of the reserve to protect the entire population is probably limited for these species. Because all the identified patterns implied at least one movement across the reserve boundaries, our results support the hypothesis that the Lare´gne`re Marine Reserve, part of the South Lagoon Marine Park, could benefit the adjacent fished area through spillover.

Appendix 5

STRATEGIES	2015 GOALS	TARGETS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
BEM1. ISLAND AND OCEANIC ECOSYSTEMS			
BEM1.1 **Promote and support the management and conservation of island, coastal, and marine ecosystems and the region's unique biodiversity**	Members have improved ecosystem management, and are implementing conservation strategies to decrease the rate of terrestrial and marine biodiversity and habitat loss and degradation, including implementation of relevant conservation Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional initiatives	At least 50% of all Members are implementing National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (or equivalent) targets	The number of Members implementing NBSAP or equivalent targets
		By 2015, Members have increased the number and/or extent of terrestrial and marine conservation areas effectively managed compared to the 2010 level and met individually identified targets; for example, through the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	The number and extent of conservation areas effectively managed
		Each Member has at least one effectively managed Marine Protected Area (MPA)	The number of Members with an effectively managed MPA
		At least one Regional Oceanscape initiative is fully operational	The number of regional Oceanscape initiatives fully operational
		By 2015, at least two additional PICs have joined the Ramsar Convention	The number of PICs that are Ramsar members
		By 2015, implementation of the Regional Wetlands Action Plan coordinated in collaboration with all partners	The extent to which the Regional Wetlands Action Plan is implemented
	Ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) is widely recognised and implemented as a key element of climate change adaptation measures	By 2015, five examples of EBA to climate change being implemented in PICTs	The number of examples of EBA being implemented
	Improve cooperative partnerships and engagement of all relevant national and regional stakeholders, and strengthen coordinated action on biodiversity conservation consistent with the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in support of national initiatives and priorities	Roundtable for Nature Conservation working groups are fully functional and providing regional leadership and coordination on key issues	The proportion of Roundtable for Nature Conservation working groups that are fully functional
	SPREP has used its role as a regional hub to streamline MEA processes and reporting requirements	Members are able to spend less time on meeting MEA reporting requirements	The number of MEAs that have modified reporting requirements for Pacific Members
	Develop regional knowledge, and consider regional action on oceanic ecosystems in areas within and beyond national jurisdictions, in concert with relevant regional and international organisations and initiatives; and explore the feasibility of a project of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on this issue	Identify numbers of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas in relation to the CBD, and other relevant organisations and initiatives	The number of ecologically and biologically significant areas identified

Appendix 6

UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/1
14 December 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

WIDER CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
Recife, Brazil, 28 February - 2 March 2012

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the workshop.
2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Workshop background, scope and output.
4. Review relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled for the workshop through the Convention on Biological Diversity ecologically or biologically significant marine area (EBSA) repository system and other credible, quality-controlled sources.
5. Description of EBSAs through application of their scientific criteria (decision IX/20, annex I) and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of EBSAs.
6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing EBSAs, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and a proposal for future scientific collaboration.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

Appendix 7

Annex II

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

9 a.m. to 9.15 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the workshop
9.15 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	Agenda item 2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Agenda item 3. Workshop background, scope and output *Plenary session* • Theme presentations • Plenary discussion
11 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 4. Review relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled through the Convention on Biological Diversity ecologically or biologically significant marine area (EBSA) repository system and other credible, quality-controlled sources *Plenary session* • Theme presentations: (i) Review of scientific information compiled and (ii) Review of site-based submissions • Plenary discussion
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4 *(continued)*

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

9 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 5. Description of EBSAs through application of their scientific criteria and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of EBSAs *Plenary session* • Sharing views and suggestions on describing EBSAs *Break-out group sessions* • Group 1: Pelagic Group • Group 2: Benthic Group *Plenary session* • Reporting of the results of break-out group session • Consideration of candidate EBSAs proposed by break-out groups
Noon p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 *(continued)*

Thursday, 1 March 2012

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Agenda item 6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing EBSAs, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and a proposal for future scientific collaboration *Plenary session* • Theme presentation • Sharing views and suggestions on necessary capacity development and collaboration activities
11 a.m. to noon	Agenda item 7. Other matters
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs

Friday, 2 March 2012

9 a.m. to noon	Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs
Noon to 1.30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Adoption of the report
4.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 9. Closure of the meeting

Appendix 8

UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WCAR/1/2
23 February 2012

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

WIDER CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
Recife, Brazil, 28 February –2 March 2012

COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION TO DESCRIBE EBSAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith a compilation of submissions of scientific information to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) in the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic region, submitted by Parties and organizations in response to notification 2012-001, dated 3 January 2012, for the information of participants in the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, being convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity and hosted by the Government of Brazil in Recife, Brazil, from 28 February to 2 March 2012, in collaboration with the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), with financial support from the European Union.

2. This compilation consists of the following:

(a) A list of submissions made by Parties and organizations. The original submissions are available athttp://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RWEBSA-WCAR-01. The list is divided into two parts: the first table contains submissions of potential areas that meet EBSA criteria, most utilizing the template provided for that purpose in the above notification; the second consists of supporting documentation; and

(b) A background document entitled "Data to inform the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas", which was prepared by the Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University, with financial support from the European Union, in support of the CBD Secretariat in its technical preparation for the above-mentioned regional workshop.

3. These submissions are being circulated in the form and language in which they were received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Table 1. Submissions on potential areas meeting EBSA criteria by workshop participations prior to the workshop (in response to notification 2012-001, 3 January 2012)[1]

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 1 Amazonian Continental sea mountains Map	The Amazon River mouth has a complex mosaic of geologic and geomorphological features, comprising shelf-edge reefs, canyons, ravines and seamounts. This area has one of highest values of chlorophyll biomass and primary productivity in the world. The shelf-edge reefs represent one of the few hard substrates in the Amazon continental shelf, being well known that such substratum inside muddy bottoms can increase 50-100 times the number of species. The area harbors the faunal corridor of South America, which extends beyond the Amazon River mouth, includes the hump of Brazil and serves as a connection between south-western Atlantic with the Caribbean zoogeographical provinces. Even virtually unknown, surveys in the area already revealed a diverse fish and octocoral fauna. The distance from the coast and the great depths ensures a high degree of naturalness, whilst it prevents access to the area for small vessels and prevent fishing with trawl.
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 2 Amazonian Inner Continental Shelf map	The Amazonian inner continental shelf, includes the Amazon River mouth and estuary and the adjacent coastal area influenced by the Amazon River (47º 00´-51º 30´ W, 000o 30´ - 005º 00´ N), is an unique region which encompasses two geomorphologic world records: the largest mangrove continuous system and the largest river in length, water and sediment discharge. This area

1 Actual submissions are hyperlinked in column 1 and available for downloading at the meeting webpage: http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RWEBSA-WCAR-01

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
			contains endemic species and also is important for the life-history stages of fish and crustacean (nursery, feeding and breeding), including threated species and also as migratory route for various species of fish. The high biological productivity is inherent of this area, particular if considered demersal species (fishes and shrimp). Within this region, around 20 species of elasmobranchs and 4 species of mammals are threatened. Massive presence of declining and overexploited species, due to high fishery pressure is also reported.
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 3 Manoel Luis map	„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 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. Despite its proximity to the Amazon River mouth, the West flowing Equatorial Current provides the region with clear and saline water. A Marine State Park, covering 354 km2 and including at least three different formations, has protected this area since 1999 and is a RAMSAR site.

