
Biennial Report EACH-USP Lusophone Hub of the Ocean Decade (2022 - 2024)

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**HUB Lusófono
da Década
do Oceano**



Prof. Dr. Wânia Duleba - EACH-USP

1. Message from the Coordinator

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development aims to promote international cooperation, strengthen knowledge sharing, and consolidate ocean culture worldwide, addressing the challenges of preserving and sustainably using marine resources. However, disparities in access to scientific and technological information about the Ocean represent a critical obstacle to achieving the proposed goals.

In this context, the Lusophone Hub of the Ocean Decade, founded in May 2022 at the School of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities of the University of São Paulo (EACH-USP), **aims to balance unequal access to knowledge and resources among the diverse geographies of Lusophone countries.**

Recognized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), the Hub acts as a bridge

among Lusophone nations, fostering scientific production, technology transfer, and the strengthening of public policies focused on the Ocean.

During the 2022–2024 biennium, the Hub implemented a series of initiatives combining interdisciplinary research, academic mobility, and advocacy. The actions described in this report reflect our commitment to innovative and sustainable solutions to oceanic challenges, always grounded in international collaboration and local community engagement.

These advancements—along with many others detailed in the following pages—represent the fruits of two years of dedication from our team and affiliated researchers. This document is not only a record of activities but also an invitation for more people, institutions, and nations to join this global cause. May the following pages inspire concrete actions and transformative collaborations.

2. About us

The Lusophone Hub of the Ocean Decade is a reference centre for scientific research and interface policies focused on oceanic issues. Affiliated with the **School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities of the University of São Paulo (EACH-USP)** and recognised by the **Ocean Decade of the IOC-UNESCO** and the **Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)**, the Hub plays a strategic role in integrating and strengthening cooperation among Portuguese-speaking countries in scientific, economic, and social dimensions.

The initiative is dedicated to identifying ocean-related challenges through dialogues and data collection with governments, the private sector, and civil society. Based on research conducted by its affiliated researchers, the Hub aims to develop and propose solutions that generate positive social and economic impacts, contributing to the sustainable use and preservation of marine ecosystems.

The Hub is supported by various organizations and institutions from Portuguese-speaking countries, including Brazil, Portugal, and African nations. Its activities are linked to the Postgraduate Programmes in Sustainability and Public Policy Management at USP, with transdisciplinarity as a fundamental pillar of its approach.



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CPLP
Comunidade dos Países
de Língua Portuguesa



**2021
2030** United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



3. How We Work

The Hub operates as a collaborative network, connecting universities, governments, and civil society to create a favourable environment for establishing partnerships and fostering cooperation among researchers, decision-makers, policymakers, and end-users in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Through international collaboration, the Hub seeks to exchange practical experiences, share knowledge, and mutually strengthen initiatives within the framework of the Ocean Decade, encouraging discussions at local, national, and international levels. In this way, we strive to balance disparities in access to knowledge and resources across the various geographies of Lusophone countries.

Our work focuses on three main activities:

Academic Mobility: Promoting academic mobility and institutional partnerships

Ocean and Public Policy Observatory: Conducting research and high socioeconomic impact projects

Scientific Outreach: Publishing and democratizing access to knowledge.



The Lusophone Hub of the Ocean Decade attended on Oceans20 event in Brazil and 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona.




4. Our Partners



The Hub operates as a network, establishing institutional partnerships among universities, researchers representing governments, the private sector, and stakeholders whose research focuses on ocean-related issues in Portuguese-speaking countries. Our network includes strategic partners in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor-Leste, with a focus on transnational projects and the sharing of innovative solutions.

In addition, we maintain interactions with other countries, including Chile, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States, further expanding our reach and potential for collaboration on ocean-related issues.



Universities



Foundations, initiatives and thinktanks



Public sector



5. Academic Mobility

The established academic mobility agreements include several significant partnerships with universities from Lusophone countries.

Currently, a new agreement is under negotiation between EACH-USP and the University of Guinea-Bissau. However, it is worth noting that five official students from Guinea-Bissau are already enrolled in the Postgraduate Programme in Management and Public Policies.

Additionally, the participation of three postgraduate students from Mozambique and three from Angola in the Postgraduate Programme in Sustainability is noteworthy, all of whom are beneficiaries of Brazilian Program for Exchange Students - Undergraduate Level (PEC-G) scholarships. These initiatives not only expand educational opportunities but also foster cultural and academic exchange among Portuguese-speaking countries.



