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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BENGUELA CURRENT LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME (SAP)

SAP IMP
focus
QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATES

This is the 2nd edition of “SAP IMP focus” which provides Quarterly Progress Updates from the BCLME Strategic Action Programme Implementation (SAP IMP) Project. The “SAP IMP Project” is a 4-year initiative co-financed by the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) and the Governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa. The Project supports the implementation of the Benguela Current Commission’s Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

Convention signing in 2011

BCC held an extraordinary Ministerial Conference on 25 March 2011 in Stellenbosch, Cape Town at which the draft Convention text was endorsed.

During this meeting, the Executive Secretary of BCC, Dr Hashali Hamukuaya, briefed the ministers on progress with the Convention and gave an overview of the text. The ministers recommended one change to the text and endorsed it for national consultation and discussion in preparation for the signing. Ministers also agreed that the signing will take place during Quarter 3 (by end Aug) of 2011 in the Benguela, Angola.

Hashali also presented the draft Vision, Mission Statement, Core Values and Key Performance Areas of the BCC. The draft vision of the BCC reads, **“A Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem that is sustainably used and managed, conserved, protected, and contributes to the wellbeing of the people of the region”**. The ministers recommended wider consultation on the draft strategic instruments before considering it for endorsement.

Above image: (Left-to-right) Hon. Ms. Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa ; Dr. Hashali Hamukuaya, Executive Secretary of the BCC and; Hon. Dr. Victoria De Barros Neto, Secretary of State for Fisheries, Angola.

State of the Ecosystem Information System (SEIS) for BCC

The BCLME SAP IMP Project appointed the International Oceans Institute of southern Africa (IOI-SA) to develop a State of the Ecosystem Information System (SEIS) for the BCC.

IOI-SA has started the development work with a User Needs Analysis where after a system blueprint will be developed for review and comment by the countries. A prototype of the SEIS will be presented during the Annual Science Forum of the BCC in October 2011 and the final system will be handed over to the BCC in December of this year.

The SEIS will play an important role in the capturing and secure storage of data that will be used for planning, management and decision making.

Portuguese mainstreamed as an official BCC language

From February this year, the BCC — with support from the BCLME SAP IMP Project — has made commendable efforts to mainstream Portuguese as the other official language of the Commission. Mr. João Paulo Zage was appointed as a part-time English-Portuguese Translator/ Interpreter to assist the Secretariat in Windhoek, and Ms. Ana dos Santos as a fulltime English-Portuguese Translator/ Interpreter based in Luanda, Angola. João assisted with the translation of documents for the extraordinary Ministerial Conference and also served as simultaneous interpreter during the meeting. Ana’s legal background will be an asset to the Angolan stakeholders, BCC and the project with the translation of the Convention text to Portuguese. She already plays a vital role to enhance BCC communication in Angola.

Draft Final BCC Convention

Team Leaders and Chief Negotiators of the Convention Negotiating task groups from the three countries completed an editorial review and revision of the Convention text in Luanda on 24-25 Feb 2011. The text is now ready for national consultation and discussion in preparation for the signing.

The purpose was to ensure that the text adheres to that of international legal instruments and to correct language and grammar. No substantive changes were made or proposed during this meeting. Mr. Terje Lobach, the consultant who developed the text, chaired and facilitated this meeting.

The Convention text was consulted on and negotiated in 9 days total, during two regional consultation and negotiation meetings (Oct 2010 in Namibia and Dec 2010 in South Africa) and, the legal scrubbing. National consultation on the text is underway in preparation for the signing

BCC at Abidjan CoP 9

During 28 March to 1 April the BCC was represented at the Abidjan Convention's 9th Conference of the Party (CoP9) meetings. Nico E. Willemse, Sr. Project Manager of the BCLME SAP IMP Project, represented the LME and updated the Abidjan countries on the status of the BCC, milestones to date, planned activities and, linkages between the work of the BCC and Abidjan.

Nico represented the BCC during discussions about the linkage between LMEs and the Abidjan Convention (AC) and contributed to the drafting of a decision that was endorsed by the Ministers to define and establish linkages between LMEs and AC. The LMEs also discussed the idea to have an African LME networking meeting in 2011.

Valuation of BCLME goods and services

Prof Rashid Sumaila started with the valuation of ecosystem goods and services for the BCLME region in May 2011. The work was initiated through a stakeholder inception workshop where the Terms of Reference, work plan and methodology for the work was presented and discussed. The valuation will provide pertinent information and data to the BCC and the BCLME stakeholders regarding the current and future values of resources in the formal sectors.

Stakeholder Participation and Communications Strategy for BCC

The BCLME SAP IMP Project contracted International Knowledge Management (IKM) in Dec 2010 as project partner to implement the BCLME-Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool (DLIST) and to achieve outputs 3.4 and 4.1 of the project. These outputs respectively deal with the implementation of the stakeholder participation plan and, to develop a mechanism for the capturing, packaging and dissemination of best practices and lessons. The Project also appointed Ms. Claire Attwood in Mar 2011 as Media and Communications Support consultant for the BCC and the Project.

To date, IKM has produced a draft Stakeholder Participation framework and draft strategy and Claire has produced a draft Communications Strategy. The Stakeholder Participation Framework summarizes information about the key target stakeholders and what means to use to share information and to involve them in activities. The Communications Strategy identifies different target audiences and proposes strategies to reach them through different media and approaches.

These drafts are based on a review of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) that was developed in 2007/08 and through consultation with BCC and the BCLME SAP IMP Project. While the current drafts are under review, the Project will implement strategies and actions from the original SIP that was approved by BCLME stakeholders. This is to ensure that awareness is generated and stakeholders are involved in activities during 2011.

Regional Data Policy in place for BCC

The BCLME SAP IMP Project supported national consultations on the draft Regional Data Policy of the BCC in Angola on 22 March, in Namibia on 24 March and in South Africa on 28 March 2011. The policy was reviewed and commented on by stakeholders and a final regional consultation will be held in Jul 2011 to finalise the draft for consideration by the BCC MB.

Additional capacity at BCC and SAP IMP

Ms. Grettel Miller-Tjirozo, Chief Finance Officer (CFO) for BCC—appointment finalised on 4 Apr 2011.

Dr. Moses Maurihungirire, Ecosystem Coordinator for the BCC—appointed in mid-Mar 2011.

Ms. Martha Taapopi, Young Professional Associate with SAP IMP appointed on 4 Apr 2011.

CONTACT US ANY TIME

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Planned Events and Activities

- 1st Formal African LME Caucus, 16 May 2011, Accra, Ghana.
- Extraordinary BCC Management Board Meeting proposed 26-27 May 2011 in Windhoek, Namibia.
- "ECOFISH" Project launch, 27 May 2011 in Windhoek, Namibia.
- BCC and SAP IMP formal briefing with Angolan Ministers, 30-31 May 2011, Luanda, Angola.
- EAF Human Dimension Project launch for Namibia, 22-23 Jun 2011, Cape Town
- Transboundary Hake Survey Planning Workshop, 6-7 Jun 2011, Cape Town, S.A.
- 4th Data and Information Management Working Group (DIM-WG) meeting, 7 Jun 2011, Luanda, Angola
- Transboundary Ship Time Committee meeting, date and venue tbd Jul 2011
- BCC briefing with Angolan ministers, 30-31 May 2011, Luanda, Angola
- BCC-SAP IMP Project retreat, 13-16 Jun 2011, venue tbd.
- Regional Oil Spill Planning Workshop, July 2011, Luanda, Angola