

18th

SESSION IOCARIBE



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Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

Sub-Commission for the Caribbean
and Adjacent Regions

Subcomisión para el Caribe y
Regiones Adyacentes

OCEAN LITERACY

Joint coordinators

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Brazil**

**Brasilia, Brazil
April 23–25, 2025**



5.2. PROMOTING OCEAN LITERACY

Recognizing that sustainable marine management and effective disaster mitigation depend on an informed public, the countries of the IOCARIBE region endorse ocean literacy programs tailored to different set of stakeholders. IOCARIBE's Ocean Literacy initiative focuses on educating and engaging the Caribbean Region and Latin America populace about the importance of the ocean and its regional seas, its resources, and the necessity for sustainable practices.



Activities

- **Ocean Literacy Working Group Meeting – April. 23 2024**
- **Launch of the Caribbean Ocean Literary Program at the SIDS 4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024**
- **IOCARIBE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (CD-WG) – Meetings on October 18, 2024**
- **IOCARIBE Ocean Literacy Task Team meeting on 15 November 2024**
- **IOCARIBE Blue Schools Network Meeting on 28 Nov. 2024**
- **Training for IOCARIBE Blue Schools Network – 1-3 April 2025**



The workplan for Ocean Literacy includes:

1. Ocean Literacy for the Tourism and Fisheries Sectors in each country;
2. Establishment of an IOCARIBE Region-Wide network of Blue Schools; and
3. Development of a new Blue Curriculum for primary and secondary schools across the Region.



Training for IOCARIBE Blue School Coordinators



13 countries participated, represented by individuals with backgrounds in marine science, education, conservation, community engagement, and policy development—each demonstrating strong commitment and enthusiasm to serve as official Blue Schools coordinators.

Training for IOCARIBE Blue School Coordinators

Curacao April 1-5, 2025

Participants

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features a grid of hexagons. Some hexagons are solid blue, while others contain a photograph of a tropical beach with palm trees, white sand, and blue water.

**Colombia
Jamaica
Barbados
Honduras
Mexico
Venezuela
Trinidad & Tobago
Belize
Aruba
Costa Rica
Brazil
Grenada
Dominica**



Training for IOCARIBE Blue School Coordinators



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Cartagena April 1-3, 2025

Trainers

- Raquel Lorenz Costa
- Camila Keiko Takahashi
- Meghan Marrero
- Paola Diaz Canales
- Lorna Inniss



Main Objectives

- Strengthen regional capacities in Ocean Literacy (OL).
- Introduce the Blue School framework and its global/regional applications.
- Develop context-specific governance and implementation strategies for the Caribbean.
- Foster network-building and experience-sharing among regional school coordinators.



Day 1: Introduction to Ocean Literacy

Foundations of Ocean Literacy presented by Dr. Meghan Marrero.

Role-play activities by sector (e.g., Government, Education, Tourism, NGOs) to build OL strategies.

Key themes: climate justice, educational creativity, stakeholder-specific engagement, and sustainable practices.

Day 2: Blue School Framework and Regional Implementation

Presentation of the Blue School concept and global success stories.

Design of a Caribbean-specific governance structure:

Coordinator nomination and training

Legal frameworks and partnerships with Ministries of Education

Communication strategies and stakeholder mapping

Regional collaboration mechanisms

Day 3: Implementation Tools, Partnerships & Evaluation

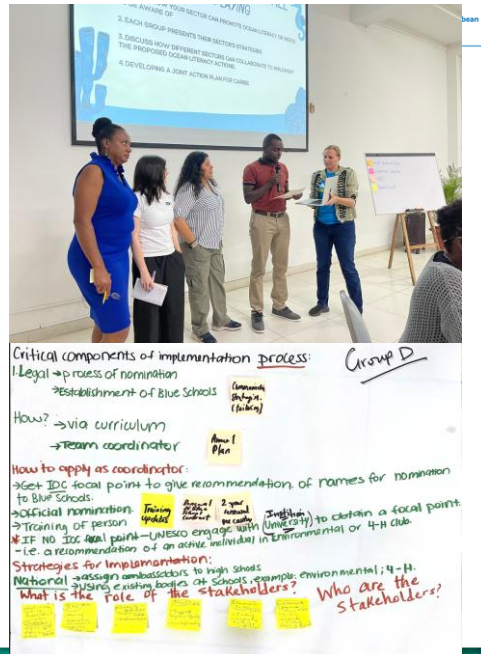
Participants co-developed:

School application forms

MoU templates

Evaluation tools and governance guidelines

Key topics: capacity building, regional branding, recognition strategies, monitoring systems.





Main Results

Governance and Coordination:

Participants explored the structure and functions of regional and national coordination for the Blue Schools Network. It was agreed that national coordinators would lead direct engagement with schools, supported by a regional governance board and an advisory board. The advisory board will focus on policy advocacy, communication, and technical support.

Standard Evaluation Framework:

There was consensus on the need for a shared global evaluation framework, which can be adapted to national contexts. This framework will support consistent assessment of Blue Schools and guide certification and monitoring processes.

Visibility and Identity:

Participants emphasized the importance of school identity and visibility. Suggestions included using digital logos, standardized branding kits, and possibly flags or signs. A regional visual identity was proposed, along with social media templates to foster cohesion.

Recognition and Motivation:

To ensure engagement and sustainability, strategies for recognizing milestones and celebrating achievements were discussed. Caution was advised to avoid fostering unhealthy competition. Proposals included collaborative achievements, highlights of community engagement, and the use of evaluation for motivation.





Main Results

Communication and Advocacy:

Communication strategies should focus on transparency, inclusion, and localized outreach. Ideas such as QR codes, interactive content, storytelling formats, and regional news updates were shared. Participants called for tools to share real-time updates and promote shared learning.

Partnership Mapping and Resource Access:

Groups worked on identifying key partner categories, such as academia, NGOs, media, and private sector actors. Participants agreed on the need for clear criteria for partner selection and mechanisms for collaboration.

Capacity Building and Evaluation:

Ongoing training, peer mentorship, and data-sharing were identified as essential for sustained program quality. A system of regular feedback loops between schools, coordinators, and advisory boards will help track progress and support improvement. Evaluation should measure not only educational outcomes but also community involvement and environmental impact.



Blue Curriculum Development

An opportunity for a regional joint action including High Level engagement



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**THANK YOU
MUCHAS GRACIAS
MERCI BEAUCOUP**