5.1 Celebrated Agreements

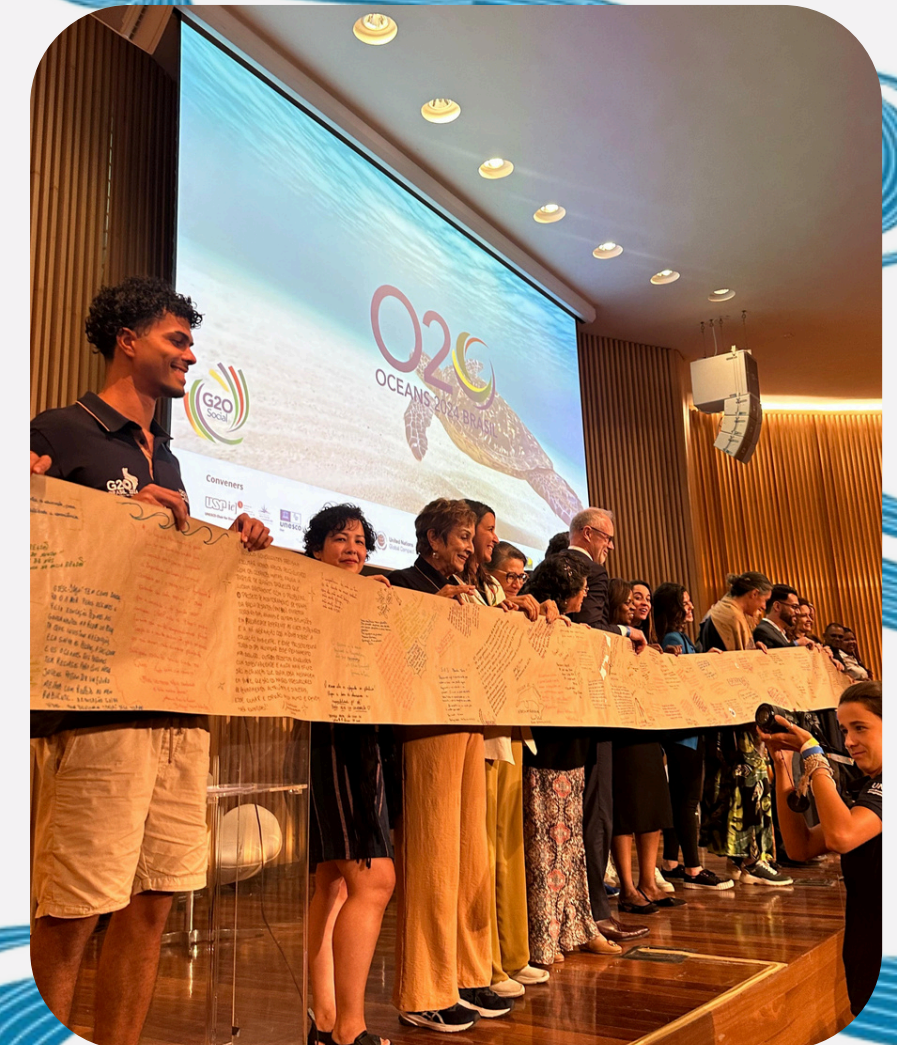
- **EACH-USP and the University of São Tomé and Príncipe:** Hosting a professor in Brazil and sending a USP postgraduate student abroad.
- **EACH-USP and the University of Cape Verde:** Sending five undergraduate students from USP.
- **EACH-USP and the Technical University of the Atlantic:** Agreement signed in 2022, with an exchange scheduled for 2025.
- **EACH-USP and the University of Lisbon:** Hosting a professor twice in Brazil and sending a USP professor abroad.



6. Ocean and Public Policies Observatory

The projects and initiatives carried out under the Ocean and Public Policy Observatory are conducted as a network and consist of three phases: desk research, solution formulation, and implementation.

The Hub aims to develop projects that address local demands for ocean development.



6.1 Advocacy

The Hub promotes the participation of its affiliated researchers in events of national, regional, and international significance to advocate for the adoption of public policies that support ocean sustainability and the blue economy. Hub researchers also contribute through scientific research subsidies for the proposal and development of public policies at the national and international level.

