



NOTIFICATION

Webinar to provide an overview of the draft modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and describing new areas, 17 April 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is convening an information webinar on 17 April 2024 to provide an overview of the draft modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and describing new areas, in preparation for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in May 2024. The webinar will be held twice, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT, UTC-4) and from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT, UTC-4), to accommodate participants from different time zones.

Since 2010, the Secretariat has been coordinating a process to facilitate the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria (decision IX/20, annex I). More than 300 areas have been described through 15 regional workshops (www.cbd.int/ebsa). Building on the success of the EBSA process, the Conference of the Parties (COP) has been discussing ways to improve it since 2014. While discussions on this issue have brought forth valuable insights, the COP is yet to agree on modalities for modifying the descriptions of EBSAs and describing new EBSAs through means other than CBD regional workshops.

Pursuant to decision [15/26](#), the Secretariat convened two expert workshops in November 2023, respectively to review the [technical aspects](#) of the modalities outlined in the annex to SBSTTA recommendation [24/10](#) and to review the [legal issues](#) pertaining to these modalities. The results of the workshops informed the development of new draft modalities for modifying the descriptions of EBSAs and describing new EBSAs, as contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.1, which will be considered by SBSTTA at its twenty-sixth meeting. In addition, an information document for SBSTTA will be made available to provide an explanation and clarification of the draft modalities.

In view of the above, the webinar aims to facilitate understanding of the issues addressed in the modalities and support productive discussions at the forthcoming meeting of SBSTTA.

The webinar will be held in English only. Those who wish to participate in the session at 9:00 a.m. EDT can register by clicking [here](#), while those who wish to participate in the session at 9:00 p.m. EDT can register by clicking [here](#). Registered participants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information on how to join the session. I look forward to your participation in this webinar.

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

(Signed) David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

To: CBD national focal points, SBSTTA focal points, marine and coastal biodiversity focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant global and regional organizations/initiatives

