

## **Executive Summary**

**This note summarizes the work under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relevant to ocean affairs and the law of the sea**

and multi-stakeholder engagement in the context of SDG 14 and (vii) the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### **Regional workshops to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)**

2 Since 2011, the CBD Secretariat has been coordinating and process of regional workshops to facilitate the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). A total of 321 areas described as meeting the EBSA criteria during these regional workshops have already been considered by COP, included in the CBD EBSA repository and submitted to the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant processes. The outputs of the regional EBSA workshops, as considered by COP, are available online at the EBSA website (<http://www.cbd.int/ebsa>).

3 At its fourteenth meeting in 2018, the COP considered the outputs of regional workshops to facilitate the description of EBSAs in (i) the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea and (ii) the Baltic Sea Pursuant to COP decision 14/9 the outputs of these EBSA workshops were included in the EBSA repository. This information was also transmitted to the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, the second session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and other relevant international organizations and processes.

4 In September 2019 the Secretariat will convene a regional workshop to facilitate the description of EBSAs in the North East Atlantic Ocean in Stockholm, Sweden, from 22 to 27 September<sup>2</sup>. The outputs of this workshop will be considered by a forthcoming meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifteenth meeting in 2020.

### **Enhancing scientific methodologies and approaches for the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria**

5 Pursuant to CBD COP decision XIII/12, the Secretariat organized the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on EBSAs (Montreal, Canada, 30 June - 1 July 2018).<sup>3</sup> The meeting objectives were developed in line with the terms of reference for the Informal Advisory Group as follows:

- (a) Provide scientific and technical advice on matters relating to revising and further





**Synthesizing scientific and technical information on various issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity**

**18** In notification [2018093](#) dated 27 September 2018 Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were invited to submit information and experiences with regard to the following areas of work addressed by COP 12 and 13

**(a) Implementation of the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems**

**(b) Implementation of the Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention<sup>10</sup>**

**(a) Subregional Capacity Building Workshop for the Coal Triangle (Jakarta, Indonesia, 31 July-3 August 2018)<sup>13</sup>;**

**(a) Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Northern Africa and the Mediterranean (Tangier, Morocco, 15-19 October 2018)<sup>14</sup>; and**

