

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

**Update on the activities implemented under IMO's Integrated Technical
Cooperation Programme (ITCP) from 1 January to 31 December 2023**

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides an update on the activities related to the protection of the marine environment implemented under IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) in 2023.

*Strategic direction,
if applicable:* 1 and 4

Output: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.9, 4.1 and 4.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 14

Related document: MEPC 80/12

Introduction

1 In line with the biennial planning cycle for the development and implementation of the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and in keeping with the Committee's decision regarding the reporting on technical cooperation (TC) activities, this document provides an update on activities related to the protection of the marine environment implemented during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

Status of activities related to the protection of the marine environment under the ITCP for 2023

2 The Committee will recall that the ITCP provides an effective mechanism to address Member States' technical assistance needs and can be adapted to cover new challenges and emerging issues, such as reducing marine plastic litter from ships or developing strategies for the reduction of atmospheric emissions in port areas. In 2023, ITCP activities concerning the protection of the marine environment aimed primarily at assisting countries in the ratification, implementation and enforcement of the provisions of IMO's environmental conventions and protocols, including AFS, BWM, Hong Kong Convention, MARPOL, OPRC, OPRC-HNS and LC/LP. The flexibility and scope of technical assistance activities delivered by the Organization underlines the important role that TC plays in the work of IMO to facilitate the implementation of its regulatory instruments.

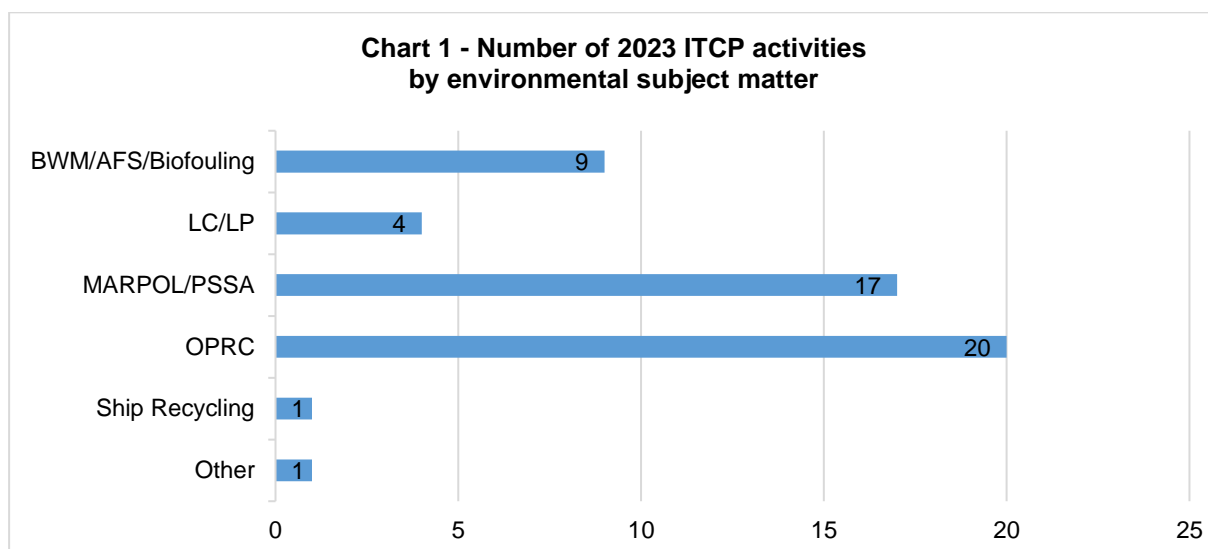
3 During 2023, the Secretariat successfully coordinated and implemented 52¹ ITCP-funded activities related to the protection of the marine environment, covering a number of IMO's priority environmental conventions and protocols, as presented in the annex. During the period under review, the Secretariat has made considerable efforts to return to pre-pandemic delivery rates, with an implementation rate of 75% in 2023, when compared to 62% in 2022 and 86% in 2019 (pre-COVID).

4 Eleven activities were delivered in coordination with organizations established under the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Regional Seas Programme, with which IMO has long-standing cooperation arrangements, such as the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre for the Wider Caribbean Region (REMPEITC-Caribe) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). In addition, nine OPRC-related activities complemented the technical assistance provided by IMO's thematic long-term projects in the area of the protection of the marine environment, such as the Global Initiative (GI) for oil spill preparedness and response for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF), or for South-East Asia (GI SEA).