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 4 Cadeia Norte e Fernando de Noronha map	The North Brazilian Chain (1 ° S to 4 ° S / 37 ° W to 39 W) and Fernando de Noronha Chain (3 ° to 5 ° S / 32 ° to 38 ° W) are made up of islands and seamounts of different depths. 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 high biodiversity and endemism. The area is a spawning site and / or feeding site for turtles, elasmobranchs, reef fish and pelagic fish. Some elasmobranchs and turtles species are 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 high connectivity with the continental slope area.
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 5 Borda de Plataforma NE map	The northeastern shelf-edge zone extends along the Brazilian outer shelf and upper slope, from depths of 40m to 200m and between parallels 3°S to 16°S, 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 shelfedge zone is a marine ecotone where different components of the demersal, benthic and benthopelagic communities of the

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
			continental shelf, upper slope and adjacent pelagic biota coexist in a narrow strip along the continental margin. This ecotone, characterized by high population densities and species richness, provides a concentration of diverse fishing resources over a relatively narrow area, easily accessible to local artisanal fleets and sustaining important traditional multispecific reef fisheries. 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 (UICN) commercial species of the snapper-grouper complex, currently depleted at the Brazilian EEZ jurisdiction. The shelf-edge harbor critical habitats for the life cycle of many sea turtles, whales, sharks and reef fish species, including migratory corridors and fish spawning aggregation sites that are extremely vulnerable to human pressures, such as intensive commercial and recreational fishing, shipping and offshore oil and gas exploitation, all activities currently expanding off the Brazilian coast. This region corresponds to a portion of the breeding ground of humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae) off the northeastern coast of Brazil. Also corresponds to an important habitat of various relatively low-density cetacean populations.
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 6 Oasis Atlantico Oriental Figures, map	The Equatorial Atlantic combines a range of historical, geological and oceanographic features that affect biodiversity patterns of the Atlantic Ocean high seas in both the pelagic and benthic domains. These features

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
		map	include: (a) the Equatorial Fracture Zone, a prominent geological feature that offsets the Mid-Atlantic ridge central axis, affects deep-water circulation patterns and connects deep habitats of the North and South Atlantic, and east-west Atlantic margins; (b) the seasonal East Equatorial Bloom which has an "oases" effect on pelagic biota of the central Atlantic and may be a critical source of energy to the deep habitats of the Equatorial Fracture Zone; (c) the St. Peters and St. Paul's Archipelago, whose coastal fauna and flora have high levels of endemism and a significant role in the fauna dispersal processes in the Atlantic; (d) "hot spots" for life-history stages of different marine organisms, including an array of endangered species; (e) a recently mapped hydrothermal vent field; (f) benthic habitats poorly disturbed by human activities but a historical pelagic fishing pressure with well documented effects on the abundance of commercially important stocks and large nektonic fauna. This area extends mostly beyond the jurisdiction of Atlantic coastal countries and the recognition of its importance seems crucial for eventual conservation initiatives in the high seas.
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 7 Abrolhos e Cadeia Vitoria Trindade map	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. It is composed by the Abrolhos and Royal Charlotte banks, comprehending an area of 56.000 km2. It harbors 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,

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
			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 metres deep and 70 metres large). The region is an important breeding and/or fishing site for several flagship species such as humpback whales, sea turtles and sea birds. Despite the biological relevance and uniqueness of this region, only 7% of it is within effective protected areas. Several factors put this great diversity in danger, such as large projects related to oil and cellulose. The Vitória Trindade Chain, located on the central coast of Brazil, is composed of seven seamounts and island complex (Archipelago of Trinidad and Martin Vaz). The substrate of the mountains and ocean islands is composed of living reefs of coralline algae, 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 still preserved, with a significant biomass and abundance of species, harboring many sharks and spawning aggregation phenomena of important fishery resources. Moreover, the fish fauna of the Vitória e Trindade Chain has at least 11 endemic species on their reefs. 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.
Brazil		Brazil - EBSA Template 8 Southern Brazil Sea	The Southern Brazilian Sea EBSA is a region characterized by marked oceanographic complexity and

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
		map	high biological productivity, comprising the continental shelf, the slope and deep waters off southern Brazil, from shoreline up to the 4000 m isobath. This area is strongly influenced by the Brazil and the Malvinas (Falklands) currents, which converge between approximately 32° and 40° S, giving rise to the Subtropical Convergence in the Southwestern Atlantic, and characterizing it as biogeographic transition zone between the large neritic areas of Patagonia and tropical Brazil. Due to this high biological productivity, this same region concentrate highest industrial fishing effort, which had resulted in an overexploitation of several fisheries stocks, some to their collapse, as well as high bycatch, including several endangered species of cetaceans, seabirds, fishes and marine turtles.
Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old providence and Santa Catalina (CORALINA);	Martha Cecilia Prada Triana, scientific advisor for CORALINA; Elizabeth Taylor, General Director, CORALINA	Seaflower Marine Protected Area EBSA Template.pdf	The Seaflower MPA is located in the Southwestern Caribbean eco-region and covers over 6,500,000 ha of Colombia's most northern boundary. It comprises diverse coastal and marine ecosystems of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina. The MPA 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.
Dominica		1. Eastern Caribbean Flying Fish Breeding Grounds; 2. Resident Sperm Whale Population of Dominica; 3. The Soufriere /Scotts Head Marine Reserve	Proposals for EBSAs for: 1. Eastern Caribbean Flying Fish Breeding Grounds; 2. Resident Sperm Whale Population of Dominica; 3. The Soufriere /Scotts Head Marine Reserve, a marine protected area located in the South of Dominica that is home to several species of coral, sponges, a diversity of fish species, hawks bill

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
		Eastern Caribbean Flying Fish Stock EBSA Criteria.pdf	turtles and often frequented by marine mammals.
French Guiana	Hélène DELVAUX Chargé de mission Biodiversité marine Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable, des transports et du logement E-mail: helene.delvaux@developpement-durable.gouv.fr	French Guiana EEZ: 3 maps (ecosystem function; Patrimonial species and habitats; and uses and activities) Map 1 Ecosystem function.pdf; Map 2 Patrimonial species and habitats.pdf; Map 3 Uses and activities.pdf; Submitted Template.pdf	
Grenada	Crafton J. Isaac, Assistant Fisheries Biologist, Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Grenada. Email: crafton.isaac@gmail.com	Coastal marine area around the nation of Grenada and the lower Grenadines Archipelago, with maps and supporting document. Appendix to Description of Marine EBSAs.pdf; Assessment of the area against CBD EBSA Criteria.pdf; Scientific Information to Describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas.pdf	Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique comprise an archipelagic state. To the east is the Atlantic Ocean and to the west the Caribbean Sea. While Grenada does not claim any deep sea habitat as ecologically or biologically important at this time, the open ocean that surrounds it is of critical importance to the economic welfare and livelihood. Fishery and tourism represent two of the fastest growing sub-sectors and the protection and conservation of the marine environment are priority policy issues. Coastal ecosystems, ranging from littoral mangroves to sea grass meadows and associated coral reefs (including beaches) provides the basis for a significant portion of the national wealth. In this light these ecosystems provides the focus for government's policy for their protection and conservation through the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
Guatemala	Raquel Sigüenza (Wetlands International Guatemala) Manuel Ixquiac and Edgar Selvin Pérez (National Council on Protected Areas of Guatemala); Ana Giro (Healthy Reefs Initiative, Guatemala)	Río Sarstún-Punta de Manabique, Guatemala; supporting map. Annex 1_Marine Portfolio.pdf; Submitted Template.pdf	The Río Sarsún-Punta de Manabique proposed EBSA comprises 318. 97 km^2. Conservation targets identified include: mangroves, seagrasses, estuaries and coastal lagoons, sandy beaches and manatee habitat. It is an important natural marine production area, in terms of its relevance as breeding or nursery habitats for fishing and maintenance of livelihoods.
Jamaica		Pedro Bank and Cays plus supporting articles and maps (list of relevant articles appears in appendix: Submitted References) Maps.pdf; Pedro Bank and Cays-Submitted Template.pdf; Pedro Bank working bibliography_jan2009.pdf	The Pedro Bank and Cays consist of a group of small coralline islands situated approximately 158 km from Kingston on the south coast of Jamaica. Pedro Bank is a regionally and nationally important biological and historical area. It is one of the country's last remaining healthy reef systems; represents Jamaica's main commercial and artisanal fishing grounds; and serves as the primary harvesting area for the largest export of Queen Conch from the Caribbean region.
Nicaragua	MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE Y LOS RECURSOS ATURALES (MARENA), GOBIERNO REGIONAL AUTONOMO ATLANTICO (GRAAN), ALCALDIA MUNICIPAL DE PUERTO CABEZAS, GTI TAWIRA, COMITÉ CONSULTIVO	Cayos Miskitos, RAAN Nicaragua Propuesta EBSA Area protegida Cayos Miskitos.pdf	La propuesta de Nicaragua, se orienta a insertar a EBSA, la zona marino costera de Cayos Miskito, el cual se ubica en la zona del Caribe Nicaragüense. Esta reserva natural es considerada como de vital importancia, por cada uno de actores y sectores que inmersos que se establezcan acciones de manejo y control en la búsqueda de su sostenibilidad y conservación de especies de alto valor ecológico y económico, para Nicaragua, las regiones autónomas, los municipios y el territorio indígena dueño de estos

