

POST-EVENT SUMMARY AND MATERIAL

Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) on the High Seas Workshop

Hosted by

International Maritime Organization (IMO)
and WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute
in collaboration with MarViva and
the Sargasso Sea Commission

Held 13 - 15 November 2023,
Crowne Plaza Hotel
San José, Costa Rica

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Overview and Introduction

From 13 to 15 November 2023, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Maritime University (WMU) - Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (GOI) hosted a workshop in Costa Rica on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) on the High Seas.

The workshop was delivered in collaboration with the Sargasso Sea Commission and MarViva, with support by The Nippon Foundation, the Global Environment Facility, United Nations Developing Programme (UNDP), SARGADOM and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO).

Focus and Objective

The workshop had an interactive and practical focus, with presentations by IMO, WMU and the SARGADOM project team, followed by group sessions with all participants. The workshop examined the Thermal Dome and the Sargasso Sea, two sites representative of the diversity and importance of high seas ecosystems that are facing significant challenges posed by international shipping. These two sites perfectly illustrate that ecological boundaries (the interconnectivity of the marine ecosystem) do not correspond to the legal boundaries established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), especially for those ecosystems located both within and beyond national jurisdiction.

Main aim and focus of the Workshop was to:



Develop technical knowledge of the various measures taken by IMO to address the threats posed by international shipping, particularly regarding the process of preparing and submitting a PSSA proposal to the IMO.



Gain better understanding of the various conventions and legal instruments adopted by the IMO to regulate safe, responsible and efficient shipping and the prevention of pollution from shipping.



Begin process of actual formulation of PSSA proposals based on requirements for the Thermal Dome and the Sargasso Sea

This was the first training workshop conducted by IMO and WMU with focus on PSSAs on the High Seas. It is anticipated that additional PSSA workshops and related topics will be delivered in coming years.



WORKSHOP DELIVERY

Programme and Structure


Over 40 participants from governmental authorities, academia, and non-governmental institutions were nominated to attend the training workshop by the event partner organisations. There participants were from 18 different countries bordering or having an interest in the protection of the Thermal Dome and the Sargasso Sea, as well as representatives from the Central American Maritime Transport Commission (COCATRAM).

Guided by an expert facilitator, the participants looked into the concept and the criteria pertaining to the designation of a PSSA and the associated protective measures, examined the relevant IMO instruments to prepare and submit a proposal, discussed the challenges in relation to data and mapping issues. The recently designed North-Western Mediterranean PSSA case was used to understand the procedures and efforts needed to prepare the proposal. With this, then the participants conducted group exercises to prepare a draft plan for the development of PSSA proposals to be submitted to IMO.


Technical Programme

14 November 2023 - Setting the Scene: Introduction to PSSA and SARGADOM Sites





Overview of the Sessions

- Welcome and Opening
- Introduction to the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and the BBNJ Agreement
- Introduction to the SARGADOM Project Sites
- Overview of the PSSA Concept
- PSSA Data/Mapping Issues
- Implementation and Enforcement
- Developing a PSSA proposal




15 November 2023 - Developing a PSSA proposal and exercise for SARGADOM Sites




Overview of the Sessions

- Navigating a PSSA proposal through IMO
- Case study - The North Western Mediterranean PSSA (Practical example from France)
- Group exercises - Potential PSSAs in the Project areas (Sargasso Sea/Thermal Dome):
 - Preparation of a draft plan for development of PSSA proposal for submission to IMO
 - Presentations from each Project areas
 - Feedback session



WORKSHOP ACTIVITY

Field Excursion and Experience

With aim to have learn more about some ongoing local ocean and marine projects and activities, a field trip was arranged to the Gulf of Nicoya.

Participants visited and were guided through several local initiatives and projects that MarViva is supporting in Costa Rica.

Value-adding insights were gained about the projects and interaction with locals to learn more about the challenges they have had and how opportunities have developed from them.



