

## International Webinar on

### “Audit of Blue Economy, Issues and Challenges with special reference to SDG-14”

(25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023)

International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED), as the Global Training Facility (GTF) of INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA) organized International Webinar on “Audit of Blue Economy, Issues and Challenges with special reference to SDG-14” on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Batch-I) & 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Batch-II) in two batches through virtual mode. A total number of 82 participants (50 in Batch-I & 32 in Batch-II) from 22 SAIs across the world participated in this programme.



**Ms. Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & DG, iCED addressing the participants during Inauguration of the International Webinar (Batch I & II)**

During the inaugural session of Batch-I, Dr. Nanda Dulal Das, Director (Training & Research), iCED welcomed Ms. Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED, participants, and the guest faculty Mr. R. Venkatesan, resource person from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Chennai.

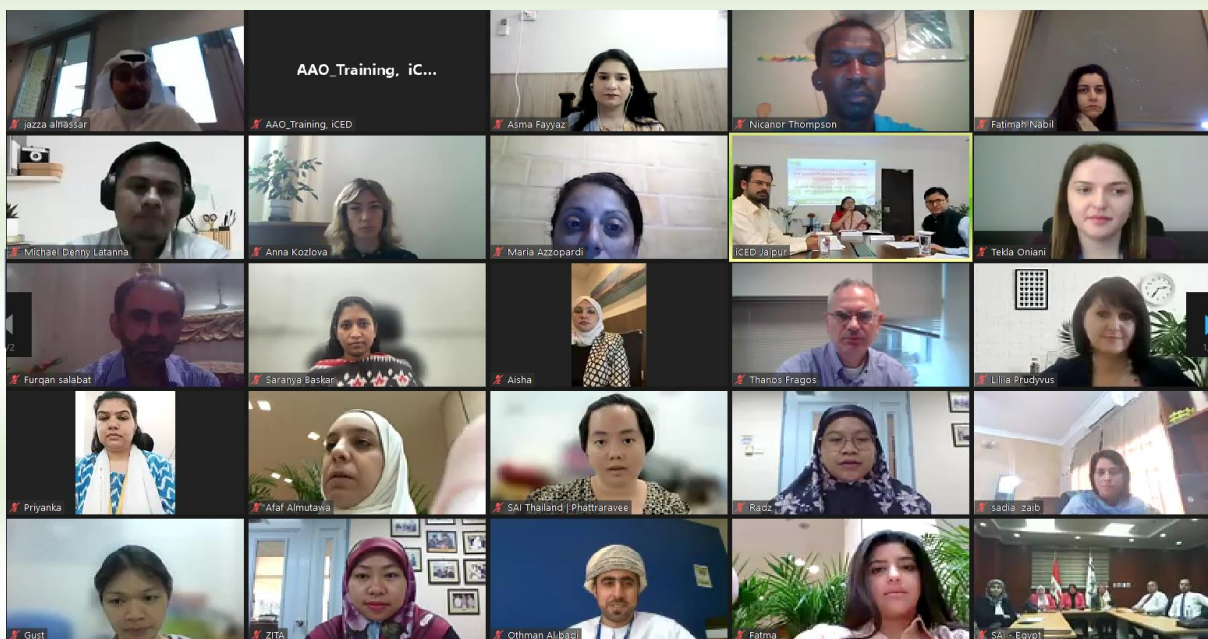
During the inaugural session of Batch-II, Dr. Nanda Dulal Das, Director (Training & Research), iCED welcomed Ms. Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED, participants, and the guest faculty Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya, resource person from TERI.

Ms. Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED inaugurated the Webinar for both the batches. She highlighted that Sustainable Blue Economy offers solution to numerous challenges posed by climate change and resource extraction, by promoting development of ocean resources in a fair and equitable manner. This includes initiatives such as sustainable fisheries management, renewable energy generation, conservation of Marine Protected Areas, and banning disposal of sewage and pollutants into

the water bodies and ocean. One of the key challenges facing the Blue Economy is overfishing, which can lead to depletion of fish populations and negatively impact marine ecosystems. To address this, we need to adopt sustainable fishing practices, such as reducing bycatch, implementing catch limits, and protecting marine habitats.