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
	FORESTAL Y AMBIENTAL RAAN		recursos.
St. Lucia	Allena Joseph Fisheries Biologist Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries and Rural Development. SAINT LUCIA	1. East Coast MMA 2. West Coast MMA (includes the already LMPA designated SMMA and CAMMA) 3. Laborie MMA 4. Cold Upwelling MMA Submitted Template.pdf	**East Coast MMA** (believed to encompass all or a part of 12 marine reserves, most of which are of importance for the protection of mangroves and turtle nesting beaches) **West Coast MMA** (The MMA is believed to encompass all or a part of 8 marine reserves, all of which are of importance for the protection of natural or artificial reef ecosystems) **Laborie MMA** (relatively little information about marine ecosystems along this coast but is believed that there are extensive areas of significant conservation interest) **Cold Upwelling MMA** (covers an extensive area to the west of Saint Lucia which is understood to be of significant importance for the fishing industry as an upwelling of mineral rich waters)
Sargasso Sea Alliance	The Sargasso Sea Alliance; edited by Howard S. J. Roe (Based upon "The Protection and Management of the Sargasso Sea" (in draft) by Laffoley, D.d'A.,Roe,H.S.J, Angel, M.V., Ardron et al., 2011).	The Sargasso Sea Figure 1-2-3-4.pdf; Submission of Scientific Information to Describe Marine EBSAs.pdf; Table 1-2-3.pdf	The Sargasso Sea is a fundamentally important part of the world's ocean, located within the North Atlantic sub-tropical gyre with its boundaries defined by the surrounding currents. The features proposed here for international recognition are the pelagic communities dependant upon the holopelagic algae Sargassum spp, the pelagic species that migrate into or through the area and the specialized benthic communities that live on the seamounts. Together these communities and species occupy the Sargasso Sea from the surface to the sea-floor.
NOAA	Dr. Nicolas Alvarado NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration & Research Oceanographer Nicolas.Alvarado@noaa.g	Bonaire, Netherland Antilles Submission #1 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, is arguably the most pristine coral reef environment in the Caribbean. Percent coral cover is the highest and percent algal cover the lowest compared to other Caribbean reefs. Bonaire, Curacao, Las Aves, and Los Roques have recently been

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
	ov and Dr. Mark Patterson Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary mrp@vims.edu		proposed for United Nations World Heritage Status given the pristine marine environments and high degree of endemism.
NOAA	John Tomczuk OAR Coral Coordinator NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research	"Maritime Maya" (northeast Yucatan Peninsula); template partially completed Submission #2 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	Describes the Maritime Maya Project, conducted in May 2011, and focused on the ancient Maya port of Vista Alegre, located at the northeast tip of the Yucatan Peninsula – where the Caribbean meets the Gulf.
NOAA	John Tomczuk OAR Coral Coordinator NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research	Bahamas Deep-Sea Corals (northern Bahamas); template partially completed Submission #3 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	Describes the findings of a 2009 expedition to the deep slopes of the Northern Bahamas, in search of deep-sea communities of octocorals (commonly referred to as soft corals, gorgonians, or sea fans).
NOAA	Catalina Martinez, NOAA OER Catalina.martinez@noaa.gov	Kick'em Jenny Volcano, (north of Grenada); template partially completed Submission #4 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	Description of Kick 'em Jenny, a submarine volcano located 8km north of Grenada. The volcano is about 1300m high, and its summit is currently thought to be about 180m below the surface of the sea.
NOAA	Dr. Nicolas Alvarado NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration & Research e-mail: Nicolas.Alvarado@noaa.gov	Cayman Island Twilight Zone Expedition 2007/2008. Little Cayman Island. Submission #5 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	This project used mixed gas technical diving and rebreathers to document the species boundary between shallow- [< 190 fsw] and deep-reef [>190 fsw] communities of the Little Cayman wall system.
NOAA	Kelley Elliott	Mid-Cayman Rise	Describes an expedition conducted in August 2011, at

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
	NOAA, Office of Ocean Exploration and Research Email: Kelley.Elliott@noaa.gov	Submission #6 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	the Mid-Cayman Rise, a rift in the seafloor 70 miles (110 km) long and more than 9 miles (15 km) across—the deepest active spreading ridge on the planet, plunging to nearly 20,000 feet (6,000 m) in places. Hydrothermal vent sites are known in both shallow and deep settings at the Mid-Cayman Rise, including the deepest known hydrothermal vent site on the planet.
NOAA	Catalina Martinez, NOAA OER RI Regional Manager Email: Catalina.martinez@noaa.gov	Puerto Rico Trench; template partially completed Submission #7 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	The Puerto Rico Trench is the deepest part of the Atlantic Ocean, with water depths exceeding 8,400 metres. Its depth is comparable to the deep trenches in the Pacific Ocean.
NOAA	Dr Peter J Etnoyer, NOAA Marine Biologist NOAA/NOS/NCCOS Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research	Deep Coral Reefs of Isla Roatan, Honduras Submission #9 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	Large and abundant deep-sea coral reefs are present between 50 and 800 meters depth along the West End of Isla Roatan in Honduras in the Caribbean Sea. The reefs were explored and documented using the manned submersible Idabel as part of a series of expeditions called Deep-Coral and Associated Species Taxonomy and Ecology (DeepCAST) between 2010-2011. The expeditions found significant aggregations of the stony coral Lophelia pertusa, as well as many large (> 1 meter tall) sea fans in families Corallidae, Primnoidae, Ellisellidae, and Plexauridae. Colonies in most of these families are suspected to be several hundreds of years old. Branches of the large sea fans provide habitat for numerous associated species of shrimp, crabs, fish, and brittlestars. Habitat quality is excellent. Most sites are pristine. The deep-sea coral diversity and abundance rivals and likely exceeds well-known sites in the Gulf of Mexico.
NOAA	Jim Hendee, NOAA,	Bloody Bay Marine Park (plus	We identify the coral reef ecosystem of the Bloody Bay

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of EBSA submission	Short description of submission
	Ocean Chemistry Division Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 4301 Rickenbacker Causeway Miami, Florida 33149-1026 Email: jim.hendee@noaa.gov Carrie Manfrino, Central Caribbean Marine Institute, PO Box 1461 Princeton, NJ 08540 Tel: 609 933-4559 Email: manfrino@reefresearch.org	map) Submission #8 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf; Submission #10 of NOAA scientific information using the template.pdf	Marine Park and the adjacent MPA's surrounding Little Cayman Island as ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSA) with deep coral reef characteristics that require protection. Satisfying the criteria set forth in Annex I of the CBD/COP9, characteristics include the IUCN red listed – —endangeredll Nassau Grouper (Epinephelus striatus) (1), a well-developed (unprotected) mesophotic coral-sponge community, and overall high coral cover (20 – 40%). The west end of the island has a vital Nassau grouper SPAG which after eight years of protection has finally (in 2012) resulted in robust recruitment of juveniles to the island. The coral community includes 7 of the 32 evolutionary distinct (EDGE) coral species on earth (2), of these, 2 are critically endangered, 3 have ocean acidification identified as a major threat, 1 has recommendations for further research, and 1 is on the IUCN red list of threatened species.

