



Ref.: SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JG/83094

21 January 2014

NOTIFICATION

Subject: North-west Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), 24 to 28 March 2014, Montreal, Canada

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision X/29, the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to organize a series of regional workshops, 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. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of Parties reviewed the outcomes of the first two regional workshops and requested that additional workshops be organized for the remaining regions or subregions where Parties wish workshops to be held (decision XI/17).

The COP also requested, in decision XI/17, that the Executive Secretary 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, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 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, in organizing the above regional workshops.

Pursuant to these requests, I have the pleasure to inform you that, with financial support from the Government of Canada, the Secretariat is convening a North-west Atlantic regional workshop to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), from 24 to 28 March 2014, in Montreal, Canada.

Parties, other Governments, and relevant regional organizations/initiatives are invited to nominate experts who can participate in this workshop and provide scientific information in support of the workshop's objectives prior to the workshop. The selection of experts will be based on scientific expertise and experience, taking into account the guidance of COP in its decision X/29, and will be carried out using the following criteria:

- Good scientific knowledge related to, and research experience in describing 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;

To: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points in the North-west Atlantic region: Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, United States of America; Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and other regional fisheries management organizations; and other relevant regional organizations/initiatives



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- Good scientific knowledge related to, and experience in the application of scientific guidance on the application of EBSA criteria (annex VI, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/4); and
- Good scientific knowledge related to, and experience in developing and applying biogeographic classification systems of open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats.

Draft terms of reference for the workshop are annexed to this notification for your reference.

Meeting documents will be forwarded to the selected experts and posted on the CBD website in due course. The meeting will be conducted in English.

Submission of nominations from Governments

Parties and other Governments from the region are invited to nominate two experts to participate in this workshop. Nominations must include full contact details and be accompanied by a curriculum vitae clearly indicating the areas of expertise and experience of the nominees, and should be submitted via an **official letter** addressed to the Executive Secretary and **signed by the National Focal Point**.

Submission of nominations from relevant organizations

Relevant regional organizations and initiatives are invited to nominate one expert to participate in this workshop. Nominations must include full contact details and be accompanied by a curriculum vitae clearly indicating the areas of expertise and experience of the nominee, and should be submitted by the head of the organization/initiative providing the name and contact details of their nominee via **official signed letter** addressed to the Executive Secretary.

All nominations must be received at the earliest convenience but no later than **15 February 2014** (scanned and attached to an e-mail addressed to secretariat@cbd.int; or faxed to +1 (514) 288-6588).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support of the work of the Convention.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Attachment

**Draft Terms of Reference for CBD Regional Workshop
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 and compiled by the CBD Secretariat, to undertake the above activity in paragraph 1;
3. Produce a regional workshop report on areas meeting EBSA criteria for consideration by SBSTTA; and
4. 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.