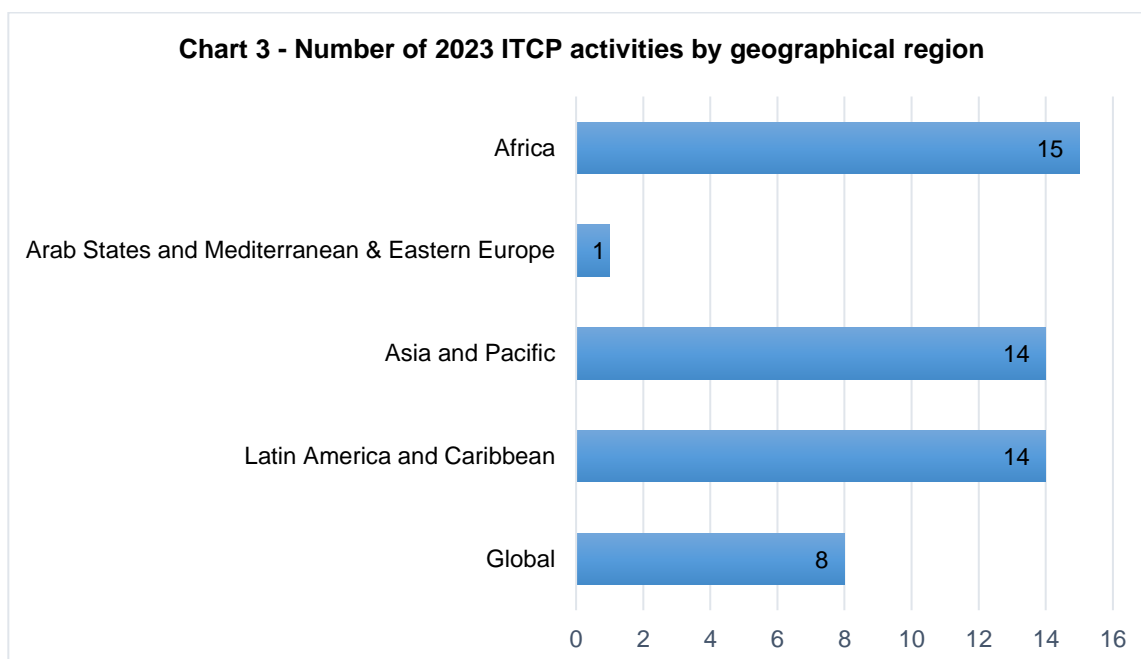
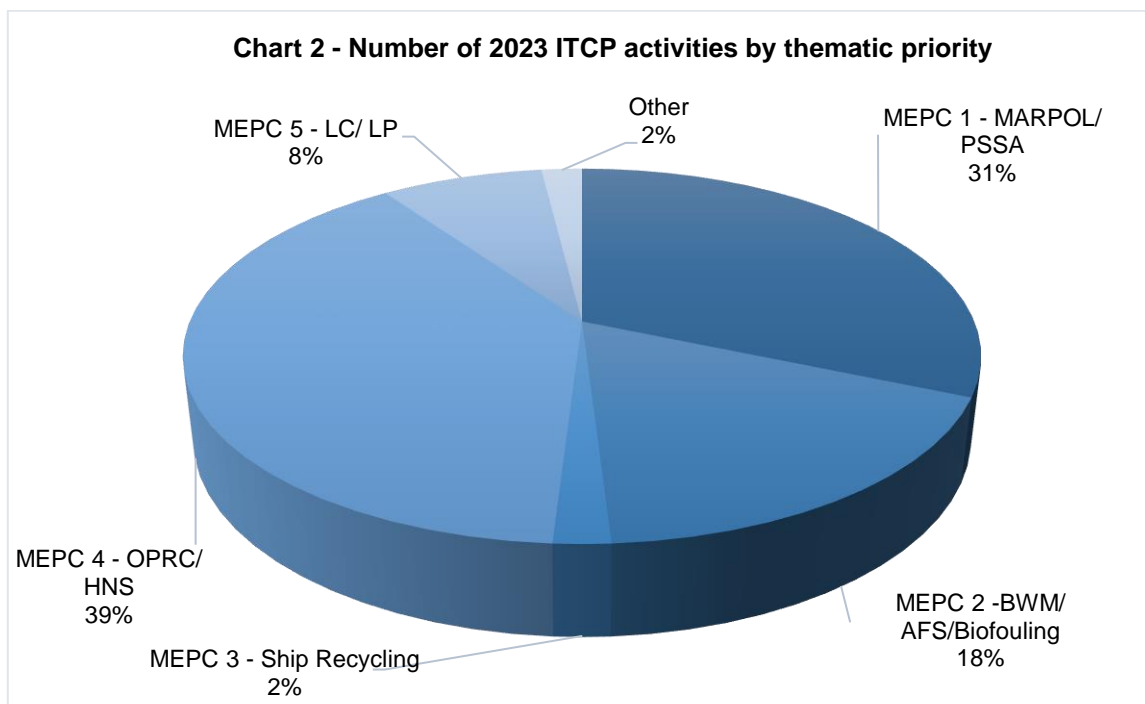
5 In line with the recommendations of the seventh session of the III Sub-Committee, the TC activities on the protection of the marine environment also supported Member States in addressing the most frequent root causes contributing to ineffective implementation of MARPOL and assisted countries with the implementation of their corrective action plans, as identified in the framework of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