In this regard, the Hub's engagement with the **Cape Verdean Presidency** and the **São Paulo State Legislative Assembly** has been strengthened. The project has already been developed and includes partners for implementation, secured through fundraising efforts.



6.1.1 Advocacy Events

- 107th Session of the Maritime Safety Committee
 - 2023 Meeting of the Oil Pollution Compensation Fund
 - 2024 Ocean Decade Conference
 - 80th IMO MEPC Meeting
 - 81st IMO MEPC Meeting
 - COP 16 on Biodiversity
 - COP 28 of the Paris Agreement
 - G20 Social
 - IHO ABLOS 11th Conference
 - IHO ABLOS Seminar 2024
 - Making Headway on the IMO MASS Code
 - Meetings with parliamentary teams in the São Paulo State Legislature
- Ocean Summit
 - Oceans20
 - The Dubai-Baku-Belém Pathway: Challenges in International Climate Negotiations
 - Urban 20
 - Visit to the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions
 - X Lusophone Law Conference
 - 1st Sea Conference of São Tomé and Príncipe



6.2 Ongoing Projects

Women of Sand: Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Brazil

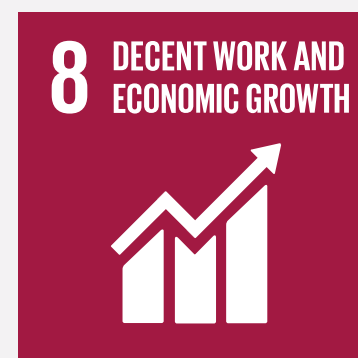
This is an international initiative involving researchers from the University of Lisbon, Cape Verde and USP, aiming to understand the issues related to illegal sand extraction in Cape Verde and develop solutions that promote environmental preservation and the economic empowerment of affected women. The project investigates how illegal sand extraction causes significant environmental damage and socioeconomic impacts. Many families, particularly those led by single women, resort to this practice due to the lack of viable livelihood alternatives. Consequences include coastal erosion, destruction of marine habitats, and severe health problems resulting from poor working conditions. The project seeks to diagnose these issues and implement sustainable strategies to benefit local communities and protect the environment. The project has been developed and is currently in the implementation phase.



Socio-Environmental Education and Business Strategies for Low-Income Coastal Communities

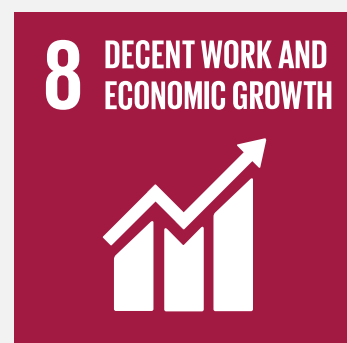
The Ribeira Valley, SW Brazil, is notable for its preservation of subtropical forests and mangroves. It is home to the largest continuous remnant of the Atlantic Forest, recognized by UNESCO in 1999 as a Natural, and Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This region also has the highest concentration of Quilombola communities and Guarani Indigenous peoples in São Paulo, along with various traditional fishermen, and small rural producers. Despite this rich cultural and environmental heritage, the Ribeira Valley faces considerable socio-economic challenges, being one of the poorest areas in São Paulo, resulting in high social vulnerability.

Our project aims to understand the interactions between these communities, the environment, and the financial system, focusing on environmental and financial management. Based on our assessment, we will offer social and environmental entrepreneurship courses to empower participants with skills to develop initiatives that promote economic sustainability for their families while contributing to environmental preservation. The Network and Strategic Partnerships team is currently seeking funding opportunities to implement the pilot project in southeastern Brazil.



Geopolitics and Ocean Security

The initial project aims to foster discussions in the form of seminars on ZOPACAS (Zones of Peace and Cooperation in the South Atlantic) and to strengthen regional cooperation by addressing topics such as the role of SouthComm, the evolution and challenges of ZOPACAS, the analysis of fishing and mining activities, and the monitoring and response to piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. These discussions aim not only to clarify important issues but also to promote regional collaboration for security and sustainable development in the South Atlantic. Policy papers will be developed based on the seminars. The project has been developed and is in the implementation phase, involving specialists from Brazil, Cape Verde (to be confirmed), São Tomé and Príncipe, and Guinea-Bissau (to be confirmed).



Promotion of Blue Technology Use and New Jobs

Through a network approach, the project aims to foster the development of blue technology and capacity building for new jobs in the blue economy. In this context, the Hub has initiated dialogues with international technological development competitions to facilitate the participation of high school students.

Photographic Exhibition on the Interaction Between Oceans and Lusophone Communities

The aim is to promote ocean culture through a photo exhibition focused on how communities and civil society interact with the ocean in Lusophone countries. The emphasis will be on capturing the cultural interaction between people and the ocean, highlighting the importance of the seas in their lives. The Hub has already secured funding for printing the photographs and is currently in the process of receiving donations from artists.



Technological Transfer in Data and Health: Reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates in Lusophone Countries

The pilot project is in the development and desk research phase regarding the situation in São Tomé and Príncipe. Considering that EACH-USP offers Obstetrics courses and that Brazil has lower maternal and infant mortality rates, as well as the fact that at least half of Brazil's population lives in coastal areas, the project aims to identify efficient public and administrative policies that can be replicated to help reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. The Network and Strategic Partnerships is actively seeking opportunities to enable field research.



Blabinha 1.0: A Conversational System for Disseminating Knowledge about the Brazilian Ocean

Blabinha 1.0 is a conversational system implemented on a robot (Robios Go). Its dialogue is designed to disseminate knowledge about the Brazilian ocean to children. Using a gamification strategy, the system engages users in creating a superhero to protect the ocean. As children explore a range of topics with the robot – including marine life, ocean tourism, energy generation, and more – they strengthen their superhero. This application holds significant potential for educational use in schools, engaging audiences at fairs and conferences, and even inspiring extracurricular activities in community projects.

Project developed in partnership with the Knowledge Enhanced Machine Learning group at the Center for Artificial Intelligence at USP and the Social Robotics Laboratory - SoRo Lab.

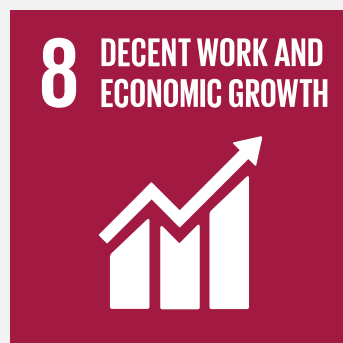
Promotional video (Portuguese only): <https://youtu.be/b1VOV0CCbml>
Full application video (Portuguese only): <https://youtu.be/ed2jqMDMdFE>



International trade of ocean products among Portuguese-speaking countries

The objective of the project is to study the international trade of ocean products among Portuguese-speaking countries through descriptive statistics and trade indicators. Ocean products are defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and consist of a wide range of goods, from seafood to ships. One dimension of the ocean economy is the international trade of marine products and resources, allowing ocean economic activities to expand into global markets and not be restricted domestically.

The results of the research will provide knowledge that will allow for the construction and establishment of public policies regarding the ocean among Portuguese-speaking countries, with access to information, contributing to the enhancement and deepening of studies relating to the trade of ocean products in the literature.



7. Scientific Outreach

The Hub promotes the dissemination of scientific research and the democratisation of access to knowledge through: (i) publications in journals and thematic books; (ii) participation in and organisation of events and capacity-building workshops.

In this context, below is a brief description of the publications, events, and workshops conducted over the past two years.

7.1. Our Publications

Since its creation, the Hub has contributed to the organisation of books through its affiliated researchers, including the book Environmental Diplomacy, which was a finalist for the Jabuti Prize.

Additionally, through its affiliated researchers, the Hub has promoted the publication of book chapters and scientific articles, covering topics ranging from microplastic pollution and its relationship with the clothes we wash to texts on the protection and conservation of whales as assets of Brazilian environmental diplomacy.



