

Summary

International Webinar on “Experience Sharing on Audit of Blue Economy related issues” held on 27th April 2023 at iCED Jaipur

International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED), which is also the Global Training Facility (GTF) of INTOSAI Working Group on Extractive Industries (WGEI), and INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA), organized an International Webinar on “Experience Sharing on Audit of Blue Economy related issues” on 27th April 2023. A total of 32 participants representing 07 SAIs (Including SAI India) attended the program through virtual mode.

Dr Nanda Dulal Das, Director (Training & Research), iCED welcomed virtually all the participants, guest faculty, Ms Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General and Director General, iCED and Mr Deen Dayal Verma, Director (Administration) to the inaugural session of the International Webinar on “Experience Sharing on Audit of Blue Economy related issues”.



Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & DG, iCED, Mr Deen Dayal Verma, Director (Administration), Dr Nanda Dulal Das, Director (Training & Research), along with participants during inauguration of the International Webinar on “Experience Sharing on Audit of Blue Economy related issues”

Dr Das highlighted the topics to be covered during the webinar i.e. multifarious dimensions of audit of the Blue Economy with a special focus on coastal and marine eco-system, marine fisheries, marine resources and Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG-14- Life below Water).

Ms Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General (ADAI) and Director General, iCED, inaugurated the webinar.

She briefed about the iCED, which is a unique institution under the aegis of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and is dedicated to environmental audit and Sustainable Development issues. ADAI Madam told the participants about the National & International Training Programmes, workshops, and webinars conducted at iCED so far.

Further, Madam informed the participants that iCED is opening a new pathway by operationalizing the Hon'ble C&AG of India and SAI India's vision of upscaling knowledge and experience sharing on the Blue Economy by setting up a Centre of Excellence on Audit of Blue Economy at iCED, Jaipur. As stated by Hon'ble C&AG of India, Shri G.C. Murmu, "The Blue Economy takes forward the concept of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), introduced by India at the COP26 Glasgow summit, which emphasises the need for 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' to sustain and revitalise the marine and freshwater environments. As a priority area, it serves to bring the focus of SAIs to particularly (but not exclusively) SDG 14, viz. Life Below Water."

She also discussed the key challenges facing the Blue Economy i.e. overfishing, marine pollution, and she also discussed the opportunities of BE for job creation and economic growth. She emphasized that the Blue Economy can play a crucial role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The sessions during this program focused on multifarious dimensions of audit of the Blue Economy with a special focus on coastal and marine eco-system, marine fisheries, sustainable marine tourism, marine resources and Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG-14- Life below Water).

During the webinar, 08 experts from 07 renowned organization such as TERI India, SAI India, the European Court of Auditors (ECA), ASA Egypt, the National Audit Office of China (CNAO), the National Audit Office of SAI Oman, and the Federal Court of

Accounts – Brazil delivered the sessions on Experience Sharing on Audit of the Blue Economy.

Details of Trainers for the international webinar have been detailed below:

S.No.	Sessions	Trainer/s	Presentations & Session Recordings
1.	<i>Overview of Blue Economy</i>	Dr Manish Anand, Senior Fellow, Centre for Resource Efficiency & Governance, TERI, India	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W-MeEqWa6g01pgvQJ0H04-apmeAz3SUF?usp=share_link
2.	<i>Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by SAI India</i>	Mohd. Ashraf J S, Sr. DAG, Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit-II) Tamil Nadu & Puducherry SAI India	
3.	<i>Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by ECA</i>	Mr Paul Stafford (Principal Manager) and Mrs Katarzyna Radecka-Moroz , ECA	
4.	<i>Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by ASA Egypt</i>	Mrs Dalia Moustafa el Behbety, ASA Egypt	
5.	<i>Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by the National Audit Office of China (CNAO)</i>	Mr Teng Tai, International Cooperation Department of CNAO; Mr Tao Wei from International Cooperation Department of CNAO and ; Mr Li Changsong from Natural Resources, Ecology and Environment Audit Department of CNAO, China	
6.	<i>Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by the National Audit Office of SAI Oman</i>	Ms Jayhan Hamood Al Hanai, SAI Oman	
7.	<i>Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by The Federal Court of Accounts – Brazil</i>	Mr Rafael Encinas, Auditor, The Federal Court of Accounts – Brazil	

Teaching methods during the training program included formal lectures along with presentations.

