

GEF-UNDP-IMO **GloNoise** Partnership Project

Global Partnership for Mitigation of Underwater Noise from Shipping



Ms. Sevtap Ozdogan
Subdivision of Projects and Partnerships
Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division

underseaproductions.com



Background



The **Technical Cooperation and Implementation, Sub-division of Partnerships and Projects (SDPAP)** develops partnership opportunities and **supports developing countries**, including LDCs and SIDS with resources made available by donors.

In 2021, **MEPC 76 requested** the IMO Secretariat to “discuss with potential donors, the potential funding of a global underwater vessel noise project”

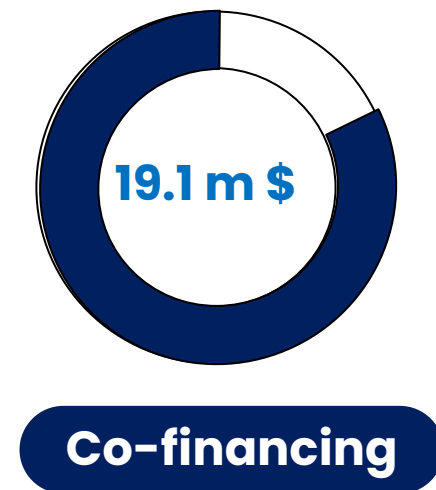
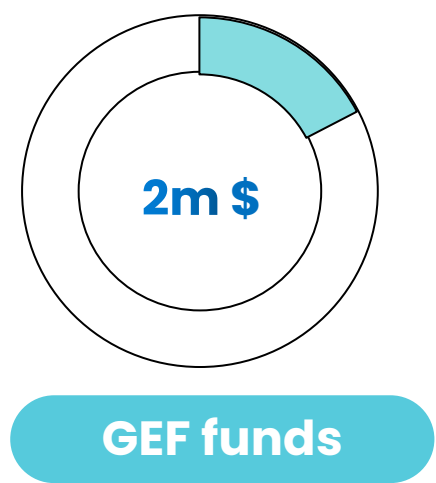
IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION **E**

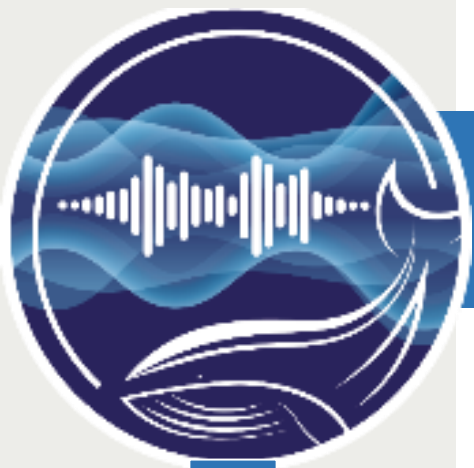
GUIDELINES FOR THE REDUCTION OF UNDERWATER NOISE FROM COMMERCIAL SHIPPING TO ADDRESS ADVERSE IMPACTS ON MARINE LIFE



Objective

- Assist developing countries to raise awareness, build capacity, define baselines and promote international policy dialogue on mitigation of URN.





Glo-X Model: Three-tier Implementation





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Global Strategic Partnership (GSP)



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE





How GloNoise addresses the Issue?

Technical Guidance

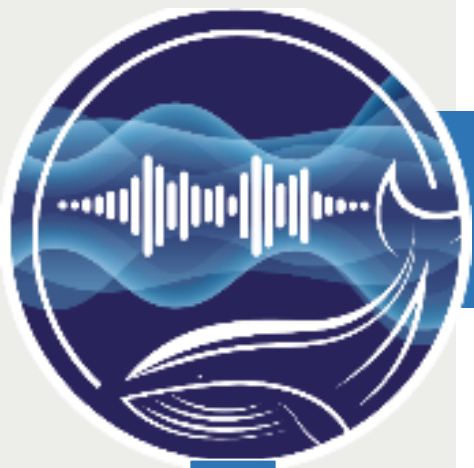
- Online Global Noise Assessment Toolkit
- Stakeholder Workshop for Update
- Roll out of the Toolkit
- Policy Analysis and Global Policy Options

Capacity Building

- Trainings on the Use of Toolkit
- Environmental Risk and Impact Assessments
- National and Regional Seminars/Workshops
- Learning Exchange Programs for Women

Fostering Partnership

- Engagement with regulatory organizations
- Engagement with industry/private sector (GIA)
- Engagement with other marine ecosystem projects
- Promoting other developing countries
- Public-private Global Strategic Partnership



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B. Enhance public awareness, education, and seafarer training

B5-Awareness raising and stakeholder engagement

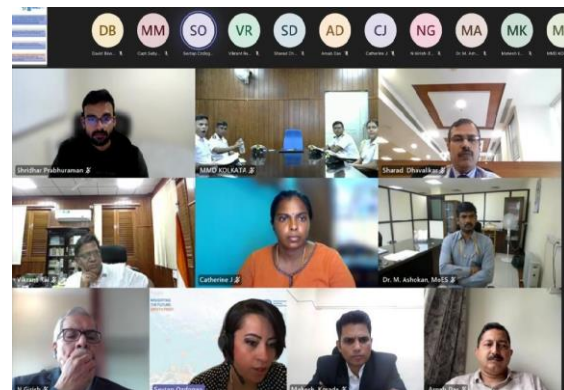


IMO-WMU Workshop on URN Reduction Policies with a focus on Developing Countries
Malmö, Sweden
15-16 October

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.