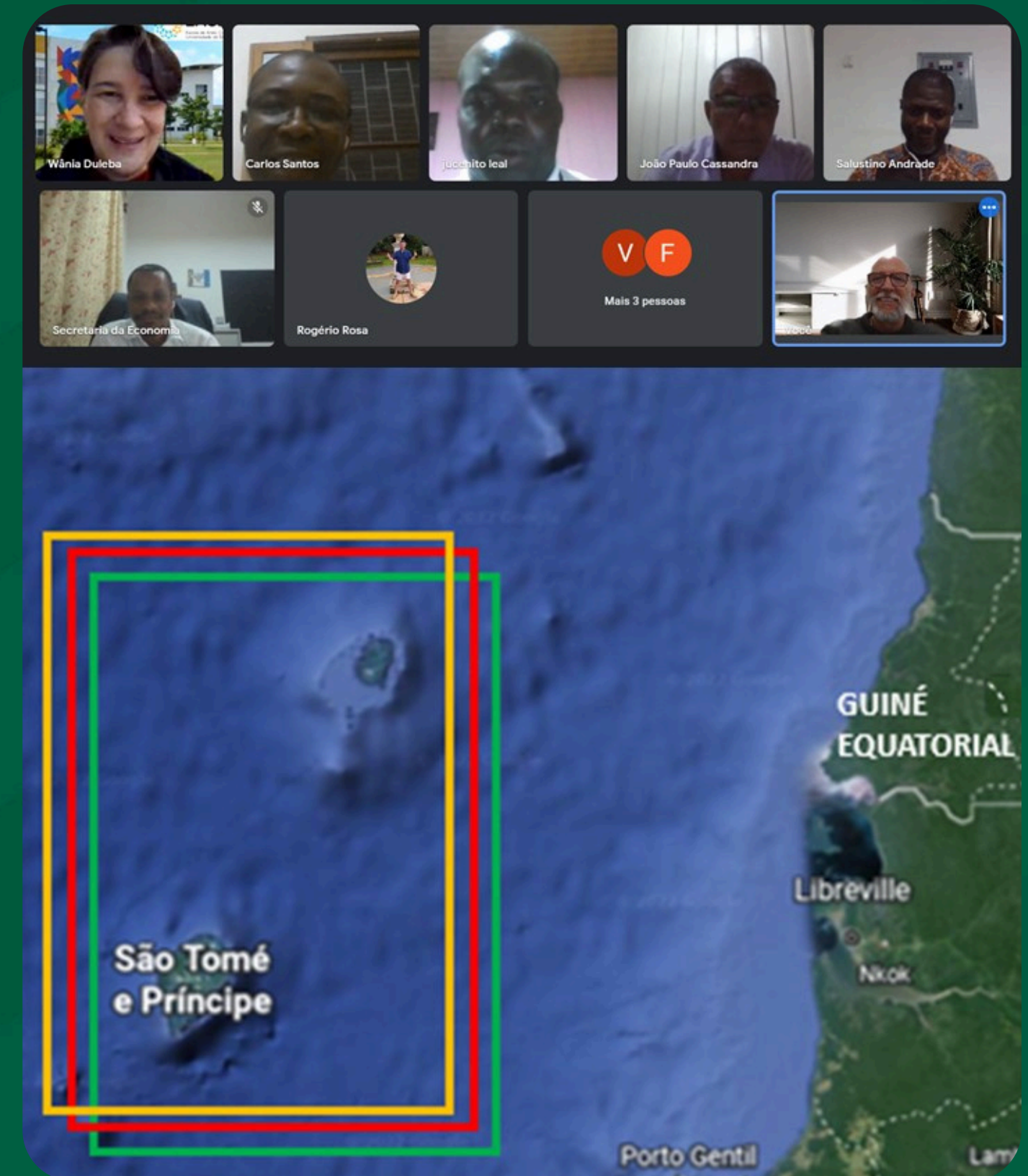
7.2. Events and Workshops

The following is a brief summary of some events and workshops organised by the Hub or in which our researchers participated, presenting the research conducted.

7.2.1. Training Course in Coastal and Marine Management and Governance

The training course in Coastal and Marine Management and Governance is an initiative coordinated by the University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI) and the Lusophone Hub, in partnership with the University of São Tomé and Príncipe.

The course's main objective is to train teachers, policymakers, and professionals from São Tomé and Príncipe, promoting qualified action in the field of Coastal Management and contributing to the sustainable development of the region.



7.2.2 Brazil-Portugal Seminar on the Undergraduate courses in Management and Public Administration

The Brazil-Portugal Seminar on the Undergraduate courses of Management and Public Administration took place on 30 June 2022, and was organized by Lab Gov and supported by the Hub. The event's main goal was to present the opportunities and efforts needed to study in Brazil and Portugal, highlighting scholarships opportunities. The initiative aimed to foster academic mobility and educational cooperation between Brazil and Portugal, contributing to the development of well-qualified future professionals in Administration and Public Management.

