



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JLe/rg/78095

7 November 2011

## NOTIFICATION

**Subject: Peer-review of the Draft Voluntary Guidelines for the Consideration of Biodiversity in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) in Marine and Coastal Areas**

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision X/29, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the development of voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) in marine and coastal areas using the guidance in annexes II, III and IV to the Manila workshop report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/5), and provide for technical peer review of those guidelines. Upon the request by COP 10, these draft voluntary guidelines, after incorporating the comments and suggestions through technical peer review, will be submitted for consideration to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), scheduled for April 2012. COP 10 also recognized that these guidelines would be most useful for activities that are currently unregulated with no process of assessing impacts.

Pursuant to above requests, the Secretariat has prepared, with the assistance of a team of consultants, draft voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in EIAs and SEAs in marine and coastal areas using the guidance in Annexes II, III and IV to the Manila Workshop Report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/5). In preparing the draft guidelines, all the guidance and concerns raised in Annexes II, III and IV to the Manila Workshop report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/5) were considered and addressed.

Please note that documents being circulated for peer-review consist of:

- Document No.1: Background on the development of voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) in marine and coastal areas (available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-212-marine-pr1-en.doc](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-212-marine-pr1-en.doc));
- Document No.2: Draft voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in marine and coastal areas (available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-212-marine-pr2-en.doc](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-212-marine-pr2-en.doc));

To: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points; other Governments; relevant organizations

- Document No.3: Draft guidance on biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in marine and coastal areas (available at: [www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-212-marine-pr3-en.doc](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-212-marine-pr3-en.doc)).

Specific advice on the focus of peer-review is provided in each document.

As such, Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations are invited to kindly review the above-mentioned documents and provide their comments and suggestions to the Secretariat ([secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) or fax +1-514-288-6588) at your earliest convenience, but **no later than 30 November 2011**.

I thank you in advance for your continued support of the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary