

FROM THE EDITOR :

In comparison to July, August started off at a fast pace.

Between 9 and 11 August, a delegation from NEPAD, Nigeria visited the Regional Coordination Unit to deliver the official invitation from the Special Assistant to the Nigerian President and Director General of NEPAD Nigeria, Her Excellency, Mrs. Chinyere Asika to the Regional Director to present a paper at the NEPAD "Fish For All Conference" Abuja, 22-25 August. The delegation held further discussions with the RCU Technical Team on collaboration on Alternative Livelihoods for coastal communities in Nigeria that had been proposed by Her Excellency, Mrs. Chinyere Asika, during meetings with the Regional Director in Abuja on 20 July, 2005. The officers were introduced to other activities of the project and later visited the officers of NEPAD, Ghana and Erosion Control Sites at Labadi Beach guided by GCLME Regional Consultant on Erosion, Engr. George Nai.

In pursuance of earlier discussions with the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat for the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan based in Dakar during the first meeting at the GCLME Regional Steering Committee in April, 2005, the Regional Director paid a visit to the Interim Secretariat between 3 and 5 August. The discussions centered on the contributions of the GCLME Project to the realization of the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan and in turn, on the continuing political support from NEPAD to the implementation of the GCLME Project.

A draft Agreement in this regard was formulated during Working Sessions between the Executive Secretary, Mr. David Njikinjiki and the Regional Director and was later discussed when the Senegalese Minister of Environment, His Excellency, Mr. Modou Diagne FADA who is the supervising Minister of the Interim Secretariat received the Regional Director on 4 August, 2005. The Agreement will be signed in due course.

Visit of Officers from NEPAD, Nigeria to the GCLME RCU 9-12 August 2005.

Clockwise: Are: Dr. L.C. Anuka, Mrs. Uche Ajulu Okeke and Engr. Abdullahi G. Abubakar in a meeting with the Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe.



L-R: Engr. Abdullahi G. Abubakar, Mrs. Uche Ajulu Okeke and Dr. Lawrence C. Anukam, Prof. Chidi Ibe and GCLME Fisheries Officer, Dr. Theodore Djama during the presentation session of the programme in the RCU Conference Room.



A visit to the erosion control site at Labadi Beach, Accra - Ghana by (L-R) are: Mrs. Uche Ajulu Okeke, Engr. Abdullahi G. Abubakar, and Dr. Lawrence C.

Anukam led by Engr. George Nai, GCLME Regional Consultant on Erosion.

While in Dakar, the Regional Director had discussions with high level functionaries of the High Commission for the Senegal River and in particular exchanged experiences on project implementation with Dr. Jibril Sall, the Coordinator of Projects for the High Commission. He rounded up his mission with a visit to the UNDP Regional Coordination Unit for International Waters and Biodiversity.

The Regional Training Workshop on Approaches to TDA/SAP Development was organized in the Regional Coordination Unit from 15-19 August. As explained by the Regional Director during the Opening Ceremony, this was mostly for the purposes of "standardization" to ensure that the procedures and methodologies adopted by the Project so far in producing its TDA which is at an advanced stage already and its preliminary Strategic Action Programme matched those employed by other projects in achieving the same aim. Happily, the conclusion was that there was a near - perfect match. The meeting was opened by the Minister for Regional Cooperation and NEPAD, Honourable Dr. Kofi Kondolu Apraku in the presence of the Vice Minister of Environment of the Republic of Guinea, Madame Kadiatou N'diaye. The Minister of Environment, Honourable Christine Churcher accompanied by her Deputy, Dr Ghesika Adombire Agambila honoured us with her presence at the Closing Ceremony of the Workshop.

The next week saw the organization of the workshop on Maximum Sustainable Yield 22-25 August which is an indispensable tool for Rational Fisheries Management. The meeting was declared open by the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Daniel Dugan and closed by the Deputy Minister of Environment, Dr. Ghesika Adombire Agambila.

Between 22 and 25 August, The Regional Director was in Abuja, Nigeria to participate in the NEPAD "Fish For All Conference" where he made a presentation on "The Contributions of The LME Projects in Africa to Sustainable Fisheries Management in Africa" during the Ministerial Segment of the Conference on 24 August. He also took the opportunity to evaluate the ongoing refurbishment work in the laboratories of the Imo State Environmental Protection Agency which is the host to the Regional Pollution Assessment and Control Centre for the GCLME Project.

TDA/SAP Workshop, Accra: 15-19 August 2005.



L-R: At the Opening Ceremony are: Madame Kadiatou N'diaye, Deputy Minister of Env. and Science, Rep. of Guinea, Dr. Lanto Harding (Rep. from the Min. of Co-operation and NEPAD, Ghana), Mr.

Edward Nsenkyire - Chief Director, Ministry of Environment and Science who chaired the occasion, Prof. Chidi Ibe - Regional Director, GCLME and the Executive Director, EPA, Mr. Jonathan Allotey.



Deliberating on an issue raised at the Workshop are: (from left): Dr. Martin Bloxham, Training Course Consultant, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Regional Director and Prof. Babajide Alo, Chairman of TDA/SAP Task Group.

R-L At the Closing Ceremony of the TDA/SAP Workshop are: Dep. Min. MES, Dr. Agambila, Reg. Dir. GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe, The Minister, Min. for Env. & Science,



Honourable Christine Churcher, Prof. B. Alo who was the Chairman of TDA/SAP Task Team and Mrs. Kadiatu, Dep. Minister of Env. Rep. of Guinea.



The Reg. Dir. Prof. Chidi Ibe (middle) leading Madame Kadiatou N'diaye (left) and Honourable Christine Churcher to open the floor at the Cock-Tail.

The Fisheries Officer, Dr. Theodore Djama undertook a mission to Cameroon that ended on August, 2005 where he met with the Governor of the South West Province, His Excellency, Mr. Eyeya Zanga to promote the Transboundary Management of the Rio del Rey Mangroves that straddle the frontier of the Cross Rivers State of Nigeria and the South-West Province of Cameroon. It is to be recalled that in discussions with the Regional Director and the GCLME Project Manager, Dr. Chika Ukwe on 23 December, 2004, the Governor of the Cross River state of Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr. Donald Duke had expressed interest in designating the Rio del Rey mangroves on the Nigerian side as a forest reserve in addition to pursuing Cross border Management of this stretch of mangrove with his Cameroonian counterpart.

The Environment Officer, Dr. Jacques Abe was on a mission to Sao Tome between 6 - 11 August to stimulate project implementation in the country and to assist in the installation of Inter - Ministerial structures to guide project implementation in the country.

Deriving from discussions with the Regional Director during the NEPAD Fish For All Conference in Abuja, Senator Francis Ella, Chief Executive of Lakes Fish Farm Plc, the only privately owned Fish Farm quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange, came calling at the Regional Coordination Unit and for two days, 29 - 31 August, to discuss Aquaculture and Mariculture potentials in Sub Saharan Africa with the Regional Director and his Technical Team. Arising from the discussions, it is planned that the GCLME Fisheries Officer, Dr. Theodore Djama, Mr. Linus Kumah, Dep. Director of Fisheries, Ghana in charge of Aquaculture and Dr. George Darpaa, Expert in Aquaculture in the Coastal Resource Development Unit of the University of Ghana, who took part in the discussions, will visit the 100 Acre - Farm of the Senator in Rivers State, Nigeria 19 - 22 September to draw lessons for the larger assessment of Aquaculture and Mariculture Potential in the GCLME Region. This fledgling collaboration is a good example of partnership with the Private Sector.

On 28 August, the Regional Coordination Unit welcomed a 3 - man Technical Team of the US Army Corp of Engineers led by Dr. Robert Kennedy, Head of the European office Engineer Research and Development Center in London.

MSY WORKSHOP, ACCRA: 22 - 26 AUGUST, 05



At the Opening Ceremony of the MSY Workshop; 22-26 Aug. are (L-R): Mr. Edward Osei Nsenkyire, Mr. Samuel Quaatey - Deputy Dir. of Fisheries, Marine Research Division, Tema, Ghana, Mr.

Daniel Dugan - Deputy Min. of Fisheries, Ghana and Dr. Jacques Abe - GCLME Environmental Officer.

From left is Dr. Mohammed B. D. Seisay from Sierra Leone who chaired the Closing Ceremony of the MSY Workshop, Mr. Agambila - Deputy Minister of Environment and Dr. Jacques Abe - GCLME Environment Expert.



At the NEPAD - "Fish For All Conference", Abuja, 22-25 Aug.

R-L are: Ex Nigerian Minister of Environment, Dr. Imeh Okopido, the Regional Director, GCLME - Prof. Chidi Ibe, Hon. H.F. Chimunthu Banda, Malawian Minister of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment, and Nigerian Senator, Dafah.



Mission to Cote d'Ivoire and Gabon with the "3-Man Team" of the US Army Corps of Engrs, 28 August - 2 September, 05.



In Abidjan, the Team was received by the Senior Min. of Environment, Madame Madame Angelè Gnonsoa in her office where she stressed the importance of finding effective Low-Cost and Low - Technology Erosion Control Measures.

The other members of the team were Ms Joan Pope, Programme Director for Civil Works and Dr. Joseph Gailani of the Vicksburg Laboratory, Mississippi. They were joined by the Environment Officer, Dr. Jacques Abe, the GCLME Regional Consultant on Coastal Erosion, Engr. George Nai and the Editor, Miss Kelechi Ihemeje on a tour of Critical Erosion Sites in Cote D'Ivoire and the Republic of Gabon. In Cote D'Ivoire, the Team was received by the Senior Minister of Environment, Madame Angelè Gnonsoa on 29 August. The Minister stressed the importance of finding effective Low-Cost and Low -Technology Erosion Control Measures. She was appreciative of the choice of Assini as the Demonstration Site for Erosion Control Measures and hoped that this would bring a halt to the menace to large and very expensive touristic facilities in Assini. The delegation also visited Gabon where there are very serious erosion problems. The two visits will be reported in greater details in the September Edition.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER, 2005:

- 28 August - 3 September: Mission to La Cote d'Ivoire and Gabon by GCLME Environment Expert, Editor and a 3 -Man Technical team of the US Army Corps of Engineers; to inspect erosion sites and hotspots.
- 5-10 September: Mission to Liverpool by the Regional Director, GCLME; to participate in International Workshop on Coastal Processes, Measurement and Modelling.
- 10-17 September: Mission to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso by the Administrative Officer, GCLME to attend 24th Session of Niger Basin Authority Council of Ministers.
- 12-16 September: Working Group of Plankton and Benthos Experts from University of Ghana, Accra.
- 19-22 September: Mission to Lake Farm, Rivers State, Nigeria by Fisheries Officer, GCLME and two Experts in Aquaculture; to draw lessons for the larger assessment of Aquaculture and Mariculture in the GCLME Region.
- 19-23 September: Workshop on Mangrove Restoration at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra - Ghana.
- 19 24 September: Mission to Luanda, Angola and Congo by the Regional Director; to establish contacts with officials and launch Awareness.
- 26-30 September: Workshop for NGOs on Integrated and Sustainable Management at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra - Ghana.

Kelechi Ihemeje



A group picture with the Minister (sitting). With her from L-R are: Engr. George Nai, GCLME Reg. Consultant on Coastal Erosion, Dr. Jaques Abe, GCLME Environment Officer, Md Kabba, Dep. Min. of Env. Abidjan, Ms. Joan Pope, Prog. Dir. for Civil Works, Dr. Joseph Gailani of the Vicksburg Laboratory, Dr. Robert Kennedy, Head of European office, Engr. Research & Dev. Center, Prof. Affian Kouadio and Commandant Dibi Niagne Martin from Centre for Oceanography and Research, Abidjan.

In Libreville, Gabon, the Team was received by the General Secretary of Environment, Mr. Michal Mbomoh Upiangu (5th from left).



FLASH BACKS!!!



A very important Training Workshop for Web Developers was hosted by UNEP for GEF funded projects on "Plone" 25 - 29 July, 2005. Plone is a Content Management System that is proposed as new standard IT Kit for IW Projects. This introductory session was attended by the GCLME Editor, Miss Kelechi Ihemeje and ICT Specialist, Mr. Joshua Ndubuisi.

The GCLME Project has lost a gem!

Dr. Nestor Ngoran Ya (Deputy Director, Research) at the Centre for Oceanography and Research, Abidjan and Chairperson of the Regional Working Group on Fisheries died suddenly in Abidjan on 11 August barely a week to the Workshop on MSY which he had convened. A minute silence was observed in his honour during the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on MSY.

We will surely miss him.

