

First Steering Committee Meeting

Introduction

The First Steering Committee of the GCLME was held in the Conference Room of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in Accra, Ghana from 25-27, April, 2005.



The Banner announcing the Event at the RCU

The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Edward Nsenkyire, Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment and Science.



Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Edward Osei Nsenkyire, Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment and Science (Ghana). To his right is the Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe

Due to the absence from the country of the Honourable Christine Churcher, Minister of Environment and Science, the Official Opening Ceremony which included the Commissioning of the premises of the GCLME Regional Coordination Unit was performed on 26 April, 2005.

On behalf of the 16 Project Countries, the GCLME Regional Director expressed gratitude to the government and people of Ghana for the building and excellent facilities provided to serve as the seat of the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU).

The Regional Director's Progress Report

During the session, the Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe presented the achievements made so far which include :

- Establishment of a well equipped Regional Coordination Unit office with the support of the Ghanaian Government.
- Substantial progress in the recruitment of staff.
- Ongoing process for the establishment of Regional Activity Centres i.e. the Regional Marine Productivity Laboratory at the University of Ghana, Legon; the Regional Environmental
- Information Management Centre at the University of Lagos; the Regional Pollution Monitoring and Research Centre in the facilities of the Imo State Environmental Protection

Agency (ISEPA), Owerri, Nigeria; the Activity Centre for Comprehensive Risk Analysis and Management in Libreville, Gabon and the Fisheries Activity Centre in Luanda, Angola. The Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe during his presentation. Seated before him are (from right) : Dr. Bradford Brown (US-NOAA), Mr. Malamine Thiam (IMO), Mr. Dixon Waruinge (UNEP), Mr. Joshua Ndubuisi, ICT (GCLME) and Ms. Kelechi IHEMEJE, Personal Assistant / Editor (GCLME).

Training on Geographical Information Systems (in collaboration with ICS-UNIDO), Lagos, Nigeria, 6 -10 December, 2004.

Workshop on Coastal Dynamics and Early Warning Systems (with AU-STRC and IOC-UNESCO), Accra, Ghana, 14 - 18 March, 2005.

Formulation of Strategic Plan for the Identification and Mapping of Physically Altered Sensitive Habitats, March, 2005.

Mission to some central African countries to identify pollution hotspots, 2 - 15 April, 2005.

Workshop on Integrated Coastal Areas Management (ICAM), Kribi, Cameroon, 11 - 15 April, 2005.



The Regional Director's presentation also included activities scheduled in the immediate future which are :

1. A Training Workshop on Mangrove Assessment and Restoration, 30 May - 03 June, 2005.
2. A Methodology Workshop on Fish Trawl Survey, 02 - 04 June, 2005.
3. A Regional Fish Trawl Survey, 05 June - 05 July, 2005.
4. A Ship Board Training on Marine Pollution Sampling and Analysis, 07 - 15 June, 2005.

He also briefed the Committee on the steps taken to establish or consolidate partnerships for an efficient implementation of the Project.

Opening of the Regional Coordination Unit



The Unveiled plaque



Hon. Christine Churcher, Minister of Environment and Science, Ghana (2nd right), unveils a plaque to inaugurate the GCLME-RCU Building, assisted by Dr. Kenneth Sherman (wearing hat) representing US-NOAA. By the Minister is the Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment and Science (Ghana), Mr. Edward Nsenkyire, also Chairman of the Meeting. Watching on the left is the Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe.



Hon. Christine Churcher, Minister of Environment and Science (Ghana), commissioning the GCLME RCU.



Personalities at the Opening of the Regional Coordination Unit. From left to right : Dr Abdoulaye Ndiaye (UNDP), Dr. Ken Sherman (USNOAA), Prof. Chidi Ibe, Regional Director (GCLME), Hon. Christine Churcher, Minister of Environment and Science (Ghana), Dr Chika Ukwe, Project Manager (UNIDO) and Dr Vladimir Mamaev (UNEP).



Group Photograph at the RCU Opening Ceremony. In the center is the Honourable Christine Churcher, Minister of Environment and

Science (Ghana), and to her right are : Prof. Chidi Ibe, Regional Director (GCLME), Dr Chika Ukwé, Project Manager (UNIDO) and Mr Edward Osei Nsenkyire, Chief Director, MES (Ghana), surrounded by Countries National Project Directors, UN Agencies (UNDP, UNEP, IMO, FAO), other Agencies (NEPAD, NOAA, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, IMR) and NGOs Representatives. Also figure some RCU Staff members.

National Directors' Progress Reports

Presentations were also made by Countries' Representatives on their respective National Progress Reports.



Mrs. Maria Esperanca Dos-Santos (Angola) and Mrs. Nassare Kaba (Cote d'Ivoire) presenting.

These showed that most countries (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Congo DR, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe and Sierra Leone) had appointed their National Directors and constituted National Interministerial Committees. The Committee underlined the necessity for all the countries to set up the structures described in the Project Document and to complete the various appointments in a timely manner.

The Regional TDA/SAP Task Team's Report

Prof. Babajide Alo presented the results of the First Regional Workshop on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis / Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators for the GCLME, which include :

- A Project TDA document partly updated and to be completed by December, 2005.
- A set of verifiable M & E Indicators for the Components of the GCLME Project established.

A Regional TDA Working Group established.



Cross-section of UN and Non UN Agencies' Representatives. From left to right, Dr Chika UKwe, Project Manager (UNIDO), Mr. Alex Vreman and Dr. Vladimir Mamaev (UNEP), Dr. Abdoulaye Ndiaye (UNDP), Mr. David Samuel Njiki Njiki, Executive Secretary (NEPAD), and Dr. Robert Kennedy (US Army Engineer Research and Development Center).

Courtesy Call on the Ghanaian President



The Steering Committee was received at the "Castle Osu" by the Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Alhaji Aliu Mahama on behalf of the President. During the call, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Regional Director, GCLME, spoke on behalf of the Regional Steering Committee. He told the Vice President that the marvelous facility donated by Ghana to serve as the Regional Coordinating Unit of the GCLME is yet another manifestation of the enduring interest and contributions of the leadership of Ghana to regional integration.

He also told him that the GCLME Project will be progressively transformed into an Interim Guinea Current Commission by the end of 2005 and into a Permanent Guinea Current Commission by 2009. The Regional Director went further to say that as the seat of the RCU, Ghana has a special role to play in spearheading the initiatives inscribed in the Project Document. The

Vice-President replied to the Steering Committee : "The President who arrived late last night from the African-Asian Summit had planned to receive you personally. He has, however, asked me to state that Ghana attaches great importance to attaining the development goals and objectives of the GCLME Project, because historically, the well being of our populations has been tied to the marine environment and its resources.



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