

# PERSGA TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

## PROGRAM 2023

Jeddah - Saudi Arabia  
يونيو 2023 June 2023



Regional Organization  
for the Conservation of  
Environment of the Red  
Sea and Gulf of Aden



*The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden* “PERSGA” is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the coastal and marine environments in the Region.

PERSGA’s legal basis stems from Article XVI of the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, known as the Jeddah Convention, signed in 1982: “A Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment, the permanent headquarters of which shall be located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is hereby established». It was not until September 1995, however, with the signing of the Cairo Declaration during the First Council Meeting in Egypt, that PERSGA’s creation was formally announced. Falling under the umbrella of the Arab League, PERSGA has since become recognized as one of the leading marine conservation organizations operating in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region.

**PERSGA Member States are Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen**

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## Program Objectives: Investing in Human Resources

Management of marine and coastal environments is a multidisciplinary task that requires technical, communication and consultation skills as well as strategic planning, risk management and information management capabilities. Therefore, capacity building of human resources is fundamental for a successful management of coastal and marine environments. Jeddah Convention 1982 and its Action Plan calls for the need to develop an integrated management approach to the use of the marine environment and the coastal areas and the development of principles and guidelines for coastal area development and management through workshops and seminars.

### The implementation of PERSGA's training activities is aligned with the Jeddah Convention (1982), Article XIX (1-g)

- 1- The General Secretariat shall have the duties and powers necessary to achieve the purposes of this Convention and its protocols the action plan, decisions of the Council; in particular:
  - g- To organize and co-ordinate training programs in areas related to the implementation of this Convention, its protocols and the action plan.

### as well as the 1982 Action Plan, Part II, Article 19

- 19 - As part of the activities and programs for regional Cooperation mentioned in paragraphs 17 and 18, an extensive training program should be developed for personnel from the Region. Such program may be executed through training at existing national, regional or international institutions ready to offer their facilities.

Chief among its activities, capacity building is a cross cutting function of PERSGA. Capacity building activities of PERSGA programs are geared towards improving the performance of all stakeholders in the region, particularly PERSGA Focal Points, aiming at reaching the optimum goals as laid down in the Jeddah Convention (1982) in addition to its attached and subsequent Regional Action Plans and Regional Protocols.

## Training courses and schedule

### Broad-spectrum Training

PERSGA offers a number of multidisciplinary training workshops that intersects with all PERSGA programs and activities. Please see detailed fact sheets of workshops planned in 2021 shown in this manual as per the following provisional schedule in Table 1.

## Application Process

This training program is specially designed and organized for applicants from PERSGA member countries with special qualifications for each training course. Nominations are made by PERSGA Focal Points. Nominations should include a recent CV. Adequately Qualified Nominees Only will be considered. PERSGA usually supports one or two participants per country in every workshop. Additional participants may apply through PERSGA Focal Points provided that they have adequate financial support to cover their participation.

Applications from outside PERSGA region may also be considered based on the applicant's own funding sources. Applications may be sent to PERSGA directly.

### A. Participants from PERSGA Countries (Red Sea and Gulf of Aden)

- Submit to PERSGA through PERSGA Focal Points an application form, together with an updated CV and recent passport copy. Applications may be received by telephone at: 00966 12 4238864 or e-mail at: [information@persga.org](mailto:information@persga.org) by the submission deadline of each activity. Applications received after the



deadline may not be considered;

- PERSGA will evaluate the applicant's qualifications and credentials and send an official acceptance to those who are qualified to participate in the training courses. PERSGA will also inform the Focal Points of the list of accepted applicants at their respective countries. The selection will be based on a special criteria designed for each course.

## **B. Participants from non- PERSGA countries should:**

- Write to PERSGA Secretary General and indicate the training courses they are interested in
- Indicate the sponsoring agency or funding sources which will support the applicant's participation in the training course(s).
- PERSGA will evaluate the applicant's qualifications and credentials and send a response letter.

## **Logistics**

PERSGA will send a logistic note to each participant prior to the workshop. However, in general PERSGA will assist the applicants in the following:

### ***Visa***

PERSGA will assist applicants in acquiring the appropriate visa required for their stay.

### ***Travel***

For participants covered by PERSGA, economy class travel ticket through the most direct route to the venue of the training will be provided.

### ***Accommodation***

PERSGA may assist in hotel reservations. Participants however need to confirm their reservations with hotels of their choice directly. Some hotels may ask for credit card to confirm booking. Participants should also pay their own hotel bills directly.

### ***Insurance***

PERSGA will not provide any insurance coverage. Participants are expected to arrange their own insurance without any related commitment by PERSGA.

## **Participation Cost**

A nominal cost of training may apply as participation fees. The participation fee covers all training cost such as lectures, training materials, field visits and certain social activities if applicable. Personal expenses travel and accommodation are not included.

### ***Funding Support***

- a. PERSGA may provide funding to support qualified applicants from the region (one or two from each PERSGA Member States) who are officially nominated by PERSGA Focal Points. Funding will cover fees, hotel accommodation, round trip airfare and meals.
  - b. For other accepted applicants from the region PERSGA may waive course fees only upon an application of fee waiver through PERSGA Focal Point; participants will still have to fund their travel and accommodation costs.
  - c. Applicants from countries outside PERSGA region can also participate in the program provided they have their own funding support.
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### *Per Diem Allowance:*

Participants funded by PERSGA will be paid a lump sum allowance in accordance to PERSGA's Financial Rules and Regulations. This allowance is intended to cover accommodation costs, meals, gratuities and any other incidental expenses during the period of the training. No expenses other than this allowance are reimbursable.



## Training Program 2023 Application Form

Title of training			
Personal details			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Name		
Passport no.	Validity		
Organization			
Country	City		
Position			
Address			
Telephone	Mobile		
Fax	E-mail		
Educational Qualifications			
Years of Experience (since the last degree obtained)			
Relevance of the training to your current work			
Similar Training attended			
Funding Source (if not supported by PERSGA)			

Applicant Signature		Date of submission	
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PERSGA Focal Point Signature	Date
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## Please Attach a Recent CV

Please visit our website ([www.persga.org](http://www.persga.org)) regularly for updated information.

You may contact us at the following address:

PERSGA, P.O. Box 53662, Jeddah 21583, Saudi Arabia, Tel: 00966 12 4238864, Fax: 0096612 4238875/76

Email: [information@persga.org](mailto:information@persga.org)

#	Workshop Title	Application Deadline	Workshop Date	Workshop Duration	Workshop Location
01	National Workshops on "National Action Plan for Marine Litter Management"	25/12/2022	25/01/2023	2 days	Republic of Djibouti
02	"Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)"	27/04/2023	28/05/2023	3 days	Hurghada, Egypt
03	Regional Workshop on: Human Dimensions of Marine Protected Areas	10/08/2023	11/09/2023	3 days	PERSGA HQ
04	First SFISH project Regional Workshop on IUU Fishing, Fish Spawning Aggregations and Fishery By-catch	17/08/2023	18/09/2023	3 days	PERSGA HQ
05	Second Regional Workshop of the Project Preparation Phase (PPG) for the Project "Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)"	03/09/2023	03/10/2023	2 days	PERSGA HQ
06	Regional practical training workshop on Oil and HNS Spill Modelling	24/09/2023	23/10/2023	3 days	Hurghada, Egypt
07	Regional Workshop on: Building Socio-Ecological Resilience to Coral Reef Degradation in the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden	05/10/2023	06/11/2023	3 days	PERSGA HQ
08	Practical Training on Coral Transplantation and Coral Reef Restoration	23/10/2023	21/11/2023	3 days	PERSGA HQ
09	Regional Workshop on OPRC (Contingency Planning and HNS)	05/11/2023	04/12/2023	3 days	Hurghada, Egypt
10	Regional Workshop on "Sustainable Tourism Planning in Marine Protected Areas"	17/11/2023	17/12/2023	3 days	PERSGA HQ
11	Regional Workshop on Minamata and Stockholm conventions	28/12/2023	29/01/2024	3 days	PERSGA HQ
12	National Consultation Workshop in preparation for the Project "Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)"	To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference			
13	Port State Control Officers national Training course	To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference			
14	National training workshops to Raise Awareness on Biofouling Management and Invasive Aquatic Species	To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference			
15	National Training Workshops on Marine Litter and Plastics Assessment	To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference			
16	Communication Workshops on Sustainable Fisheries: Addressing IUU fishing, Fish Spawning Aggregations and By-catch issues	To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference			
17	Practical Training Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning	To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference			

If the application deadline happens to come in a weekend or a holiday, it automatically becomes the first working day after the holiday

Please note the deadline for application of each course in the schedule above. Applications submitted after closing date may not be considered



