

## CMLRE, Kochi

### Workshop Report on “Publishing Marine Biodiversity Data through Indian Ocean Biodiversity Information System (IndOBIS)”

On September 3, 2024, the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), successfully organized a national-level workshop on the Indian Ocean Biodiversity Information System (IndOBIS). The workshop aimed to raise awareness about OBIS and IndOBIS among stakeholders involved in DOM/MoES-funded projects and to enhance their capacity for marine biodiversity data documentation, publishing, and management. A total of 35 participants registered from various universities and R&D institutions, with 27 invited. Ultimately, 18 external participants and 8 in-house researchers attended. The event provided a platform for scientists, academicians, and researchers to engage in hands-on training, fostering the contribution of standardized data to the IndOBIS platform.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural address by **Dr GVM Gupta**, Director of CMLRE, who emphasized the pivotal role of IndOBIS in advancing marine biodiversity documentation and fostering regional and global collaboration. Dr Gupta highlighted that the workshop was designed to equip participants with tools and skills to submit scientifically standardized marine biodiversity data, contributing to a global knowledge pool.

**Shri N Saravanane**, Project Director of the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) and Node Manager of IndOBIS, provided an insightful briefing on the background of the workshop, emphasizing the critical importance of documenting marine biodiversity, particularly in the context of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement. He highlighted how comprehensive biodiversity documentation supports scientific research, conservation, and international efforts to protect marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

**Shri Johnny Konjarla**, Project Scientist and Data Manager for IndOBIS, opened the sessions and shared valuable insights with the participants. During the workshop, he covered essential topics related to marine biodiversity data documentation and publishing. These included best practices for data standardization, the process of submitting data to the IndOBIS platform, the significance of using geotagged biodiversity data. His comprehensive explanations provided participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute effectively to the IndOBIS platform. The following topics were covered during the workshop:

1. **Overview of OBIS and IndOBIS:** Introduction to the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and its Indian regional node, IndOBIS. Participants learned about OBIS’s global role as one of the largest repositories of marine species data, containing millions of records from diverse sources.
2. **Introduction of the Ocean Eyes Mobile App:** Aligned with the objective of expanding marine biodiversity documentation, CMLRE introduced the "Ocean Eyes" mobile app

during the workshop. This app is designed to engage citizens in marine biodiversity monitoring by allowing users to record species sightings, log environmental conditions, and upload geotagged photos. The data collected through Ocean Eyes can be integrated with IndOBIS.

3. **Marine Biodiversity Data Management:** A key aspect of the workshop was training participants on best practices in marine biodiversity data management. This interactive session focused on ensuring the quality and consistency of data contributed to IndOBIS, with a particular emphasis on adhering to international standards such as Darwin Core (DwC). Participants were provided with a training manual to familiarize them with biodiversity data standards.
4. **Hands-on Data Publishing:** Participants engaged in practical sessions where they were trained on data entry, cleaning, validation, and publication using the Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT). These hands-on activities equipped them to contribute high-quality, geotagged marine biodiversity data to IndOBIS.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

- **Capacity Building:** Participants were trained on standardized data management techniques, enabling them to contribute to IndOBIS effectively.
- **Collaborative Network:** The workshop facilitated the formation of a network of biodiversity data providers, laying the foundation for continuous data sharing and collaboration.
- **Engagement with OBIS:** Participants expressed interest in publishing data through IndOBIS, contributing to the global repository of marine biodiversity information.

The IndOBIS workshop concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Dr Sherine Sonia Cubelio**. She emphasized the importance of organizing such workshops in raising awareness and building capacity for marine biodiversity data management in India. Dr Cubelio expressed her gratitude to all the participants for their active involvement and encouraged them to contribute their data to strengthen IndOBIS activities. She also invited participants to become part of the IndOBIS network, underscoring the collective role in advancing marine biodiversity research and conservation. At the end of the workshop, Participants visited various facilities at CMLRE.

**Remarks by Secretary, MoES:** Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary of MoES, commended CMLRE for hosting the first IndOBIS workshop. He pointed out the significance of deep-sea biodiversity exploration and conservation under the Deep Ocean Mission, particularly its alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), and underscored its importance in shaping sustainable policies and practices.

**Acknowledgments:**

CMLRE extends its gratitude to the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Director of CMLRE, the workshop coordinators, the supporting team, and all participants for their valuable contributions in making this workshop a success. The event represents a significant step forward in strengthening IndOBIS role in marine biodiversity conservation and data sharing.

