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Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

**6th SESSION
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
(GE-CD-VI)**

Ibukun Adewumi – Head, IOCAFRICA Secretariat – 22nd Oct. 2024

IOC CD Strategy Outputs and Activities

Output	Activity	Action	Relevant Programmes/Actions Taken
1. Human resources developed at individual and institutional levels	1.1 Academic and higher education	1.1.1 Promote and assist with the strengthening and establishment of consortia of higher education and research institutions at the appropriate geographical scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the establishment of a network ocean research institutions/universities in Africa ○ Utilizing the case of WIOMSA, initiate discussions for the establishment of an Ocean Science network in West Africa.
		1.1.2 Promote collaboration between UNESCO Chairs and IOC, and between IOC and other organisations dealing with ocean matters on human resources development	Support the Strengthening of the GOOS Africa coordination office at CURAT, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
	1.2 Continuous professional development	1.2.1 Promote and assist with the organisation of training courses, workshops and “summer schools”, relevant to the IOC mandate, including training of trainers/technicians and executive career development for institutional managers/decision makers, in collaboration with other organisations	<p>We are providing training workshops on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote sensing marine applications - Data acquisition, data processing, interpretation, and data archiving (2 trainings) - eDNA for marine biology - Marine spatial planning in Comoros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are currently in talks with COESSING about the potential for collaboration on organising a summer school in Kenya in 2025. ○ Additionally, we are looking forward to actively participating in the WIOMSA 2025 symposium. Furthermore, we are working with a partner to coordinate and organise a summer school specifically aimed at francophone countries in West Africa.
		1.2.2 Establish, or collaborate with other organisations to develop internship/fellowship and on-board training programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oceanography survey (travel support for participants to join oceanographic expeditions on South Africa and Nigeria research vessels) ○ A partnership discussion with GEOMAR is currently underway for the FUTURO project. This initiative aims to offer fellowship and scholarship opportunities to students from West Africa. ○ We are currently discussing a potential partnership with the Center for Sustainable Development Reform at the University of New South Wales. The objective is to select four Australia Awards Fellowships in the priority areas of Climate Change, Adaptation, Resilience, and Green Energy. The focus will be on integrating ocean accounts and nature-based solutions into development policies. Each fellow will receive AUD \$34,500. ○ There is an ongoing discussion about the possibility of Mercator Ocean International seconding staff to the IOCAFRICA Secretariat to work on the implementation of a potential program related to Africa Ocean Digital Twinning.
	1.2.3 Establish and collaborate with other organisations on visiting lecturer/scholar/researcher programmes and professional exchanges (peer to peer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing conversation with the Australian High Commission in Nairobi on the potential for a JPO to the IOCAFRICA Secretariat ○ The IOCAFRICA Secretariat is eagerly looking forward to collaborating with institutions and organizations both within and outside the continent for a program focused on facilitating professional exchanges of personnel at institutional levels. This initiative aims to bolster institutional capacity at both national and regional levels. 	