## 7/1: National Workshops on “National Action Plan for Marine Litter Management ”

25 – 26th January 2023 Djibouti city, Republic of Djibouti

### Title of the workshop:

National Action Plan (NPA) for Sustainable Management of Marine Litter for Djibouti

### Rationale

**The Consolidated Jeddah Convention (1982)  
The Protocol Concerning the Protection of the Marine  
Environment from Land-Based Activities in the Red Sea and  
Gulf of Aden - 2005  
Article 7  
Management of Solid Wastes**

Parallel to the Global Program of Action, wastes or marine litter dumped in the coastal zone should be taken into consideration to avoid the risks imposed on marine life. Based on the Assessment Report, dumping solid wastes in the coastal zone of the Protocol Area represents a major cause of damage to coastal and marine habitats as well as the destruction of its aesthetic values. This ultimately results in negative impacts on coastal development, particularly the tourist industry. Incineration of wastes is a process that causes numerous persistent, toxic and biologically accumulative emissions. Therefore, the Contracting Parties, commit themselves as follows:-

1. Taking all appropriate action to ensure elimination, to the greatest extent possible, of the solid wastes and litter reaching the marine and coastal environment by prevention or reduction of solid waste generation and by introduction of enhancements to waste treatment, including methods of collection and recycling and final disposal thereof.
2. Cooperating with each other, and with international organizations, on exchange of information relevant to the practices and experiences relating to

Marine litter is becoming a problem in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, so the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) has undertaken various efforts for combating the impact of marine litter accumulation in this region. These efforts include implementation of baseline surveys, beach cleanup campaigns and awareness raising programs. In addition, PERSGA developed a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter in the region in 2018 with support of the UN for Environment (UNE). Many actions were identified within different components in this RAP. In 2019, PERSGA implemented actions identified in this RAP at national levels of PERSG Member Countries (MCs) with support of UNE as well. However, there is still a need to implement additional actions identified in this RPA. Development of National Action Plans (RAPs) on the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter is highlighted as a high priority action in the RAP.

## Objectives

This workshop aims to support Djibouti -as a PERSGA MC - in developing a National Action Plans (NAP) for management of marine litter in the country- other MCs have already developed their MCs with support of PERSGA. This contributes to progress towards achieving nationally, regionally and internationally agreed goals for protection of the marine environment from marine litter. The main objective of this workshop is to discuss the draft NAP with a wide range of stakeholders with the following other objectives:

- To present the content of the draft NAP for getting feedback from participants.
- To share information on issues and actions needed for marine litter management in Djibouti.
- To agree on priority actions set in the draft NPA and rank them with participants.
- To gain suggestions and/or recommendations form participants for development of the NAP.
- To support national programs in general and implementing the Jeddah Convention (1982) and the Regional Protocol Concerning Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (2005).

## Participants

Participants attending this workshop will be officially nominated by each focal point of each PERSGA MC. They are expected to be attended from different relevant stakeholders.

## Date and Duration

The duration of the workshop is two working days, from 25 – 26th January 2023.

## Location

Djibouti- The Republic of Djibouti.

## Organizers

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) in coordination with the PERSGA Focal Point in Djibouti.

## Language

Most of Presentations will be in French. Dialogues/discussion will be in French and English as well.

## Workshop Materials/References

Details to be provided at a later stage.

## Keynote speakers

Dr. Zaher Al-Agwan





## PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

### 7/2: **First Regional Technical Workshop of the PPG Expert Team for the project on “Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)”**

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28-30th May 2023, EMARSGA Center, Hurgadah, Egypt

#### Rationale

The Regional Organization for Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) is an intergovernmental organization established since 1995. PERSGA institutional framework is based on the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention 1982), which joins seven member states, including Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Rational use of marine resources and the protection of coastal marine environment from pollution and overexploitation are central objectives of Jeddah Convention (1982) and its derived Regional Protocols and Action Plan. PERSGA runs regional programs and projects that support regional capacities and coordination to achieve these objectives.

The regional project “An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden” is supported by the GEF, implemented by UNEP, and executed by PERSGA in the region. The Project Identification Form (PIF) was approved by GEF, including Project Preparation Grant (PPG phase). The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to “strengthen management of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden ecosystems and support governance reforms to improve delivery of marine and coastal ecosystem services, accelerating efforts towards achieving SDG14 and transformation to Sustainable Blue Economy”, which is intended to be achieved through the following proposed Project components in the GEF approved concept and PIF (see attached PIF document for more details):

- Component 1: Update of TDA and SAP to integrate new emerging issues and identify new priorities.
- Component 2: Harnessing ecosystem services in participating countries to support Sustainable Blue Economy
- Component 3: Support to the Sustainable Blue Economy transition by creating financial incentives, building enabling environment for investments
- Component 4: Knowledge management for Sustainable Blue Economy, Communication and Monitoring & Evaluation

The current PPG phase of the project is executed and coordinated by PERSGA, supported by UNEP. The main objective of the PPG is the preparation of a CEO request document for a Full-Size Project, in line with the approved PIF and the latest UNEP and GEF guidelines and templates. The PIF setting out the full details of the PPG is attached.

Following approval of the PPG implementation agreement (SSFA), several steps were undertaken, including:

- Establishment of the PPG coordination and expert team, which included: i) assigning PPG regional coordinator (RC) and expert team at PERSGA to execute the PPG activities in collaboration with Task Team Leader (TTL) and associated team at UNEP; ii) nomination of national experts (NEs) representing member states; iii) hiring an international Lead Consultant (LC) to lead preparation of the Project Document (PD) and annexes, in line with UNEP and GEF design requirements for CEO endorsement, and iv) hiring a Regional Consultant (RC) to assist the LC and consortium regarding environmental and social safeguards, stakeholders’ and gender engagement planning in the project.
- The PPG coordinator and TTL held a series of online consultations with the LC and RC, whereby the PPG work-plan, approaches to address recommendations by GEF and UNEP reviews of the approved PIF and completion of the PD and other output documentations required for the CEO endorsement.

- The PPG coordinator and PERSGA team shared PIF and linked GEF and UNEP review documents with the NEs, and organized an online meeting to elaborate and discuss the PPG work-plan and approach, anticipated roles and participations by the NEs throughout the PPG process.

The agreed work-plan of PPG includes two milestone workshops in the process: i) a regional technical workshop joining all the PPG team, to be held by the end of May 2023 in order to facilitate technical backstopping, discussions and sharing information and inputs in the course of designing and drafting the project document and portfolio requirements for CEO endorsement, followed by a series of national consultation workshops to supplement required information for finalizing CEO documentation; and ii) a final regional validation workshop for reviews of the prepared documents prior to submission in October 2023.

In this framework, the first regional workshop will be organized at PERSGA-EMARSGA regional center in Hurghadah, Egypt.

## Workshop objectives and anticipated outcomes

The main aim of the first workshop is to provide platform for orientation of national and regional experts participating in the PPG, confirming methodologies are based on GEF guidelines, and detailed discussions on the layout and inputs to the CEO project document, annexes and annexes drafts being formulated and constructed by the lead and regional consultants for reviews in the subsequent PPG stage.


The specific objectives of the workshop are to provide technical background and facilitate guidelines and discussions addressing:

- Project components' interventions/activities to achieve proposed outputs and outcomes based on the approved PIF, with emphasis on relevant countries' and regional priorities and consistency.
- Capacity building/ technical assistance needs to implement proposed project interventions to provide inferences to consultancy and non-consultancy services, goods, training etc. needs to be considered in formulation of the procurement strategy for development, procurement plan, key consultants TORs.
- Indicators and baselines relevant to the proposed interventions by components, providing inferences to formulating PDO level key indicators and intermediate level results framework indicators, and the M&E plan.
- Stakeholders mapping, roles, benefits/ effects by the project, and communication strategies for the different categories
- Project environmental and social safeguards framework, process, planning and management, considering criteria for option and non-option list of subprojects, stakeholders' roles, conflict resolution and grievance redress mechanisms, etc. Also considering particularly stakeholders' engagement and gender actions strategies and plans to be adopted by the project.
- Co-finance options, considering realistic and committed proposals of in-kind contributions, synergy with existing projects and programs with dedicated shared objectives and effective connections on-the-ground.
- Effective private sector engagement (component 2 and 3 investments)
- Project management structure and roles, including inferences to the ToRs for the involved personnel and employees, decision making flowchart, etc.

In addition to providing guidelines, inputs to above elements of the project CEO documents, the workshop will also facilitate sharing knowledge and experience between the participating experts, and ensuring a harmonized approach aligning with GEF and UNEP guidelines in implementing of the PPG activities at national levels, and inputs by the member states, including particular national priorities.

