

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS
DURING THE 29TH SESSION: COUNCIL - PART I**

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

1. Name of Working Group:

Informal Working Group on Environment

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

Submitted by Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd. and Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd.

3. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

Annex IV, 4.8 bis and 5.4.3.bis

4. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline 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.

Annex IV [IWG ENV]

Environmental Impact Statement

[...]

4.8. bis. Rare or sensitive habitats

Identify and describe the physical and chemical characteristics of rare or sensitive habitats in line with the respective international guidelines (FAO 2009, Azores Criteria 2010) ~~and policy decisions (inter alia from UN and; CBD ...)~~ ~~onsuch as hydrothermal vents, ridges, seamounts, as well as oceanographic fronts or eddies, abyss hills and canyons and other geological and oceanographic features.~~

[...]

5.4.3.bis. Rare or sensitive habitats and species

Identify and describe the biological characteristics of rare or sensitive habitats and species potentially affected by the planned Exploitation activities. The identification (as in 4.8bis) shall be guided by the respective international guidelines (FAO 2009, Azores Criteria 2010) ~~and policy decisions (UNGA, CBD)~~ ~~and include features such as hydrothermal vents, ridges, seamounts, as well as oceanographic fronts or eddies, abyss hills and canyons and other geological and oceanographic features.~~ Identify any unique, rare and threatened elements and their potential vulnerability to the effects of mining, outline which habitats and communities can be considered representative and their distribution, indicate existence and connectivity to the same habitats and communities outside the mine site and the potential impact zone.]

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

- We consider it would best practice to refer to the respective international guidelines and use that to guide the identification process of rare or sensitive habitats and species for the purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement.
- This will ensure that the Environmental Impact Statement is done in a manner that is consistent with best practice and international guidance and does not mandate issues and matters that may be irrelevant in particular contexts.