Session I delivered by Dr Manish Anand, Senior Fellow, Centre for Resource Efficiency & Governance, TERI, India

Dr Manish Anand started his presentation with the concept of the Blue Economy, Ocean Economy, Marine Economy, Blue Growth, and Maritime Economy. He discussed about highly productive environments with diverse coastal habitats and unique species diversity. He told about the ecological, economic, and societal benefits of the Blue Economy. He also highlighted the major role of Blue Economy in Climate regulation.

Dr Anand further emphasized the Blue Economy - SDG interlinkages. He told

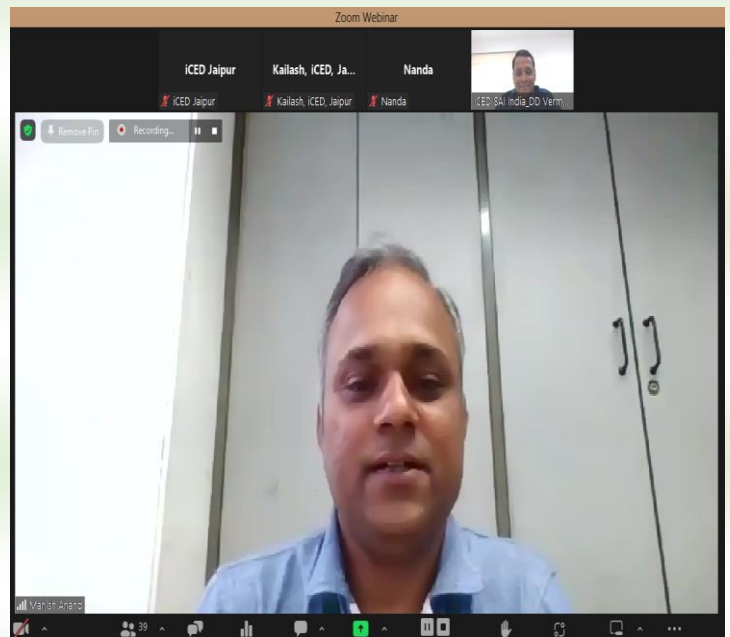
about the Conservation strategies to tackle biodiversity loss, Legislation/ Policies/ Schemes/ Initiatives for Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation.

Further, he discussed the National Accounting Framework for Blue Economy and Ocean Governance, Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture, Fish processing sector and Coastal and Deep-Sea Mining etc.

Session II delivered by Shri Mohd. Ashraf J S, Sr. DAG, Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit-II) Tamil Nadu & Puducherry SAI India

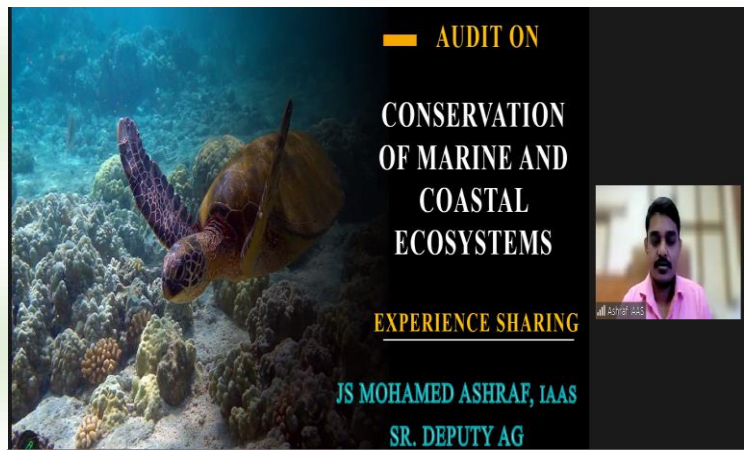
Shri Mohd. Ashraf discussed the Performance Audit Report on Marine & Coastal Ecosystems of Tamil Nadu.

