

GCLME NEWSLETTER



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FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR!

New Year, New Targets!

January 2006 marks the first anniversary of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project implementation. The year, 2006 is a year in the course of which the project will reach an important milestone - the transformation of the project into an interim Guinea Current Commission as envisaged in the approved project document signed by all 16 participating countries and the development partners.

In a brief discussion with the new UNIDO Director General, His Excellency, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella on 02 December, 2005 in Vienna shortly after he took the oath of office, it became clear that his first 100 days in office are literally booked. What was re-assuring however was the Director General's promise to keep this issue in view and to issue directives at the earliest time possible in regard to dates for the Ministerial meeting which in all probability will be in the first semester of 2006.

As the Director of the UNIDO Bureau for Africa and LDC's in the mid 90's, he took a deep interest in the evolution of the precursor project, the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (GOG-LME) project and was a source of inspiration to project management. It was little wonder that his predecessor designated the present Director General to represent him at the First Meeting of Ministers of the GOG - LME project in Accra, Ghana, 8 - 10 July, 1998. In that capacity, he worked with the Ministers to issue the Accra Declaration (1998) for the environmentally sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment of the Gulf of Guinea.

In terms of the results of project implementation, the Ministers have applauded the tremendous strides made by the project in only one year of project implementation. Our capacity building exercises have increased the competence of both scientific/technical staff as well as managers in the region. Our institutional strengthening initiatives have yielded positive structural changes and policy adjustments in environmental and resource management in the region. I am thrilled and trust that you share my satisfaction.

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO, VIENNA, AUSTRIA: 28 NOVEMBER, - 2ND DECEMBER, 2005.



The GCLME Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe congratulating the new UNIDO Director General, His Excellency, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella shortly after the latter took his oath of office on 02 December, 2005 in Vienna, Austria.



The Ghanaian Minister of Trade & Industry, Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng (middle) with his Chief Director, Mr. E.S. Addo (left) and Prof. Ibe (right).



From 23 - 27 January, GCLME project in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) organized a Regional Workshop on Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

The Minister for Fisheries in Ghana, Mrs Gladys Asmah was represented at the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop by her Deputy, Mr. Dugan.

With reference to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) she recalled that coastal states have been granted sovereign rights over the fisheries resources within their respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) which is established at 200 nautical miles from their coastline. She stated that fisheries partnership agreements characterize most Fishing Activities within the EEZs of Coastal African States as coastal states which are unable to fully exploit their fisheries resources can enter into partnership agreements with foreign vessels to harvest its surplus fishes. Based on the expected outputs of the Workshop which included "Transboundary nature of the fisheries resources considered Fisheries Partnership Agreements". She alerted the Directors of Fisheries that their various governments would be waiting to see the results of the recommendations from the workshop translated into practicable and workable ideas that will go a long way to reduce poverty among the coastal populations in our countries. On this note, she wished them fruitful deliberations.

The Deputy Regional Representative/FAO Representative for Ghana, Mr. Edward Tapsoba chaired the Opening Ceremony.

He stressed the importance attached to the livelihoods of fishing communities which are of concern to all the stakeholders (including FAO) as regional pressures are now being exacerbated by the increasing bilateral and collective European Union Fisheries Partnership Agreements. The legal commitments which are said to be threatening some of the stocks that are also exposed to the yet to resolve Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the waters of all the countries present at the Workshop. He said the Workshop came at a time of great concern in the region for the sustainable exploitation of the fisheries resources and the protection of the marine environment.

He went further to state that the need to better integrate sustainable fisheries management into its fisheries agreements as a major challenge will not be an easy task without the cooperation and collaboration of the countries engaged in the agreements. He suggested that the GCLME region has to be collectively committed to addressing the many problems associated with the need to manage fisheries resources to improve policing and controlling fishing activities through better Moni-

Regional Workshop on Fisheries Partnership Agreements. Accra 23-27 January, 2006.



L-R: L-R: Dr. Kwame Koranteng, WWF Eastern Africa Regional Representative, Deputy Regional Representative/FAO Representative for Ghana - Mr. Edward Tapsoba, Ghanaian Deputy

Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Dugan, Mrs. Mary Beth West - WWF Consultant and Dr. Bradford Brown of the US - NOAA.

From left is Mr. Kossi Maxoe Sedzro from Togo, directly behind him is Captain Ankamah E. Kofi, Ghana while to his left is the Representative



from the European Union followed by Alhaji Jallow from Reg. Office, Ghana.



The Regional Director, GCLME presenting the GCLME project at the Technical Section of the Workshop. Behind him is Mrs. Virginia Godinho from Sao Tome e Principe while to his right are Dr. Lankester, WWF Consultant and Dr. Bradford Brown from the US NOAA.

toring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), as well as to maximize the benefits generated by the partnership agreements through improvement of onshore infrastructure and development of added value operations.