Table2. Other scientific information submitted by workshop participants prior to the workshop (in response to notification 2012-001, 3 January 2012)2

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
CRFM Secretariat	Susan Singh-Renton CRFM Secretariat	List of relevant articles (Appendix: Submitted References), as well as links to additional articles. List of articles and references.pdf; Alonso et al. 2007 - Biodiversity representativeness gap analysis in Continental Colombian Caribbean MPAs.pdf; Baldwin & Mahon 2011 - A Geospatial framework to support ecosystem based management and MSP.pdf; Caribbean Sea Ecosystem Assessment 2007.pdf; Global Reef Expedition - Bahamas Final Report 2011.pdf; Grober-Dunsmore & Wooninck 2008 - State of the Nation's marine managed areas.pdf; Grober-Dunsmore et al. 2004 - The significance of adjacent habitats on reef fish assemblage structure.pdf; Kobara & Heyman 2007 - Caribbean-wide geospatial analysis of SPAGs.pdf; Luckhurst - Evaluation of fisheries management and conservation measures to protect Caribbean groupers SPAGs.pdf;	

2 Actual submissions are hyperlinked in column 1 and available for downloading at the meeting webpage: http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RWEBSA-WCAR-01

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
		Luckhurst 2004 - Current status of conservation and management of reef fish SPAGs in the Caribbean.pdf; Miloslavich et al. 2010 - Marine biodiversity in the Caribbean - Regional estimates and distribution patterns.pdf; Mohammed 2007 - Quantifying marine biodiversity changes in the southeastern Caribbean.pdf; Peterson & Lowe 2009 - Alterations to estuarine and marine habitat quality and fish and invertebrate resources.pdf; Report of the Expert Consultation on the Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission.pdf; Report on the Status of the Coral Reefs of Bonaire in 2005.pdf; Rivera-Monroy et al. 2004 - Framework to develop research and management objectives for the Wider Caribbean.pdf; Seybert et al. 2007 - Small Island States and global Program of Work on Protected Areas-Grenada.pdf; Tobago Cays Marine Park Boundary Map.pdf; A Biological and Socio-Economic Assessment of the Coral Reefs and Associated Fauna of the Tobago Cays Marine Park and Canouan Island	
Colombia	David Alonso Carvajal, Carolina Segura-Quintero, Carlos Torres,	1. Chapter 12, "Áreas significativas para la biodiversidad", in *Biodiversidad del Margen Continental del Caribe Colombiano* Biodiversidad del Margen Continental del Caribe	Outlines process of identification of a portfolio of 43 Biodiversity Significant Areas (ASB) from the

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
	Daniel M. Rozo-Garzón, José Luis Espriella, Jiner A. Bolaños y Ángela Cecilia López	Colombiano.pdf	Colombian Caribbean deep sea (170 to 3000m), which constitute the base where future efforts of research, management and conservation must concentrate.
Colombia	David A. Alonso, Luisa F. Ramírez, Juan Manuel Diaz, Carolina Segura, Paula Castillo, and Anthony Chatwin	Chapter 4, "Coastal and Marine Conservation Priorities in Colombia", in *Priorities for Coastal and Marine Conservation in South America* Priorities for Coastal and Marine Conservation in South America - Chapter 4.pdf	Chapter outlines the identification of priority areas for coastal and marine conservation in the Colombian Caribbean; Experts selected 37 targets classified as either ecological subtidal systems, ecological intertidal systems, or relevant ecological communities (ecosystem level).
Colombia	Alonso, D., Ramirez, L., Segura-Quintero, C. y P. Castillo-Torres. (Eds). Santa Marta , Colombia. 64 + anexos.	GAP Analysis - MPA Network .pdf	Gap analysis of Colombia's marine protected area system (in Spanish).
Colombia	David Alonso, Carolina Segura-Quintero, Paula Castillo-Torres and José Gerhantz-Muro	Avances en el Diseño de una Red de Areas Marinas Protegidas: estategia de Conservación para el Norte del Caribe Continental Colombiano. (Marine protected areas network design: Conservation strategy for the Colombian northern continental Caribbean.) MPA Network in the North.pdf	This paper describes how the first Colombian Northern Caribbean MPA network was designed, using a systematized selection process using MARXAN decision support system (DSS). Fifty-one conservation targets at different biological organization levels (ecosystems, communities and species) as well as archeological, historical, and indigenous cultural important sites were identified based on national expert

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
			knowledge. Target and coastal systems (Tayrona, Palomino, and Guajira) quantitative conservation goals were established using four criteria: type, abundance, natural condition, and vulnerability. A portfolio with 63 priority conservation sites, equivalent to an area of 129964 ha, was identified. Based on their high representativeness, habitat heterogeneity, naturalness, and vulnerable life stages 32 sites (71971 ha) were selected above all to be included in the MPA network.
Jose Areces Mallea (Universidad Federal de Pernambuco) Fig. 1-2-3-4.pdf;	I. A. José Areces, J. Gerhartz, R. Duttit and C. Martínez (with figures)	Assessing Representativeness of the Cuban Subsystem of Marine Protected Areas-SMPA.pdf	An evaluation of the Cuban SMPA was completed through a gap analysis using sites that were nominated, designated, or in the process of implementation. The analysis was based on information gathered through two main sources: in workshops by Delphic methods, or with a Geographical Information System (GIS) using data provided by nine agencies, scientific organizations, and governmental ministries. A program for the design of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) based on the automatic selection of

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
			planning units utilizing the information gathered in GIS, was used to evaluate three different conservation scenarios and to compare them with the SMPA (currently in the implementation stages).
Dominican Republic		Information on the Dominican Republic's marine protected areas. Marine Protected Areas.pdf	33 marine protected areas covering 46,669 km ².
FAO	FAO	The International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas.pdf	These guidelines are designed to provide guidance on management factors ranging from an appropriate regulatory framework to the components of a good data collection programme, and include the identification of key management considerations and measures necessary to ensure the conservation of target and non-target species, as well as affected habitats. These guidelines are voluntary and constitute an instrument of reference to help States and RFMO/As in formulating and implementing appropriate measures for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas.
FAO	FAO	The Report of the FAO Workshop on the Implementation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea	This workshop analysed the challenges and proposed ways

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
		Fisheries in the High Seas, Challenges and Ways Forward, Busan, Republic of Korea, 10-12 May 2010.pdf	forward for the implementation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (adopted in 2008). The meeting was attended by participants from a wide range of disciplines, experience and geographic areas. The report is divided in two parts. Part 1 provides the meeting summary and the main conclusions and recommendations with respect to general considerations, governance, support to developing countries, management issues, compliance and enforcement, vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and review and implementation processes. Part 2 contains the background documents on: (i) issues with respect to fisheries management in areas where there are regional fisheries management organizations/ arrangements (RFMO/As); (ii) VMEs in areas where there are RFMO/As; and (iii) both topics in areas where there are no RFMO/As.

