

# GLONOISE PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2024



## IMO-WMU Workshop on URN Reduction Policies with a focus on Developing Countries Malmö, Sweden 15–16 October

GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise Project and The World Maritime University (WMU) jointly organized and delivered the workshop with the support of the Schlüter Foundation for Shipping and Environmental Protection

[Read More in IMO Events](#)

### Building global momentum for quieter oceans

The IMO-WMU workshop, held on October 15–16, marked a major milestone for the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise Partnership by addressing critical challenges and exploring solutions for underwater noise pollution. The hybrid event gathered approximately 250 participants, nearly 40% of whom were women, including experts and representatives from diverse organizations and countries. GloNoise Partnership countries—Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, India, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Georgia, Malaysia, and Madagascar—actively participated, sharing key insights into initiatives and challenges related to underwater radiated noise (URN) reduction. Beyond the core participating countries, representatives from over 50 countries attended the event, underscoring its global relevance and transforming it into a platform for widespread engagement and collaboration.



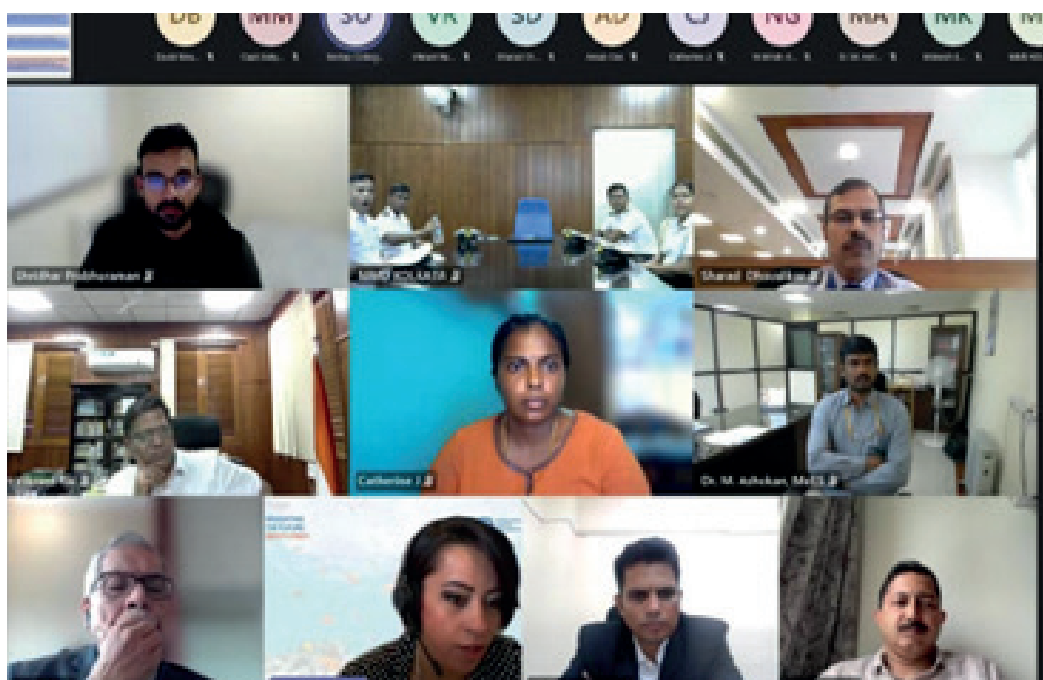
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## Country workshops delivered for awareness raising and stakeholder engagement

Country Workshops for awareness raising and stakeholder engagement have been conducted in Chile and Argentina in person, and online workshops held with Costa Rica and India where twinning countries Georgia, Madagascar and Malaysia also joined. Nearly 200 participants attended the workshops which fostered valuable discussions on mitigating underwater noise and developing tailored strategies for each region, further strengthening the collective efforts to protect marine ecosystems.



*For more updates, visit our [LinkedIn page](#): [GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise Partnership](#).*



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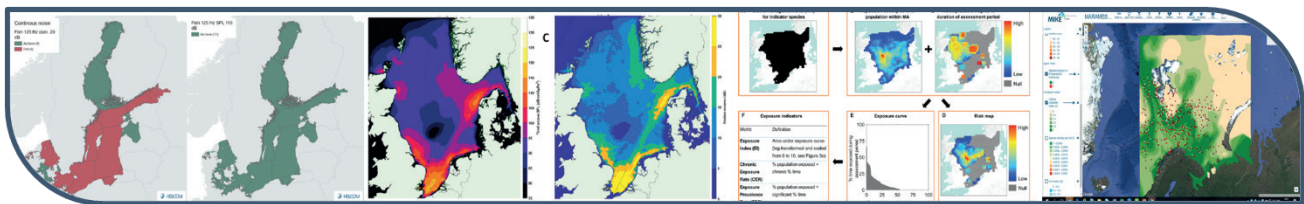
## GloNoise Booth in the 10th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC10), 21–26 September, Uruguay

The GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise and GloFouling Partnerships actively participated in the 10th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference, held under the theme 'Transformative Actions and Impacts for the Water and Ocean SDGs: The GEF IW Response to the Global Challenge.' The event, hosted in Punta del Este, Uruguay, brought together global stakeholders to advance cooperation in shared marine ecosystems, showcasing innovative approaches and actionable strategies aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for water and oceans.

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## Important step taken towards URN Assessment

Comprehensive analysis of existing methodologies for URN assessment completed. This foundational work provides valuable insights into current practices and gaps, forming the basis for enhanced approaches to URN reduction. Additionally, the conceptual framework for the URN Toolkit was presented to strategic partners of the project on 9 October 2024 for consultation and review process through their effective engagement. Toolkit will be a significant and practical resource for stakeholders addressing URN challenges.