Another issue facing the Blue Economy is marine pollution, which can harm marine ecosystems and impact human health. To tackle this problem, we need to reduce plastic waste and other pollutants entering the ocean through measures such as waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable waste management practices. At SAI20 Summit held in Goa, Hon'ble C&AG of India, Shri G.C. Murmu formally acknowledged this stellar new frontier for iCED. This unit within the institutional paradigm of iCED seeks to focus on issues of sustainable marine and coastal ecosystem management, marine spatial planning, marine fisheries and marine pollution among various other issues. She further highlighted SAI India's vision of upscaling knowledge and experience sharing on the Blue Economy with the Hon'ble C&AG of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu setting up a Centre of Excellence on Blue Economy in its campus at Jaipur.

Ms. Jafa said that globally the Blue Economy can play a crucial role in mitigating the impacts of climate change. For example, renewable energy generation from offshore wind, wave, and tidal power can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote a shift towards a more sustainable energy system. Further, ocean acts as one of the largest carbon sinks in the World, warming of which can further threaten the progress made so far in climate-change mitigation commitments. Before closing, she welcomed all the participants and guest faculty.



**Participants during International Webinar on “Audit of Blue Economy, Issues and Challenges with special reference to SDG-14”, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Batch-I)**



**Participants during International Webinar on “Audit of Blue Economy, Issues and Challenges with special reference to SDG-14”, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Batch-II)**

During this webinar, resource persons from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai; The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and other experts from SAI India; National Audit Office, Mauritius; The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia; The Court of Auditors of The Kingdom of Morocco; European Court of Auditors (ECA) and The Federal Court of Accounts of Brazil (TCU) shared their experiences related to Audit of Blue Economy, Issues and Challenges with special reference to SDG-14.

Session-wise details are given below:

S. No	Resource Person	Session	Date
1.	Dr. R. Venkatesan, Former Scientist G & Head Ocean Observation, NIOT, Chennai, India	Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
2.	Ms Aditi Sharma, SAI India	Audit of Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by SAI India	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
3.	Mr. Veejay Hauradhun, Resource Person from National Audit Office, Mauritius	Audit of Blue Economy: Experience Sharing	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
4.	Mr. Feisal, Resource Person from The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia	Auditing Government Efforts to Adapt to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification in the Marine Environment: Experience Sharing	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
5.	Mr. Moulay Idriss Aziz, Resource Person from The Court of Auditors of The Kingdom of Morocco	Audit of the National Plan of Fisheries Development: Experience Sharing	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023

6.	Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya, Associate Director, Resource Efficiency & Governance, TERI	Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
7.	Ms Aditi Sharma, SAI India	Audit of Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by SAI India	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
8.	Mr. Frederic Soblet and Mr. Milan Smid Resource Person from European Court of Auditors (ECA)	Audit of Blue Economy: Experience Sharing	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
9.	Mr. Rafael Encinas, Resource Person from The Federal Court of Accounts of Brazil (TCU)	Audit of Blue Economy: Experience Sharing	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2023



**Dr.R.Venkatesan, Scientist-G NIOT Chennai** started his presentation with emphasis on Importance of Ocean. He discussed about Blue economy priority Areas, Ocean Policy of India and Blue Economy, Opportunities of Blue Economy with Changing climate and environment, Sustainable Development Goals: Vision 2030 and Role of United Nations.

He also discussed the Ocean Accounting &

Marine Spatial Planning and highlighted that India and Norway have agreed to conduct Marine Spatial Planning in Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

**Ms. Aditi Sharma, SAI India** briefed the participants in both the batches about Importance of the Blue Economy, Challenges in Auditing Blue Economy, recent Audit done by SAI India and important audit findings of the audit. She also discussed Implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone by the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (SCZMA) in West Bengal. She also highlighted Audit of Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAG Report in 2020).





**Mr. Veejay Hauradhun, SAI Mauritius** discussed about 2018 Afrosai-e Performance Audit Report on “Moving towards Sustainable Artisanal Fishery in Mauritius” with special reference to SDG 14. He further elaborated Government of Mauritius’ Interventions : a three-pronged

approach towards sustainability i.e. at individual level, community level & relocation projects and national level. He also highlighted important audit findings of the Performance Audit Report on artisanal fisheries and impact of the audit.

**Mr. Feisal, SAI Indonesia** discussed about Auditing Government Efforts to adapt to Climate Change in marine environment. In this context, he highlighted climate change issues on marine environment, government efforts, audit procedure, important audit findings and experience from the audits.