## Workshop approach and strategy

The workshop is envisaged as an interactive 3-day program with a combination of key background lectures (20%), group works and plenary discussions (80%).



Key background lectures will provide current knowledge on essential topics for the workshop discussions, covering the PIF document, GEF guidelines and methodologies on the above subjects.

The group and plenary discussions will be guided by the background presentations and premeditated handouts to identify options, priorities and other aspects of input elements and contributions

## Participants

Participants in this workshop are the national and regional experts participating in the PPG

## Date, Duration and Location

The duration of this workshop is 3 working days between 28-30th May 2023, and it will be held in EMARSGA center at Hurgada – Egypt.

## Language

The training languages are Arabic and English.

## Training Materials/References

To be provided later.

## Organizers

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

## Instructors / Facilitators

Dr. Ahmed Khalil.

# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet

### 7/3: Regional Workshop on: Human Dimensions of Marine Protected Areas

11-13th September, 2023 PERSGA HQ

#### Rationale

Human dimensions-social, economic, cultural and institutional aspects- should be considered equally with biological and ecological issues when planning, implementing, and managing MPAs. These dimensions can influence the performance of MPAs because they are critical to the acceptance and ultimate success of MPAs: success. Recent research and policy discussion of MPAs are increasingly focused on social, economic, cultural, and institutional considerations- seeking a balance with the equally crucial knowledge required of biophysical and ecological aspects. Efforts to address the human dimensions include those on MPA governance on socio-cultural aspects and on socio-economic studies. Such work on MPAs is also linked to the human dimensions relevant more broadly to ocean management, as in applications of the ecosystem approach.

It is crucial that policy makers, conservation planners, MPA managers, marine scientists and officials from relevant authorities recognize that human dimensions need to be considered, understood and addressed in the process of MPA planning and management in order to mitigate negative impacts and enhance benefits from conservation areas. It is important to note that these dimensions associated with MPAs are often interlinked. For example, the level of poverty in a community may be related to management decisions (e.g. expansion of no-take zones). Furthermore, the costs and benefits that result from MPA management and decision-making could affect different stakeholders differently. Some community members may lose but others could gain benefits from MPAs. For example, dependence on marine resources for food and livelihood may be linked to a community or individual's sense of identity and cultural heritage, and loss of access will have social, economic and cultural consequences. An association with key political players in a community may provide advantages when seeking to develop alternative livelihood opportunities (e.g. tourism enterprises) or engage in trade (e.g. certain buyers favoured over others through political patronage). Therefore, it is important for planners, managers and decision-makers to be aware of the complex nature of these MPA human-ecological systems and consequently adopt an holistic and integrated approach that balances ecological goals with human considerations. Otherwise, managers could fail in meeting conservation objectives of MPAs.

This workshop contributes to conservation of marine resources and management of MPAs in the region, thus in parallel to the PERSGA Protocol Concerning Conservation of Marine Biodiversity and Establishment of Marine Protected Areas Network (2005).

#### Objectives

The workshop aims at building capacity of national specialists from the region on incorporation of human dimensions into planning, implementing, and managing MPAs with the following main objectives:

- To provide background on different human dimensions of MPAs.
- To raise awareness on importance and effects of human dimensions on planning, implementing and managing MPAs.
- To share information between participants on integrating of human dimensions into management of MPAs in the region.
- To understand the key human dimensions to be considered when planning and managing different MPAs, including coral reef MPAs, leading to increase performance of these areas.
- To support national programs in general and implementing the Jeddah Convention, and the concerned Regional Protocol in particular.



## Participants

Participants attending this training workshop should have degrees in marine biology, marine science, environmental or in equivalent degrees with background on MPA management. They should be affiliated to coastal municipalities, coastal and marine institutes and/or local authorities and authorities working mainly in the field of MPAs. The total expected number of participants for this course is not to exceed 25 persons.

## Date and Duration

The duration of the course is three working days planned to be held on 11-13th September, 2023.

## Location

PERSGA Headquarters. Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## Organizers

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).

## Language

Mainly English. However, summary translation into Arabic could be available.

## Training Materials/References

Details to be provided at a later stage.

## Reference at PERSGA

Dr. Zaher Al-Agwan & Dr. Maher Amer

## PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

### 7/4: First SFISH project Regional Workshop on IUU Fishing, Fish Spawning Aggregations and Fishery By-catch

18-20th September 2023, PERSGA HQ

#### Rationale and Objectives

The regional project “Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden- SFISH”, is supported by the World Bank and executed by PERSGA in the region. The project development objective is to strengthen capacities and regional collaboration in management of marine fisheries and aquaculture in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region. The SFISH project subcomponents focus specifically on: i) developing PERSGA regional data center and integrated information system for monitoring and assessment, and sharing knowledge to support science-based policy and management of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in PERSGA region; ii) strengthening PERSGA platforms for capacity development and regional coordination mechanisms for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; iii) enhancing citizens, private sector and development partners engagements in sustainable fishery through effective communication and awareness strategies. The framework for the project activities will be based on the Jeddah Convention (1982) and associated protocols, particularly the Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of Network of Protected Areas in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Management of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture, which provide regional framework for data sharing and joint assessments and efforts. The PERSGA Regional Program for Management of Living Marine Resources (LMR) also provide operational base. This program undertakes regular capacity building and regional coordination activities for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in the region since several years.

As part of the project activities, several key consultancy assignments will be conducted to provide technical assistance for sustainable fisheries management in the region. These will coherently address priority issues for fishery and aquaculture governance and management functionality, including those related to IUU fishing, spawning aggregations, and fishery bycatch; fisheries statistics, stock assessment/ recovery and relevant MCS aspects; fisheries conservation measures; restoration of critical habitats; sustainable aquaculture practices and biosecurity; joint assessment of the RSGA fisheries and aquaculture status, and the regional protocol/ mechanism for collaboration in management efforts. The current consultancy focuses on promoting regional capacities and mechanisms addressing IUU fishing, Fish Spawning Aggregations and Fishery Bycatch issues.

In this framework, the First SFISH project Regional Workshop on IUU Fishing, Fish Spawning Aggregations and Fishery By-catch will be organized at PERSGA Headquarters. Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In this workshop the developed detailed methodologies and tools to be used in the assessments will be introduced to the national experts participating in the regional assessment. The lead consultant will also provide necessary training, technical backstopping to the assigned national consultants undertaking assessment and capacity building activities in management of IUU, fish spawning aggregations and fishery bycatch at national levels in each member state, based on the methodologies and tools developed.

#### Participants

Participants in this workshop are the national and regional experts participating in SFISH project interventions addressing management of IUU fishing, spawning aggregations and bycatch.

#### Date, Duration and Location

The duration of this workshop is 3 working days during 18-20th September 2023, and it will be held at PERSGA Headquarters. Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



## Language

The training languages are English. Arabic will also be used in the workshop deliberations and

## Training Materials/References

To be provided later.

## Organizers

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

Instructors / Facilitators

Dr. Ahmed Khalil, SFISH project coordinator at PERSGA.

Dr. Alexander Dawson Shepherd, SFISH project consultant

## PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

### 7/5: **Second Regional Workshop of the Project Preparation Phase (PPG) for the Project “Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)”**

03rd-04th October 2023, PERSGA HQ

#### Rationale

The regional project “An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden” is supported by the GEF, implemented by UNEP, and executed by PERSGA in the region. The Project Identification Form (PIF) was approved by GEF, including Project Preparation Grant (PPG phase). The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to “strengthen management of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden ecosystems and support governance reforms to improve delivery of marine and coastal ecosystem services, accelerating efforts towards achieving SDG14 and transformation to Sustainable Blue Economy”, which is intended to be achieved through the following proposed Project components in the GEF approved concept and PIF (see attached PIF document for more details):

- Component 1: Update of TDA and SAP to integrate new emerging issues and identify new priorities.
- Component 2: Harnessing ecosystem services in participating countries to support Sustainable Blue Economy
- Component 3: Support to the Sustainable Blue Economy transition by creating financial incentives, building enabling environment for investments
- Component 4: Knowledge management for Sustainable Blue Economy, Communication and Monitoring & Evaluation

The PPG phase of the project is executed and coordinated by PERSGA during 2023 in collaboration with UNEP. The main objective of the PPG is the preparation of a CEO request document for a Full-Size Project, in line with the approved PIF and the latest UNEP and GEF guidelines and templates. The PIF setting out the full details of the PPG is attached.