Mr Ashraf highlighted main points of the report such as conservation of Coral Reefs in the Gulf of Mannar, Conservation of Marine Endangered species and enforcement against poaching. He told about the absence of mechanism to monitor identified threats of Corals.



Dr Manish Anand, Senior Fellow, Centre for Resource Efficiency & Governance, TERI, India delivering session on Overview of Blue Economy

He further told about the Illegal Construction in No Development Zone, Oasis Enclave Boardwalk, Vada Nemmeli, Chennai, Aarna Beach House, Kovalam, Chennai, Paramenkeni Beach House, Chennai, illegal Construction of Mud Road – Construction of Fishing Harbour, Cuddalore, etc.



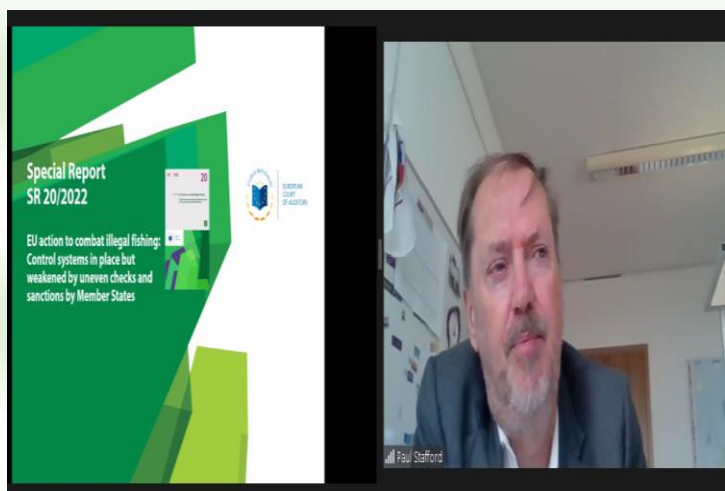
Shri Mohd. Ashraf J S, SAI India delivering the session on Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by SAI India

Session III delivered by Mr Paul Stafford (Principal Manager) and Mrs Katarzyna Radecka-Moroz, ECA:-

Mr Paul Stafford started his session with the ECA's audit approach including international standards of Performance Auditing and statement of assurance.

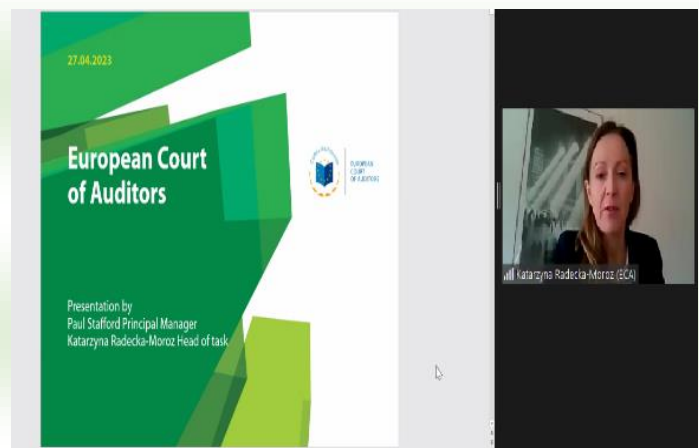
Further, he discussed their special report SR 20/2022 on EU action to combat illegal fishing. He emphasized that Illegal fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems.

He further discussed important audit findings and recommendations of the audit done by them.



Mr Paul Stafford, ECA delivering the session on Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by the European Court of Auditors

Mrs Katarzyna Radecka-Moroz started her session with a report on audit on offshore renewable energy in the UE, which has not been published yet. She told the reasons of the selection of that particular audit. Further, she told about the Audit Scope and Audit Approach followed during the audit.