Summary

6 A summary of the 2023 environmental ITCP activities is reflected in the following charts.



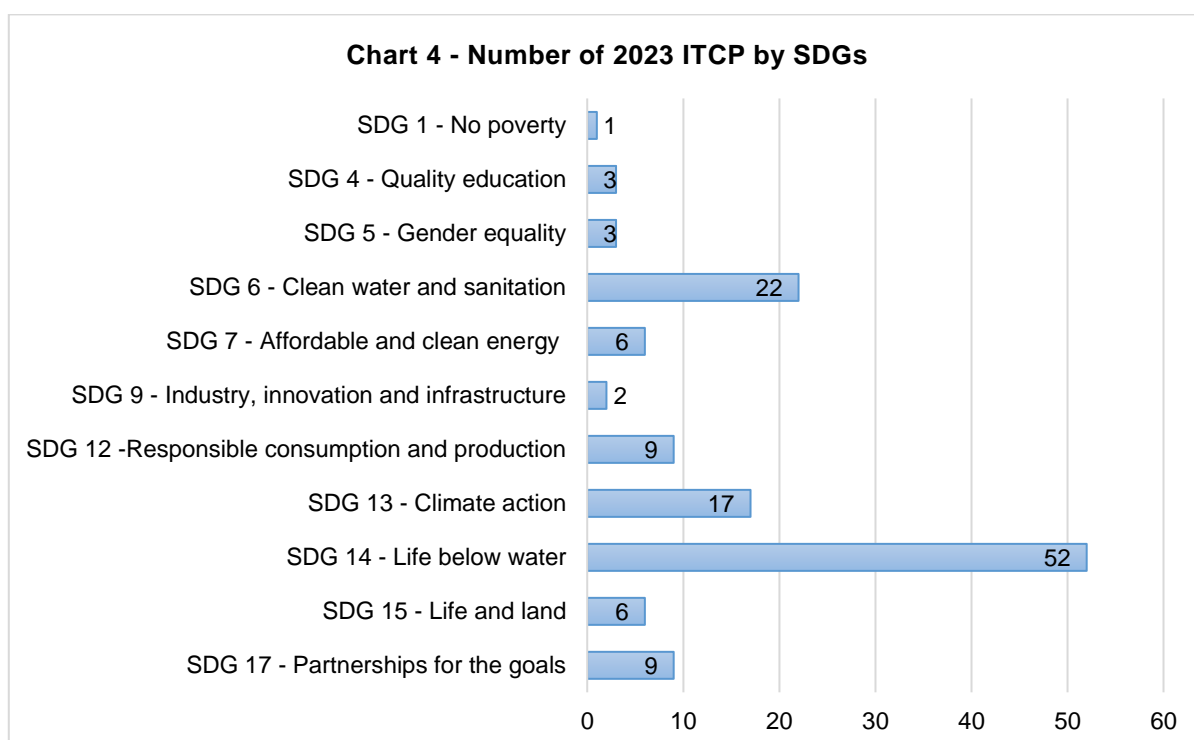
1. Of the 52 ITCP environmental ITCP activities delivered in 2023, 45 were completed and 7 are ongoing at the time this document was prepared, to be completed during the first half of 2024.



7 During 2023, IMO provided support to national and UN Inter-Agency contingency planning efforts in the event of a possible oil spill from **FSO Safer** in Yemen, with a focus on promoting best practices and sharing lessons learned in responding to oil pollution incidents, supporting all aspects of the salvage operation (emergency phase) and providing a leadership role on oil spill response contingency planning. Support provided to Yemen through a technical expert included, inter alia, analysing the level of preparedness, technical guidance and assistance, delivery of training on oil spill preparedness and crisis management, legal support, advice on salvage, ship brokering, insurance and technical advice provided on the installation of a replacement option for the **FSO Safer**.

Support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

8 In 2023, the Secretariat increased its efforts to strengthen participation in, and contribution to, the global efforts aimed at preventing marine pollution to support implementation of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through the delivery of ITCP activities and collaboration in UN initiatives on ocean governance, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), biodiversity, and the blue economy, the Secretariat supported targets under six priority SDGs, notably, SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).



IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum 2023, hybrid in-person and remote event at IMO Headquarters on 28 September 2023

9 As part of the 2023 World Maritime theme "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on", the [IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum 2023](#) was held as a hybrid in-person and remote event at IMO Headquarters on 28 September 2023. The Forum promoted innovation to accelerate the transition of the marine sector towards a zero- and low-emission future. Topics addressed through high-level panel discussions included: environmental performance; reducing plastic litter from ships; supporting innovation in marine fuel production; decarbonizing the maritime sector; unlocking green finance; and partnerships and collaboration.

Status of environmental e-Learning courses

10 Since its launch in April 2022, 2,552 global participants have benefitted from the e-Learning course "An Introduction to Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation" in English and, more recently, 519 global participants have benefitted from the course in Spanish. The self-enrolled course aims to provide those individuals new to the oil spill response community with a comprehensive overview of the essential elements of oil spill preparedness and response, thus supplementing components of IMO's capacity-building programmes virtually, broadening access to a wider audience. This course will also be available in French in the first quarter of 2024.

11 Following its launch in October 2022, 1,000 global participants have benefitted from the e-Learning course entitled "Introduction to Marine Biofouling: Impacts and Management of Risks". Launched under the framework of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project, the course provides a detailed introduction to multiple aspects related to ships' biofouling, its role as a vector for the introduction of invasive aquatic species and the management solutions and technologies that are available. The self-enrolled course is available in English and will also be made in Spanish during the first quarter of 2024.

12 Both courses, as well as future remote courses are part of the IMO e-Learning portal, also known as Learning Management System (LMS), created to increase the capacity of Member States to effectively implement IMO instruments. The courses can be accessed through the IMO website or the following link: <https://lms.imo.org/moodle310/>.

13 During 2023, IMO, together with the World Maritime University (WMU) made progress on the development of two e-Learning courses on Ballast Water Management (BWM) and the London Protocol (LP). In December 2023, IMO, in cooperation with the [Maritime Just Transition Task Force](#) (MJTTF), Secretariat embarked on a long-term project entitled "[Baseline Training Framework for Seafarers in Decarbonization](#)", aimed at developing training materials to help maritime education and training institutions prepare seafarers for zero or near-zero - emissions from ships in line with the IMO 2023 GHG Strategy. Thus, with a view to helping the global shipping industry decarbonize and ensure that training on decarbonization is available to seafarers who are on the frontline of the shipping industry. The project is funded by the ITCP, with complementary funding from the [IMO GHG-TC Trust Fund](#).

Action requested of the Committee

14 The Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action, as appropriate.

ANNEX

2023 ITCP ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
MEPC 1 - Assist countries with the implementation of MARPOL, notably Annexes V and VI, and related instruments, and in particular the <i>Initial IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships</i>, the consistent implementation of the 0.50% sulphur limit, the IMO <i>Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships</i>, notably in relation to waste management and port reception facilities, the environmental requirements of the Polar Code as well as requirements for the Special Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)				
MARPOL Annexes I to V, including port reception facilities				
Regional workshop on MARPOL Annexes III-V, including port reception facilities	07/02/2023 - 09/02/2023	Montego Bay, Jamaica	Knowledge enhanced and participants trained on the process for ratification, implementation and enforcement of MARPOL Annexes III-V. Some 40 participants attended. Implemented by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.	Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago Curaçao, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Sint Maarten, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
National workshop to support implementation of MARPOL Annexes I to VI into the legislation of Kenya	15/05/2023 - 18/05/2023	Mombasa, Kenya	Knowledge enhanced on the process for ratification, implementation and enforcement of MARPOL Annexes I-VI. Draft national legislation developed for effective enforcement of Annexes I-VI of the MARPOL Convention. Some 11 participants attended.	Kenya

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
MARPOL Annex VI and the Initial IMO Strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships				
Regional roundtable on improving the availability of maritime transport costs data	15/02/2023 - 16/02/2023	Suva, Fiji	Establishment of a network of focal points to collect maritime transport costs data in the Pacific, to share lessons-learned from the first phase of the Project and identification of needs for technical support activities in the region in the field of maritime/port adaptation. Experiences shared from the Pacific region on what a "just and equitable transition" towards low-carbon shipping means. Some 23 participants attended.	Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Green Shipping Conference - Unlocking Opportunities for Green Shipping in Africa	15/02/2023 - 16/02/2023	Accra, Ghana	Awareness raised on the need to decarbonize shipping, as well as the related opportunities, including an understanding of decarbonization pathways and the fuels and technologies that can be deployed. Some 229 participants attended.	Angola, Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo
Evaluation of the Study to address safety and energy efficiency of domestic passenger ships in the Philippines	02/05/2023 - 11/12/2023	Multiple	Evaluation of the consultants' reports, comprising both components of the Study, safety and energy efficiency of domestic passenger ships in the Philippines.	Philippines