17 November 2023 - Visit to Gulf of Nicoya to see local projects and initiatives




Overview of Field activity

- The Self-Managed Cooperative of Aquaculture, Fishing and Rural Community Tourism, Isla Venado
- Mangrove plantation project in Montero, Isla Chira
- La Amistad Rural Inn in Palito, Isla Chira
- Cama-Pez of the Coast
- Piel Marina, Fish Leather project

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WORKSHOP DATA VISUALISATION

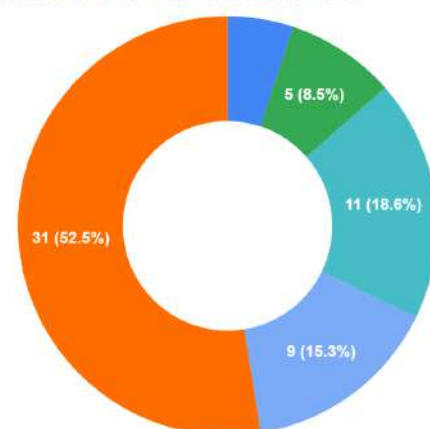
Distribution of Attendees by Gender and Region

The successful execution of the Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) on the High Seas Workshop was possible thanks to the invaluable presence onsite and online of 59 esteemed contributors from 22 different countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, North America and Asia. Among the participants, observers, rapporteurs, and organizers involved, women constituted a significant proportion, accounting for 50.8% of the total.

Regional Distribution of Attendees

Estimated numbers based on attendance to the Workshop - 13-15 November 2023

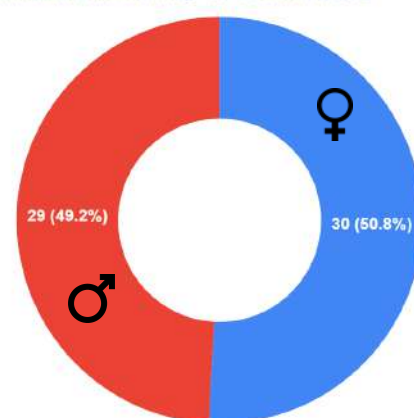
- Asia
- Caribbean
- Europe
- North America
- Latin America