Mrs Katarzyna Radecka-Moroz, ECA delivering the session on Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by the European Court of Auditors

Session IV delivered by Mrs Dalia Moustafa el Behbety, ASA Egypt:-

Mrs Dalia presented a case study on the assessment of policies related to the impact of the phenomenon of sea level rise on coastal erosion in the Mediterranean Sea considering Egypt's commitments to SDG Goals No. 13 and 14.



Mrs Dalia Moustafa el Behbety, ASA Egypt, delivering the session on Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by ASA Egypt

Further, she told that according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Egypt is one of the

countries highly vulnerable to climate change, and the future projections indicate that Egypt will suffer from the effects of the consequences of climate change in terms of sea level rise, water scarcity, increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, floods, heavy rains, and sand and dust storms.

Further, she discussed the audit objective, audit findings, impact of audit and suggestions given to the government through recommendations. She also discussed the good practices followed during the audit.

Session V delivered by Mr Teng Tai, Mr Tao Wei and Mr Li Changsong from CNAO:-

Above experts from CNAO, China started their session with laws and regulations for Marine Environmental Protection in China. They further, highlighted the efforts of China for Marine Environmental Protection. They discussed Audit Objectives, Audit Findings such as inadequate prevention and control of agricultural non-point source pollution, weakness in the prevention and control of industrial point source pollution in major industrial areas, and ineffective implementation of certain major ecological and environmental policies, among others.



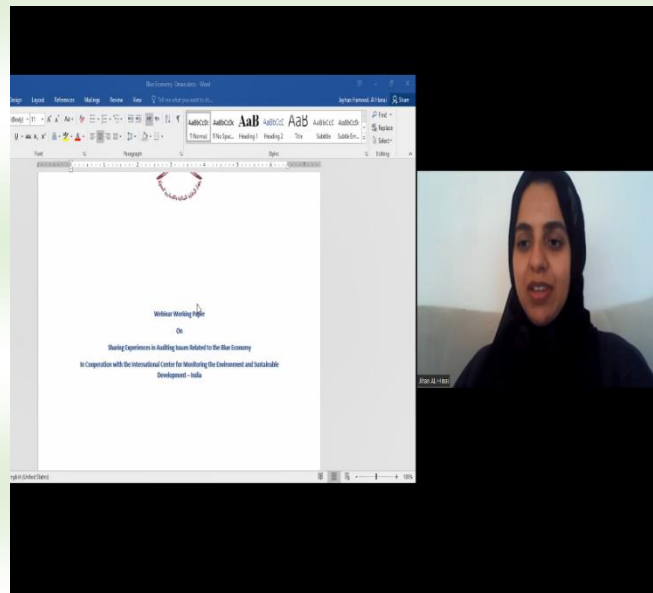
Mr Teng Tai, International Cooperation Department of CNAO; Mr Tao Wei from International Cooperation Department of CNAO and Mr Li Changsong from Natural Resources, Ecology and Environment Audit Department of CNAO, delivering the session on Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by the CNAO

They also gave highlights on the Blue Bay project focusing on Comprehensive Coastal Remediation, to restore natural shorelines, curbing erosion and degradation of sea Beach.

Session VI delivered by Ms Jayhan Hamood Al Hanai, SAI Oman:-

Ms Jayhan started her session by saying that in September 2015, all UN member states adopted a long-term roadmap to establish sustainable development, social inclusion, equality, and poverty eradication, named Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030. The 2030 Sustainable Development agenda includes 17 goals with 169 targets.

She further told that the government of the Sultanate of Oman has sought a



Ms Jayhan Hamood Al Hanai, SAI Oman, delivering the session on Audit of the Blue Economy: Experience Sharing by SAI Oman

voluntary commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations, through the formation of national committees and teams concerned with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and integrating them with national strategies, particularly Oman 2040 Vision.

