



Ref.: SCBD/SSSF/AS/SBG/JA/JG/88518

27 November 2019

## NOTIFICATION

### **Expert Workshop to Identify Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and Describing New EBSAs 3 to 5 February 2020 — Brussels, Belgium**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Secretariat will convene the Expert Workshop to Identify Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and Describing New EBSAs, from 3 to 5 February 2020, in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop will be hosted by the Government of Belgium, with financial support from the Governments of Belgium and Germany.

This workshop is being convened pursuant to decision 14/9, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to identify options for modifying the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, for describing new areas, and for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of this process, and to submit them to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and to the Conference of the Parties (COP) for consideration.

The outcome of this workshop will form the basis of a meeting report containing a set of options and approaches for modifying the description of EBSAs and describing new EBSAs, which will form the basis of future deliberations by SBSTTA and COP on this issue.

Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, and indigenous peoples and local communities are therefore invited to nominate one expert to participate in this workshop. Participants will be selected from among nominees based on relevant expertise and experience, taking into account gender balance and equitable geographical representation, as well as previous experience in scientific and technical work on EBSAs under the Convention and previous experience in the deliberations of SBSTTA and COP on issues related to EBSAs.

The selected nominees from eligible Parties and a limited number of indigenous peoples and local communities will receive financing from the Secretariat to facilitate their participation in the workshop. Documents for this workshop will be forwarded to the selected experts and posted on the CBD website in due course. The workshop will be conducted in English.

Nominations should include the name and full contact details of the nominee and should be submitted via an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary and signed, respectively, by the National Focal Point or head of the organization/initiative. All nominations must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae clearly indicating the areas of expertise and experience of the nominee. Nominations should be sent as soon as possible, but no later than 10 December 2019, via e-mail to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) or via fax to +1-514-288-6588.

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema  
Officer-in-Charge

To: CBD National Focal Points; Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Focal Points; SBSTTA Focal Points; indigenous peoples and local communities; and relevant organizations