



Ref.: SCBD/SPS/DC/JL/JG/87042

13 December 2017

NOTIFICATION

Call for information to support the objectives of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the Baltic Sea, 20 to 24 February 2018, and Training Session on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, 19 February 2018 – Helsinki, Finland

Dear Madam/Sir,

As communicated through notification 2017-122, dated 17 November 2017, the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Baltic Sea will take place from 20 to 24 February 2018, preceded by a training session on EBSAs on 19 February 2018, in Helsinki, Finland.

Parties, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities are hereby invited to provide relevant scientific information, including traditional knowledge, in support of the objectives of the above-mentioned workshop. Information provided should contribute to the description of EBSAs through application of scientific criteria in annex I of decision IX/20 (<http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11663>), or of other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria.

In particular, we are seeking ecological and biological data and/or traditional knowledge on marine ecosystems, habitats and species, and/or physical/oceanographic/geological data and/or traditional knowledge relevant to the application of the above-mentioned scientific criteria for EBSAs. Relevant information can be submitted in two ways: (1) by using the [EBSA information template](#), attached as an appendix to this letter, or (2) through another appropriate format, such as peer-reviewed articles, documents, datasets, or maps.

Information submitted using the EBSA information template will be refined and further developed during the workshop through scientific and technical discussion among participants, with the technical and mapping support provided by the technical team to be arranged by the CBD Secretariat. For examples of the ways in which this scientific and technical information, including traditional knowledge, has been used in previous EBSA workshops, please see the documents, including data reports, compilations of submissions and workshop reports, from previous EBSA workshops at the following link: <http://www.cbd.int/ebsa/meetings?tab=previous>.

To: CBD National Focal Points; SBSTTA Focal Points; Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Focal Points; relevant United Nations/international organizations; HELCOM; Regional Fisheries Bodies; indigenous peoples and local communities; and other relevant global and regional organizations/initiatives

As indicated in the above notification and pursuant to the requests of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in decisions X/29, XI/17, XII/22 and XIII/12, this regional workshop is being convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with financial support from the Governments of Finland and Sweden, in collaboration with the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission.

In order to allow the Secretariat to prepare necessary scientific and technical input for the above-mentioned workshop in a timely manner, information should be submitted to the CBD Secretariat via an e-mail addressed to secretariat@cbd.int or a fax sent to +1 514 288-6588, as soon as possible, but no later than **15 January 2018**.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the Convention.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

Attachment: [Template for Submission of Scientific Information to Describe Areas Meeting Scientific Criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas](#)