



Convention on Biological Diversity

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THE WESTERN SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS

Nadi, Fiji, 22-25 November 2011

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), with regard to fisheries management, 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 through the 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 (para. 36, decision X/29).

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 referred to 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. The Conference of the Parties who requested SBSTTA to prepare reports based on scientific and technical evaluation of information from the workshops, setting out details of areas that meet the criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 for consideration and endorsement in a transparent manner by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to including the endorsed reports in the repository referred to in paragraph 39 of decision X/29 and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly (para. 42) and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, as well as relevant international organizations, Parties and other Governments.

4. Pursuant to the above request and with financial support from the Government of Japan, the Executive Secretary is convening, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, in Nadi, Fiji, from 22 to 25 November 2011. The Government of Australia is providing support, through the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in collaboration with United Nations

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Environment Programme (UNEP)-GRID Arendal, to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and SPREP in their scientific and technical preparation for the workshop.

5. A list of documents for the workshop is attached as annex I.
6. The Secretariat has issued an information note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the meeting. The language of the workshop will be English.
7. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 22 November 2011.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

8. Representatives of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and SPREP will open the workshop at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 22 November 2011.

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

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

ITEM 3. WORKSHOP BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND OUTPUT

12. The representative of the Secretariat will give an overview of the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop. Selected experts will also be invited to provide presentations on: (i) the workshop background, including relevant other global processes; (ii) scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), as contained in annex I to decision IX/20; (iii) a regional overview of biogeographic information on open-ocean water and deep-sea habitats and geographic scope of the workshop; and (iv) overview of relevant scientific programmes at regional scale.

ITEM 4. REVIEW OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA/INFORMATION/MAPS COMPILED THROUGH THE CONVENTION'S ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREA (EBSA) REPOSITORY SYSTEM AND OTHER CREDIBLE, QUALITY-CONTROLLED SOURCES

13. For the consideration of this item, the workshop will have before an information note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/INF/1) containing a compilation of the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity notification dated 11 October 2011 (ref. No. SCBD/STTM/JM/JLe/JG/77026). The documents/references submitted prior to the workshop have been made available as information to the workshop participants on the Convention on Biological Diversity meeting website, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RWEBSA-WSPAC-01>.

14. The 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 EBSAs.

ITEM 5. DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS THROUGH APPLICATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR EBSAs (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

15. For the consideration of this item, based on the compilation mentioned above and building on the above presentations and deliberations of the workshop in plenary session, the workshop participants will then split into two break-out groups to consider the description of EBSAs through the application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria: (i) group 1: pelagic group; and (ii) group 2: benthic group. Depending on the number of participants, further sub-groupings can be made as advised by the workshop co-chairs, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the SPREP.

16. The results of the break-out groups will be reported at the plenary for consideration. The workshop participants in the plenary session will review the candidate EBSAs proposed by the break-out group sessions and consider them for inclusion in the final list of describing EBSAs.

ITEM 6. IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS AND NEEDS FOR FURTHER ELABORATION IN DESCRIBING ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY AND A PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

17. Building on the workshop deliberation on describing EBSAs, the workshop participants will be invited to identify, through the theme presentation and open plenary discussion, 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.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

18. Under this item, the participants may wish to consider any other matters of relevance raised by the workshop participants.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. 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 MEETING

20. The workshop is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 25 November 2011.

Annex I

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE WESTERN SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO
FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY
SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS**

Official Documents	Title
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/RW/EBSA/WSPAC/1/2	Compilation of submissions of scientific information to describe EBSAs in the Western South Pacific region
Other Documents	
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/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
	Training Manual for the Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in Open-ocean Waters and Deep-sea Habitats (draft)

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.	<p>Agenda item 3. Workshop background, scope and output</p> <p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme presentations • Plenary discussion
11 a.m. to noon	<p>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</p> <p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme presentations: (i) Review of each EBSA criterion and (ii) Review of site-based submissions • Plenary discussion
noon. to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>)

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2011

9 a.m. to noon.	<p>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</p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing views and suggestions on describing EBSAs <p><i>Break-out group sessions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Pelagic Group • Group 2: Benthic Group <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of the results of break-out group session • Consideration of candidate EBSAs proposed by break-out groups
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noon p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (<i>continued</i>)

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2011

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<p>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</p> <p><i>Plenary session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<i>Lunch</i>
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.	<i>Lunch</i>
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