**Mr. Moulay Idriss Aziz, SAI Morocco** started his presentations with Audit of the National Plan of Fisheries Development by the Court of accounts of Morocco. He further highlighted Key audit findings and important recommendations of the report.



**Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya, Sr. Fellow and Associate Director, TERI** shared his experience



related to Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy. He further discussed about the quantitative benefits of oceans and Blue Economy-SDG linkages. He also highlighted Global and National Indicator Framework for SDG 14, and various conventions to Seas and The High Seas Treaty.

**Mr. Frederic Soblet and Mr. Milan Smid, ECA:**

Mr. Frederic Soblet discussed about ECA Special Report SR 20/2022 in which Mr. Soblet highlighted European Union's action to combat illegal fishing: control systems in place, which are weakened by uneven checks and sanctions by Member States. Mr. Milan Smid discussed about ECA Special Report SR 22/2023 in which Mr. Smid highlighted on the offshore renewable energy in the EU, its ambitious plans for growth and showed that sustainability remains a challenge.



**Mr. Rafael Encinas, SAI Brazil** shared his views on Audit of Blue Economy – SDG 14 with reference to Federal Court of Accounts Brazil (TCU). He further elaborated Coordinated Audit 2014 & 2021 -Protected Areas and DFOG Analysis to identify Fragmentations, Overlaps, Duplications and Gaps between the policy on protected areas

and public policies on tourism and land use planning. Mr. Encinas also discussed about Climate Scanner Project and its developmental phases and proposed stages for implementation, by TCU Brazil under the aegis of INTOSAI WGEA.

**Feedback:** - Feedback on course designing, the time required, content, knowledge and its delivery by the resource persons was also collected from the participants through Google form. The average feedback of the participants for batch I was 9.0 out of 10 and for batch II it was 8.8 out of 10, which are highly encouraging.

Session on “Audit of Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by SAI India” delivered by Ms Aditi Sharma, SAI India and Session on “Audit of Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by SAI Brazil” delivered by Mr. Rafael Encinas were rated as the best in batch I & II respectively.

### **Valediction of the International Webinar on “Audit of Blue Economy, Issues and Challenges with special reference to SDG-14”**

Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI and DG, iCED graced the valedictory session. She thanked the participants for their active participation in the programme so that the programme could be conducted successfully.

Further, ADAI and DG, iCED, in her valedictory speech told participants that the Blue Economy is a labyrinthian and multifaceted area which is driving economic growth and innovation. Its vital importance is, thus, opening up now frontiers for auditing; and the need for upscaling capacity building and research has thus formed a key theme of the SAI 20 Engagement Group under the Presidency of SAI India this year. iCED, as a centre of excellence on Audit of Blue Economy has opened a pathway in capacity building and research on multiple sectors of Blue Economy.



**Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI and Director General, iCED addressing the participants during valediction**

She stated that the sharing of experiences and perspectives during the webinar would suitably equip all the participants to take the learning process forward. ADAI Madam expressed her gratitude to all the resource persons for sharing their experiences with the participants. She also thanked all the SAIs who had nominated resource persons to deliver the sessions during the webinar

Dr Nanda Dulal Das, Director (Training & Research ), iCED conveyed vote of thanks to all the faculties for sharing their knowledge and experiences during webinar. He also thanked all the participants for their active participation. He further conveyed sincere thanks to all the SAIs who nominated participants and supported iCED by contributing resource persons for the webinar and concluded the webinar.

### **Testimonials**

**Brenda Neeley, Deputy Auditor General from SAI Bahamas** – “The Seminar was awesome and the learning experience and material to be used in adding value to SAI Bahamas in the delivery of quality level audits”.

**Jéssica Rodríguez Guillén, Contraloria General de Perú/Perú, SAI Peru** – “When I supported the coordinated audit of protected areas in 2014 and 2021, SGD 14 and 15 were reinforced as explained in the TCU presentation. However, what I received in this webinar, reinforces the work in performance auditing related to Sustainable Development”.

**Janno Louie Ceasar Luzon, SAI Philippines-** “The existence of Global and National Indicator Frameworks is of great help in gauging and identifying focused audit areas”.

**Asma Fayyaz, SAI Pakistan-** “I gained knowledge about various dimensions of Blue Economy, relevant policies and challenges. Audit experiences shared by other SAIs were also very informative”.

**Ms. Saranya Baskar, SAI India,** “The seminar gave different and unique insights on how to approach the concept and audit of blue economy”.