



IGCC NEWSLETTER



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Edition

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ANGOLA - BENIN - CAMEROON - CONGO - CÔTE D'IVOIRE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GABON - GHANA - GUINEA - GUINEA BISSAU - LIBERIA - NIGERIA - SAO TOME & PRINCIPE - SIERRA LEONE - TOGO

FROM THE EDITOR

The Executive Secretariat of the Interim Guinea Current Commission extend their warm greetings and best wishes for the year 2008 to our esteemed readers.

This edition and subsequent ones of the IGCC Newsletter will feature activities in the sixteen project Countries.

The Newsletters will also highlight implementation of the six ongoing national demonstration projects (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon).

5TH SESSION OF CECAF SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE MOROCCO, 4 - 6 DECEMBER 2007

The Fifth Session of the Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) was held in Casablanca, Morocco from 4 to 6 December, 2007, hosted by the National Fisheries Research Institute (INRH) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Fisheries. Mr. Samuel Quatey, Deputy Director (Marine Research) of the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) who represented Ghana also represented the interest of IGCC/GCLME in his capacity as the National Fisheries Expert of the IGCC/GCLME. Mr Quatey who is also the Chairman of the Small Pelagics South Working Group (Guinea Bissau - Angola), presented the results of assessment done by the Group at the Session and activities undertaken by the IGCC/GCLME during the intersession.

The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project was presented by Mr. Quatey. He also presented the activities undertaken by the Project during the intersession period to the Sub-Committee. Mr. Quatey briefly described the Project's objectives and collaboration activities with FAO on fisheries resources surveys and related activities.



L-R: Mr. Mendy from Gambia, Mr. Quatey from Ghana and Mr. S. Traore from Guinea Conakry.

In the Area of Management of Fishery Resources, the Project has developed a template Management Plan for Small Pelagic Fishery, Demersal Fishery and Shrimp Fishery. The Project has also funded two Sub-Regional Workshops on the Management of the Shared Sardinella stocks off Gabon - Angola.



Mr. Quatey during his presentation.



As a way of Building Capacity of local scientists, the Project organized a series of workshops for scientists in the region. The Scientific Sub-Committee was informed that at the Ministerial Meeting of the Project in December 2006 it was agreed to transform the Project into the Interim Guinea Current Commission and create Advisory Bodies.

Plans of activities for 2008 of the Project include Training Workshop on Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management using EwE software, Workshop on Management of the Shared Sardinella stocks off Gabon - Angola, Survey Data Analysis in collaboration with FAO and EAF-Nansen Project.

According to Mr. Quatey, the fifth Session of CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee was a success. It is clear from the assessments done by the various Working Groups that most of the fishery stocks in the CECAF Region are either overexploited or fully exploited. There is therefore the need for implementation of recommended management measures for a recovery of the overexploited fishery resources. The Meeting offered the opportunity to know the activity of projects in the CECAF Region and to foster linkages between projects to avoid duplication of activities. There was also the need for the various sub-regional fisherybodies in the region to collaborate.

**IMO WORKSHOP ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING
POINTE NOIRE, CONGO, 10 - 14 DEC. 2007.**

A Regional Workshop on Contingency Planning was organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in Pointe Noire, Congo from 10-14 December, 2007. Dr. Jacques Abe, Environment Scientist at the Executive Secretariat represented the project. During the workshop, the achievements under the 5 broad Modules of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project were presented.



L-R: Mrs. Ichola Rihanath Olga from Benin and Dr. J. Abe of GCLME during a group working session .



L-R: Mr. M. Thiam, Tech. Off., Marine Env. Division of IMO, M. Redo Tihote from Gunie Bissau and M. Martin Dibi from Cote d'Ivoire.



standing from left is Philippe de Susanne of IPIECA responding to a question from Mr. Idris Olubola Musa

REPORTING FROM GHANA



MAMSCO Environmental Consortium Ltd., Ghana was selected to begin the seminal actions that will lead to the practical implementation of Ghana's

Demonstration project. They have been awarded a subcontract entitled "Definition of the Waste Stock Exchange Management System in Ghana".

Field Visit on Evaluation of Possibilities for Aquaculture Development in the Ghana Central Region.

On 11 February, 2007, Hon. Steven Asamoah Boateng, the then Minister of Local Government and Environment, together with Hon. R. Quainoo Arthur, the District Chief Executive Officer of the Mfantseman District Assembly, Prof. Chidi Ibe and other experts visited some sites in the Central Region for evaluation for the possibility of aquaculture development. At the end of the meeting several recommendations were suggested by the technical team.