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		1.2.4 Promote and assist with the establishment of regional training (and research) centres relevant to the IOC mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training courses and workshops, using regional and national training centres (Ocean Teacher Global Academy RTCs, UNESCO Chairs and Centres of Excellence) on priority topics identified by IOCAFRICA and the respective Member states ○ Discussions are underway with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank, and other partners to explore the possibility of setting up a Center of Excellence focused on the Blue Economy.
		1.2.5 Promote the development and sharing of training materials and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are looking forward to receiving targeted assistance from IOC global initiatives in the areas of technical support and the opportunity to engage with international specialists in ocean science, climate resilience, and heritage conservation to meet our regional capacity development requirements. ○ Looking ahead, we require assistance in recognising and obtaining funding opportunities, along with coordinating in-kind contributions. Improving knowledge exchange and networking through global platforms and sharing best practices will be essential. Potential areas of collaboration may involve forming partnerships with academic institutions outside the continent, international organisations, and private sector companies in marine technology. This comprehensive support is expected to greatly enhance our capacity development efforts, establishing a resilient network of ocean science professionals and institutions capable of addressing climate change and other environmental challenges in our region.
	1.3 Sharing of knowledge and expertise including through community building	1.3.1 Establish a travel grant “fund”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are currently providing support to ECOPS to enable their participation in regional and global conferences, fostering opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange.
		1.3.2 Establish or collaborate with other organisations on a mentoring programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As we look ahead to the future, we are eager to expand our regional capacity development efforts by seeking support from IOC global programmes to establish a mentoring programme in collaboration with other organizations, especially focusing on niche areas of the blue economy such as biotechnology and blue entrepreneurship. This initiative aims to pair experienced professionals with early-career ocean scientists and practitioners in our region, providing them with guidance, knowledge transfer, and career development opportunities. By harnessing the expertise and networks of partner organizations, we aim to create a robust mentoring framework that nurtures skill development, innovation, and leadership in ocean science. This forward-looking initiative will play a crucial role in building a resilient and capable workforce, equipping them to address the challenges presented by climate change and other environmental threats.
		1.3.3 Promote and assist with the development and strengthening of IOC alumni networks, and professional networks including for youth leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In order to further improve our efforts in regional capacity development, we are seeking support from IOC global programmes to promote and assist with the development and strengthening of IOC alumni and professional networks, including those for youth leaders. We aim to establish these networks as part of IOCAFRICA’s programmes, building on our successful support of early-career ocean scientists to enhance their skills in ocean science. Through nurturing these networks, our goal is to showcase the significant contributions of IOCAFRICA to ocean science and research in Africa, emphasizing our role in cultivating a skilled and resilient workforce capable of addressing the region’s environmental challenges.
		1.3.4 Promote funding, grant and scholarship programs to facilitate ocean research, technical development and scientific exchange through bringing visibility of opportunities via an online CD hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The IOCAFRICA Secretariat seeks support to enhance regional capacity development by establishing an online Capacity Development (CD) hub. This platform will centralise and highlight funding opportunities, grants, and scholarships for ocean science professionals in Africa. ○ Additionally, we propose creating a trust fund and fund-in-trust agreements to ensure sustained financial support. By aggregating and disseminating information and securing long-term funding, the CD hub will empower early career scientists and researchers, fostering continuous learning and innovation.

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1. Human resources developed at individual and institutional levels	1.4 Integration of ocean science in basic education	1.4.1 Promote the integration of ocean science in curricula of primary and secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We aim to integrate ocean science into primary and secondary school curricula, promote careers in ocean research and management, and enhance the participation of women in ocean research. Additionally, we propose establishing “young scientist” and “women in science” awards to recognise and encourage emerging and female scientists. This support will significantly enhance regional capacity development, fostering a skilled and inclusive ocean science community in Africa capable of addressing environmental challenges. We need support in the organisation of a review meeting for consolidation and finalisation of the report on the state of the tide gauge network in the region Operationalise the African Coastal and Marine Atlases (ACMA), incorporating the mapping of corals, mangroves, natural resources, marine protected areas, waste dumping, dredging and other vital ecosystems and processes along Africa’s coastline We are interested in establishing regional research hubs within universities and initiating joint research projects to promote regional collaboration on the development of low-cost technologies (e.g., Observation sensors). Additionally, we aim to develop citizen science programs, launch educational campaigns, and create mobile applications to engage local communities in the ocean Early Warning System. We are currently offering continuous assistance to national oceanographic data centers to help them create and manage compatible databases. We are working on enhancing the setup of NODCs to improve coordination mechanisms and gather a greater amount of data, as well as to better serve data user communities. Additionally, we are looking into setting up more regional and national OBIS nodes to further strengthen our capabilities.
		1.4.2 Promote careers in ocean research and ocean management	
	1.5 Improving gender, generational and geographic diversity	1.5.1 Promote participation of women in ocean research	
		1.5.2 Promote and support “young scientist” and “women in science” awards	
2. Access to technology, physical infrastructure, data and information established or improved	2.1 Facilitating access to technology and infrastructure	2.1.1 Establish and maintain a register of infrastructure to facilitate access, and promote transfer of marine technology	
		2.1.2 Promote the development of regional collaboration on sustainable scientific infrastructure	
		2.1.3 Promote involvement of citizen science in ocean research	
	2.2 Facilitating equitable access to and sharing of ocean data and information	2.2.1 Promote the development and wide use of regional and global data and information systems	