Further, she demonstrated the Sultanate of Oman's level of progress in achieving the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 14, reviewing the State Audit Institution's experience in auditing the fisheries sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

She told that the blue economy derives its significance from the multiplicity of economic activities that can be practised through it. In addition to fishing activities and fish farms establishment, there are other sectors such as shipping, ports, logistics, mining, offshore exploration, transportation and generation of energy, shipbuilding industry, maritime tourism, entertainment activities, as well as IT and blue biotechnology sectors.

She told that The Sultanate of Oman has a coastal line of 3165 KM; therefore, the country is interested in the "blue economy" which includes developing specific plans to conserve fisheries, the sustainability of marine resources and the cleanliness of seawater.

Further, Ms Jayhan also presented the case study on the Fisheries sector audit and told that the fisheries sector is one of the main sectors that are relied upon in the diversification of the economy,

She also discussed the objectives, scope of the audit and findings to conclude the session.

Session VII: delivered by Mr Rafael Encinas, Auditor, The Federal Court of Accounts

- Brazil:-

Mr Rafael Encinas started his session by briefing about the duties and responsibilities of the Brazilian Federal Court of Accounts (TCU). Further, he told that they have conducted three audits till now on the blue economy.

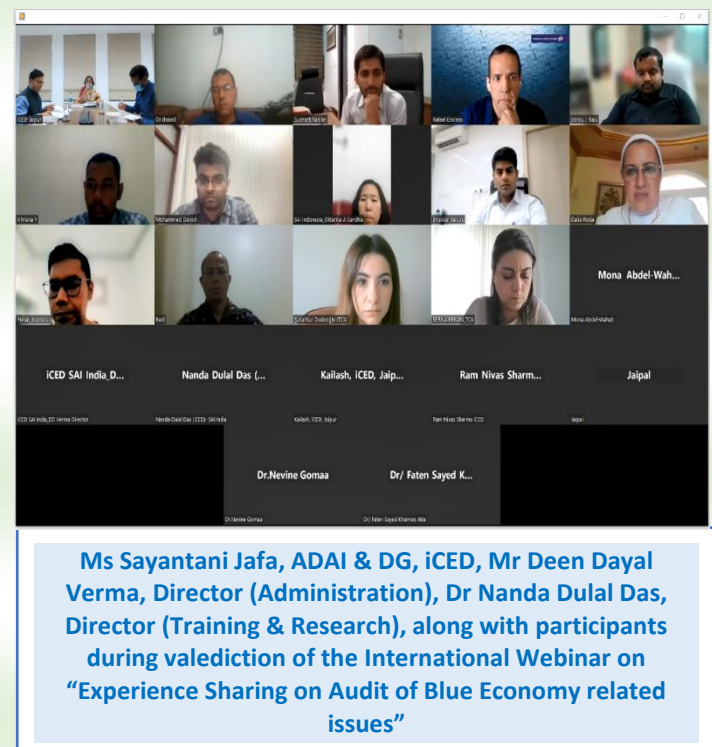
- 2011 – Sustainable Management of Fishery Resources
- 2019 – National Fisheries System
- 2014 & 2021 – Coordinated Audit – Protected Areas

He described audit objectives, audit criteria, audit findings and recommendations of these audits.

Valediction of the International Webinar on “Experience Sharing on Audit of the Blue Economy related issues”-

Dr Nanda Dulal Das, Director (T&R), iCED welcomed ADAI & DG, iCED, Director (Administration) and all the participants to the valedictory session of the online International Webinar on “Experience Sharing on Audit of Blue Economy related issues”.