7.2.3 Brazil-Timor-Leste Seminar on Undergraduate courses in Administration/Public Management

The Brazil-Timor-Leste Seminar on Undergraduate Studies in Administration/Public Management was held on 31 May 2022, organised by Lab Gov with the support of the Hub. The main objective of the event was to guide undergraduate students on how to prepare for studies in both countries, highlighting the available scholarship opportunities. The initiative aimed to promote academic exchange and strengthen educational cooperation between Brazil and Timor-Leste, contributing to the development of highly skilled future professionals in the fields of Administration and Public Management.



7.2.4 ABLOS 11th Conference 2024 - International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

The 11th ABLOS Conference, held on 11–12 October 2024 at the IHO headquarters in Monaco, focused on legal and scientific topics under the theme of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030). During the conference, associate researchers presented findings on Brazil's international responsibility concerning potential environmental damage arising from the exploration of the Amazon River Basin. The study, which originated from a request initially submitted by BP Energy do Brasil Ltda and later transferred to Petrobras, was published as a chapter in a Portuguese-language book.

The research aimed to identify international norms applicable to the region, particularly its proximity to French Guiana, and to assess the potential international consequences of environmental damage. It highlighted risks such as violations of Part XII of UNCLOS and diplomatic challenges, particularly with French Guiana. The study emphasised the importance of prioritising long-term social, environmental, and diplomatic considerations alongside immediate economic benefits, calling for comprehensive environmental assessments and enhanced international cooperation.



7.2.5. Ocean Decade Conference 2024

Between 9 and 12 April 2024, the Hub participated in the Ocean Decade Conference 2024, held in Barcelona. The event brought together representatives from governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector to discuss actions and solutions related to ocean science for sustainable development.

Our associate researchers participated in panels on topics such as ocean governance and the importance of public policies for marine conservation. The conference provided an opportunity to strengthen the Hub's commitment to promoting ocean culture and developing the blue economy, aligned with the objectives of the Ocean Decade.

During the conference, the Hub contributed to discussions on international cooperation in ocean science and the implementation of measures to address global ocean challenges. The Hub's participation reinforced the importance of collaboration among Lusophone countries and the promotion of sustainable solutions for the use of ocean resources.



7.2.6. Ocean Literacy and Marine Science Partnerships for Global Cooperation: The Hub's Event during the 2024 Ocean Conference

On April 9th, in partnership with the Asia Marine Educators Association (AMEA) and the Latin American Network for Ocean Education (RELATO), the Hub hosted the satellite event of the UN Ocean Decade Conference: "Ocean Literacy and Marine Science Partnerships for Global Cooperation."

The seminar was divided into two parts. The first focused on introducing the organisers and discussing regional cooperation and best practices in ocean science. The second addressed youth engagement and the creation of public awareness regarding the challenges of the Ocean Decade.

The event provided a significant discussion on the challenges faced by Portuguese-speaking, Latin American, and Asian countries. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Marina Silva, praised the relevance of the event and highlighted the prominence of ocean issues in the G20 discussions, scheduled for November of that year. The First Lady of Cape Verde, Débora Katisa, shared the challenges faced by her country. Professor Salustino Andrade emphasised the importance of events like this to foster dialogue and highlight the challenges faced by island states, such as São Tomé and Príncipe.

AMEA President, Professor Tsuyoshi Sasaki, discussed the theme of ocean culture and shared aspects of AMEA's work to promote it in Asian countries. Daniela Hill, director of the organisation Amiguitos dos Oceanos, also shared her experience in promoting ocean culture, emphasising the perspective of Latin American countries.

In the youth panel, messages of optimism for the future and the need for greater inclusion in activities under the Ocean Decade were highlighted.




The event was streamed live and is available in full on the **YouTube** page of EACH/USP:

 https://youtu.be/ss2PZqRU7vQ_

7.2.7. Climate Change and the Ocean - Event The Dubai-Baku-Belém Pathway: Challenges in International Climate Negotiations

The event aimed to bring together federal government authorities, civil society representatives, academics, and private and non-governmental sector organisations to analyse the challenges associated with climate change and Brazil's role in preparation for the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Held in Brasília on September 16th and 17th, 2024, the event discussed topics such as mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, the climate-ocean nexus, just transitions/climate justice, among others.

