



ISA
Partnership
Fund

ISA-Egypt Training and Research Centre



With the financial support of Greece



Call for applications to the Training course on Environmental Impact Assessment for exploration activities carried out in the Area

14 to 26 September 2024
ISA-Egypt Joint Training and Research Centre
Alexandria, Egypt

I – Context

1. In June 2023, the Board of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) [Partnership Fund](#) (ISAPF), endorsed the development and implementation of a **Training Course on Environmental Impact Assessment for activities carried out in the Area** for officials, as well as scientists from ISA Members States, involved in deep-sea related matters.
2. Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a key component to ensure the sustainable management of activities carried out in the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (Area).
3. Under Article 145 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), ISA is responsible for taking the necessary measures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area. The 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS (1994 Agreement) reaffirms those responsibilities by stating that between the entry into force of UNCLOS and the approval of the first work plan for exploitation, ISA shall concentrate on, *inter alia*, the “*adoption of rules, regulations and procedures incorporating applicable standards for the protection and preservation of the marine environment.*” The 1994 Agreement requires that an application for approval of a plan of work shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activities and by a description of a programme for oceanographic and baseline environmental studies in accordance with ISA rules, regulations and procedures.
4. Based on Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement, ISA has developed detailed and

substantive provisions, regulations and recommendations related to the assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area, which define the sort of activities that require EIA, its form and content, as well as [guidance on baseline studies, monitoring and reporting](#).

5. EIA is also a fundamental element of the architecture established under the draft exploitation of mineral resources of the Area under discussion by the ISA Council for the effective protection of the marine environment. Although the regulations have not been adopted yet, it is anticipated that the complexity of the procedures and of the required data for EIA will increase, and so the need for specific training will arise.

II – Course objectives and expected outcomes

6. The ISA Secretariat is organizing a training course to develop the knowledge and skills that are needed by participants to conduct meaningful impacts assessments for activities planned to be carried out in the Area and to better engage in the work of ISA in accordance with the [ISA Strategic Plan 2019-2025](#) and the associated [High Level Action Plan](#).

7. The training course will span over 2 weeks (14 to 26 September 2024) and has been designed to provide an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the main principles and techniques underpinning EIA in the context of exploration activities in the Area.

8. All the relevant steps of an EIA will be addressed with particular emphasis being paid to stakeholders' consultation. With a view to facilitate the training process, trainees will be provided with a handbook and a toolkit on EIA that will help to ensure the widest dissemination of the acquired competences and skills at a national level.

9. It is anticipated that at the end of the course, participants will be able to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with e activities in the Area, and particularly to:

- i. apply EIA principles;
- ii. be fully familiar with the legal framework in place for EIA relating to activities in the Area;
- iii. implement and follow procedures and methodologies to evaluate potential environmental impacts relating to exploration activities in the Area and identify mitigation measures, based on current best practices;
- iv. prepare practical EIA reports to enable decision makers to evaluate the feasibility of proposed projects; and
- v. implement appropriate strategies to engage stakeholders in public consultations.

10. The training course will take place in the ISA-Egypt Joint Training and Research Centre, Alexandria, Egypt from 14 to 26 September 2024 and will be open to 20 participants selected based on criteria identified below.

11. The ISA Secretariat will only cover the costs pertaining to the attendance of the course (which includes a return air ticket in economic class and a daily subsistence allowance as calculated by the International Civil Service Commission) of selected trainees from developing countries. Nationals of developed States selected would have to bear the entire costs of their participation.

12. All participants are fully responsible for arranging, at their own expense, such as life, health

and other forms of insurance covering the period of their participation as they consider appropriate. ISA does not provide or arrange life or health insurance coverage for selected participants. Selected participants will be responsible for assuming all costs related to required inoculations and medical treatment.

II – Eligibility

13. The ISA Secretariat is inviting applications to the training course from **experts from ISA Member States** with the following profile characteristics:

Profile category	Description
Agency/Institution	Ministry of Environment or similar competent authority responsible for the procedures and processes associated with environmental consent applications (government agency). Universities or professional organizations involved in supporting environmental consent applications (supporting institutes).
Role/Position	Government agency: Officials involved in prominent environmental consent applications. Supporting institutes: Specialists on the subject matter.
Area of expertise	Government agency: EIA and consent processes. Supporting institutes: Oceanography, marine biology, coastal engineering, hydro-geochemistry, environmental science and related fields.
Experience level	Government agency: Medium/High. Supporting institutes: High.

14. Applicants shall have proficient knowledge of the English language.

III – Application process

15. The following application documents shall be submitted by interested applicants **no later than 31 May 2024**:

Application document	Requirement
Annex A	Applicants must fill out all information requested in Annex A attached to the present call.
Motivation letter	- Maximum 1 page, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point letters - Written in English
Nomination letter	From government agency or institution responsible for / or involved into procedures and processes associated with environmental consent applications.
Proof of language proficiency	If English is not the applicant's mother tongue or the language of teaching and learning at undergraduate level, applicants must submit with their registration an

	internationally recognized English language proficiency test. Acceptable tests include International English Language Testing System (IELTS, band 6.0 or above), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL – internet-based test score 80+ and paper-based test score 550+), Cambridge examinations (level CPE/C2).
Copy of identification document	Provided that the applicant already has a passport, a scanned copy of the passport’s data page shall be attached. In case the applicants do not yet have a passport, they shall attach a scanned copy of their national ID card - that page must be uploaded which contains both the personal data and the photograph of the applicant.

16. The ISA Secretariat is committed to enhance the role of women in marine scientific research through focused capacity-building initiatives. Women are therefore highly encouraged to participate.

17. All applications shall be submitted to isapf@isa.org.jm **no later than 31 May 2024**.

18. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that applications reach the ISA Secretariat by the indicated date. Incomplete applications will not be taken into consideration.

19. Completed applications received by the stipulated deadline will be evaluated by a Selection Committee against the eligibility criteria.

20. ISA is only able to accommodate the participation of a maximum of 20 participants. To this end, only one representative per country will be selected. Precedence will be given to (a) applicants from developing countries and particularly Least Developed Countries, Land-Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries; (b) applicants from countries currently engaged in activities in the Area.

21. Successful candidates will be notified by the ISA Secretariat by 15 June 2024.

IV – Contact details

22. For enquiries on applications, please contact isapf@isa.org.jm



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ANNEX A – APPLICATION FORM

Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Full name: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Legal address: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. E-mail address: Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Affiliation: <input type="checkbox"/> Government Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Institute
5. Role/Position: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Provide detail of education background: Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Provide detail on the area of expertise: Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Confirm that the application comprises: <input type="checkbox"/> Motivation letter <input type="checkbox"/> Proof of language proficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of identification document
9. Provide any additional information considered key in meeting/exceeding the requirements:

Click or tap here to enter text.

10. Are there any indicting circumstances of which the ISA should be aware?

Click or tap here to enter text.

DECLARATION

By submitting this application, I confirm that I am able to commit to the terms and conditions set out in the Call for application.

I acknowledge that the personal information supplied to ISA is done voluntarily to facilitate the processing of this application. I furthermore acknowledge that the information provided by me, is to the best of my knowledge both true and correct, and any incorrect or inaccurate information or documentation submitted may adversely affect the processes my application.

11. Date and Signature:

Click or tap here to enter text.