Following approval of the PPG implementation agreement (SSFA), several steps were undertaken, including:

- Establishment of the PPG coordination and expert team, which included: i) assigning PPG regional coordinator (RC) and expert team at PERSGA to execute the PPG activities in collaboration with Task Team Leader (TTL) and associated team at UNEP; ii) nomination of national experts (NEs) representing member states; iii) hiring an international Lead Consultant (LC) to lead preparation of the Project Document (PD) and annexes, in line with UNEP and GEF design requirements for CEO endorsement, and iv) hiring a Regional Consultant (RC) to assist the LC and consortium regarding environmental and social safeguards, stakeholders’ and gender engagement planning in the project.
- The PPG coordinator and TTL held a series of online consultations with the LC and RC, whereby the PPG work-plan, approaches to address recommendations by GEF and UNEP reviews of the approved PIF and completion of the PD and other output documentations required for the CEO endorsement.
- The PPG coordinator and PERSGA team shared PIF and linked GEF and UNEP review documents with the NEs, and organized an online meeting to elaborate and discuss the PPG work-plan and approach, anticipated roles and participations by the NEs throughout the PPG process.
- Holding a regional technical workshop joining all the PPG team and national experts during 28-30 May 2023 in Hurghadah, Egypt, which facilitated technical backstopping, discussions and sharing information and inputs in the course of designing and drafting the project document and portfolio requirements for CEO endorsement,



- Holding a series of national consultation workshops in PERSGA member states during June and July 2023, which facilitated wider national consultation with stakeholders and supplement required information to be considered in finalizing CEO documentation, and general awareness and visibility of the project in the member states.

In this framework, this final workshop will be organized at PERSGA Headquarters. Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It will join the PPG team and representatives of stakeholder agencies, and will focus a final regional validation workshop for reviews of the prepared documents prior to submission in October 2023.

## Workshop objectives and anticipated outcomes

The main aim of the workshop is to provide platform for review, discussion and validation of the CEO project document and annexes prepared in the preceding PPG stage, such as:

- Project components' interventions/activities to achieve proposed outputs and outcomes based on the approved PIF, with emphasis on relevant countries' and regional priorities and consistency, capacity building/ technical needs to implement proposed project interventions, e.g. inferences to consultancy and non-consultancy services, goods, training etc. to be considered in formulation of the procurement strategy for development, procurement plan, key consultants TORs.
- RF indicators and baselines relevant to the proposed interventions; PDO level and intermediate levels results framework indicators, and the M&E plan.
- Stakeholders mapping, roles, benefits/ effects by the project, and communication strategies for the different categories
- Environmental and social safeguards framework, process, planning and management, considering criteria for option and non-option list of subprojects, stakeholders' roles, conflict resolution and grievance redress mechanisms, etc. Also considering particularly stakeholders' engagement and gender actions strategies and plans to be adopted by the project.
- Co-finance options, considering realistic and committed proposals of in-kind contributions, synergy with existing projects and programs with dedicated shared objectives and effective connections on-the-ground.
- Effective private sector engagement (component 2 and 3 investments)
- Project management structure and roles, including inferences to the ToRs for the involved personnel and employees, decision making flowchart, etc.

In addition to providing guidelines, inputs to above elements of the project CEO documents, the workshop will also facilitate sharing knowledge and experience between the participating experts, and ensuring a harmonized approach aligning with GEF and UNEP guidelines, and inputs by the member states, including particular national priorities.

The main outcome of the workshop is reviewed and validated project document and annexes to be submitted to UNEP and GEF for appraisals and endorsement.

## Participants

Participants in this workshop are the national and regional experts participating in the PPG and main stakeholder agencies

## Date, Duration and Location

The duration of this workshop is two working days between 3rd-4th October 2023, and it will be held at PERSGA Headquarters. Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## Language

The workshop languages is English. Arabic will be used also in the discussions



## Training Materials/References

To be provided later.

## Organizers

PERSGA in collaboration with the UNEP and support of the GEF

## Instructors / Facilitators

Ahmed Khalil, Project Coordinator at PERSGA

Ivica Trumbic, PPG lead consultant

Ayman Afifi, PPG regional consultant



# PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

## 7/6: Regional practical training workshop on Oil and HNS Spill Modelling

23rd – 25th October 2023 EMARSGA Center, Hurghada- Egypt

### Rationale

The development of mathematical models to assist contingency planners in predicting the likely trajectory of an oil slick and air dispersion is a science which has developed rapidly in recent years. Although oil and HNS spill models are not a substitute for aerial observation and other monitoring-related capabilities of an actual spill, they have their role to play in assisting the national response organization to determine the likely areas of shoreline that would be impacted by a spill, and to prepare adequate responses measures and plans accordingly.

Within the framework of implementing the regional project “Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden”, referred to hereafter as SFISH, which is financed by the World Bank and executed by PERSGA in the region, the current hands-on training workshop aims to train around 20 specialists on the upgraded system use, tracking and modelling. This upgraded system, which is hosted at PERSGA-EMARSGA Regional Centre, located in Hurghadah, Egypt, will complement the existing parts of the trajectory modeling systems with chemical and air dispersion component. The training program will include theoretical/ conceptual part and practical/ applied parts and demo/drill activities. Its design will consider Training of Trainers (ToTs) approach, as the recipients will act as resource persons for further training of specialists in PERSGA member states. This regional training, be based on the “train the trainer” approach is intended for participants from all member states and PERSGA/ EMARSGA staff. The standards should include, at the least, the followings:

- Specific training content, pursuant to individual job performance expectations.
- Schedules for implementation and compliance dates.
- Requirements for the issuing of training certificates and their specific content.
- Requirements for periodic refresher training. This should be incorporated within PERSGA annual capacity building activities (e.g every 2-3 years)
- Requirements for tabletop exercises or drills, to evaluate response tools implementation/ effectiveness; The regional training is intended for 3 working days,

### Objectives of the training workshop

- Enhance the capacity about the chemical discharge and air dispersion modelling tool
- Provide users with a full understanding of the theory of chemical dispersion modeling and hands on training in the functionality and application of chemical model to meet the users’ specific needs.
- Provide a thorough understanding of the system, through training and exercises and tutorials. The training course will also include a session which will cover the system setup, maintenance and overcoming technical issues.

### Participants

The 20 specialists includes staff at EMARSGA staff and PERSGA relevant representatives and potential stakeholders and users. The total expected number for this hands-on training course is not to exceed 20 participants.

### Date, Duration and Location

Duration of the course is three working days, tentatively during the period 23-25 October 2023. The training will be held at the regional center for marine Emergency Mutual Aids in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (EMARSGA) in Hurghada – Egypt.



## Language

The training language is mixed English and Arabic.

## Training Materials/References

PERSGA will provide the adequate training material

## Instructors/Keynote speakers

Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed and Eng Islam from PERSGA, and trainers from the model vendor

# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet



### 7/7: Regional Workshop on: Building Socio-Ecological Resilience to Coral Reef Degradation in the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden

06-08th November, 2023, PERSGA HQ

#### Rationale

Resilience refers to the overall ability of individuals, populations, or communities to respond positively after disturbance, restoring some part of their original state. As a concept, resilience can be applied to different levels of ecosystems. For example, individual organisms can show physiological resilience via survival, sustained growth, and/or reproduction (fitness). Populations can show resilience through the ability to recruit new individuals after a disturbance. Communities can show resilience in ecosystem traits such as productivity, diversity, trophic linkages, or sustained biomass through shifts in species composition.

Coral reef declines have been recorded for all major tropical ocean basins since the 1980s, averaging approximately 30-50% reductions in reef cover globally. These losses are a result of numerous problems, including habitat destruction, pollution, overfishing, disease, and climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions and the associated increases in ocean temperature and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations have been implicated in increased reports of coral bleaching, disease outbreaks, and ocean acidification (OA). Back-to-back mass coral bleaching events in 2015-2016 and 2017 have resulted in dramatic coral die-offs. For the hundreds of millions of people who depend on reefs for food or livelihoods, the thousands of communities that depend on reefs for wave protection, the people whose cultural practices are tied to reef resources, and the many economies that depend on reefs for fisheries or tourism, the health and maintenance of this major global ecosystem is crucial.

#### Objectives

The main objectives of this workshop are:

- Raise awareness about the impacts of human activities on coral reef ecosystems, reef-dependent tourism operators, and national economies;
- How to get stakeholders engaged in the sustainable use and conservation of coral reefs?
- Strengthen interactions among scientists, government decision-makers, and reef-dependent tourism operators to facilitate improved decision-making processes at local to national levels;
- Provide scientific input on building reef resilience that support social, economic, and ecological resilience;
- Strengthen science-policy links and building scientific capacity and
- Gather evidence of resilience strategies.

#### Participants

Appropriate Participants in this workshop are officials, specialists and stakeholders involved in coastal and marine environment protection, living and non-living marine resources (MPAs, fishery, tourism).