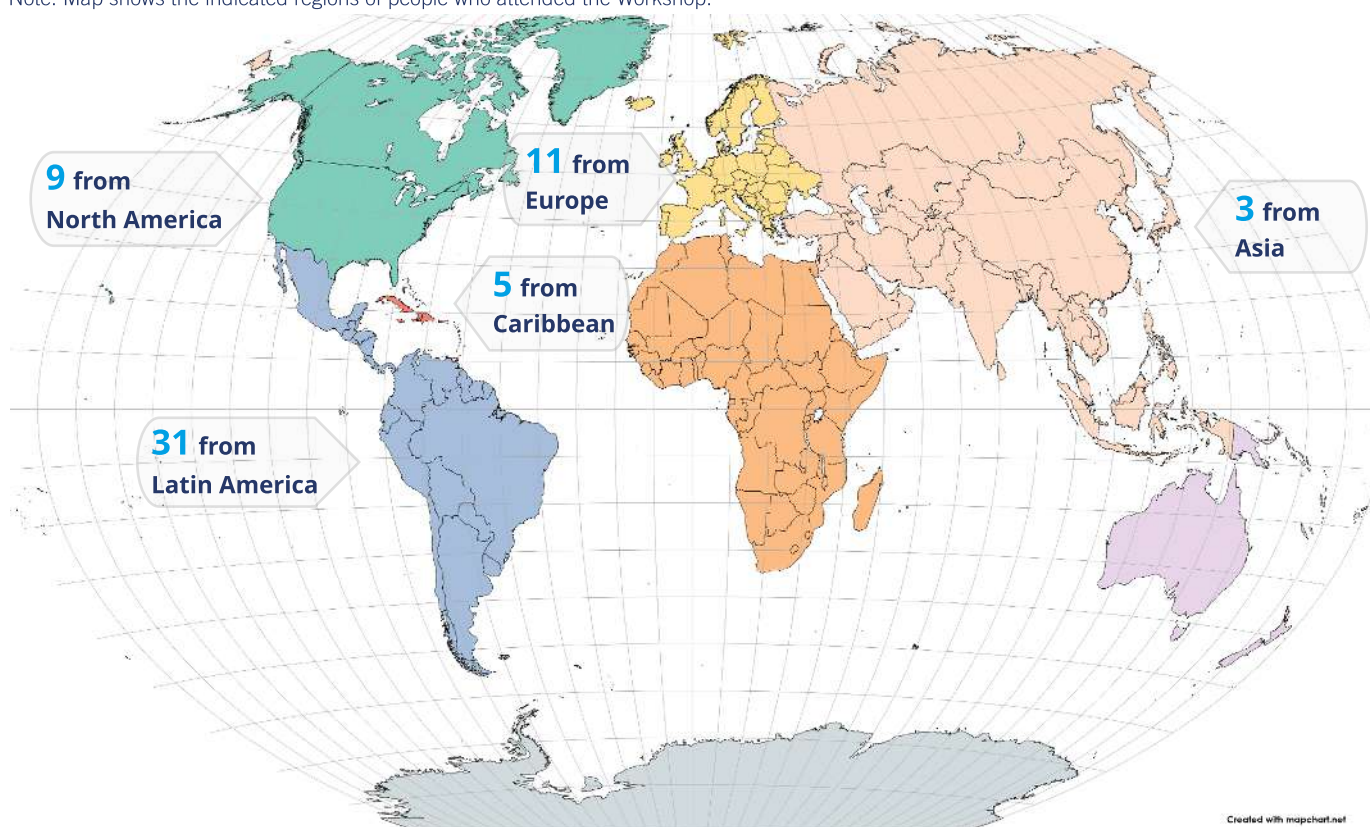
Gender Distribution of Attendees

Estimated numbers based on attendance to the Workshop - 13-15 November 2023

- Female
- Male



Note: Map shows the indicated regions of people who attended the Workshop.



Distribution of Registrations by Sector and Modality

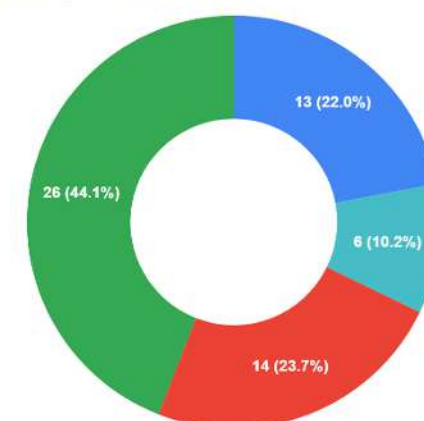
The 59 contributors who joined were mainly onsite (45 individuals, accounting for 76.3%) but also online participants (14 individuals, accounting for 23.7%). Whilst the majority of the online contributors were women (11 individuals, accounting 78.6%), men constituted a bigger proportion of the onsite contributors (26 individuals, accounting 57.8%).

The sectors most prominently represented among the contributors were the Public Sector (44.1%), NGOs (23.7%) and Academia (22%).

Sector Distribution of Attendees

Estimated numbers based on attendance to the Workshop - 13-15 November 2023

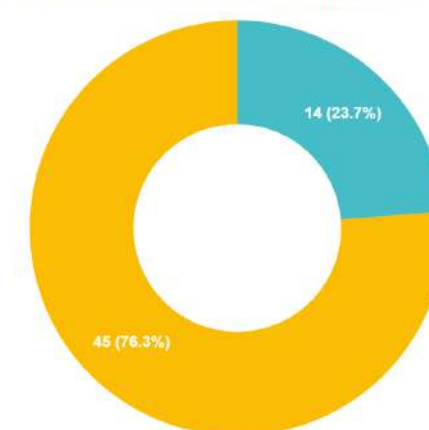
- Academia
- Intergovernmental Organisation
- Non-governmental Organisation
- Public Sector



Modality Distribution of Attendees

Estimated numbers based on attendance to the Workshop - 13-15 November 2023

- Online
- Onsite



POST-EVENT MATERIAL

MATERIALS IN ENGLISH

Event Concept note 	Programme 	Biographies Booklet 
Technical Material 	Workshop Presentations 	Field Trip Agenda 

MATERIALS IN SPANISH

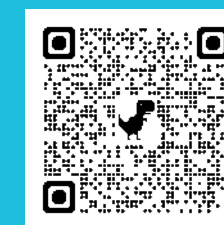
Nota conceptual del evento 	Programa 	Folleto de biografías 
Material técnico 	Presentationces 	Gira del Campo 

PRESS RELEASE AND PHOTOS

WMU News and Press Release on Workshop



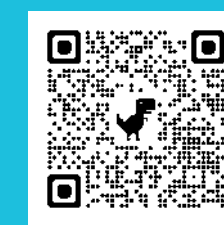
[View Press Release here](#)



IMO News and Press Release on Workshop



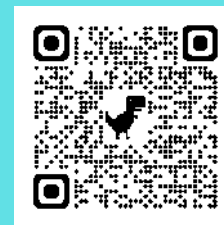
[View Press Release here](#)



Photos from the Workshop



[Photos available here](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION



- **IMO:** <https://www.imo.org/>
- **WMU:** <https://www.wmu.se>
- **GOI:** <https://www.wmu.se/goi>
- **Sargasso Sea Commission:** <http://www.sargassoseacommission.org>
- **MarViva:** <https://www.marviva.net/en/we-love-the-sea>



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The World Maritime University was
established in 1983 within the framework
of the International Maritime Organization,
a specialized agency of the United Nations.