



Convention on Biological Diversity

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NORTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN AND ADJACENT GULF
AREAS REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE
DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY
SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 20-25 April 2015

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to work with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to organize, including the setting of terms of reference, a series of regional workshops, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through the application of the scientific criteria given in 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 (see decision X/29, para.36).
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested that the Executive Secretary make available the scientific and technical data and information and results collated through the workshops described above to participating Parties, other Governments, intergovernmental agencies and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for their use according to their competencies.
3. Subsequently, at its eleventh and twelfth meetings, the Conference of the Parties reviewed the outcomes, respectively, of the first and second set of regional workshops conducted, and requested the Executive Secretary to further collaborate with Parties, other Governments, competent organizations, and global and regional initiatives, such as the United Nations General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, the International Maritime Organization, FAO, regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations, with regard to fisheries management, and also including the participation of indigenous and local communities, to facilitate the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs through the organization of additional regional or subregional workshops for the remaining regions or subregions where Parties wish workshops to be held, and for the further description of the areas already described where new information becomes available (decisions XI/17 and XII/22).
4. Pursuant to the above requests and with financial support from the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is convening, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office West Asia (UNEP-

ROWA), Convention on Migratory Species Office – Abu Dhabi, the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), and the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). This workshop is being hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and will be held in Dubai from 20 to 25 April 2015. Scientific and technical support for this workshop is being provided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) of Australia.

6. A list of documents for the workshop is attached as annex I.
7. The Secretariat will be issuing an information note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the meeting. The languages of the workshop will be English and Arabic.
8. The workshop will be preceded by a one-day training session on Sunday, 19 April 2015.
9. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 20 April 2015.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

10. Representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Government of United Arab Emirates, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA), and the Convention on Migratory Species Office – Abu Dhabi, will open the workshop at 9 a.m. on Monday, 20 April 2015.

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

11. After a brief self-introduction, the participants will be invited to elect the workshop co-chairs, based on proposals from the floor.
12. Participants will then be invited to consider the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2015/2/1) and the proposed organization of work, as contained in annex II, and adopt them following any amendments deemed necessary.
13. The workshop will be organized in plenary and breakout-group sessions. The workshop co-chairs will nominate facilitators and rapporteurs for breakout groups, based on the expertise and experience of the workshop participants and in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ITEM 3. WORKSHOP BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND OUTPUT

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

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

16. Under this item, participants will have before them a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2015/2/2) transmitting a compilation of the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations of scientific information to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas region, made in response to the Secretariat's notification 2014-130 (Ref. No. SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JG/84009), dated 11 November 2014. Participants will also have before them a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2015/2/3) transmitting a compilation and synthesis of scientific data in support of the workshop objectives. The documents/references submitted prior to the workshop are being made available for the information of workshop participants on the meeting website (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSAWS-2015-02>).

17. Workshop participants will be invited to review, through individual presentations and open plenary discussion, relevant scientific data/information/maps in relation to their potential contribution to describing areas meeting EBSA criteria.

**ITEM 5. DESCRIPTION OF AREAS MEETING THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA
FOR EBSAs AND OTHER RELEVANT COMPATIBLE AND
COMPLEMENTARY NATIONALLY AND INTERGOVERNMENTALLY
AGREED SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA**

18. Under this item, based on the compilation mentioned above and building on the above presentations and deliberations of the workshop in plenary session, participants will be invited to split into breakout groups (details of groupings to be determined by the workshop plenary) to consider the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria. Depending on the number of participants, further subgroupings can be made as advised by the workshop co-chairs, in consultation with the Secretariat.

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

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

20. Building on the workshop deliberation on describing areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs, workshop participants will be invited to identify, through the theme presentations and open plenary discussion, gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing areas meeting EBSA criteria, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and future scientific collaboration.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

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

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

23. The workshop is expected to be closed at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 25 April 2015.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE NORTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN AND ADJACENT GULF AREAS REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS

<i>Official documents</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2015/2/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2015/2/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2015/2/2	Compilation of submissions of scientific information to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) in the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas region
UNEP/CBD/EBSA/WS/2015/2/3	Data to inform the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Areas meeting the Scientific Criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/EWS.MPA/1/2	Report of the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, Azores, Portugal, 2-4 October 2007
UNEP/CBD/EW-BCS&IMA/1/2	Report of the Expert Workshop on Scientific and Technical Guidance on the Use of Biogeographic Classification Systems and Identification of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in Need of Protection, Ottawa, 29 September–2 October 2009
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/9	Training Manual for the Description of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in Open-Ocean Waters and Deep-sea Habitats (draft)
	Brochure on CBD EBSA criteria
www.cbd.int/ebsa	EBSA website

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Monday 20 April 2015

9 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the workshop Agenda item 2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3. Workshop background, scope and output <i>Plenary session</i> • CBD EBSA process • Workshop objectives and expected outputs/outcomes • Theme presentations: (i) Scientific guidance on the application of the EBSA criteria; (ii) Overview of relevant scientific programmes at regional scale; (ii) Regional overview of biogeographic information on open ocean water and deep-sea habitats and a proposed geographic scope for the workshop. • Plenary discussion
12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Review of relevant scientific data/information/maps compiled for the workshop <i>Plenary session</i> • Theme presentations: (i) Review of scientific information compiled and (ii) Review of site-based submissions • Plenary discussion
3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4. (continued)

Tuesday 21 April 2015

9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 5. Description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria <i>Plenary session</i> • Sharing views and suggestions on describing areas meeting the EBSA criteria
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	<i>Breakout group sessions</i> - Groups based on the results of plenary discussion <i>Plenary session</i> - Reporting of the results of breakout group session Consideration of potential areas meeting the EBSA criteria proposed by breakout groups
10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11.a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)

Wednesday 22 April 2015

9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)

Thursday 23 April 2015

9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (continued)
12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 6. Identification of gaps and needs for further elaboration in describing areas meeting EBSA criteria, including the need for the development of scientific capacity and future scientific collaboration <i>Plenary session</i> Theme presentation Sharing views and suggestions on necessary capacity development and collaboration activities Agenda item 7. Other matters

Friday 24 April 2015

9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	<i>Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs</i>
10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	<i>Preparation of the workshop report by the co-chairs and rapporteurs (continued)</i>
12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Adoption of the report
3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 8 (continued)

Saturday 25 April 2015

9 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.	Agenda item 8 (continued)
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 9. Closure of the workshop
