This is the first circular sent to advertise GEOHAB 2013. All information will be regularly updated on the GEOHAB 2013 website accessible through [http://geohab.org](http://geohab.org)

GEOHAB (Marine Geo logical and Biological Habitat Mapping) annual forum brings together 80-120 geologists, biologists, acousticians, statisticians, spatial analysts and environmental managers from around the world who are developing new methods and procedures to link remotely sensed data with seafloor geology and marine biology within a geo-spatial environment. GEOHAB provides a truly multidisciplinary and exciting forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas that underpin sustainable ocean management. Because of the small number of delegates and the focused topics, the GEOHAB conferences are organised as an informal, single-stream session, which encourages dialogue between delegates and exhibitors.

**VENUE:** The 2013 GeoHab conference will be hosted by the Geological Survey of Italy from the 6th to the 10th of May, 2013, at the Italian National Research Council (CNR) Headquarters, within easy walking distance of all major facilities.

GeoHab 2013 welcomes oral and poster presentations covering a wide range of aspects related to habitat mapping.

**THEMES:**
The main theme of this year’s conference is

**“MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND MULTISCALAR APPROACHES TO HABITAT MAPPING”**

Additional key themes will depend on abstract submission but could include:

- National Seabed Mapping Programs
- Predictive Habitat Modeling
- Geoscience Characterization of the Seabed for Environmental Assessment of Marine Renewable Energy Activities
- Habitat mapping in geologically complex areas, with examples from the Mediterranean Sea
- Linking science to marine policies for conservation. Experience and forthcoming strategies
- Advances in Technology and Methodology for Mapping Habitats
- Deep-Sea Habitats
- Quantifying change in benthic habitats

**WORKSHOP:** a hall is available for the 6th of May in case anybody wishes to propose and organize a workshop
IMPORTANT DATES

2012
December 2\textsuperscript{nd} Circular
Registration and Submission of abstracts open on GeoHab 2013 website

2013
28\textsuperscript{th} February \quad \textbf{Closing date for Abstracts and early bird registration}
1\textsuperscript{st} April \quad \text{Deadline for late registration}
6\textsuperscript{th} May \quad \text{Pre-conference workshop}
6\textsuperscript{th} May \quad \text{Registration opens followed by an icebreaker}
7\textsuperscript{th} May \quad \text{Oral and poster presentations}
8\textsuperscript{th} May \quad \text{Oral and poster presentations and Conference Dinner}
9\textsuperscript{th} May \quad \text{Oral and poster presentations and GeoHab AGM}
10\textsuperscript{th} May \quad \text{Excursion}

REGISTRATION FEE
Information will be made available in the near future on the GeoHab 2013 website and will be provided in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} circular.

ACCOMMODATION
Information on accommodation and a list of recommended hotels will be available on the GeoHab 2013 website (through http://geohab.org).
\textbf{Please note that delegates are responsible for making their own reservations.}

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
check the GeoHab 2013 website (through http://geohab.org) or contact:

\textbf{Dr Andrea Fiorentino, GEOHAB 2013 Chair}
Geological Survey of Italy/Land Protection and Georesources Department
ISPRA - Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Italy
Via Vitaliano Brancati, 60 - 00144 Roma (Italy)
Phone: (+39) 06-50074894; Email: andrea.fiorentino@isprambiente.it

or

\textbf{Dr Silvana D’Angelo, GEOHAB 2013 Co-Chair}
Geological Survey of Italy/Land Protection and Georesources Department
ISPRA - Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Italy
Via Vitaliano Brancati, 60 - 00144 Roma (Italy)
Phone: (+39) 06-50074693; Email: silvana.dangelo@isprambiente.it
International Scientific Committee:

Andrea Fiorentino (Chair, Geological Survey of Italy - ISPRA)
Silvana D’Angelo (Co-Chair, Geological Survey of Italy - ISPRA)
Crescenzo Violante (Sponsor chair, IAMC – CNR Napoli)
H. Gary Greene (SeaDoc Society/Tombolo)
Daniel Ierodiaconou (Deakin University Australia)
Claudio Lo Iacono (CSIC, Barcelona, NOC Southampton)
Alan Stevenson (British Geological Survey)
Leonardo Tunesi (Marine Habitat and Biodiversity Protection - ISPRA)

Local Organising Committee:

Andrea Fiorentino (Chair, Geological Survey of Italy - ISPRA)
Silvana D’Angelo (Co-Chair, Geological Survey of Italy - ISPRA)
Crescenzo Violante (Sponsor chair, IAMC – CNR Napoli)
Marco Pantaloni (field-trip leader, Geological Survey of Italy - ISPRA)
Susanna Garroni (accompanying people programme)
Alessia Marinelli (Graphic Project - ISPRA)
Events planning section of ISPRA