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
IMO Conference on Low-Carbon Shipping in Africa	05/05/2023 - 05/05/2023	Mombasa, Kenya	Awareness raised on the need to decarbonize shipping as well as the related opportunities, including an understanding of decarbonization pathways and the fuels and technologies that can be deployed. The conference provided a good momentum for countries from Africa and Arab States to develop their National Action Plans on reducing GHG emissions from shipping in line with IMO resolution MEPC.327(75) to encourage Member States to develop national action plans to address GHG emissions from shipping and explore other opportunities. Some 33 participants attended.	Angola, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States
High-level discussion on IMO and climate action within the margins of the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting	08/05/2023 - 08/05/2023	Port Vila, Vanuatu	Awareness raised amongst Pacific Maritime Transport and Energy High Officials on the need to decarbonize shipping as well as the related opportunities, including an understanding of decarbonization pathways and the fuels and technologies that can be deployed. Implemented with SPC, in collaboration with SPREP. 2023 World Maritime theme "MARPOL at 50 - Our commitment goes on".	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Online course for the uniform implementation and control of the 0.50% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI	09/05/2023 - 23/05/2023	Virtual	Enhanced knowledge to apply the set of provisions relating to the limit on the sulphur content of ships' fuel. Some 13 participants attended.	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Conference on seizing opportunities for Green Shipping in Asia and the Pacific	16/05/2023 - 17/05/2023	Manila, Philippines	Awareness raised on the need to decarbonize shipping as well as the related opportunities. This will include an understanding of decarbonization pathways and the fuels and technologies that can be deployed. The conference provided a good momentum for countries from Asia and the Pacific to develop their National Action Plans on reducing GHG emissions from shipping in line with IMO resolution MEPC.327(75) to encourage Member States to develop national action plans to address GHG emissions from shipping and explore other opportunities. Some 32 participants attended.	Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam
National workshop "Towards a more sustainable shipping"	29/08/2023 - 29/08/2023	Valparaíso, Chile	Awareness raised on the IMO project on Green Hydrogen in Latin America, prior to its launch in 2024. Some 90 participants attended.	Chile
Green shipping conference in Latin America: Overcoming challenges by unlocking opportunities and investments	01/09/2023 - 01/09/2023	Santiago, Chile	Awareness raised on the need to decarbonize shipping as well as the related opportunities. This will include an understanding of decarbonization pathways and the fuels and technologies that can be deployed. The conference provided a good momentum for countries from Latin America to develop their National Action Plans on reducing GHG emissions from shipping in line with IMO resolution MEPC.327(75) to encourage Member States to develop National Action Plans to address GHG emissions from shipping and explore other opportunities, including investment opportunities on the production, up scaling and eventual bunkering of green shipping fuels and port infrastructure. Some 111 participants attended.	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Regional workshop on the development of a route-based action plan methodology	05/10/2023 - 06/10/2023	Singapore, Singapore	Participants trained on how to develop a route-based action plan, including raising awareness on route-based action plans/green corridors in general, and how to get started. Report developed on application of route-based action plan methodology in the Asian context. Some 37 participants attended.	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
IMO support to relevant UN system meetings and activities on implementation of the UN SDGs, notably SDGs 13 and 14	21/11/2023 - 21/11/2023	Mumbai, India	IMO's participation in the 4th Maritime SheEO Conference 2023, presenting on the 3 Ds in shipping - decarbonization, digitalization and diversity. Participants were apprised of the positive impact on the environment since the adoption of MARPOL, the primary global treaty for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from intentional, operational or accidental causes.	Global
IMO support to relevant UN system meetings and activities on implementation of the UN SDGs, notably SDGs 13 and 14	30/11/2023 - 12/12/2023	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	IMO's participation (COP 28), Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and its side events, and co-organization of two side events on "Innovation and clean energy for international aviation and shipping" and the "2023 IMO GHG Strategy: defining the global level-playing-field for shipping decarbonization".	Global
PSSAs				
IMO participation in an international workshop on marine biosecurity for PSSAs and MPAs	06/06/2023 - 09/06/2023	Galapagos, Ecuador	Awareness raised among workshop participants of the implications of, and process involved in, PSSA designation and its relevance to biosecurity.	Brazil, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Tonga
IMO support to a subregional workshop on Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction	13/11/2023 - 15/11/2023	San José, Costa Rica	Awareness raised among participants to gain a thorough knowledge of the process for identification and designation of a PSSA in an ABNJ, and the process for submitting a proposal to IMO.	Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Supporting the development of a PSSA proposal around the coasts of Mauritius and Rodrigues	01/12/2023 - 28/06/2024	Home-based, United Kingdom	Enhanced understanding of the process for identification and designation of a PSSA, including the process for submitting a PSSA proposal to IMO.	Mauritius
MEPC 2 - Strengthening national and regional capacity and fostering regional cooperation for effective and consistent implementation of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, notably in support of the experience-building phase, and AFS Convention and the Biofouling Guidelines, including their ongoing revisions and amendments				
BWM				
Support to the development of an e-Learning course on the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention	01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	Multiple	Consultancy support provided for the development of an e-Learning course on the BWM Convention.	Global
Regional workshop and meeting on the BWM Convention and the harmonization of procedures in the Mediterranean region pursuant to the Convention	20/03/2023 - 23/03/2023	Kappara, Malta	Participants' knowledge and skills increased on relevant aspects of the BWM Convention and related Guidelines. Effective implementation and enforcement of the BWM Convention were increased, and the harmonized procedures for the Mediterranean region pursuant to the BWM Convention were finalized. Some 29 participants attended. Implemented by REMPEC.	Albania, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Türkiye
National workshop supporting implementation of the BWM Convention	27/03/2023 - 28/03/2023	Apia, Samoa	Enhanced knowledge and awareness of ratification, implementation and enforcement process of the BWM Convention, its compliance monitoring and enforcement elements, as well as a bigger network of trained experts in ballast water management and control. Some 25 participants attended. Implemented by SPREP.	Samoa