Suggested total number of participants is 25

#### Language

Language of the workshop will be English. Arabic will be also extensively used as medium in training and discussions.



## Date and venue

The proposed workshop duration is three days, during 06-08 November, 2023

It will be held at PERSGA Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## Organizers

The workshop will be organized by PERSGA in collaboration with the WB

## Workshop Agenda/ Materials

To be provided later

## Reference at PERSGA

Dr. Maher Amer

# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet



### 7/8: Practical Training on Coral Transplantation and Coral Reef Restoration

21-23 November 2023, PERSGA HQ

#### Rationale

The marine environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden constitutes a unique ecosystem with high biological diversity. It hosts coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds habitats that support rich biological communities and representatives of several endangered species. Coral reefs are among the most diverse and valuable ecosystems housing more than 30% of total marine biodiversity. The coral reef marine ecosystem provides services including food security and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people living in coastal locations around the world. They also play an important role in coastal protection creating sheltered lagoons and protecting mangrove ecosystems.

It is estimated that almost 20% of the global coral reefs show severe levels of degradation and a further 15% are thought to be at risk of imminent degradation. This is mostly due to the increasing anthropogenic threats to coral reefs. Reef degradation can be divided into local and global causes. Local causes include nutrient run-off, marine litter, destructive fishing and over-fishing whereas larger scale global causes include increasing sea surface temperature, ocean acidification and tsunamis. Several methods have been used worldwide to restore degraded reefs.

PERSGA intends to build national teams within the region who are capable of transplanting corals asexually in the ultimate objective of restoring degraded reefs within their respective countries. As a first step, PERSGA will conduct a 3 day national workshop in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on how to collect corals growing on marine litter, transplant them and fix them on a degraded reef for restoration.

#### Objectives

The main objectives of the training are:

- Build national teams within the region capable of transplanting corals and restoring degraded reefs within their respective countries;
- Give a better chance of life to coral colonies growing on unstable marine litter;
- Enhance marine biodiversity;
- Accomplish part of the mandate of PERSGA in protecting the marine environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

#### Participants

Participants in this workshop need to have advanced open water SCUBA diving licenses.

Total number of participants for this workshop is not to exceed 15 diver.

#### Date, Duration and Location

The duration of the training is 3 working days from 21st – 23rd August 2023. The training will be conduct in Jeddah – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



## Language

The training languages are Arabic and English.

## Training Materials/References

To be provided later.

## Organizers

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

## Instructors / Facilitators

Dr. Maher Amer and Dr. Mohammed Ismail.



# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet



7/9:

### Regional Workshop on OPRC (Contingency Planning and HNS)

4 – 6th December 2023, EMARSGA Center, Hurgadah, Egypt

#### Organizer

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the World Bank (WB).

#### Rationale

PERSGA developed in 2020 a Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ROSCP) which provides a framework to establish an efficient response at a regional level in case of a marine oil spill. It was last updated in 2023 to provide specific guidance in the case of a major incident in the region.

In order to strengthen practical and technical guidance to promptly and effectively respond to marine incidents that could have detrimental impacts to the marine ecosystems, especially on marine fishery and their critical habitats, the current ROSCP would be revised to adapt HNS matters. Therefore, the current training workshop will support effective implementation of the revised Regional Spill Contingency Plan as part of the implementation of the regional project “Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden”, referred to hereafter as the SFISH, which is financially supported by the World Bank and executed by PERSGA in the region.

In this context, PERSGA aims to organize a Regional contingency planning and HNS training workshop in 2023 with threefold objectives: preparedness and response training for oil and HNS spills: roll out the contingency Plan to the region to be formally validated and endorsed., and consideration of contingency planning at a regional level. The workshop would be focused particularly on the revised RSCP to assist its implementation, and based on both the IMO HNS Model Course considering regional needs and priorities. The training will be held at the regional center for marine Emergency Mutual Aids in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (EMARSGA) in Hurghada – Egypt during the period 12-14 December 2023.

#### Objectives of the training workshop

The main objectives of the workshops are to:

- Enhance awareness about the OPRC-HNS Protocol
- Provide IMO OPRC-HNS training to trainees at different levels of responsibility from the different agencies involved in response to oil and hazardous chemical spills
- Provide an overview of useful tools for preparedness and response to chemical incidents.
- Identify from national representatives the current status of their national contingency plans, identify any gaps and plans for future development.
- Roll out the contingency Plan to the region and to be formally validated and endorsed.
- Establish a practical training program to implement the regional contingency plan.

#### Participants

The most suitable participants for these workshop will be government officials from different ministries responsible for conservation of the environment and human health in ports as well as other officers from the oil, chemicals and shipping industry and NGOs responsible for safe shipping and clean environment.

The total expected number for this course is not to exceed 20 participants.

## Date, Duration and Location

Duration of the course is three working days, tentatively during the period 4-6 December 2023. The training will be held at the regional center for marine Emergency Mutual Aids in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (EMARSGA) in Hurghada – Egypt.

## Organizer

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the World Bank (WB).

## Language

The training language is mixed English and Arabic.

## Training Materials/References

PERSGA will provide the adequate training material

## Instructors/Keynote speakers

Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed and Capt Yacout from PERSGA.

Trainers: TBD



# PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

## 7/10: Regional Workshop on “Sustainable Tourism Planning in Marine Protected Areas”

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17-19th December, 2023 PERSGA HQ

### Rationale:

Coastal tourism has generally been related to products associated with the sun, sea and sand, which had an increased popularity with the development of mass tourism from the second half of the 20th century onwards. Also, coastal tourism embraces the full range of tourism, leisure, and recreational orientated activities that take place in a coastal zone. Coastal recreational activities may encompass fishing, shell fishing and shell collection (consumptive activities) and swimming, diving, boating, surfing, wind-surfing, bird watching, snorkeling (non-consumptive activities).

Tourism is a fast growing economic sector roughly accounting for more than 10% of the economic activity worldwide and significantly contributing to the economy of tourist destinations, notably through the generation of employment and small businesses. It is also widely acknowledged that tourism can either have a positive or negative impact on ecological systems or host communities. However, there is a growing belief that tourism can play a critical role in sustainable development when managed with environmental, social and economic concerns. Sustainable tourism has been suggested as a means of financing nature conservation in addition to contributing to raising environmental awareness amongst tourists through experiential learning. Indeed, sustainable tourism could contribute to the local economy, through educating visitors and communities and also engage them in nature conservation.

### Objectives:

Based on this rationale this workshop explores the concept of sustainable tourism and examines how this approach to tourism could contribute to improve the effectiveness of MPA.

Hence, the purpose of this workshop is to contribute to the understanding of management shortcomings with regard to marine protected areas and explore the extent to which sustainable tourism could aid management of those areas.

The Guidelines also have a number of more detailed objectives:

- To outline approaches to the planning and development of tourism infra-structure and services in protected areas;
- To provide guidance on the definition, measurement, management and use of park tourism data;
- To outline ways of enhancing the quality of the tourism experience;
- To describe positive examples, through a variety of case studies, of how tourism can effectively contribute to the conservation of natural and cultural diversity; and
- To give positive examples, again through the use of case studies, of how tourism can contribute to the development of local communities.

### Participants

Appropriate Participants in this workshop are officials, specialists, managers and stakeholders involved in MPAs and tourism planners. Suggested total number of participants is 30

### Language

Language of the workshop will be English. Arabic will be also extensively used as medium in training and discussions.



## Date and venue

The proposed workshop duration is three days, during 17-19th December, 2023 .

It will be held at PERSGA Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## Organizers

The workshop will be organized by PERSGA in collaboration with the IDB and ISESCO

## Workshop Agenda/ Materials

To be provided later

## Reference at PERSGA

Dr. Maher Amer



# PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

## 7/11: Regional Workshop on Minamata and Stockholm conventions

29 – 31st January 2024 PERSGA HQ

### Rationale

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (RSGA) embrace a myriad of unique and highly endemic biodiversity of marine mammals, birds, fish, sea turtles, corals and other invertebrates, sea grasses and Mangroves. The Governments of the countries bordering the RSGA region are fully aware of the importance of sustaining their economic, biological, and cultural resources for future generations that could be achieved only through regional and international cooperation. Accordingly, they have established the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) since 1995 with such mandate. However, this unique and fragile biodiversity of RSGA is subject to an increasing negative impact from natural and anthropogenic stressors. Among those stressors, Persistent Organic Pollutants and mercury with its various compounds that have high toxicity that affects the human health, food security and the environment.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) consist of chemicals – pesticides (such as DDT), industrial chemicals (such as polychlorinated biphenyls, PCBs), and unwanted by-products of industrial processes or combustion (such as dioxins and furans) – that are dangerously resistant to environmental degradation. With no or little alterations of their original composition, POPs are transported to oceans and coastal areas by air, water and soil, via direct industrial effluents, sewages and solid source releases, as well as irrational dumping and dredging of waste.