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
Guatemala	Arrivillaga, A. and N. Windevoxhel. 2008. (The Nature Conservancy, Guatemala)	EVALUACIÓN ECORREGIONAL DEL ARRECIFE MESOAMERICANO Plan de Conservación Marina (2008) Evaluacion ecorregional del arrecife mesoamericano.pdf	This ecoregional assessment identified priority conservation sites that meet specific conservation goals for the selected targets. The assessment also conducted an analysis of the threats to the biodiversity based on the same conservation targets and developed strategies to mitigate threats and implement of the portfolio of priority conservation sites.
Guatemala	2005 PROARCA/APM, Regional Environmental Program for Central America / Protected Areas and Environmental Marketing Components, a USAIDCCAD project, The Nature Conservancy (TNC).	Site Conservation Planning Gulf of Honduras: Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.pdf	Site Conservation Planning in the Gulf of Honduras tri-national site (Belize, Guatemala , and Honduras) has identified some of the most important systems that need to be protected to guarantee the conservation of the largest possible sample of biodiversity in this tri-national site. All the selected conservation elements are coastal-marine ecosystems: coral reefs, mangrove forests, marine grasslands, beach systems, estuaries and coastal lagoons, and herbaceous wetlands (which include flood forests). The viability of all these conservation elements is considered good.

Party/organization submitting	Author(s)/Contributor	Contents of submission	Short description of submission
Honduras	Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (SERNA), Instituto de Conservación Forestal (ICF), Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganadería (SAG). 2011. Océanos, Costa e Islas. Honduras: TNC. 102 pp.	Análisis de Vacíos y Omisiones de Representatividad Ecológica de la Biodiversidad Marina de Honduras. Análisis de vacíos y omisiones de representatividad ecologica 2011.pdf	Para las dos áreas de planeación de Honduras, se estableció una diversidad de 23 objetos de conservación de filtro grueso, que incluyen 43 hábitats bénticos diferentes lo cual nos muestra una sorprendente biodiversidad. El portafolio final definido utilizando esta metodología identifico un total de 54 sitios estratégicos, para la conservación de la biodiversidad marina de Honduras.
Netherlands	Mr. Erik H.W. G. Meesters Marine Ecologist Institute for marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies Wageningen University Netherlands	Maps of Saba Bank Submitted Template.pdf; Saba Bank Protected Area Designation.pdf; Saba Bank (kml file).pdf	
CARICOM Secretariat	Judith Gobin University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago	List of relevant articles (Appendix: Submitted References) Literature List EBSAs 2012.pdf	
Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management (CaMPAM) Network and Forum	Georgina Bustamante, Coordinator	Sullivan Sealey, K. and G. Bustamante. 1999. Setting geographic priorities for marine conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia, 125pp. http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/MarCons_LAC Sullivan Seally & Bustamante 1999 - Setting geographic priorities for marine conservation in LAC	Analysis of marine ecoregions, prioritization and more for the coasts of South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. This publication created an ecoregion layer that is currently being used as a

			reference for global marine ecoregions. A more comprehensive prioritization analysis was done for the provinces, ecoregions and coastal systems in the Caribbean. This site includes a copy of the final publication in digital form (pdf) and the GIS layers that were created (shapefiles).

Appendix 9

ACTA DE LA XVIII REUNIÓN DE LA AUTORIDAD GENERAL DEL PLAN DE ACCIÓN PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DEL MEDIO MARINO Y ÁREAS COSTERAS DEL PACÍFICO SUDESTE

1 de marzo de 2012. Guayaquil, Ecuador

DECISION Nº 13

COOPERACIÓN INTERINSTITUCIONAL

APOYO AL TALLER DE LA CONVENCIÓN SOBRE DIVERSIDAD BIOLÓGICA PARA IDENTIFICAR ÁREAS MARINAS ECOLÓGICA Y BIOLÓGICAMENTE SIGNIFICATIVAS (EBSAs) EN EL PACÍFICO ORIENTAL

CONSIDERANDO

Que la Secretaría Ejecutiva de la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica (CBD) está trabajando con los países Parte y otras organizaciones competentes como la FAO, Convenciones Regionales, organismos regionales pesqueros, entre otros, para organizar una serie de talleres con el objetivo de facilitar la descripción e identificación de áreas marinas ecológica y biológicamente significativas (EBSAs) a través de criterios científicos establecidos en el Anexo 1 de la Decisión IX/20, así como otros criterios nacionales e intergubernamentales ya acordados para la identificación de áreas marinas más allá de las jurisdicciones nacionales, que cumplan con dichos criterios.

Que la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica (CBD) ha manifestado su interés a CPPS para apoyar a la realización de un Taller regional en el Pacífico oriental con miras a identificar áreas marinas ecológica y biológicamente significativas (EBSAs) en esta región del Océano Pacífico.

Que el taller es una magnífica oportunidad para fortalecer el sistema de información regional sobre biodiversidad marina y áreas protegidas.

Que CPPS y la Secretaría Ejecutiva de la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica mantienen un Memorando de Cooperación desde 1998.

LA XVIII REUNIÓN DE LA AUTORIDAD GENERAL DECIDE:

1. *Instruir a la Secretaría Ejecutiva del Plan de Acción para que brinde el apoyo necesario a la Secretaría de la CDB, para la organización del taller regional sobre áreas marinas ecológica y biológicamente significativas (EBSAs).*

Appendix 10

Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Marine Areas (EBSAs)

4.25 OSPAR noted the consideration by BDC to contribute to global CBD processes, notably the identification and reporting of ecologically and biologically significant marine areas in the oceans and deep seas.

4.26 OSPAR agreed to report to the CBD Secretariat the six existing OSPAR Marine Protected Areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction that fulfil CBD EBSA criteria at the forthcoming scientific workshop (cf. §4.28) for inclusion in the CBD EBSA repository.

4.27 Some Contracting Parties, along with WWF highlighted the importance of distinguishing between the scientific exercise to identify significant areas within the North-East Atlantic (which would be the role of the workshop) and subsequently the reporting of any outcomes of the workshop relating to candidate EBSAs. Depending on the circumstances, it may be appropriate for the reporting for candidate EBSAs to be undertaken by the Contracting Parties where these are in areas subject to submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS); where candidate EBSAs are clearly in areas beyond national jurisdiction it may be appropriate for them to be reported by the NEAFC or OSPAR Secretariats.

4.28 Following discussions, OSPAR endorsed the terms of reference for a joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD scientific workshop on the identification of ecologically and biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) in the North-East Atlantic, France 8-9 September 2011 (OSPAR 11/4/1 Annex 3). The workshop will be organised by a steering committee, comprising a representative of both the Secretariats and Contracting Parties of OSPAR, NEAFC and the CBD, as well as France as the workshop hosts.

Appendix 11

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

Meeting of the OSPAR Commission
Bergen: 20-24 September 2010

Bergen Statement

WE, THE MINISTERS AND THE MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, meeting within the framework of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, adopt this statement to set out the ensuing work from the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Commission:

1. We *recall* our successful meetings in Sintra in 1998 and also jointly with the Helsinki Commission in Bremen in 2003, which identified some critical challenges for the protection of the marine environment of the OSPAR maritime area and set ambitious goals for our work.

2. In Bergen in 2010, we were able to look back on a number of solid achievements. We *renew* and *strengthen* our commitments, *recognising* that some of our goals are still to be fully met. We *respond* to new challenges and priorities, such as facilitating the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive[1] by those Contracting Parties that are bound by it and addressing the challenges of climate change and ocean acidification.