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Support to the harmonization of procedures in the wider Caribbean region pursuant to the BWM Convention	09/05/2023 - 31/12/2023	Home-based, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Harmonized procedures for implementation of the BWM Convention developed for the Wider Caribbean region. Implemented by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
National workshop supporting implementation of the BWM Convention	31/10/2023 - 02/11/2023	Nassau, Bahamas	Increased awareness and understanding of the effective implementation and enforcement measures under the BWM Convention, as well as implementation of the related Guidelines. An increased network of trained experts in BWM and control. Some 30 participants attended. Implemented by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.	Bahamas
AFS and biofouling				
Translation of the biofouling management e-Learning course from English into Spanish	15/03/2023 - 31/12/2023	Multiple	E-Learning course "Introduction to Marine Biofouling: Impacts and Management of Risks", translated from English into Spanish.	Global
Regional workshop and task force meeting on biofouling management	17/07/2023 - 18/07/2023	Suva, Fiji	First version of the regional strategy and action plan on biofouling management developed. Agreement from the regional task force to meet annually. Some 27 participants attended.	Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
National workshop on the AFS Convention	26/09/2023 - 27/09/2023	Havana, Cuba	Progress towards ratification and subsequent effective implementation and enforcement of the AFS Convention by Cuba. Some 26 participants attended. Implemented by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.	Cuba
Virtual reality materials on biofouling management	02/10/2023 - 24/12/2023	Home-based, United Kingdom	Purchase of virtual reality materials to raise awareness on biofouling management for all Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) and Regional Coordinating Organizations (RCOs) ² of the project.	Global

². Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), South Asia Co-Operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
MEPC 3 - Strengthen national and regional capacity and fostering regional cooperation for the ratification and effective implementation of the Hong Kong Convention on Ship Recycling				
National seminar on the ratification and implementation of the Hong Kong Convention	13/11/2023 - 15/11/2023	Karachi, Pakistan	In view of the proximity of the HKC entry into force, participants sensitized in all matters (legal, technical, administrative) to support implementation of the HKC and related Guidelines, as well as best practices shared on the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships. In particular, knowledge shared on ship recycling and waste management from the viewpoint of government, classification societies and ship recycling yards. Following the conclusion of the seminar, the Pakistan (Federal) Cabinet approved the signing of the HKC and the preparation of a draft instrument of accession to IMO. Other key outcomes include a gap analysis with recommendations and a preliminary road map developed for Pakistan on how to comply with the requirements of the HKC. Some 97 participants attended.	Pakistan
MEPC 4 - Assist countries with the implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol and enhance regional cooperation in marine pollution preparedness, response and coordination, as well as address aspects on the implementation of the relevant international regimes on liability and compensation of oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution damage				
OPRC				
Translation of the OPRC e-learning introductory course from English into French	01/12/2022 - 29/03/2023	Home-based, United Kingdom	OPRC e-Learning course translated from English into French.	Global

