



Ref.: SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JG/81993

8 August 2013

## NOTIFICATION

### **Summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixteenth meeting**

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision XI/17, which includes a section on “Description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)”. Specifically, in paragraph 6 of this decision, the Conference of the Parties:

“*Noting* that, in accordance with decision X/29, the application of the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is a scientific and technical exercise and *emphasizing* that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as stated in paragraph 26 of decision X/29, *requests* the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixteenth meeting and contained in the annex to this decision, in the repository, as referred to in decision X/29 and this decision, and, for the purpose set out in decision X/29, to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction, as well as to submit them to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations, and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit them to the 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, as well as to provide them as a source of information to United Nations specialized agencies.”

Pursuant to the above-mentioned requests, I am pleased to inform you that the summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, which comprise tables 1 and 2 of the annex to decision XI/17, are available in all six official languages of the United Nations on the website of the Convention at <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-11>.

To: CBD National Focal Points; SBSTTA Focal Points; PoWPA Focal Points; FAO; OBIS (UNESCO-IOC); ISA; IMO; other relevant UN specialized agencies; regional seas conventions and action plans; RFMOs and other relevant regional initiatives; ILCs; UNEP-WCMC; GOBI; and other relevant international organizations.

cc: UN DOALOS



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Programme  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada  
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)



I am also pleased to inform you that on 19 March 2013, I provided this information, in all official languages of the United Nations, to the United Nations Secretary-General, for submission to the United Nations General Assembly as well as to its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction and the 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.

Please be advised that document A/67/838 entitled "Letter dated 19 March 2013 from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity addressed to the Secretary-General" on the submission of summary reports on the description of areas meeting EBSA criteria, is available on the Official Document System of the United Nations (ODS), in all six official languages of the United Nations ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/838](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/838)).

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary