

Summary

NTP on “Blue Economy: Blue Economy with special focus on Marine Tourism and Audit of SDG-14 and related SDGs (Terrestrial & Aquatic)” (21.08.2023 to 25.08.2023) at iCED

Jaipur

International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED) organized a 05 days’ National Training Programme on “Blue Economy: Blue Economy with special focus on Marine Tourism and Audit of SDG-14 and related SDGs (Terrestrial & Aquatic)”, from 21.08.2023 to 25.08.2023 at its own campus. A total of 20 participants from 07 field offices including 07 group officers, participated in the training programme.



Group Photo during National Training Programme on “Blue Economy: Blue Economy with special focus on Marine Tourism and Audit of SDG-14 and related SDGs (Terrestrial & Aquatic)”

Ms Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED inaugurated the training programme. She welcomed all the participants. ADAI Madam emphasized the importance of the National Training Programme on “Blue Economy: Blue Economy with special focus on Marine Tourism and Audit of SDG-14 and related SDGs (Terrestrial & Aquatic)” and its role in raising awareness and providing knowledge about the Blue Economy, particularly its significance for the sustainable development of coastal regions and India as a whole.

She further emphasized that the blue economy is a complex concept encompassing economic activities related to oceans and coastal areas, gaining global attention for its potential in economic growth and sustainability. India, with its extensive coastline and coastal population, sees the blue economy as crucial for its economic expansion. It aligns with sustainable

development goals, particularly Goal 14, labelled "Life below Water", which focuses on conserving oceans and marine resources through international cooperation.



Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & Director General, iCED addressing participants during Inauguration

| She highlighted that India's draft policy for the blue economy emphasizes coastal marine spatial planning and tourism as key components for sustainable maritime development. The success of marine tourism reflects India's commitment to balancing prosperity and environmental preservation.

ADAI Madam added that the Hon'ble C&AG of India, as the Chair of the SAI-20 organisation, has highlighted the importance of audit of multifarious sectors of the Blue Economy and in recognition of the same, designated iCED as the Centre of Excellence for Audit of Blue Economy.

She highlighted iCED's commitment to capacity building efforts, having trained participants from over 25 countries in the past three months, including around 70 participants from SAI India, on different dimensions of the Blue Economy. This reaffirms iCED's role as a hub for research, experience sharing and knowledge dissemination in Blue Economy Audit.

Further, she also briefed about outdoor activities like Shopping excursion to Bapu Bazar, the traditional market of Jaipur and Sports and other facilities at iCED Campus etc.

With this introduction, Ms. Jafa again warmly welcomed all the participants to iCED, expressing hope for a productive and engaging training programme and a pleasant stay on the campus.

During this five days' training programme, 09 experts from various organizations such as The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu; National Maritime Foundation (NMF); National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR); Director General of Shipping; Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and IA&AS Officers from IA&AD were invited to deliver the sessions on various aspects of Marine Tourism and Audit of SDG-14 and related SDGs.

Teaching methods during the training programme included both formal lectures as well as various individual and group exercises, etc. Details of the trainers and the sessions delivered during this programme are as follows.

Sl. No.	Sessions	Trainer/s
1.	Marine Tourism Sector and its Sustainability in India	Shri Souvik Bhattacharjya, Resource Efficiency and Governance Division, TERI
2.	Framework and Implementation of SDG 14: Conservation of Ocean, Sea and Marine Biodiversity	Dr. Nanda Dulal Das, Director (T&R), iCED Jaipur
3.	Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Coastal Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	Dr. Kathiresan Kandasamy, Professor, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu
4.	Conservation of Marine Parks and Protected Areas	Comdt. R K Shrivastava, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi
5.	Performance Audit of Conservation and Management of Coastal Ecosystems-Experience Sharing	Shri Bhaumik Giriraj Chavan, Sr. AO, AG (Audit-II), Gujarat, Ahmedabad
6.	Environmental and Strategic Impact Assessment with special reference to Blue Economy & Marine Spatial Planning	Dr. Fraddry D'Souza, Independent Consultant, Former TERI Researcher
7.	Measurement of Coastal Water Quality and Marine Pollution with reference to Plastic and Chemical Pollution	Dr. Pravakar Mishra, Scientist-F, NCCR, Chennai
8.	Decarbonizing shipping and transportation in the Ocean, including Mitigation of Oil Spills	Shri Vikrant Rai, Engineer & Ship Surveyor-cum-DDG (Tech), O/o the Director General of Shipping
9.	Application of Remote Sensing/GIS in Blue Economy	Dr. R. S. Mahendra, Scientist 'E', INCOIS

Further, a shopping tour to Bapu Bazar, a traditional artisanal market of Jaipur, was also organized. Bapu Bazaar is a shopping destination located on MI Road in the heart of Jaipur. It is one of the oldest markets in Jaipur. The market is known for its exotic Rajasthani craft products which include handlooms, handicrafts, brass work, and precious stones.



Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & DG, iCED and Shri Mehul Grover Director (Admn.), iCED with participants during Group Presentation

Team Wise Exercise-Team Wise Exercise was also given to the participants. All participants were divided into four groups of five participants in each group.

Ms. Sharadha Kannan, Sr. DAG, Shri Jitendra Nath Sharma., Sr. DAG, Shri Ridham D. Bhadja, Dy. Director and Ms. Manimozhi B, DAG represented their groups during this team exercise session.

Ms. Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & DG, iCED evaluated the presentations given by all the groups of the participants during pre-valedictory session.

Feedback:- Feedback on course designing, the time required, content, knowledge and its delivery by the resource persons and facilities available at iCED was also collected from the participants through SAI Portal. The average feedback of the participants was 9.33 out of 10, which is very encouraging. Sessions on “Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Coastal Protection and Biodiversity Conservation” was rated as the best.

Summing-up and valediction:

Ms Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED graced the valedictory session of the National Training Programme.

ADAI Madam, in her valedictory address highlighted the recent announcement by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, about the establishment of a Centre for Excellence in the Blue Economy at the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED)

Further, ADAI Madam encouraged participants to utilize the knowledge and experiences gained during the training program to further their understanding of environmental audit systematically and effectively. She shared a valuable insight from a Japanese scholar, Takuan Soho, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a balanced perspective and not becoming overly focused on a single aspect while missing the broader context. This advice, she noted, is particularly relevant when approaching audits in the multifaceted landscape of the Blue Economy.

She thanked all the experts and participants for their contributions in making this event a success and she desired to organize more sessions in near future to understand the topic more broadly.