

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS ON THE
GUIDANCE TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS ([ISBA/29/C/10](#))**

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to: oemmr-secretariat@isa.org.jm

1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Portugal

2. Please provide general comments where applicable here:

3. Kindly provide specific textual in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

I. Introduction

Paragraph 3

(c)bis - Provide adjacent coastal States; information on a regional scale on the environment and on the levels of protection set out by the REMP.

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

In the Introduction (paragraph 3) of the standardized procedure for the development, establishment and review of regional environmental management plans (REMPs) important outcomes from the development of a REMP in a specific region are included. These outcomes are mainly related to information provided to the Authority, Contractors and sponsoring States. However, the development and approval of the REMP may also provide regional environmental information to adjacent coastal States. As resource deposits in the Area may lie across limits of national jurisdiction, natural environments may also cross limits of national jurisdiction. Therefore, the REMP will provide important environmental information and, if applicable, important levels of environmental protection to areas within national jurisdiction of adjacent coastal States.

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New text

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5.bis – Regional environmental plans should contribute, whenever possible, to enhancing cooperation among relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant regional, subregional and sectoral bodies in the achievement of the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

Regional environmental management plans and other area management tools adopted under relevant different legal instruments frameworks and bodies, namely, but not only under the BBNJ Agreement, should, whenever possible, contribute for a coherent environmentally connected management network through cooperation for the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and the prevention of damage of the marine environment.

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6. The Council is responsible for the adoption and review of regional environmental management plans for all mineral **provinces** in the Area where exploration is taking place. The Council may request the Commission to develop such plans.

7. A regional environmental management plan shall be adopted for the particular **area** concerned before the Commission considers an application for a plan of work for exploitation.²

...

9. The Commission, with assistance from the secretariat, should ensure that it has access to all available data. These data include:

(a) Contractor data and information submitted to the Authority that pertain to the **region** and are not deemed confidential, in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority;

(b) Data and information, in particular from scientific projects, initiatives in the **region**, peer-reviewed articles and publicly accessible databases;

....

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

Different terms with geographical meaning are used. We suggest that a definition of terms could be added to the schedule or in an annex to the template.

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4.

16. The secretariat will notify Member States and make the draft regional environmental management plan publicly available for a minimum of 90 days by placement on the website of the Authority, for the submission of comments by interested parties within this time frame. The regional environmental characterization and the data report will also be made publicly available to support **stakeholder** and States' consultation.

17. The secretariat will publish any comments received from States and **stakeholders** on the website of the Authority.

5. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

Member States may not be immediate aware of ISA website publications. Therefore it will be helpful to have direct communication/notification by the Secretariat. We note that de definition of stakeholder in the DRs' schedule does not include States.