As for Mercury it can damage human health because it is toxic to the nervous system particularly the developing nervous system of a fetus or young child. The three most common forms of mercury: elemental, inorganic and methyl mercury can all produce adverse health effects at sufficiently high doses. In the 1950s, a neurological epidemic killed thousands of people in the seaside town of Minamata, Japan, and caused mental retardation in newborns. It was discovered later that the reason behind this tragedy that those people ate fish that had been contaminated with toxic mercury dumped by a local chemical plant.

In order to protect the human health and the environment from the adverse effects of POPs and mercury at the Global level, the International Community adopted the Stockholm Convention that entered into force on 17 May 2004 and, the United Nations, in 2017, put into force the Minamata Convention on mercury, as a global legally binding initiative to address the risk posed by mercury.

From the RSGA region only Djibouti, Jordan and Saudi Arabia have joined the Minamata Convention, while all PERSGA member states are parties to the Stockholm Convention.

In order to tackle the mercury and POPs threat within the region, PERSGA in collaboration with its Member States and UNIDO, suggest working together on a regional project.

For this objective, PERSGA will organize a regional workshop that aims to raise awareness of all its members' states representatives on the different aspects and the latest development requirements of the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions, and the benefits of a full implementation of conventions.

This regional workshop will aim to identify from national representatives: (i) the current status on mercury knowledge and projects already undertaken by some of countries to reduce or/and eliminate mercury emissions into the environment media, (ii) the national Minamata initial assessments reports findings and (iii) also the updated reports findings on POPs National Implementation Plans in accordance with Stockholm convention requirements.

### Objectives

The immediate objectives of the Workshop are to enhance awareness of PERSGA members' states representatives on the different aspects and the latest developments of the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions and the benefits of

a full implementation of these conventions.

Likewise, its aim to enhance RSGA member to ratify the Minamata convention and to comply with conventions requirements and to ensure the presence of adequate bodies with the countries that could implement the convention.

## Participants

The workshop will target governmental officials and environmental specialists having overall responsibility for environment-related UN conventions, particularly in chemicals products and chemicals wastes management.

## Date Duration and Location

The duration of the workshop is three working days tentatively from 29-31 January 2024 at PERSGA HQ in Jeddah-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## Organizer

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the United Nations for Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (TBC)

## Language

The training language will be a mix of English and Arabic.

## Training Material/References

Details to be provided at a later stage

## Instructors / Facilitators

To be provided later / Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed and Mr. Bashar Al Bataineh.



## PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

### 7/12: 7.12 National Consultation Workshop in preparation for the Project “Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)”

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May – July 2023

#### Rationale

The Regional Organization for Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) is an intergovernmental organization established since 1995. PERSGA institutional framework is based on the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention 1982), which joins seven member states, including Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Rational use of marine resources and the protection of coastal marine environment from pollution and overexploitation are central objectives of Jeddah Convention (1982) and its derived Regional Protocols and Action Plan. PERSGA runs regional programs and projects that support regional capacities and coordination to achieve these objectives.


The regional project “An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden” is supported by the GEF, implemented by UNEP, and executed by PERSGA in the region. The Project Identification Form (PIF) was approved by GEF, including Project Preparation Grant (PPG phase). The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to “strengthen management of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden ecosystems and support governance reforms to improve delivery of marine and coastal ecosystem services, accelerating efforts towards achieving SDG14 and transformation to Sustainable Blue Economy”, which is intended to be achieved through the following proposed Project components in the GEF approved concept and PIF (see attached PIF document for more details):

- Component 1: Update of TDA and SAP to integrate new emerging issues and identify new priorities.
- Component 2: Harnessing ecosystem services in participating countries to support Sustainable Blue Economy
- Component 3: Support to the Sustainable Blue Economy transition by creating financial incentives, building enabling environment for investments
- Component 4: Knowledge management for Sustainable Blue Economy, Communication and Monitoring & Evaluation

The current PPG phase of the project is executed and coordinated by PERSGA, supported by UNEP. The main objective of the PPG is the preparation of a CEO request document for a Full-Size Project, in line with the approved PIF and the latest UNEP and GEF guidelines and templates. The PIF setting out the full details of the PPG is attached.

Following approval of the PPG implementation agreement (SSFA), several steps were undertaken, including:

- Establishment of the PPG coordination and expert team, which included: i) assigning PPG regional coordinator (RC) and expert team at PERSGA to execute the PPG activities in collaboration with Task Team Leader (TTL) and associated team at UNEP; ii) nomination of national experts (NEs) representing member states; iii) hiring an international Lead Consultant (LC) to lead preparation of the Project Document (PD) and annexes, in line with UNEP and GEF design requirements for CEO endorsement, and iv) hiring a Regional Consultant (RC) to assist the LC and consortium regarding environmental and social safeguards, stakeholders’ and gender engagement planning in the project.
- The PPG coordinator and TTL held a series of online consultations with the LC and RC, whereby the PPG work-plan, approaches to address recommendations by GEF and UNEP reviews of the approved PIF and completion of the PD and other output documentations required for the CEO endorsement.
- The PPG coordinator and PERSGA team shared PIF and linked GEF and UNEP review documents with the NEs, and organized an online meeting to elaborate and discuss the PPG work-plan and approach,



anticipated roles and participations by the NEs throughout the PPG process.

The agreed work-plan of PPG includes milestone regional and national workshops in the process, which are to be conducted as follows:

- A regional background technical workshop joining all the PPG team, to be held by the end of May 2023 in order to facilitate technical backstopping, discussions and sharing information and inputs in the course of designing and drafting the project document and portfolio requirements for CEO endorsement;
- This will be followed by holding national consultation workshops in the member states during June and July, in order to facilitate maximum consultation with key blue economy stakeholders in each country, update required information on national priorities to be considered in finalizing CEO documentation in light of the orientation received and framework provided through the regional workshop; and
- A final regional validation workshop for reviews of the prepared documents prior to submission in October 2023.

## Workshop objectives and anticipated outcomes

The main aim of the national consultation workshop is to provide platform for informing key national stakeholders in the blue economy sectors on the project maximum consultation with key blue economy stakeholders in each country, update required information on national priorities to be considered in finalizing CEO documentation. The specific objectives of the workshop are to provide technical background and facilitate discussions regarding:

- Concept of the sustainable blue economy, PERSGA efforts in the RSGA region and the HESBERSGA project
- Current status and efforts addressing the blue economy in the country, and potential sources of information to assess the status of the blue economy
- Acquaintance of national stakeholders with the project; roles, benefits/ effects by the project, and communication strategies for the different categories; methodology of stakeholder's participation in the project preparation and implementation
- Proposals for potential demonstration activities consistent with project components' interventions/activities and the regional approach, and environmental and social safeguards framework
- Capacity building/ technical assistance needs under the project.
- Co-finance options, considering realistic and committed proposals of in-kind contributions, synergy with existing projects and programs with dedicated shared objectives and effective connections on-the-ground.
- Effective private sector engagement (component 2 and 3 investments)

In addition to providing guidelines, inputs to above elements of the project CEO documents, the workshop will also facilitate sharing knowledge and experience between the participating stakeholder agencies, and ensuring a harmonized approach aligning with GEF and UNEP guidelines in implementing of the PPG activities at national levels, and national inputs, including particular national priorities.

Main outcomes of the workshop may include:

- National stakeholders show interest to participate in the project
- The concept of the sustainable blue economy and the project is well understood
- Potential sources of information identified
- Potential demonstration sites identified
- Potential sources of co-financing identified

## Workshop approach and strategy

The workshop is envisaged as an interactive 2-day program with a combination of key background lectures (20%), group works and plenary discussions (80%).

Key background presentations will provide current knowledge on essential topics for the workshop discussions,



which will focus on baseline information, national priorities and needs in the context of the project objectives, component and outcomes envisaged.

Discussions will be guided by the background presentations and handouts.

## Participants

Participants in this workshop are the national stakeholders in the blue economy sectors including:

- Government Agencies
- Private Sector
- Fishermen Associations
- NGOs and local community
- Shipping industry'

The expected total number of participants is not to exceed 30 persons

## Date, Duration and Location

The duration of this workshop is 2 working days as follows:

- For Egypt: between 28-30th May 2023, and it will be held in EMARSGA center at Hurghada – Egypt.
- For Djibouti and Somalia: between 12 – 14th June 2023, and it will be held in Djibouti city – Republic of Djibouti
- For Yemen: between 4 – 6th July 2023, and it will be held in Aden –Yemen
- For Jordan: between 17 – 18th July 2023, and it will be held in Aqaba – Jordan
- For Saudi Arabia: to be agreed on later according to the country's preference
- For Sudan: to be agreed on later according to the country's preference

## Language

The training languages are Arabic and English.

