



Workshop on the development of a regional environmental management plan for the Area of the Indian Ocean, with a focus on the mid-ocean ridges and central Indian Ocean basin

1-5 May, 2023

Chennai, India

Submission of nomination of experts to participate in the workshop

Members of ISA, in particular sponsoring States, ISA contractors, international and regional organizations, projects/programs and initiatives, and academic institutions/scientific groups, are invited to nominate experts to participate in this workshop. A description of the workshop background, objectives and expected outputs is available in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Nomination of experts should recognize the scientific and technical nature of the workshop in which participants will be expected to provide and analyze scientific data and information related to the workshop objectives through teamwork with other workshop participants. In light of this, participants should be experts or individuals able to understand and interpret scientific data, and/or should have access to relevant environmental data on marine ecosystems, habitats and species, and/or physical/ chemical/geological data of the deep-sea environment in the Indian Ocean.

The number of participants will be limited to 60 to enable the workshop participants to effectively undertake specific analysis and discussion in small working groups. The selection of experts by the Secretariat of ISA and co-chairs will be based on scientific and technical expertise and experience, taking into account geographic representation, gender balance, and the participation of experts from developing countries.

The selection of experts will be made on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) Good scientific knowledge and research experience, ideally with peer-reviewed reports and publications, relating to the following:
 - Deep-sea biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystem structure and function in the Indian Ocean, with a focus on Mid-Ocean Ridges and Central Indian Ocean Basin;
 - Oceanography, including physical and chemical oceanography, currents and circulation, ocean productivity, nutrient fluxes *etc.* in the Indian Ocean, with a focus on Mid-Ocean Ridges and Central Indian Ocean Basin;
 - Geology, including topography and geomorphology related to polymetallic sulphide and polymetallic nodule resources; and
 - Exploration/exploitation technologies of polymetallic sulphide and polymetallic nodule resources, in the context of understanding the likely environmental impacts of such technologies.

- 2) Experts with access to unpublished, high quality environmental data, including biological, physical and chemical oceanographical, and geological data in the Indian Ocean region, with a focus on the Mid-Ocean Ridges and Central Indian Ocean Basin; and
- 3) Good experience and expertise relating to spatial planning and scientific design of area-based as well as non-spatial management tools (such as marine protected areas).

Nominations should include the name and full contact details of nominee(s) and should be submitted via an official letter addressed to the Director of Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources of ISA, and signed by the heads of the relevant authorities, contractors, organizations/institutions, and programmes/initiatives/scientific groups. All nominations must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae clearly indicating the areas of expertise and experience of the nominee, relating to the above selection criteria. Nominations should be sent as soon as possible, **but no later than 30 January 2023**, via e-mail to oemmr-secretariat@isa.org.jm.

The results of selection of the experts will be made available on the ISA website by **28 February 2023**. Meeting documents will be posted on the ISA website in due course.

Submission of information to support the objectives of the workshop

Members of ISA, in particular sponsoring States, ISA contractors, international and regional organizations, projects/programs and initiatives, and academic institutions/scientific groups, are also invited to provide relevant information in support of the objectives of the workshop.

In terms of data/information, particular needs have been identified in relation to:

- biodiversity (e.g. spatial distribution of species/taxa, species richness and evenness);
- community structure (e.g. abundance/diversity of different components of the biota, species/Operational Taxonomic Unit (OTU) structure);
- biogeography (e.g. species ranges, degree of species overlap, community similarity);
- genetic connectivity (e.g. shared haplotypes, spatial scales of genetic connectivity);
- environmental variables and drivers of distribution, abundance and community structure
- ecosystem functions (e.g. C-cycling, nutrient fluxes);
- habitat (e.g. habitat diversity) and ecosystem modelling;
- oceanography; and
- geology, including geomorphology, resources and sediment properties.

Submission can be made in the form of peer-reviewed articles, reports/documents, datasets, maps or any other appropriate forms.

In order to allow the timely preparation of necessary scientific and technical input for the above-mentioned workshop, information should be submitted to the ISA Secretariat as soon as possible, **but no later than 28 February 2023**, via an email addressed to oemmr-secretariat@isa.org.jm. For those who can provide datasets, the Secretariat will arrange a necessary modality of data transfer, upon receiving the indication of data provision via email.