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2 September 2016

NOTIFICATION

Peer Review of Draft Report on options regarding procedures to modify the description of ecologically or biologically significant areas or to facilitate the process of description of new areas

Madam/Sir,

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in its recommendation XX/3, prepared a draft decision on marine and coastal biodiversity – ecologically or biologically significant marine areas for consideration by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held from 4 to 17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.

In this recommendation, the Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to develop: (i) options regarding procedures within the Convention to modify the description of areas, both within and beyond national jurisdiction, decided by the Conference of the Parties for inclusion in the repository, based on new information that has become available since the previous regional workshops on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and (ii) options to facilitate the process of description of new areas against the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

In the same recommendation, the Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to make this draft report available for peer-review by Parties for further refinement, and to submit the final report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its thirteenth meeting, building on the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twentieth meeting.

Pursuant to the above requests, the Executive Secretary has developed a draft report on options as noted above. Parties are therefore invited to review this draft report and provide comments and suggestions for further refinement. The draft report is available for peer review at: <https://www.cbd.int/cop13/review/>. Upon further revision incorporating peer-review comments, the final report will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its thirteenth meeting.

Comments should be sent to the Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than 26 September 2016. Please note that comments should be sent using the template for comments available on the above web page. The completed template may be sent by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at +1 514 288 6588.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

To: CBD and SBSTTA Focal Points



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