## Training Materials/References

To be provided later.

## Organizers

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

## Instructors / Facilitators

Dr. Ahmed Khalil.

# PERSGA Training Program 2023 Workshop Fact Sheet

## 7/13: Port State Control Officers national Training course

August – December 2023

### Rationale and context

In the wake of the IMO IMSAS carried out in several countries, particularly some of the PERSGA Member States, it has been identified that a common gap relates to the performance of Port State Control on foreign vessels and that audited Member states did not conform to their obligations and duties as required by IMO resolution A.1070 (30); the unique audit standard for the Member States.

It is recognized that several maritime administrations within the PERSGA region lack the capacities to undergo adequate PSC on-board ships particularly against the environmental instruments. Likewise, it's essential to raise existing challenges in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region with regard of lack of strong legislation on Port states control and marine pollution prevention, weakness in law enforcement, if any applicable, and accepting that more than half of ships navigating in the RSGA could be defined as sub-standard. Thus, ships-sources pollution is becoming more and more increasingly important, if it's not already a fact. To address the adverse effects of pollution from ships on human health and marine environment, PERSGA is intending to enhance technical capacities for promoting and fostering cooperation among its member states throughout training of their respective Port states control officers and inspectors.

PERSGA is committed to follow the mandate set out in the “Jeddah Convention” to organize and co-ordinate training programmes in areas related to the implementation of the Convention in order to improve the capacities of its Member States, particularly in areas related to the implementation of the environmental IMO conventions i.e. MARPOL, BWM and AFS conventions and their related instruments. These IMO instruments are referred in this training to as “the environmental instruments”.

It is in this context and in the wake of the IMO IMSAS as well as the forthcoming entry into force of the special status of the RSGA which is under process at MEPC; it becomes vital that the marine environment protection segment of the Port State Control within Member States be supported/strengthened along with other aspects of the control subjected to foreign vessels visiting their ports. This training course aims to level up the PSC practices in PERSGA countries in the international level. To address the economic and environmental challenges, the secretariat General of PERSGA has initiated this training course, intended to PSCOs whom are authorised by the Maritimes authorities. This iterative practical training will be replicated in all Member States.

### Scope of the PSCO training course

This course provides training for officers to be authorized by Government to execute port State control in accordance with:

- MARPOL: Articles 5 & 6,  
Annex I Regulation 8A,  
Annex II Regulation 15,  
Annex III Regulation 8,  
Annex IV: Regulation 13,  
Annex V Regulation 8,  
Annex VI Regulation 10
- BWM: Article 9
- AFS: Article 11

- STCW 78: 78, Article X and Regulation ¼
- Tonnage 69: Article 12

The training clarifies the responsibilities, possibilities and limitations of port States exercising environmental control and gives detailed information on know-how required to authorized officers to initiate remedial action.

Although, in principle, port State control is the verification that the ship is carrying a valid certificate and that the ship's officers are properly certified, the control procedures developed by IMO and the relevant MoU (Riyadh, Mediterranean and Indian Ocean) also give guidance on the control of ships, their safety and environment management systems and miscellaneous operations. This course amplifies these guidelines so that authorized officers may carry out effective control, thereby contributing towards the prevention of marine pollution in the RSGA region.

## Program Objectives

The immediate objectives of the PERSGA PSCO training course aims at enabling PSC inspectors of maritime administrations, to acquire the required level of knowledge and competence related to environmental control, and in so doing, improve the standard of PSC inspections, and in the long run, contribute to the better functioning of the Administration and a regional harmonization of PSC procedures. The long-term objective of this training is to mitigate ship-source pollution that may cause adverse impacts to the marine environment and the country's economy

The specific objectives of this training course are to:

- identify the national responsibilities to exercise control over foreign ships calling in their ports and explain the role of a port State in supplementing such control;
- identify and correctly use the legal environmental instruments available for PSC
- provide the PSCO with the theoretical and practical means to correctly identify and properly report deficiencies to the flag State, the Recognized Organization (RO) and IMO as required using the best practice of existent Mediterranean MoU;
- Assist the country to harmonize its PSC procedures within other PERSGA Member State and their respective MoU region through their Information Systems, and thereby maximize regional co-operation to the Regional MoU information system and access the regime network.

## The training methodology

- The Consultant goes to great lengths to relate the topics of his real-life experiences in the working environment to ensure that all trainees understand how the environmental instruments and related documentation are relevant to them and the PSCO job they do.
- PowerPoints, videos clips and flip-charts are used as key training aids to convey subjects in an easy-to-understand way. Trainees should bring with them their personal computer for the individual and group works sessions;
- Trainees work together as teams in simulated PSC inspections and are required to produce actual reports, before they leave the ship and once at office, populate the MoU Information System in a short period of time;
- Classroom PowerPoint Presentations are discussed as team activities, to promote participation, build team morale, and reinforce understanding of concepts;
- All techniques learned in class can be applied to managing the trainees' own teams once onboard and for building morale once they return to the office.
- Case studies are used in class exercises to assimilate real life issue
- Upon completion of the training, a final course examination including Multi Choice Questions is employed to support the final course assessment and to ensure that participants have benefited from the training. Participants with at least 75% attendance will be awarded a Certificate of attendance as presence evidence.

## Prerequisite to attend this PSCO training course

As this project focuses on environmental control only, trainees require a good working knowledge of the environmental Conventions. Only qualified candidates with a maritime academic background and have fulfilled above criteria may directly admitted to the training course.

This is the responsibility of the Maritime Administration to follow up, as required by IMO, and to set a monitoring and evaluation scheme for surveyors and inspector under a national programme. The consultant may assist the Administration in that way, but that is a prerogative of the administration only.

## Participants

The workshop will target only PSC officers; preferable candidates should have:

- Good command of the English Language (listening-speaking-writing).
- Maritime studies background.

## Date Duration and Location

To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference.

## Organizer

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

## Language

The training language will be mainly in English and will depends on the host country main language.

## Training Material/References

Details to be provided at a later stage

## Instructors / Facilitators

To be provided later / Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed

# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet

### 7/14: National training workshops to Raise Awareness on Biofouling Management and Invasive Aquatic Species

August – December 2023

#### Rationale

Member countries of the Regional Organization for Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) are concerned about the degradation of the marine and coastal environment and emphasize the need to restore and maintain this environment. Of particular concern to governments and civil society is the growing use of coastal and oceanic marine resources which if not properly managed could undermine the very basis of social and economic development.

Over the past decades the transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) by shipping has been increasingly recognized as one of the major threats to the marine environment. Member states of the International Maritime Organization adopted in 2004 the International Convention for the Control and management of Ships' Ballast water and sediments to minimize the transfer of IAS. Further studies have shown Biofouling on ships hulls to be an important means of transferring IAS. In 2011, the Marine Environment Protection Committee adopted in its resolution MEPC.207(62) the Guidelines for the control and management of Ships' biofouling to minimize further the transfer of IAS. As a result, a large number of countries, agencies, international and non-governmental organizations, and individuals have initiated a variety of activities around the world, including research and development of improved management for IAS.

In December 2018, The GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project has been launched aiming at driving actions to address the biofouling issue across multiple sectors. Specifically, the Project supports the implementation of the IMO 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling, which provides a globally consistent approach on how biofouling should be controlled and managed to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species through ships' hulls. The Project will also spur the development of best practices and standards for improved biofouling management in other ocean industries, such as aquaculture, with the contribution of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the World Ocean Council (WOC).

PERSGA was selected among other seven regional organizations to run this project for five years up to 2025 and to outreach the project's outputs in the region. The project is funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) for 6.9 Million \$US. Four countries, namely: Jordan, Sudan, Djibouti and Somalia, from the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region participate in this project.

#### Objectives

For this objective and in the framework of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project, PERSGA intends to provide series of awareness raising training aimed at assisting countries under the GloFouling Partnerships Project in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region with strengthening their capacity for effective implementation of the Biofouling Guidelines. As well as increased awareness of the Biofouling Guidelines, these activities will support the inclusion of IAS and biofouling in the development and update of a Regional Biofouling Strategy.

#### Participants

Most suitable participants are Ports State / Flag State officers responsible for Port State inspection and other related environmental issues in Ports and Maritime Authorities in their countries. In addition to officials and specialties in charge of national assessment, monitoring, research related to marine species and habitats.



## Date Duration and Location

To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference.

## Training Material/References

The biofouling training Materials produced by the IMO will be used and handed out.

## Organizer

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden PERSGA in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under the Glofouling Partnerships Project.