We share the vision of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic ocean, used sustainably

3. In sharing this vision, we also *acknowledge* the intrinsic value of the North-East Atlantic and its role as a natural asset that contributes to our well-being far beyond material benefits. We *stress* the economic and social value of marine ecosystem goods and services provided by the North-East Atlantic. We *recognise* that the cost of taking no action is high, and may be substantially higher than the cost of remedial action, where the integrity of the marine ecosystem is at risk from damage. Further, we *are committed* to developing a common understanding of associated values and costs.

4. We *emphasise* that shared scientific knowledge and understanding of the state of the marine environment is crucial for policy making at all levels. Hence, we strongly *welcome* the Quality Status Report (QSR) 2010 and its underpinning thematic assessments and reports which provide a holistic and science based evaluation of the environmental status of the North-East Atlantic and the pressures that adversely affect it.

5. We *reaffirm* that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is the legal basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation. We *support* the ongoing process launched by the UN General Assembly in 2009 of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects (Regular Process). We *welcome* the outcome of the third preparatory Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) meeting, aiming among other issues at establishing a mechanism for assessment of biodiversity and *emphasise* the importance of agreeing at the UN General Assembly by the end of 2010 a resolution for

[1] Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy.

establishing an IPBES. We *emphasise* that the QSR 2010 will constitute a valuable contribution to these processes.

6. The QSR 2010 addresses existing and new challenges ahead and highlights the need for further research. It also brings to light some welcome accomplishments, which include reductions in inputs and discharges of nutrients and hazardous substances from land-based sources, radioactive substances from the nuclear sector and oil and chemicals from the offshore oil and gas industry.

7. With the assessments of the QSR 2010 as our new point of departure, we *adopt* the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy which contains objectives and targets with a view to complete unfinished tasks and meet the new challenges that we need to address in order to achieve our common goals.

We apply the ecosystem approach

8. We *reaffirm* that the ecosystem approach[2] is the overarching concept and basis for OSPAR's work, for which we are continuously gaining experience and still developing tools and methods. We *welcome* the development of integrated ecological quality objectives for the North Sea, some of which may serve as a model for other regions, and *emphasise* that we will continue to further develop tools that support the ecosystem approach, such as integrated assessments, socio-economic analysis and area-based management tools, including marine spatial planning.

9. We *are committed* to strengthen the integration of different strands of OSPAR activities dealing with different aspects of and pressures on the marine environment. *Recognising* that monitoring and assessment tools and cooperation play a crucial role in supporting the ecosystem approach, we *adopt* the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) for 2010-2014. We *will continue* to extend and improve the JAMP, in particular with regard to cause/effect relationships and cumulative impacts on the marine environment. We *recognise* also that large data and information gaps exist in the OSPAR area, in particular concerning spatial data and sea-bed mapping. In order to carry out holistic assessments of the status of the marine environment, we *emphasise* that more work on such gaps is needed and should be linked with other ongoing data and information acquisition efforts in the OSPAR area.

10. We *emphasise* the need to work more closely with stakeholders and international organisations managing human activities such as fisheries and shipping[3] and to enhance the cooperation within the frameworks dealing with joint prevention, preparedness and response to combat accidental marine pollution from the maritime sector.[4] We *stress* that OSPAR's observers from a wide range of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations provide valuable contributions to our work. We *are also committed* to further strengthen and extend our cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), on the basis of memoranda of understanding and agreements of cooperation[5].

We facilitate the coordinated implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive

11. We *welcome* the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, *emphasising* that the Directive's objective to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020 concurs with and supports our aims.

12. We *affirm* that the OSPAR Commission will facilitate the coordinated and coherent implementation of this Directive.[6] To this end, we *welcome* the Road Map as an OSPAR Regional Implementation Framework

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[2] In the Bremen Statement on the Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities, the ecosystem approach is defined as "the comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity."

[3] Such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

[4] Such as the Bonn Agreement and the Lisbon Agreement.

[5] OSPAR has to date concluded memoranda of understanding or agreements of cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the International Seabed Authority, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Environment Agency.

[6] Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are not members of the European Union. As members of the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland and Norway are bound by certain EU legislation, while Switzerland has not committed itself to apply any EU legislation in the

for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as a living document to be updated as appropriate. In particular, we *consider* the QSR 2010 and its underpinning assessments and reports to provide solid building blocks for the development of the national initial assessments due in 2012. We *will continue* to cooperate on further steps that need to be taken by the relevant Contracting Parties to establish their marine strategies under the Directive, using our shared expertise and the mechanisms and structure of the OSPAR Commission as a strong regional platform. For this purpose, we have revised our working structure and have identified in our North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy those issues for which coordination is needed.

13. With a view to achieving our common goals, we also *commit ourselves* to strengthen our cooperation with other Regional Sea Conventions involved in facilitating the implementation of the Directive, in particular the Helsinki and the Barcelona Conventions, to which some OSPAR Contracting Parties are also parties. Furthermore, considering that concentrations of nutrients and hazardous substances are related to atmospheric depositions and loads from rivers in the catchment area, we *will reinforce* our cooperation with landlocked States, using established cooperation structures, such as International River Basin Commissions.

We protect our ocean from pollution and other adverse impacts of human activities

14. *Recognising* that the objective of no eutrophication will only be partly achieved by 2010, we *renew* our commitment to combat eutrophication, with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining a healthy marine environment where anthropogenic eutrophication does not occur.

15. *Concerned* about the rising contribution of NOx emissions from the shipping sector, we will carry out an assessment of the contribution of shipping on the eutrophication status of the North Sea and, if decided by the OSPAR Commission, elaborate a proposal, in line with Appendix III to Annex VI to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention for a joint submission to the International Maritime Organisation justifying the case for designating the North Sea as a NOx Emission Control Area. We take note of similar concerns in the framework of the Helsinki Commission and support the efforts in other regional seas to reduce NOx emissions and eutrophication.

16. We further *recognise* that most chemicals for priority action are still being released to the marine environment and that additional work is needed to move towards the target of the cessation of these releases by 2020. Hence, we *will continue* to identify and reduce inputs of hazardous substances of concern at source, with the ultimate aim of achieving concentrations in the marine environment near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for man-made synthetic substances. To this end, we *will promote* the banning of the production, use and trade of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) through the Stockholm Convention and *will strive* to achieve major reductions in discharges, emissions and losses of mercury and other substances of concern within the UN framework. We *will also strive* to enhance the knowledge base on endocrine disruptors and cumulative effects of hazardous substances with the aim of limiting the negative impacts on the marine environment.

17. We *reaffirm* our commitment to ensure that discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances are reduced by 2020 to levels where the additional concentrations in the marine environment above historic levels are close to zero. We *will* continue to improve the evidence base and assessment tools for indicator radionuclides from the nuclear and non-nuclear sectors.

18. Deeply concerned by the accident on the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this year, we *reaffirm* our commitment to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from offshore oil and gas activities. Contracting Parties are therefore as a precaution reviewing existing frameworks, including the permitting of drilling activities in extreme conditions, taking extra care to implement all relevant learning from the Deepwater Horizon accident, and continuing to evaluate activities on a case by case basis. We *are looking forward* to the reports from the ongoing investigations in the USA, and *welcome* the initiatives established within the North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NSOAF) and International Regulators Forum (IRF) to assess lessons learned. We also welcome the European Commission's initiatives such as the

scope of the OSPAR Convention. These three countries contribute on the basis of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures, equivalent national legislation and EU legislation by which they are bound.

establishment of a dialogue with national regulators and the offshore oil and gas industry. Contracting Parties will also cooperate with the Bonn Agreement as to preparedness and response.