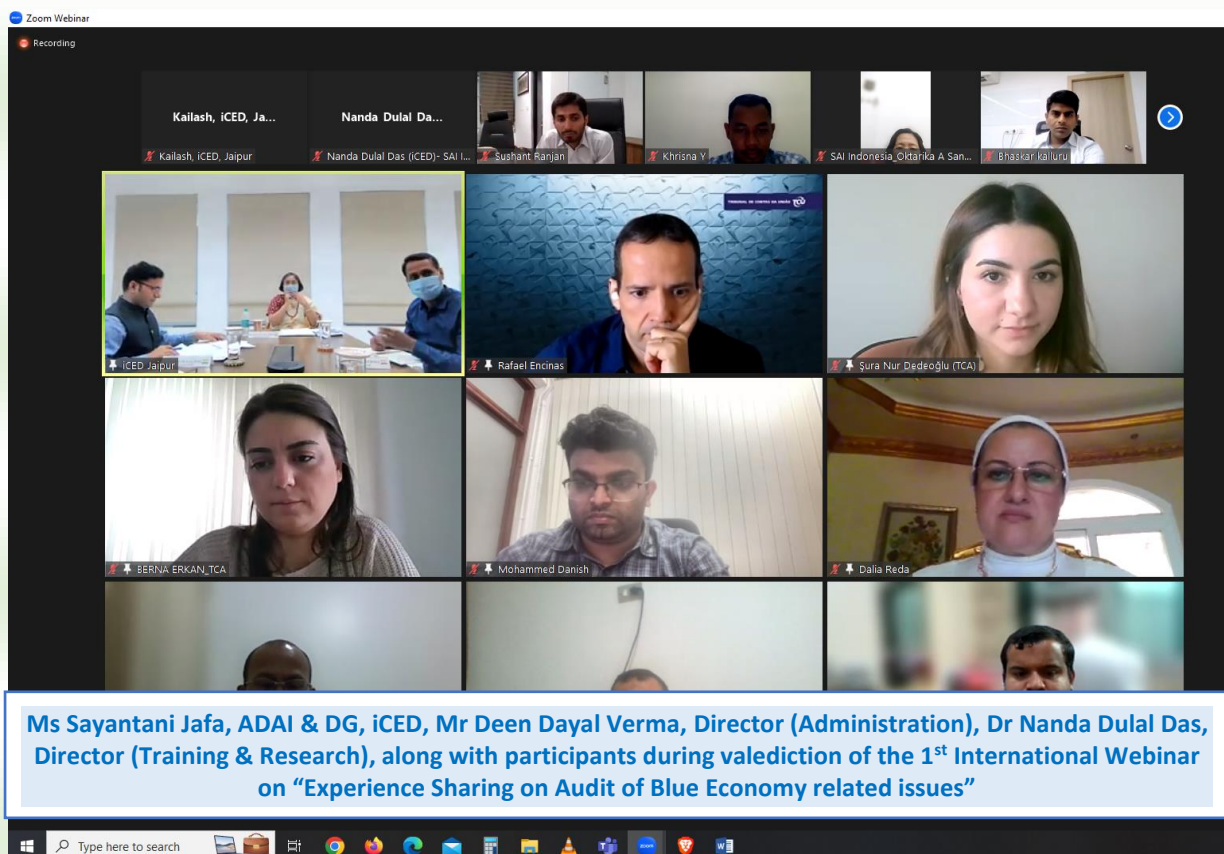
Dr Das briefed ADAI Madam about the participants attending the webinar and about the resource persons from other SAIs who delivered the sessions through virtual mode.



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 Madam, 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 new 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 Presidentship of SAI India this year.

She stated that the sharing of experiences and perspectives during the webinar would suitably equip all of you 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 to the SAIs who nominated resource persons to deliver the sessions during the webinar.

Ms Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General iCED, thanked the Hon'ble Comptroller and Auditor Genral of India, Shri G. C.

Murmu for expounding the vision for iCED as a Centre of Excellence for Audit of Blue Economy to establish a global outreach through knowledge and experience sharing. She also thanked the Deputy CAG of India, Ms Parveen Mehta for guidance in the project.

Dr Nanda Dulal Das, Director (T&R), iCED further, thanked all the faculties for sharing their knowledge and experiences. He thanked all the participants for their active participation. He further conveyed his sincere thanks to all the SAs who nominated participants and supported us by contributing resource persons for the webinar and concluded the webinar.