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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования
науки и культуры

• Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

• Commission
océanographique
intergouvernementale

• Comisión
Oceanográfica
Intergubernamental

• Межправительственная
океанографическая
комиссия

IOC's Sub Commission for Africa & the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA)

Prof Mohamed Said, IOCAFRICA Chair
Report on IOCAFRICA - VI

Fifth Session of IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA-V)

Dates: 25-27 March 2019

Nairobi, Kenya

Participants: 45 participants representing 22 member states and other partners

IOCAFRICA-V Recommendations

1. Pan African Conference on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2020, Egypt (In progress. High level meetings in Egypt)
2. Establishment of IOCAFRICA Strategic Planning Group (Done)
3. Revival and Reactivation of GOOS-AFRICA (Done)
4. IOCAFRICA work programme for 2019-2021 (Good progress)



Ocean Observations and Monitoring

- ✓ Survey of status of Ocean Observations and proposals for strengthening Ocean and Coastal observations along the Africa Coasts
- ✓ GOOS Africa (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, Dec 2019) identified opportunities for collaboration + **GOOS AFRICA Webinar (08th June 2021)**
- ✓ Two meetings of the Regional Alliances for the Global Ocean Observing System to review the impacts of COVID-19 on ocean observations.
- ✓ Organize events to mark World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November 2020 for African with UNDRRR, and for Nigeria with NIOMR and national commission for UNESCO.
- ✓ Publication of tsunami awareness manual to Kiswahili with UNDRR



- ✓ **Moving forward: Additional Joint oceanographic cruises??**
- ✓ Training on modeling postponed, training on data analysis with FAO/Nansen programme to move online.
- ✓ Collaboration:
 - WMO regional offices (Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abuja and Dakar)
 - Joint initiatives with ECMWF Climate Copernicus, OCP in West Africa

Ocean Sciences and Assessments

- ✓ Ongoing preparation of policy briefs on climate change adaptation in coastal zones focusing on (i) Sea Level Rise and implications, (ii) Marine Ecosystems and Dependent Communities, (iii) Extremes, Abrupt Changes and Managing Risks and (iv) Climate Change & Ocean Economy
- ✓ Canary Current Eastern Boundary Current upwelling system (10-13 March 2020, St Vincent Island, Cape Verde).
- ✓ Regional framework on responding to transboundary impacts of climate change in the Western Indian Ocean Islands (with other UN agencies)
- ✓ Seaweed Sargassum workshops: Collaboration with UNEP and IOCARIBE on development of Sargassum Information Hub
- ✓ Harmful Algal Bloom proposal developed and approved
- ✓ Ocean Acidification proposal developed and approved.
- ✓ Global Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (Seabed2030), Regional workshop on Sea Floor Mapping in Africa with Seabed2030.
- ✓ National marine spatial workshops (including environmental pressures that impact on MSP and decision support tools) in Cameroun, Cape Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, and Tanzania.
- ✓ Regional MSP workshops for Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Guinea regions.



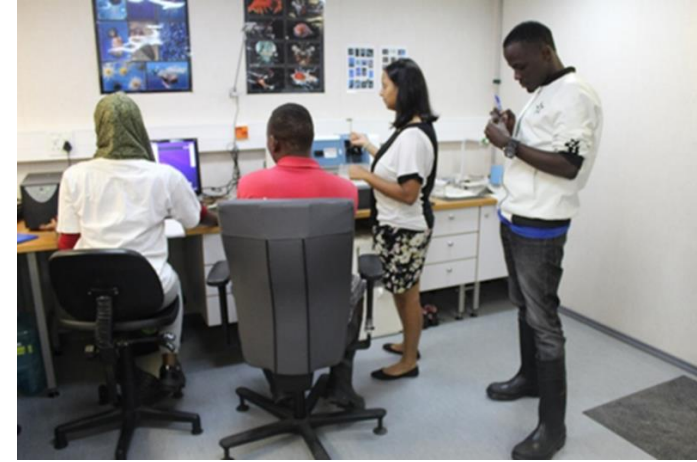
A screenshot of the Modern Ghana website. The main headline reads "UNESCO-IOC supports a workshop on Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Blue Economy Development in Ghana". Below the headline is a photograph of a group of people, including officials and workshop participants, standing together for a group photo. The article text below the photo defines Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives. It also mentions that although the adoption of the MSP concept has increased worldwide, some regions and countries still need support to adopt or fully implement it. The website header includes the Modern Ghana logo, navigation menus for various news categories, and a search bar.

Ocean Data and Information Management

- ✓ Development of the regional node for the Ocean Information Hub: regional stakeholders meeting, bilateral consultation with partners and engaging experts to work on the technical development of the regional portal.: bilateral meetings with UNEP (Abidjan, Nairobi Conventions), IUCN, CORDIO, IGAD, UNECA, AUC (GMES), WIOMSA. Establishment of thematic technical teams.
- Experts and institutions/organizations, Documents, Spatial data and maps, Research vessels, Education and training opportunities, marine related Projects
- ✓ Redevelopment of the portal for the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa to serve as the IOCAFRIKA contribution to the Ocean Information Hub (www.odinafrica.org)
- ✓ Update of directories and databases ongoing (Experts and institutions, Marine related publications, Marine related projects database, **Training and funding opportunities in Africa**)
- ✓ Interoperability projects with IUCN, UNEP, CORDIO and WIOMSA.

Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology

- ✓ Regional Training on Marine GIS (28 Oct – 1 Nov 2019, Mombasa, Kenya).
- ✓ Grants to 4 post graduate students from Madagascar to participate in relevant conferences and present their work (in Seychelles, Egypt & Spain).
- ✓ Designation of Regional Training Centres for the new phase of the Ocean Teacher Academy programme: University of Ghana, Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique) and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute to host the regional training centres.



- ✓ Preparation of materials for online training for the regional training course: Oceanography Training Manual for the Western Indian Ocean
- ✓ Development of a portal on training opportunities in Africa
- ✓ Capacity assessment, based on the updated OceanExperts database (with more than 1,000 records from Africa) and focusing on the following: (i) statistics on nationality, gender, qualifications, fields of specialization, (ii) identification of gaps in capacity, (iii) identification of capacity development needs and available facilities & infrastructure in the region.

IOCAFRICA Governance and Coordination

- ✓ Organization of regional consultations and codesign workshops for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: input provided for the Implementation Plan for the Decade approved by UNGA on 31 Dec 2020.
- ✓ Revamp IOCAFRICA website online at www.ioc-Africa.org to be moved to the IOC/UNESCO servers inline with the UNESCO online presence guidelines.
- ✓ Development of IOCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2022-2029 commenced with two meetings of experts and IOCAFRICA Officers
- ✓ Information on relevant regional and national frameworks, policies and legislation collected & availed online
- ✓ Regional Underwater Cultural Heritage workshop (Windhoek, Namibia)
- ✓ Information on relevant regional and national frameworks, policies and legislation collected & availed online.
- ✓ Early career scientists webinar on World Oceans Day with WIOMSA on 7 June 2020
- ✓ Organization of Sixth Session of IOCAFRICA (13-15 April 2021)



Sixth Session of IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA-VI)

Dates: 13-15 April 2021

Venue: Online

Participants: 75 participants representing 23 member states and other partners

IOCAFRICA-VI Recommendations:

1. Establishment of a Regional Planning Group for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
2. Extension of the mandate of the IOCAFRICA Strategic Planning Group
3. Strengthening Collaboration with the African Union Commission.
4. IOCAFRICA work programme for 2021-2023.



IOCAFRICA WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2023

- **Ocean Observations and Data and Information Management:** reinforcing ocean observations; optimizing the sharing, exchange and common utilization of marine equipment, including joint research cruises and expeditions; reactivation of ODINAFRICA network and portals to provide access to ocean data and information from Africa, further development of coastal and marine atlases and the African register of marine species
- **Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology and Ocean Literacy:** comprehensive survey of capacities available; development of portal on training facilities and opportunities in the region; organization of training activities using OTGA regional centres, UNESCO Chairs and Centres of Excellence; ocean literacy and awareness activities, and supporting the regional kick-Off Conference for the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development.
- **Ocean Sciences and its Application to Management:** Assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems in Africa; Vulnerability and adaptation of Africa's marine and coastal ecosystems to climate change ; Building capacity for ocean acidification research and observation and detection and early warning for HAB ; Survey of and assessment of marine pollution; Marine Spatial Planning; Preparation of policy briefs on relevant goals of Agenda 2063, 2030 and the Ocean Decade (2021-2030)



UNESCO



IOC

Other Issues addressed.

- ✓ Supported establishment of IOCINDIO sub commission comprising current member states of the Regional Committee for IOCINDIO. The Sub Commission proposed the establishment of an inter-regional Committee bringing together IOCAFRICA, IOC-WESTPAC and IOCINDIO which will act as a mechanism to develop and coordinate basin-wide programmes for the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ NORAD funded projects on: (i) development of portal for training opportunities, and (ii) developing capacities for Ocean Acidification and Harmful Algal Bloom research.
- ✓ **Pan African Conference on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, Egypt (December 2021)**
- ✓ **Development of activities on the UN Decade for Africa**
 - Improved staffing levels**
 - Programme Assistant: Ocean Information Hub from April 2020 (**END December 2021**)
 - Programme Assistant: Training Opportunities portal (+MSP+Atlases) from June 2021 (**END January 2022**)
 - Programme Assistant: SIDS and Ocean Decade programmes from June/July 2021 (**END December 2022**)
 - Consultant: NORAD funded programmes from August 2021 (**END June 2022**)



In Memory of



Dr John Bemiasa (Madagascar, –2021)



Oceanographer and GIS specialist, professor at the "Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines" in Tuléar, Madagascar, John was instrumental to the establishment of the Madagascar National Oceanographic Data Center in 2000.

In fact John was closely involved in Ocean RECOSEC-WIO (1989), the Regional Cooperation in Scientific Information Exchange in the Western Indian , ODINAFRICA, Oceanographic Data and Information Networks for Eastern Africa and Africa, the African Coastal and Marine Atlas and since 2020, the Ocean InfoHub Africa project.

For over 30 years John has been a driving force in IODE's activities in Eastern Africa and a respected member of the IODE family. But John will also be remembered for being a kind and warm person and colleague to work with.