**Annexures:**

1. Workshop Agenda (Program Schedule)
2. Photographs from the Event
3. Feedback Summary

## Program Schedule

Workshop on  
**Publishing Marine Biodiversity Data through the Indian Ocean  
Biodiversity Information System (IndOBIS)**

Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)

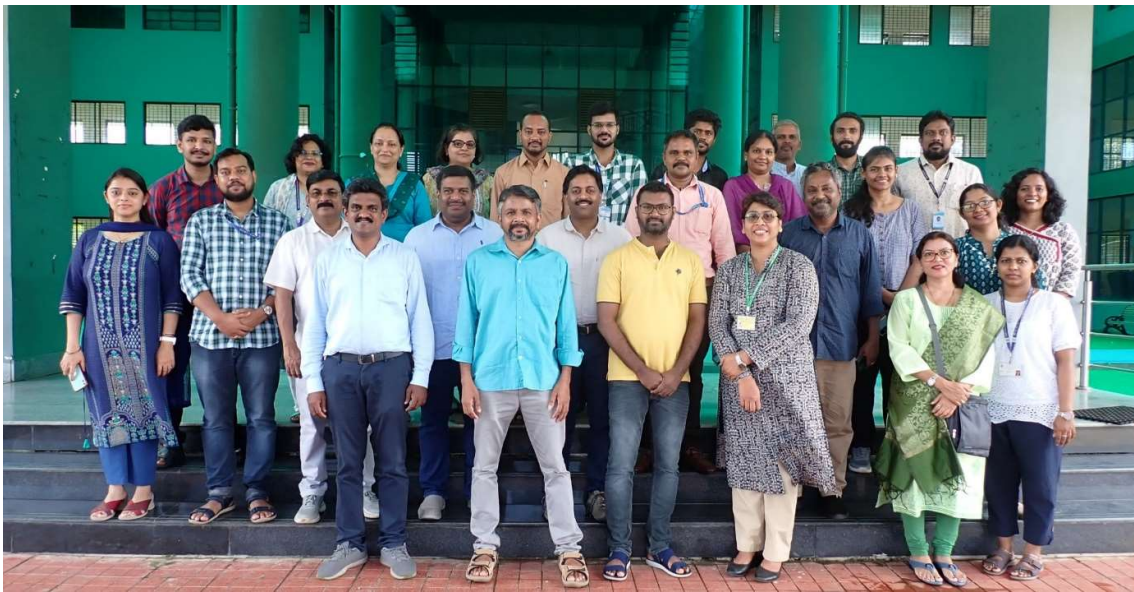
3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

<b>Time (HH:MM)</b>	<b>Session &amp; Title</b>
09:00-09:30 AM	Registration
09:30-09:45 AM	Inauguration at Conference Hall, CMLRE
09:45-10:00 AM	Inaugural Address by Dr G.V.M. Gupta, Director, CMLRE
10:00-10:15 AM	Brief Background of the Workshop
10:15-10:30 AM	Round table introduction with participants
10:30-11:00 AM	Introduction about Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), IndOBIS & OceanEyes Mobile app
11:00-11:15 AM	Tea Break
11:15-11:30 AM	Photo session Infront of CMLRE
11:30-01:30 PM	Training session 1
01:30-02:30 PM	Lunch break
02:30-04:00 PM	Training session 2
04:00-04:20 PM	Tea Break
04:20-04:30 PM	Feedback session
04:30-04:45 PM	Vote of Thanks
04:45-05:30 PM	CMLRE Lab visit

## Annexure 2: Photographs from the Event







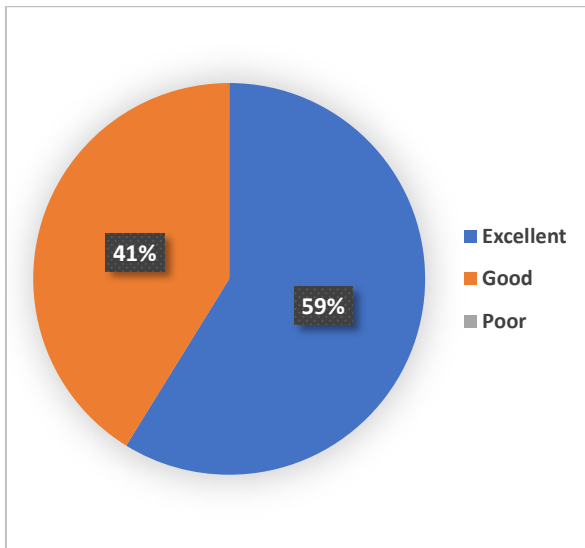




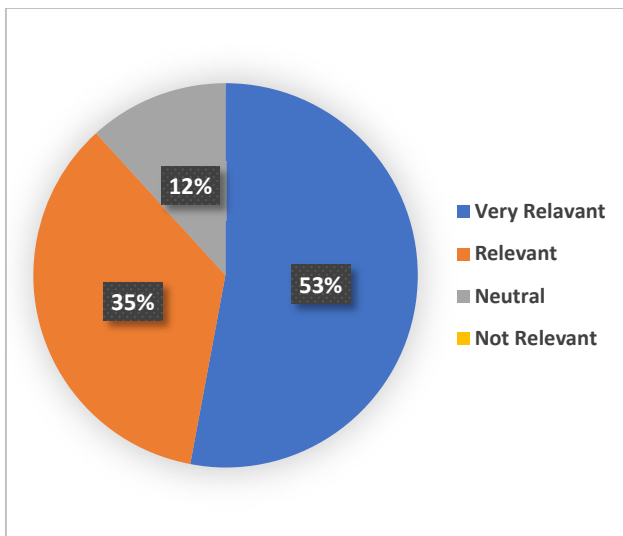
### Annexure 3: Feedback Summary

The feedback has been obtained from the participants on various aspects of the workshop. Few of the notable questions and their responses in pictorial way provided below for future improvements.