Visit to FAO, Rome, by Hon. Daniel Dugan: Deputy Minister for Fisheries

From 29 May 2007 the Deputy Minister for Fisheries paid a courtesy visit to FAO on the account of UNIDO to bring finality to discussions in Abuja in September 2006 on the advisability or otherwise of the establishment of a sub-commission on Fisheries for IGCC as well as discuss expanded programmatic cooperation between the FAO and IGCC in the areas of natural resources management. During his visit he met several officials of the FAO to deliberate on issues concerned with fisheries of the GCLME region.

Liaising with members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee with a view to promoting an integrated approach in project management:

Periodic contacts were made with members of the inter-ministerial committee on issues concerning the organization of National workshops and Project related activities.

With the appointment of the new National Director, Mr. Rudolph Sandy Kuuzegh, an Adhoc Committee meeting was held on 7th August 2007 at the Environment Sector of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment. The Agenda for the meeting included;

1. Introduction of the new National Project Director to members
2. Discussion on the reconstitution of the National Steering Committee

3. National Demonstration Project and
4. MAMSCO's Activities

Maintaining contact with Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations including organized/informal private sector to facilitate their involvement in project activities:

Contacts were made with relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations during the reporting period. The Regional and National Workshops offered the grounds for the National Office to establish contacts with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the country.

Relationships between Non-Governmental Organizations such as Friends of the Earth, City 2000 Youth Action International, Labone Youth Association and the National Project Office were strengthened through their participation in National Consultations on Project issues. The Second Regional Training Workshop for NGOs on Integrated and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Areas, in March this year also enlightened NGO's on the opportunities existing in connection with participation in the programmes and projects of the integrated management of the resources, which will be initiated in several African countries.

Participation in Regional Workshops and Meetings organized within Reporting Period

There has been active participation by Ghanaians in all the regional and national workshops and meetings held since the implementation period of the project.

Local organization of project related Conferences/ Workshops/ Seminars/Symposia in the country of appointment

Two National Workshops and eleven Regional Workshops and meetings were organized in Accra. The National Workshops were as follows:

National Workshop on Coastal Zone Planning & Management 16th - 17th November 2006, International Conference Centre, Accra

The Objectives were as follows:

At the national level;

- (1) Review of issues in coastal zone management in Ghana and update them,
- (2) Identify what needs to be managed differently through planning at the national level,
- (3) Update the 1998 CZM Draft Plan for Ghana and provide a national implementation schedule, and
- (4) Explore the most appropriate governance mechanism for the coastal zone.

At the district level;

- (5) Identify coastal zone planning and implementation hurdles and bottlenecks at the District level,
- (6) Identify priority concerns of the Districts and prepare a generic District level coastal management plan,
- (7) Identify and provide sustainable funding mechanisms for projects in the coastal zone at the district level.

The Outcomes were:

- (1) the Update and Adoption of a National Coastal Management Plan,
- (2) Recommendation of Appropriate Overriding Governance Strategy for the Coastal Zone,
- (3) Integrated Coastal Management Plans into Local Government,
- (4) identification of Projects and Provision of sustainable Funding Mechanisms at National and District levels.

National Consultation on Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and Validation of Draft National Programme of Action

The principal objective of the National Consultations was to tease out strategic elements of the various National Plans to

be considered for integration into the regional SAP (where this has not already been done). In particular, it is hoped that such strategic elements will be presented as costed investment opportunities for inclusion in the investment portfolios that will be brought to the attention of international stakeholders and development partners during the Donors' Conference which is expected to be hosted by the African Development Bank in 2008.

The Outcomes were as follows :

1. Organization of a National Consultation Meeting
2. An Improved National SAP
3. Stakeholders sensitized on the issues in the National SAP, and
4. Draft National Programme of Action Document Validated.

Signing of Regional Strategic Action

The New Minister for Local Government, Hon. Adjei Darko, also in charge of Environment signed the SAP Document on 6th September 2007. The Finalized SAP is a negotiated policy document which describes policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments needed to address the priority problems of a transboundary nature identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the GCLME Region.

Press Briefing on Environmental Issues

The former Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment gave a Press Briefing which highlighted issues such as

- Waste Stock Exchange Management System (WSEMS) in Ghana
- Control of Land Based Activities causing the pollution of the coastal and marine environment.
- Integrated Coastal Areas Management
- The role of IGCC in the protection of the Environment within the region.