Organised by the Institute of International Relations and Foreign Trade (IRICE), the University of São Paulo, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lusophone Hub of the Ocean Decade played a significant role in overall coordination and the ocean issues panel. The outcomes of the event were compiled into policy papers, which were submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE) before the Brazilian diplomatic delegation's departure for COP 29. The official publication of these documents is scheduled for the end of December 2024. These papers will provide practical recommendations to support Brazil's position in the upcoming climate negotiations and reinforce the country's commitment to ocean and environmental sustainability.

 **Media coverage:** <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/colunas/maria-herminia-tavares/2024/09/sob-a-fumaca-algo-bom-para-o-clima.shtml>

7.2.8. G20

On 14, 15 and 16 November 2024, the Hub participated in the G20 Social Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro. The event brought together global leaders, civil society organisations and the general public to discuss and propose solutions focused on sustainable development.

On Friday (15th), the Hub participated in the U20 Rio Summit, a meeting of the Urban 20 (U20), a G20 engagement group focused on urban issues. The Hub followed the panels led by the Brazilian Centre for International Relations (CEBRI), which addressed topics such as governance, urban resilience and sustainable development, reinforcing the importance of cities in the field of environmental diplomacy.

On Saturday (16th), we participated in the Ocean Summit, promoted by Oceans 20 (O20), an engagement group that aims to promote sustainable ocean management and the blue economy and is supported by the Lusophone Hub. During the event, the O20 presented a final document to G20 leaders with strategic proposals and recommendations highlighting, among the priority points, the importance of promoting a fair and equitable ocean economy.

In addition to sending researchers associated with the Hub to participate in the event, the Hub was also an official partner of the Ocean Summit and the Ocean Dialogues, having facilitated the participation of researchers and civil society representatives from South Africa in the events. With its participation in the G20, the Lusophone Hub reaffirms its commitment to fostering ocean culture and remains engaged in contributing to concrete advances in the blue economy.



8. Meet Our Team

General coordination

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Network and Strategic Partnerships

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Prof. Dr. Tânia Pereira Christopoulos (University of São Paulo, Brazil)

José Luiz Moutinho (Foundation to Support International Deep Ocean Discovery, Saudi Arabia)

Project Management and Advocacy

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Milena Maltese Zuffo (University of São Paulo, Brazil)

Isabela D. Marques (Institute of International Relations and Foreign Trade, Brazil)

Prof. Dr. Marcus Polette (University of Vale do Itajaí, Brazil)

Scientific Internationalization

Prof. Dr. Silvio Y. M. Miyazaki (University of São Paulo, Brazil)

Prof. Dr. Salustino David dos Santos Andrade (University of São Tomé and Príncipe, São Tomé and Príncipe)

Prof. Dr. João Morais Mourato (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal)

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Emily Cabral da Silva Santos (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Farhat-Un-Nisá Bajwa (University of Algarve, Portugal)

Susana Catita (Centro Ciência LP, Portugal)

Biosfera (Cabo Verde)

Tommy Melo

Fundo de Desenvolvimento da Economia Azul (ProAzul) – Moçambique

Dr. Miguel Micas Langa

Institute of International Relations and Foreign Trade (Brazil)

Embaixador Rubens Barbosa

Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies (USA)

Prof. Ângelo Barbosa

Agostinho Neto University (Angola)

Prof. Dr. Miguel Morais

University of Lisbon (Portugal)

Prof. Dr. João Morais Mourato

Prof. Dr. Manuel Ennes Ferreira

University of São Paulo (Brazil)

Prof. Dr. Alexander Turra

Prof. Dr. Arthur R. Capella Giannattasio

Prof. Dr. Fernando de Souza Coelho

Prof. Dr. Andrea Lucchesi

Prof. Dr. Claudia Perrone Moisés

Prof. Dr. Cynthia H. W. Correa

Prof. Dr. Patricia Maria Emerenciano de Mendonça

Prof. Dr. Renata Mirandola Bichir

Prof. Dr. Sarajane Marques Peres

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Prof. Dr. Maria Virginia Alves Martins

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Prof. Dr. Marcelo Rollnic

Prof. Dr. Edna Ferreira Alencar

Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Prof. Dr. Alexandre Jeronimo de Freitas

Prof. Dr. Lamounier Erthal Villela

Technical University of the Atlantic (Cape Verde)

Prof. Dr. Rui Freitas



HUB Lusófono da Década do Oceano