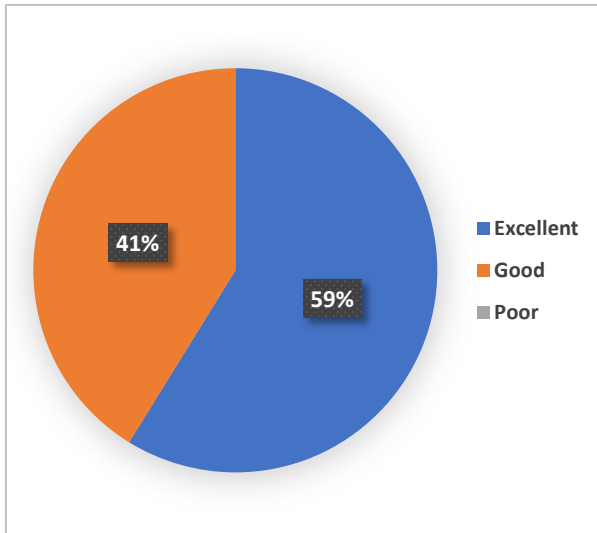
Q1. How would you rate your overall experience at the workshop?



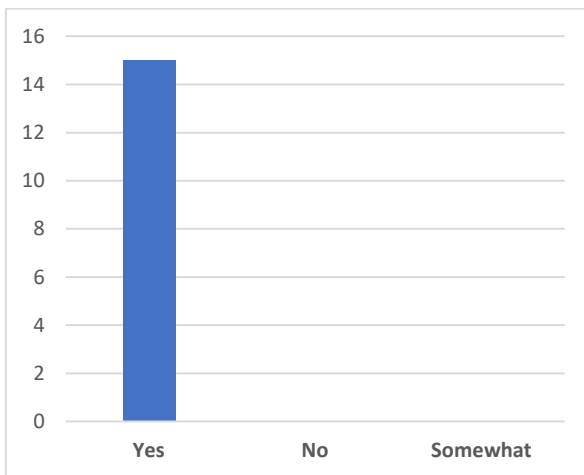
Q2. How relevant was the workshop content to your work or research?



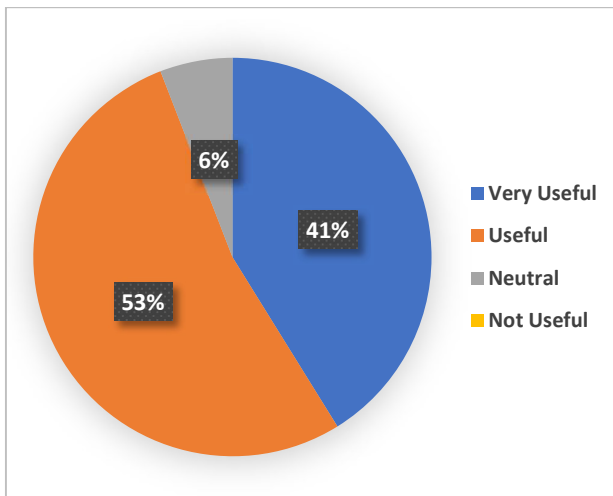
Q3. How would you rate the quality of the presentations and delivery?



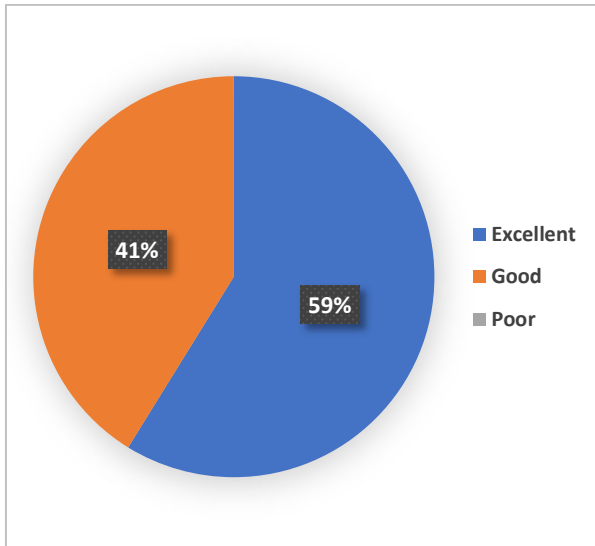
Q4. Were the presenters knowledgeable and engaging?



Q5. How useful were the hands-on sessions for your understanding of the topics?



Q6. How would you rate the organization and logistics of the workshop?



Q7. Were your expectations for the workshop met?