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
IMO support to FSO Safer - salvage operation (phase I)	01/04/2023 - 11/08/2023	Sanaa, Yemen	IMO support to national and UN Inter-Agency contingency planning efforts in the event of a possible oil spill from FSO Safer in Yemen, with a focus on promoting best practices and sharing lessons learned in responding to oil pollution incidents, supporting all aspects of the salvage operation (phase I) and providing a leadership role on oil spill response contingency planning. Support provided to Yemen through a technical expert included, inter alia, analysing the level of preparedness, technical guidance and assistance, delivery of training on oil spill preparedness and crisis management, advice on funding applications and technical advice provided on the installation of a replacement option for the FSO Safer .	Yemen
Remote legal assistance for the effective implementation of IMO Conventions relating to oil pollution, liability and compensation	06/04/2023 - 31/08/2023	Virtual	Participants familiarized with the provisions and obligations associated with the ratification of IMO conventions related to pollution preparedness and response, liability and compensation, as well as enhanced understanding of the process of transposition of these conventions into domestic law. Implemented through GI WACAF.	Benin, Guinea, Mauritania, Togo
Regional workshop on the Incident Management System	09/05/2023 - 12/05/2023	Nairobi, Kenya	Knowledge enhanced on the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC HNS Protocol, and the benefits of regional cooperation and coordination in preparing for and responding to marine spills. The requirement for, mandate of, feasibility and sustainability of a regional centre on spill preparedness and response for East Africa and the western Indian Ocean was addressed. Some 41 participants attended.	Comoros, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Supporting Brunei Darussalam towards the accession to the OPRC Convention	16/05/2023 - 18/05/2023	Virtual	Supporting Brunei Darussalam with key aspects of the OPRC Convention with a view to updating Brunei Darussalam's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Implemented through GI SEA.	Brunei Darussalam
National workshop on OPRC level 3	22/05/2023 - 24/05/2023	Port Louis, Mauritius	Participants familiarized with the need for rapid decision-making to mitigate the impact of any oil spill, and the importance of cooperation between stakeholders at a national level, as well as with those in neighbouring countries and the wider international community. Also covered were roles and responsibilities prior to, and during the response to, a pollution incident; relevant regulations and conventions; and liability and compensation. Some 32 participants attended.	Mauritius
National training courses on OPRC Levels 1 and 2	13/06/2023 - 16/06/2023	Havana, Cuba	Personnel trained in pollution response. Enhanced knowledge and skills to be able to prepare for, and respond to, oil spills, and a thorough understanding of the common challenges and complexities in implementing an effective spill preparedness and response system. Some 25 participants attended. Implemented by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.	Cuba

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
National workshop to support accession to the OPRC Convention	22/08/2023 - 25/08/2023	Hanoi, Viet Nam	Enhanced awareness and understanding of the ratification and effective implementation of the OPRC Convention. Participants familiarized with the benefits of importance of an effective national framework for preparedness and response to oil spills, including communication, as well as the roles and responsibilities that need to be addressed prior to, and during an oil spill, in particular, the importance of effective collaboration amongst numerous different stakeholders. An action plan produced to facilitate ongoing development of an effective national oil spill preparedness and response framework. Some 43 participants attended. Implemented through GI SEA.	Viet Nam
Finalization of IMO <i>Guidelines on the use of Chemical Dispersants in Oil Spill Response</i>	01/09/2023 - 31/12/2023	London, United Kingdom	Finalization and publication of IMO's <i>Guidelines on the use of Chemical Dispersants in Oil Spill Response</i> .	Global
Participation of countries in the International Oil Spill Conference for the Asia-Pacific region (SPILLCON 2023)	11/09/2023 - 15/09/2023	Brisbane, Australia	Participants' knowledge enhanced on topics related to oil pollution preparedness and response, with a view to improving their respective technical competencies and developing capacity at the national level. Participants also benefitted from a short course on oil spill cost recovery as well as the international convention on claims and liabilities relating to oil tanker spills. Some 16 participants attended. Implemented by SPREP.	Cambodia, Cook Islands, Nauru, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Workshop on National Oil Spill Contingency Plan development	11/09/2023 - 15/09/2023	Banjul, Gambia	Participants familiarized with the importance of an effective national framework for preparedness and response to oil spills, including communication, as well as the roles and responsibilities that need to be addressed prior to, and during an oil spill, in particular, the importance of effective collaboration amongst numerous different stakeholders. An action plan was produced to facilitate ongoing development of an effective national oil spill preparedness and response framework. Some 40 participants attended. Implemented through GI WACAF.	Gambia (The)
Regional workshop on the use of the RETOS tool	15/09/2023 - 17/09/2023	Brisbane, Australia	Enhanced awareness and understanding of the benefits of the RETOS tool which enables countries to assess their level of preparedness in order to respond to an oil spill incident. Some 35 participants attended. Implemented by SPREP.	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu
Development of an OPRC introductory e-Learning course in French	30/09/2023 - 31/12/2023	Multiple	Launch of the OPRC e-Learning course into French.	Global
Subregional workshop on the effective implementation of IMO Conventions relating to oil pollution, liability and compensation	10/10/2023 - 13/10/2023	Lomé, Togo	Participants familiarized with the provisions and obligations associated with the ratification of IMO conventions related to pollution preparedness and response, liability and compensation, as well as enhanced understanding of the process of transposition of these conventions into domestic law. Some 17 participants attended. Implemented through GI WACAF.	Benin, Guinea, Mauritania, Togo