19. Therefore we *adopt* Recommendation 2010/18 on the prevention of significant acute oil pollution from offshore drilling activities and *decide* that by 2011 we will assess the relevance to OSPAR of the results of all these initiatives with a view to taking additional action by the OSPAR Commission if needed.

20. We further *adopt* measures that harmonise OSPAR's control system for offshore chemicals with relevant EU legislation.[7] We *note* with pleasure the considerable reduction in discharges to the sea of oil in produced water that has been achieved. We *remain committed* to the achievement by 2020 of reductions of oil in produced water discharged to the sea to a level which will adequately ensure that each of those discharges will present no harm to the marine environment. In line with our reaffirmed commitment, we *will focus* our efforts and *are committed* to develop by 2011 a "risk-based approach to management of produced water" to ensure that priority is given to actions related to the prevention and elimination of possible impacts of the most harmful substances discharged by the offshore oil and gas industry.

21. We *will strengthen* our efforts to combat adverse impacts on the marine environment that originate from various human activities, such as those resulting from the introduction of marine litter, non-indigenous species and of energy, including underwater noise. We *note* that quantities of litter in many areas of the North-East Atlantic are unacceptable, and therefore we *will continue* to develop reduction measures and targets, taking into consideration an ambitious target resulting in a reduction in 2020. As a first step, to address both land-based and sea-based sources, we adopt the "Recommendation on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives". We *will continue* and *strengthen* our cooperation with other international organisations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other relevant stakeholders in order to address these issues. Further, we *will promote* "the clean ship approach"[8] and *support* concerted action to revise and strengthen Annex V on Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention[9].

We protect marine areas, species and habitats

22. The goal of significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010, agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, has not been achieved. Acknowledging the international year of biodiversity, we *commit* to halt such loss.

23. We *recognise* the efforts made by competent authorities to improve sustainable fisheries based on the ecosystem approach. However, we *note* with concern that overfishing and, in some areas, destructive fishing practices continue to have significant adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and that by-catch and discard related problems still need to be resolved. We *call* on competent authorities to continue to progress towards long-term sustainable fisheries management in the deep sea in accordance with UNGA resolution 64/72 and the FAO international guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas.

24. We *are committed* to halt the decline of species and habitats. We *are also committed* to restore threatened and/or declining species and habitats by establishing before 2013 measures to protect such declining species and habitats from the pressures of human activities. We *welcome* the progress made with regard to the identification and conservation of species and habitats on the OSPAR List and *adopt* a set of new measures to advance the protection and restoration of threatened and/or declining species and habitats.[10] We *will continue* and *strengthen* our cooperation with other international organisations, in particular regional fisheries management organisations such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries

[7] Cf. in particular Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (REACH).

[8] A concept whereby vessels are designed, constructed and operated in a way that aims to eliminate harmful discharges and emissions in their working life.

[9] International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL)

[10] The common skate species complex, the white skate, the angel shark and the basking shark; *Lophelia pertusa* reefs; coral gardens; deep-sea sponge aggregations; sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities; Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*).

Commission, as well as other relevant stakeholders in order to effectively address these issues. We *highlight* the Recommendation we have *adopted* on assessments of environmental impact in relation to threatened and/or declining species and habitats.

25. We *reaffirm* the need for Contracting Parties to continue and to intensify their efforts to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and protecting the biodiversity. This includes the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and representative MPA-networks by 2012, in accordance with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and based on the precautionary principle and the best scientific information available.

26. We *emphasise* that MPAs provide an essential contribution to the protection of species, habitats and ecological processes of the marine environment. We *recall* that in 2003 we agreed to work with the Helsinki Commission and the European Community to complete by 2010 a joint, well-managed and ecologically coherent network of MPAs.

27. *Noting* our commitment to establish an ecologically coherent network of MPAs by 2012, we *recall* that in 2008 a comprehensive scientific case was accepted and in 2009 conservation objectives were endorsed for the protection of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA, of which the seabed in the northern part has, since 2009, been subject to a submission to the Commission of the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). We *reaffirm* the value of the ecological features of the northern part of the area and, therefore, we *are committed* to continue working together within the framework of the OSPAR Commission to resolve by 2012 any outstanding issues with regard to the waters of the high seas of the northern part of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA. It is with great satisfaction that we *adopt,* at this meeting, significant and innovative measures to establish and manage the southern part of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA – "Charlie-Gibbs South MPA"-, for which the seabed and superjacent waters are situated in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

28. We further *take* the significant step of adopting measures to establish and manage the Milne Seamount Complex as an OSPAR MPA in areas beyond national jurisdiction. We also *adopt* measures to establish and manage as OSPAR MPA in areas beyond national jurisdiction the high seas superjacent to the seabed of the Altair, of the Antialtair and of the Josephine Seamounts, as well as of an area of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores. Since the seabed of these areas is subject to a submission by Portugal to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), these measures complement the management measures for MPAs reported by Portugal to the OSPAR Commission as components of the OSPAR network of MPAs.

29. We especially *welcome* this significant progress made during our meeting which has extended the OSPAR network of marine protected areas to about 433.000 km^2, which represents 3.1% of the OSPAR maritime area. Furthermore, we *endeavour to promote* the designation of marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction in other fora and regional seas conventions.

30. We *welcome* the progress achieved, in collaboration with other international organisations and stakeholders, to identify and protect ecologically significant and/or vulnerable deep-sea and high seas ecosystems in the Wider Atlantic, making progress in the development of a standard model of regional cooperation, with other relevant international organisations and competent authorities. We *welcome* the decision by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission to close until 31 December 2015 an area almost identical to Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone, as well as areas coinciding with the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores, Altair Seamount and Antialtair Seamount and other areas beyond national jurisdiction of the North-East Atlantic, to bottom fisheries in order to protect the vulnerable marine ecosystems in these areas from significant adverse impacts.

We respond to the challenges of a changing climate

31. We *note* with deep concern the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, which are predicted to profoundly affect the productivity, biodiversity and socio-economic value of marine ecosystems. We

emphasise that research into and considerations of these effects, as well as the need for adaptation and mitigation, will have to be integrated in all aspects of our work. We *affirm* that there is a role for the OSPAR Commission, in collaboration with other international organisations, in investigating, monitoring and assessing the rate and extent of these effects and considering appropriate responses.

32. We *express* our readiness to regulate new activities at sea as appropriate and *welcome* the measures and guidance already agreed in relation to the storage of carbon dioxide in sub-seabed geological formations and offshore wind farms. *Recalling* that amendments to Annex II and Annex III to our Convention to allow for, and at the same time provide sound regulation of, the geological storage of carbon dioxide were adopted by consensus in 2007, we *encourage* Contracting Parties to ratify, accept or approve these amendments in order to facilitate their entry into force.

We will achieve our aims

33. Committed to protecting and conserving the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic and its resources and services, we *regard* the OSPAR Commission as a visible and viable force that actively contributes to setting the agenda on marine environmental issues, both in Europe and beyond. We *emphasise* that we will continue to deliver our dedicated efforts to achieve our aims, with a view to meeting again, if possible, jointly with the Helsinki Commission, to evaluate progress and, if needed, to revise our agenda in the light of developments and progress achieved.