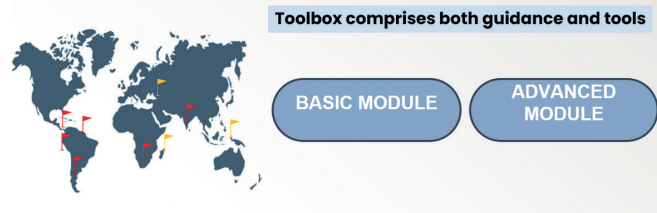


## What is URN Toolkit?

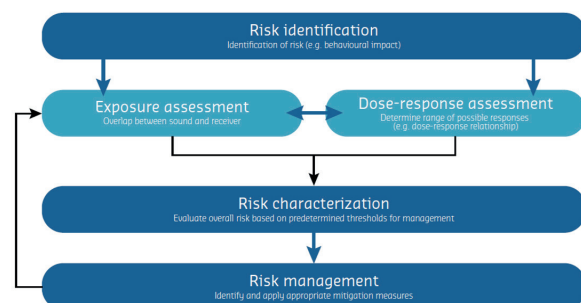
The URN Toolkit, is designed to enhance global capacities for assessing and mitigating the impacts of URN from shipping. This tool incorporates a step-by-step framework to guide baseline analyses, environmental risk assessments, and policy formulation. It leverages best practices identified from analyzing 24 existing methodologies, incorporating elements such as sound propagation modeling, the use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) data for noise mapping, and integrating exposure and dose-response assessments.

Structured into Basic and Advanced Modules, the toolkit is intended to be accessible to a wide range of users, offering an easy-to-use online platform with interactive components including learning modules. These include detailed guidelines, case studies, and resource databases, aiming to make risk assessment more inclusive and effective. By combining practical tools, theoretical frameworks, and real-world case studies, the toolkit aims to become a valuable resource for stakeholders involved in the sustainable management of marine ecosystems impacted by shipping noise.

## Risk assessment for everyone



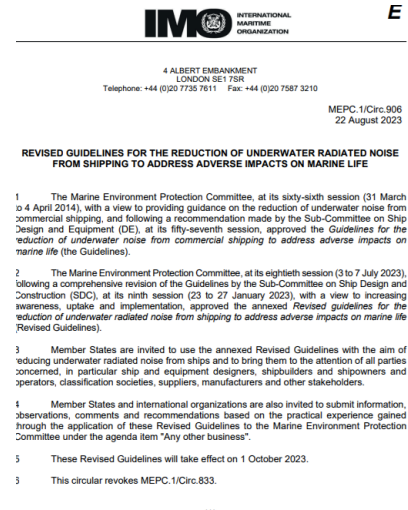
### Basic and Advanced Module/risk characterisation



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## URN Action Plan Approved (MEPC.1/Circ.906/Rev.1)

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 82), in October 2024, approved the URN Action Plan reflecting a growing recognition of the impact of URN on marine ecosystems, particularly on sensitive marine species. Key tasks include conducting studies to assess URN emissions, developing measurable noise reduction targets for vessels, and integrating a management planning reference chart into the revised guidelines. These efforts aim to establish practical measures and standards for mitigating URN while gathering data to inform future policy decisions. GloNoise Partnership will contribute to the realization of this Action Plan.



## Comprehensive policy analysis progressing toward finalization

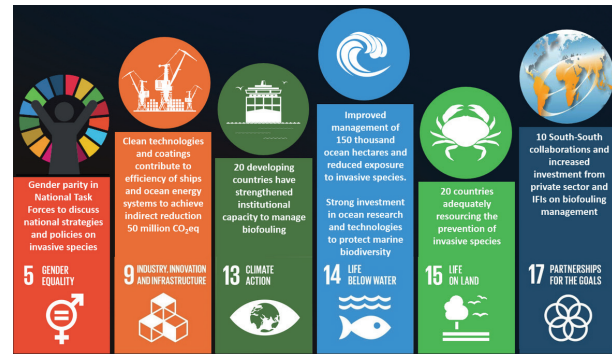
The GloNoise Partnership Project is advancing a critical policy analysis that aims to identify gaps and opportunities within existing global, regional, and national frameworks related to the mitigation of underwater radiated noise (URN) from shipping. This study evaluates policies, standards, and strategies, with a particular emphasis on the Revised URN Guidelines, to propose potential global policy options within the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), following a strategic environmental and social assessment approach.

The analysis incorporates a wide range of legal instruments and strategies, reflecting the most current information available. Its findings are expected to provide valuable insights and will be presented to IMO Committees for their consideration, offering a pathway to strengthened global efforts in mitigating the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of shipping noise.

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## Advancing Global Efforts to Mitigate Underwater Noise Pollution

The GloNoise Project has made significant progress in 2024 toward building a global partnership to address underwater noise pollution from shipping. Key milestones include a successful inception workshop and several national workshops, which collectively engaged over 500 participants. These events brought together diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing across regions to strengthen efforts in tackling this critical environmental challenge.



## Current Status of Global Strategic Partnership

Co-financing for the project has risen to 19.1 million with the engagement of new strategic partners. Efforts to establish a potential Global Industry Alliance (GIA), involving the private sector, are currently underway.



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**LinkedIn *GEF–UNDP–IMO GloNoise Partnership***  
**Webpage *glonoise.imo.org***

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