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3. Global, regional and sub-regional mechanisms strengthened	3.1 Further strengthening and supporting secretariats of regional sub-commissions	2.2.2 Promote the sharing of ocean data and information by stakeholders 3.1.1 Improve staffing of secretariat of regional sub-commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing support is provided for national oceanographic data centers to develop and maintain interoperable databases. ○ The recruitment process for a P3 position is currently in its final stage. ○ Additionally, we are in the process of hiring a National Project Officer to oversee the coordination of the Ocean Decade activities in Africa and provide support to the IOCAFRICA secretariat as needed. ○ We are actively seeking financial support to expand our secretariat staff and ensure the effective implementation of our initiatives. ○ Additionally, we request access to professional development programs to enhance the skills and capabilities of new and existing staff members. This support will empower us to establish a robust and efficient secretariat, capable of propelling our mission forward and achieving our strategic objectives.
	3.2 Enhancing effective communication between regional sub-commission secretariats and global programmes as well as other communities of practice (incl. other organisations)	3.1.2 Reinforce budgeting of regional sub-commissions 3.2.1 Establish an effective coordination and communication mechanism between the secretariats of the regional sub-commissions and the global programmes	

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3. Global, regional and sub-regional mechanisms strengthened	3.3 Identifying specific national and regional capacity development needs through regular needs assessment	3.3.1 Organise and conduct biennial capacity development needs survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the IOC Global Programme in organising and conducting biennial capacity development needs surveys. These surveys will play a crucial role in assessing and addressing the changing needs of our communication efforts. ○ Specifically, we are looking forward to receiving assistance with survey design and implementation, data analysis and reporting, workshops and training, resource development, and follow-up evaluation. We anticipate that this support will be pivotal in strengthening our communication capacities and aligning with the broader goals of the IOC, ultimately advancing our collective mission to promote ocean research and conservation.
	3.4 Encouraging regional and sub-regional organisations to be leaders in, and amplifiers of capacity development	3.4.1 Reinforce engagement of regional and sub-regional organisations in consultation process and capacity development initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are eagerly looking forward to leveraging the IOC Global Programme to enhance the capacity of our Member States to contribute to global processes and mechanisms. ○ We are anticipating the support of financial resources, technical assistance, networking opportunities, resource sharing, and promotion and advocacy support. This support will enable these countries to actively participate in the ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Treaty, the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Strategy, and the Plastic Treaty. Your assistance will play a crucial role in strengthening their capacity development efforts and will ultimately drive our collective mission to protect and sustainably manage our oceans.
4. Development of ocean research policies in support of sustainable development objectives promoted	4.1 Fostering the development of ocean research policies	4.1.1 Compile and compare information on existing ocean research policies, and disseminate to Member States for their use	

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		4.1.2 Assist and enable Member States with the development of ocean research policies, making use of the results of 4.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are in the process of developing community standards and well-designed data management plans to share best practices for marine-related data. Preparation of policy briefs and advocacy on relevant goals of Africa Agenda 2063, Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050, Africa Blue Economy Strategy, UN Agenda 2030 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) We are committed to assisting African countries in developing their national and regional ocean science plans to promote the growth of their blue economy and sustainable ocean plans. To achieve this, we have initiated discussions with the Government of Australia for support through the Kenya High Commission. We are seeking assistance in establishing connections with potential funders to back this important initiative.
5. Visibility, awareness and understanding on the roles and values of the ocean and ocean research in relation to human wellbeing and sustainable development increased	5.1 Fostering the development of ocean related public information and communication services	5.1.1 Encourage the development of public information (communication) departments in ocean research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the impact of ocean research, we seek the support of the IOC Global Programme to develop public information departments within ocean research institutions. Specifically, we request financial resources to organise workshops, develop communication toolkits, and launch public engagement campaigns. Additionally, we seek access to communication experts for training and mentorship, networking opportunities with media organisations, and resource sharing of templates and best practices.
	5.2 Fostering the development of ocean literacy	5.2.1 Assist with the strengthening and development of ocean literacy programmes at national and regional levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for risk managers/stakeholders, development of a self-protection culture through raising societal awareness and implementation of climate change downscaling models in specific ocean basins and assessment of impacts on marine ecosystems, along with developing Partnerships & knowledge
6. Sustained resource mobilization reinforced	6.1 Enhancing sustained support (in-kind and financial) to the IOC for its international coordination role	6.1.1 Foster partnerships to increase in-kind support opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We aim to develop comprehensive partnership proposals, engage in outreach activities, and utilise online platforms to broaden our reach. The global programme support will be instrumental in building and maintaining these vital relationships, ensuring the long-term success of our initiatives.



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THANK YOU