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Support to the development of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, including use of RETOS	17/10/2023 - 19/10/2023	Bridgetown, Barbados	Participants familiarized with the importance of an effective national framework for preparedness and response to oil spills, including communication, as well as the roles and responsibilities that need to be addressed prior to, and during an oil spill, in particular, the importance of effective collaboration amongst numerous different stakeholders. Enhanced awareness and understanding of the benefits of the RETOS tool to assist Barbados in identifying gaps to assess its levels of preparedness and response. Some 23 participants attended. Implemented by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.	Barbados
National workshop to support accession to the OPRC Convention	24/10/2023 - 26/10/2023	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Participants familiarized with the importance of an effective national framework for preparedness and response to oil spills, including communication, as well as the roles and responsibilities that need to be addressed prior to, and during an oil spill, in particular, the importance of effective collaboration amongst numerous different stakeholders. An action plan was produced to facilitate ongoing development of an effective national oil spill preparedness and response framework. Enhanced awareness and understanding of the benefits of the RETOS tool which enables countries to assess their level of preparedness in order to respond to an oil spill incident. Some 51 participants attended. Implemented through GI SEA.	Cambodia

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan on ASEAN MoU	30/10/2023 - 03/11/2023	Klang, Malaysia	Participants familiarized with the benefits of importance of an effective regional framework for preparedness and response to oil spills, including communication, as well as the roles and responsibilities that need to be addressed prior to, and during an oil spill. In particular, the importance of effective collaboration amongst numerous different stakeholders, as well as a thorough understanding of the common challenges and complexities in implementing an effective preparation and response system. Some 22 participants attended. Implemented through GI SEA.	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam
Subregional workshop on the development of dispersant usage policy	31/10/2023 - 02/11/2023	Johannesburg, South Africa	Enhanced knowledge on how to develop and implement policies on the use of dispersants in a transboundary setting, in order to effectively respond to a pollution incident. Cooperation strengthened between Angola, Namibia and South Africa about dispersant use, including lesson learned and challenges in assessing national needs and priorities when using dispersant as a response strategy. Some 21 participants attended. Implemented through GI WACAF.	Angola, Namibia, South Africa

Activity Title	Dates	Location	Outputs	Participating Countries/Territories
Support to the development of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan	20/11/2023 - 24/11/2023	Nouakchott, Mauritania	Participants familiarized with the importance of an effective national framework for preparedness and response to oil spills, including communication, as well as the roles and responsibilities that need to be addressed prior to, and during an oil spill, in particular, the importance of effective collaboration amongst numerous different stakeholders. An action plan produced to facilitate ongoing development of an effective national oil spill preparedness and response framework. Some 31 participants attended. Implemented through GI WACAF.	Mauritania
Regional needs assessment on OPRC in Latin America	22/11/2023 - 31/12/2023	Home-based, Portugal	A report produced, outlining recommendations and a road map for harmonized and effective implementation of the OPRC Convention in Latin America.	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
OPRC-HNS Protocol				
No activities were delivered in 2023				

MEPC 5 - Assist countries through building capacity for the ratification and implementation of the 1996 Protocol to the International Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Protocol), as well as supporting countries in implementing relevant measures aimed at conservation and sustainable governance of the ocean					
Workshop on promotion of the London Protocol	07/03/2023 - 09/03/2023	Casablanca, Morocco	Participants' awareness and understanding of the LP increased. Support the implementation of the LP provisions in those countries already party to the treaty and help to support political buy-in for those countries yet to accede to the LP. Opportunities for future cooperation identified. Increased reporting rates for those countries already Party to the LC or LP. Some 24 participants attended.	Congo, Gabon, Morocco, Togo	
Subregional needs assessment for the London Protocol (ROCRAM-CA countries)	05/04/2023 - 31/12/2023	Home-based, Nicaragua	Inclusion of maritime sector issues in national and regional development plans and policies and the identification of the requirements for technical assistance in the region. Assessment undertaken and recommendations produced on the real needs of the region to support the uniform application of the London Protocol. Implemented through COCATRAM.	Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	
National workshop on the London Protocol	31/05/2023 - 01/06/2023	Lima, Peru	Participants sensitized in the actions Peru should take at a national level, to fully implement the London Protocol. Some 40 participants attended.	Peru	
Development of an e-Learning course on the London Protocol and its implementation	01/10/2023 - 30/06/2024	Multiple	Increased awareness and capacity at national, regional and global levels through developing and delivering training materials to increase capacity and awareness of the LP.	Global	
Other					
Regional Coordination RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe	01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	Curaçao, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Provision of regional coordination through RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe for the implementation of capacity-building activities in the region. Through GI Caribe, a commitment was secured from industry to provide coordination and technical support for TC implementation.	Curaçao, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	