Appendix 12

ANNEX I

PARIS DECLARATION

We, Heads of Delegation of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, meeting in Paris, France, on 10 February, 2012

Recalling the regional cooperation framework established through the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) since 1975; taking into due consideration the new political context and *determined* to reinforce effective regional cooperation for the protection of the marine environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean through strong political commitment, and the active participation of civil society;

Acknowledging the value and significance of MAP, and the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, their contribution to the definition of a shared legal, regulatory and innovative framework, and their forerunning role at the global level in the definition and implementation of protection and sustainable development measures and policies for the Mediterranean marine environment and its coastal zone;

Recognizing the valuable contribution of representatives of international and regional organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders and major groups to the work of 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention;

Deeply concerned by the threats which continue to menace the coastal and marine environment in the Mediterranean, including pollution from land-based sources, from offshore exploration and exploitation activities, waste, the over-use of natural resources and potentially dangerous exploitation of vulnerable habitats and ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity, soil and coastal degradation, the impacts of climate change, and *recalling* that if the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone ecosystems are protected and managed with a view to sustainable development, this will allow goods and services they provide to be used sustainably over the long term;

Recognizing that the consequences of the global economic crisis may affect the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, but also provide opportunities to illustrate the irreplaceable role of MAP as a framework for dialogue and operational cooperation on environment and sustainable development;

Encouraging Parties that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention - and *recognizing* the need for the Contracting Parties to fulfil their obligations in relation to the Convention, its Protocols and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and their commitments under the Action Plans and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;

Reaffirming the political commitments made at previous Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and particularly the outcome of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almería in 2008 on, among others, the ecosystem approach, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and governance;

Also reaffirming the commitments made at the Meeting of Contracting Parties held in Marrakech in 2009 on actions related to climate change and the promotion of better governance within MAP;

Noting the progress made in reinforcing MAP, and particularly the entry into force in 2011, following ratification by 6 countries, of the "Offshore" Protocol and of the ICZM Protocol, the first legally binding instrument of its type in the world, and *seeking* to ensure their effective, collective and responsible implementation and aware of the necessity to ensure their timely implementation through action plans;

Convinced of the need to enhance governance in the MAP system, taking into account contemporary institutional developments and the plurality of political, civil, environmental and financing actors, and *aware* of the need for sound budgetary management, financial sustainability and the effective use of resources;

Aware that the effectiveness of future structural reforms and the implementation of programmes of work require prompt implementation of the adopted resource mobilization strategy, involving the regional and global actors concerned;

Reaffirming the value and importance of the overall system of the Convention and its Protocols as a legal and regulatory platform for policy decisions for advancing cross-sectorial cooperation to progress on internationally agreed conservation and sustainable use goals in marine and coastal areas, and their commitment to implement the related action plans;

Recalling the framework for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation offered, amongst others, by the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Neighbourhood Policy and their calling to promote sustainable development and in particular depollution of the Mediterranean, notably through the EU-Horizon 2020 Initiative *inter alia*;

Welcoming the results of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya in 2010, which achieved a global agreement for the protection and development of world biodiversity and the adoption of a new strategy aimed at halting biodiversity loss, with a programme for the preservation of the marine environment;

Emphasizing the need to implement the recommendations of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding marine habitats and species, and particularly on the use of marine protected areas as an instrument for protecting the marine environment and on the designation of marine ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs);

Emphasizing the need to further reinforced cooperation between all actors in the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean and *welcoming* the on going efforts to enhance cooperation with the Secretariats of the Union for the Mediterranean, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Maritime Organization, IUCN and the other regional seas conventions and programmes, and future cooperation with all other relevant organizations;

Committed to working together to preserve the wealth and sustainability of Mediterranean ecosystems, goods and services to serve as an example for other regions of the world and thus contribute to the adoption at the worldwide level of global measures for the protection and sustainable development and management of the marine and coastal environment;

Conscious of the opportunity represented by the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in 2012, known as Rio+20, and *determined* to address marine and coastal environment concerns among the major challenges to be tackled at the Conference;

Taking note with appreciation of the inter-institutional report opening the way to the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development, the "Blueprint for Oceans and Coastal Sustainability", presented at the 36th General Conference of UNESCO and of the recent presentation of the "Green Economy in a Blue World" synthesis report;

Determined to positively contribute to the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in 2012, with a view to achieving global commitments on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and the institutional framework of sustainable development, in particular those related to marine and coastal issues;

Hereby declare that we are resolved to:

- **Take all the necessary measures to make the Mediterranean a clean, healthy and productive sea with conserved biodiversity and ecosystems**

    - by reaffirming our political commitments to protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zones through an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities, to be implemented by stages in regular cycles;

    - by developing, a coherent, well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, including on the high seas, in accordance with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and implementing the Aichi Plan of Action adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular to meet the target of 10 per cent of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean by 2020;

    - by reinforcing regional cooperation for the scientific evaluation of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, in relation to the global work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and by the United Nations General Assembly;

    - by intensifying efforts to curb pollution from land-based sources, such as marine litter, through the adoption and implementation of legally-binding measures, and pollution from offshore activities and sea based activities, through regional action plans.

    - By ensuring, in view of the predicted increase in maritime traffic, the continuous strengthening of capacities and resources to prevent and respond to marine pollution caused by shipping, in particular through judicial and operational cooperation.

- **Strengthen the integrated management of Mediterranean coastal zones**, as a unique instrument at the service of Mediterranean States, an integrated vision of coastal areas and the basis for their sustainable development

    - [by implementing the Action Plan and roadmap approved by the Parties as rapidly as possible;]

    - by recognizing the need to improve coherence between the different levels of coastal governance, supplemented by optimal national frameworks for integrated coastal zone management;

    - by encouraging the ratification of the ICZM Protocol by the Barcelona Convention Parties.

- **Address major concerns on the marine and coastal environment and provide a Mediterranean input into the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012**

    - by supporting and undertaking strong commitments, in our capacity as United Nations Member States, regarding the sustainable management of marine resources and preservation of marine biodiversity;

    - by continuing to support, at Mediterranean level, capacity building and other activities associated with green economy as means to achieve sustainable development, such as the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns, sustainable chemical management and ecoinnovation, all of which have been shown to have also direct or indirect effect on the Mediterranean marine environment;

    - by calling on the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development to propose policies to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the implementation of a "blue economy" for the Mediterranean, as a version of the "green economy" applied to the seas and oceans, having the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as appropriate strategic policy framework;

    - by supporting consideration of the theme of oceans and the initiation of negotiations for a process initiated by the United Nations General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction effectively addresses those issues by identifying gaps and ways forward, through the development of a multilateral agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This agreement would include a series of regimes covering marine protected areas, access to genetic resources and the sharing of the benefits of their use, and impact assessments of human activities;

    - by promoting achievement in the Mediterranean of the objectives of Agenda 21, in particular through the implementation of the commitments made under Agenda MED 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

- by supporting the preparation by 2014, of the report on the state of the marine environment, including the socioeconomic aspects, through the related regular process mandated by the United Nations General Assembly.

Establish the conditions for transparent, effective and enhanced institutional governance of MAP

- by consolidating synergies with regional and global partners, with a view to optimizing financing of MAP activities and the allocation of resources;

- By actively involving civil society representatives and in particular NGOs, local and regional governments and the private sector, to elaborate better informed decisions and provide for efficient implementation at all levels;

- by encouraging the Secretariat in its efforts to conclude, as soon as possible, cooperation agreements with the secretariats of the Union for the Mediterranean, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Maritime Organization, other regional seas conventions and all other relevant organizations;

- by pursuing reflection on an institutional reform of the MAP system, in the light of recent developments, involving all marine and coastal environmental stakeholders, with a view to strengthening the governance of MAP;

- by calling for the consideration, at the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, of a proposal for the institutional reform of MAP, taking into account *inter alia*, the results of the functional review, formulated in close cooperation with the Contracting Parties.

Invites the Presidency to forward this declaration and the outcomes of the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for the attention of the other regional seas conventions and programmes, as well as other relevant organizations.

Invites the Presidency to forward this declaration to the attention of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to take, in cooperation with the representatives of the Contracting Parties, all initiatives necessary to promote it and its conclusions.