C. Standardize the URN management planning process

C1/C2 - Overview of Noise Assessment Methodologies

Purpose and Scope:

- Evaluate impacts of URN on marine life.
- Focus on shipping as a primary source of URN.
- Build on the generic URN Risk Assessment framework with scalable solutions.

Methodology:

- Identification of existing URN-RA frameworks / methodologies
- Strength Weakness Analysis
 - Relevance to the generic URN risk framework
 - Relevance to shipping
 - Relevance to LPCs and twinning countries



C. Standardize the URN management planning process

C1/C2 – Comparative Analysis – Strengths and Weaknesses

Out of 24 methodologies analyzed:

Strengths:

- Tools for ship noise mapping (using AIS data, vessel URN prediction and regional sound propagation modelling)
- Methods for integrating information on acoustic sensitivity, spatial and temporal use patterns to assess impacts on marine animals and marine protected areas.



Weaknesses:

- Varying dependence on multiple types of data and advanced technological infrastructure to model noise and animal/area exposure
- Variation in local and regional studies of shipping noise impacts on priority species and areas to inform prioritization for mitigation efforts





C. Standardize the URN management planning process

C1/C2 – Best Practices and Toolkit Implementation

1. Assessing Noise Risk?

Use ship location data (AIS) to create maps showing where and how much underwater noise exists

2. Understanding How Noise Affects Marine Life

Evaluation of how underwater noise impacts marine animals by combining maps with data about where sensitive marine species live and their habitats.

3. Risk Management:

Reduce the impact of underwater noise by

- Collaborating with stakeholders, such as governments and industry, to develop better noise reduction strategies.
- Encouraging the uptake of IMO 2023 Guidelines: noise reduction in ship design, operational measures.



C. Standardize the URN management planning process

C1/C2 – Best Practices and Toolkit Implementation

Toolkit Design:

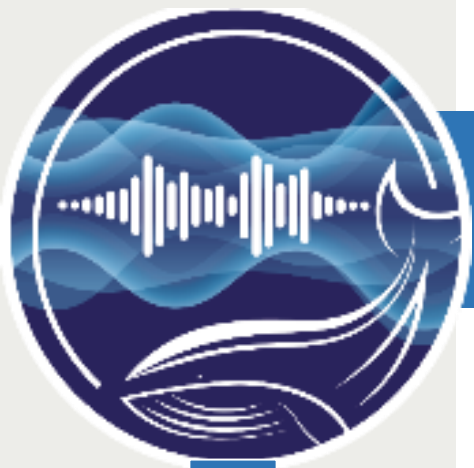
Scalability- Adaptable to Different Needs:

Basic module: For regions with limited data, providing simpler tools for assessment.

Advanced module: For regions with detailed data, allowing more comprehensive analysis.

Proposed Sections of the Toolkit:

1. Overview, guidance to existing terminology and literature.
2. Step-by-step guidance on conducting URN risk assessments, from data collection to modelling
3. Self-paced training modules including online video lectures, demonstration videos, quizzes.
4. Access to online resources and database for AIS data, EBP results, and other relevant materials.
5. Case studies, best practices, guides and research papers, including downloadable resources and examples.



E. Further develop policy for URN reduction

E1- Policy Analysis Context and Preliminary Findings

Context:

Analysis of **500** global, regional, and national policies for reducing URN from shipping.

National policies cover only LPCs.

Focused on gaps and challenges, particularly in LPCs.

Key Findings:

1. URN is not prioritized at international level.
2. No formal recognition of URN as pollution under IMO mandatory instruments.
3. Limited awareness and uptake of IMO's Revised URN Guidelines.
4. Gaps in capacity, technology, and funding hinder effective URN reduction in LPCs.



Gaps and Recommendations for Addressing URN in the Polar Code

- Lacks specific provisions for preventing, reducing, or controlling URN from shipping.
- Mandatory pollution prevention measures in Part II-A do not extend to URN.
- Chapter 11 of Part I-A includes voyage planning and navigation safety measures that indirectly contribute to mitigating URN but do not explicitly target it.
- No direct references to the Revised Guidelines for URN Reduction (MEPC.1/Circ.906/Rev.1) or other relevant IMO instruments related to ship routing, reporting systems, PSSAs, and onshore power supply.
- Strengthening the Polar Code with URN-specific measures and referencing the Inuit Nunaat and Arctic URN Guidelines could support sustainable polar shipping.



Thank you!

Thank you for your attention!

For more information and questions,
please access:



[GloNoise webpage](#)



[GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise Partnership](#)



glonoise@imo.org