## Instructors / Facilitators

Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed (PERSGA),

Mrs Lilia Khodjet El Khil (IMO) and a biofouling national expert to be determined.

# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet



### 7/15: 7.15 National Training Workshops on Marine Litter and Plastics Assessment

May – December 2023

#### Title of the course:

National Training Workshop on Marine Litter and Plastics Assessment.

#### Rationale

Researchers traditionally classify litter source as either land- or ocean-based, depending on where it enters the water. Other factors such as ocean current patterns, climate and tides, and proximity to urban centers, industrial and recreational areas, shipping lanes, and commercial fishing grounds influence the type and amount of litter that is found in open ocean areas or collected along beaches and ocean including underwater areas.

According to the United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP), land-based sources account for up to 80 percent of the world's marine pollution. Much of the litter reaches the ocean by beach-going activities, being blown into the water, or is carried by creeks, rivers, and storm drains/sewers to ocean areas. Other litter comes from activities on the water, including vessels (from small sailboats to large ships), offshore drilling rigs and platforms, and fishing piers.

Marine litter is identified as one of high priority problems in the PERSGA region. PERSGA prepared the framework of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the region in collaboration with its member countries. This training workshop will be held within this framework of this Plan in parallel with the Protocol mentioned above.

#### Objectives

The workshop aims at training specialists from the region on methods of marine litter assessment with the following main objectives:

- To contribute to building capacities in the member countries of PERSGA.
- To raise awareness on effects of the marine litter and the need for impact assessment.
- To support national programs in general and implementing the Jeddah Convention (1982), the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the concerned Regional Protocols in particular.

#### Participants

Participants attending this training workshop will be selected based on their qualifications. They should be affiliated to coastal municipalities, coastal and marine institutes and/or local authorities and agencies working in the field of coastal and marine management. The total expected number for this course is not to exceed 25 participants.

#### Date and Duration

The duration of the training workshops is three working days and it will be conducted during the period of May-December, 2023.



## Location

PERSGA Member Countries.

## Organizers

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).

## Language

Presentations of the workshop could be provided in English and Arabic. Translation into Arabic would be available for the English versions of these presentations providing in English.

## Training Materials/References

Details to be provided at a later stage.

## Main Instructors/Keynote speakers

Dr. Zaher Al Agwan.



# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet

### 7/16: 7.16 Communication Workshops on Sustainable Fisheries: Addressing IUU fishing, Fish Spawning Aggregations and By-catch issues

August – December 2023

#### Rationale and context

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region is globally known for the uniqueness of its coastal and marine biodiversity. Its ecosystems support a rich biological diversity with a high proportion of endemic species that also includes many important fish species. The Red Sea has been identified as a potential climate refuge for coral reefs, because of the relatively higher resilience of its corals compared to other parts of the world and RSGA also supports extensive seagrass beds and mangroves, which are critical fish breeding and feeding grounds. The Gulf of Aden has levels of biological productivity that are amongst the highest in the world.

Capture fishery, as a traditional economic activity, remains a main source of food and income for coastal communities in the region. However, stocks of several economically important fish species are fluctuating mainly due to degradation of their essential coastal habitats. Other significant issues are habitat destruction, overexploitation of marine resources and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries. Incomplete, outdated, unverified, or inaccessible fisheries data affect the capacity of countries to manage their marine fisheries efficiently and sustainably, jeopardizes effective oversight and accountability. Effective capacities and systems for collecting information on the status and trends of capture fisheries, including IUU fisheries, environmental, socioeconomic and climate change aspects, are crucial for sound policies, decision-making for responsible fisheries management in the RSGA region. Protection of the RSGA environments from pollution, and the rational management of their living natural resources are the focal objectives of the PERSGA mission and work.

In collaboration with the world bank, PERSGA initiated the SFISH project as a high priority operation that will result in an important and timely effort to foster cooperation in managing fisheries in the RSGA region, and critical to the economies of the RSGA littoral member states.

SFISH project development objective is to strengthen regional collaborations and management for sustainable development of fisheries in the RSGA region. The project will achieve this through:

- Establishing regional, joint monitoring and assessment of the fisheries status, and sharing information to support science-based management of fisheries in the RSGA.
- Supporting regional platforms for coordination of policies, legislation, management measures for responsible fisheries and aquaculture, and build capacities through providing training programs and technical guidelines tailored to the Region.
- Enhancing citizen, private sector and development partner engagement in the regional sustainable fishery mechanism through improved knowledge management, communication strategies and awareness.

#### Aim

The main aim of the workshop is to raise public awareness, and enhance citizens' engagement in combating IUU fishing, protection of fish spawning aggregations/sites and reduction/avoidance of fishery bycatch in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region.

#### Objectives

- Enhance awareness on IUU fishing, SPAGs and fishery bycatch by providing backgrounds on the problems, impacts, etc., importance of addressing such issues and roles of various stakeholders and citizens in supporting management efforts in the region.

- Avoiding or reducing bycatch in fishing operations, through new technologies or practices
- Importance of fish spawning aggregations and how to regulate fishing during aggregation period.
- Learning best safe handling and release approaches for sharks, turtles, manta rays, and other “non-target” species incidentally caught
- Researching ways to prevent the capture of both undesired species and unwanted sizes of fish
- Identifying sustainable fishing strategies and their effects on target species and ecosystems.
- National policy on utilization in conservation areas for fisheries and tourism.

## Participants

Appropriate Participants in this workshop are:

- Governmental officials in relevant authorities
- Private sector and companies related to fishery sector
- Fishers’ associations
- NGOs and local communities’ associations
- Media journalists

The expected total number of participants is not to exceed 30 persons

## Date Duration and Location

To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference.

## Language

The training languages are Arabic and English.

## Training Materials/References

To be provided later.

## Organizer

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden PERSGA.

## Instructors / Facilitators

Dr. Mohammed Ismail

# PERSGA Training Program 2023

## Workshop Fact Sheet



### 7/17: 7.17 Practical Training Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning

August – December 2023

#### Rationale

Following the 2nd International Conference on MSP at UNESCO Head Quarters in Paris in March 2017 and the IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE 2017 “Joint Roadmap to accelerate Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning worldwide” (MSProadmap), the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management embarked with both institutions on a path of capacity building for MSP globally. The selected method was the development of the MSP Challenge serious board game for the MSPglobal Initiative – a project from IOC-UNESCO and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) designed to implement the MSProadmap - and develop a full training on MSP and sustainable blue economy with the material. For this a series of MSP training events were held in various parts of the world, as part of the first phase of the MSPglobal Initiative (2018-2021). The training and MSP Challenge materials have been translated in the official UN languages, plus Portuguese to make this MSPglobal training applicable all around. Additional material has been developed in 2022 to also reflect better traditional and local knowledge. For the coming years partner-organizations have volunteered to give MSP trainings in their institutions and share the material with others interested in it. IOC-UNESCO, DG MARE and the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management will develop a training for the trainers and make the MSP Challenge materials available for the partners. In doing so we commit to bring MSP knowledge to public employees, private actors, civil society representatives as well as young professionals and students in ecosystem-based MSP and sustainable blue economy. As is in line with the 2022 “Updated Joint Roadmap to accelerate Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning worldwide”.

The board platform is part of the ‘Maritime Spatial Planning Challenge’ concept, which uses serious platforms and playful learning for ocean management. Several MSP Challenge platforms – digital, roleplaying and board games - have been developed at the request of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The MSP Challenge platform have been developed in light of the implementation of the European Directive (2014/89) on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)<sup>7</sup> and the opportunities it gives for ecosystem-based MSP.

#### Workshop objectives

The main aim of the national workshop is to highlight the importance of MSP and allow practice of MSP activities. The main aim of the platform is to show some of the dynamic and complex interactions between marine related activities and maritime planning. The platform should get participants ‘thinking and talking’

- To allows the users to experience and discuss the meaning and implications of different maritime strategic objectives such as the blue economy, land-sea interactions, short sea shipping, clean & healthy seas, and good environmental status of the ocean.
- To allow users to think and talk about the interrelations among these objectives, for instance how to align and apply them in practice.

#### Participants

Appropriate Participants in this workshop are:

- Governmental officials in relevant authorities
- Private sector
- Shipping industry
- Fishers’ associations
- NGOs and local communities



The expected total number of participants is not to exceed 30 persons

### **Date Duration and Location**

To be agreed on with the countries according to their preference.

### **Language**

The training languages are Arabic and English.

### **Training Materials/References**

To be provided later.

### **Organizer**

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden PERSGA.

### **Instructors / Facilitators**

Dr. Mohammed Ismail and Bashar Albatineh





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Environment of the Red  
Sea and Gulf of Aden