According to Dr. Kwame Koranteng, WWF Eastern Africa Regional Representative, the mission of WWF is "to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity; and ensuring sustainable use of renewable natural resources".

In his statement, he elaborated on the roles of WWF which included its commitment to assist developing coastal states in understanding the implications of fisheries agreement as well as its consistent responsibility of articulating its objective of reducing the footprint of distant water fishing nations by ensuring fair and sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements that respect the needs of local people.

Interestingly, Dr. koranteng assured all that the Workshop would be an interactive and participatory process of sharing ideas as they were to jointly formulate minimum terms and conditions for Fisheries Partnerships Agreements in the GCLME region.

He said " the discussion that has given birth to this workshop is only the beginning of a long-term collaboration between WWF and UNIDO in general, and the GCLME project in particular to be embodied in a Memorandum of Understanding between our organizations".

Issues deliberated upon during the Workshop included: the state of (over) exploitation of the main fish stocks as well as the general recognition of the urgent need for regional management of fisheries in the GCLME region; the expected future of the GCLME Commission, that GCLME-Commission may become a regional instrument that can serve regional fisheries management; and also, the experience of WWF in assessing the conditions for sustainable and fair fisheries access arrangements.

News from GCLME/ UNILAG Centre for Environmental Information Management System, Lagos, Nigeria:

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos, Nigeria, Prof. Oye Ibidapo-Obe has approved the appointment of a Seven - Man Management Committee for the GCLME/ UNILAG Centre for EIMS. This Committee has the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics as the Chairman and the Coordinator of the Centre as the Secretary. Other members of the Committee include: Prof. A.O Denloye (MD, Unilag Consult),

Prof. Babajide Alo (Director, FENV - Unilag centre for Environmental Human Resources Development), Dr. David Tommy (UNIDO Representative in Nigeria), Prof. O.O. Ayeni (representing the Head, department of Surveying & Geoinformatics) and Mr. Victor Okoronkwo (Nominee from Private



From right are Dr. Goddy N. Shimang-Mr. E.S. Addo, Deputy Director, Fed. Dept. of Fisheries, Mrs. Farma Onita from Sierra Leone followed by the WWF Team - Mrs. Mbendo Jane Rowena, Dr.

Benedict Satia, Dr. Papa Samba Diouf and Mrs. Mary Beth West.



R-L: Dr. Kees Lankester Director -Scomber , Dr Bradford Brown of th USNOAA and Alhaji Jallo of the FAO Regional Office Ghana. Behind Dr. Lankester is Mrs. Virginia C. Godinho from Sao Tome e Principe.



From left are: Lucien Maloueki, Apollinaire Nguembe from Congo and Hassimiou Tall from Guinea.

Sector). With this appointment, the Centre is poised to carry out its responsibilities towards the success of the Project. The appointment took effect from 23 December 2005 and will soon be inaugurated.

Also approved by the Vice Chancellor is the appointment of 21 Fellows of the Centre. It is hoped that the appointment of these fellows will bring credibility and respect to the Centre.

Efforts of the Centre to encourage private organizations in Nigeria to collaborate with the Centre have been boosted with support from Shell Petroleum Development Company. Shell has provided the centre with several layers of digital maps of the coastal areas of Nigeria including the environmental sensitivity index maps, soil and vegetation maps, settlements maps, major and minor rivers and road maps.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- 1 Jan - 31 March, 2006: Survey of Aquaculture/ Mariculture Potentials.

- 1 Jan - 31 March, 2006: Formulation of National ICAM Plans (Continued).

- 1 Jan - 31 March, 2006: National workshops for the Formulation of NPA's of LBA (Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau).

- 23 & 27 Jan, 2006: Consultation on Regulatory Implications of Trawl Survey Results.

- 24 - 26 Jan, 2006: GCLME / WWF Workshop on Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

- 30 Jan - 3 March, 2006: Regional Workshop on Management of Ballast Waters.

- 6 - 10 Feb, 2006: Erosion Processes / Modeling and Coastal Erosion with US Army Corps of Engineers .

- 20 - 24 Feb, 2006: Workshop on Alternative Livelihood.

- 20 - 24 March, 2006: GCLME/IMO Workshop on Port State Control.

- 27 - 31 March, 2006: Working Group on Marine Pollution and Ecosystem Health.

**Kelechi Ihemeje
Editor**



From left are: Gayo Lemba Francois, National Director of Fisheries, D.R Congo, Wango-Enganya, Expert en Peche, RD Congo and Mrs. Anthonia Dolores Rosario, Director General of Fisheries, Angola. Directly behind her is Ms. Maria Pires Dos Santos, Head of the Crustaceans Program, Angola.



R-L: Mr. Mba-Assako Georges from Gabon, Mr. N'da Konan from Cote D'Ivoire, Mr. Apollinaire Ngouembe from Congo and Mme Amélie A. Gbaquidi Chercheur from Benin.

*Group
Photograph of
the Workshop
participants.*

