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## *Africa needs ambition, economic diversification and planning to reach development goals – UNIDO chief says*

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Director-General Dr Kandeh Yumkella challenged African countries in March to be ambitious and to make their own decisions on the kind of infrastructure, services and institutions they needed to build, so as to attain first class economies in the next 20 years.

“Ambition means setting a bold vision,” he said. “We must define it ourselves.”



Photo: Yao Modenou/IGCC GCLME

He was speaking at a two-day International Policy Conference in Accra, Ghana, on ways a resource-rich country could be competitive by diversifying its economy in pursuit of wider social and economic development aims. In relation to oil-rich nations - and Ghana is an emerging one - the meeting's focus was on the strategic challenges in such an economy.

Too many African countries depend on a narrow resource base for their economic development. Many are poor. Yet according to the United States Geological Survey, Africa as a continent is rich. It has 98 per cent of the world's chromium; 90 per cent of the cobalt deposits; the same percentage of platinum; 80 per cent of columbite-tantalite, 64 per cent of manganese, 50 per cent of gold; and 33 per cent of uranium. Despite such mineral wealth, Dr. Yumkella said African countries needed to diversify their economies and plan well for growth.

“No country, none that has grown at 7 or 9 per cent in the last 30 years ... has grown without a real industrial policy,” he said.

He said all those countries that registered such margins of economic growth had done so through effective public/private partnerships to create new productive sectors or new sectors to add value, be they in

services, manufacturing or agribusiness. Africa, he added, was full of plans, visions and political rhetoric; yet it was “very crucial” to determine how to move from vision, to action, to results. In addition to efforts to reduce poverty, Africa, he said, needed to create wealth.

“You can't fight poverty without creating wealth, let nobody fool you. You can't reduce poverty without value added production. No way! No Way!” he said.

The conference, which began on 14 March, was organized by UNIDO and the Ghana Ministry of Trade and Industry and attended by Ghana Trade and Industry Minister Hanna Tetteh and other leading figures.

## *Ministerial Working Group meets in Brazzaville to discuss Permanent Guinea Current Commission*

All but one of the IGCC/Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project countries have “conveyed their support” for the establishment of the Guinea Current Commission, the Executive Secretary of the Interim Guinea Current Commission said in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. He was reporting on consultations at country level mandated by the [Interim Guinea Current Commission](#) (IGCC) Committee of Ministers under their Osu Declaration in July 2010.

Dr Stephen Donkor, who is also the Regional Project Coordinator of the GCLME project, was briefing the Ministerial Working Group on the Guinea Current Commission during its 17-19 January 2011 meeting which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brazzaville, Congo.

He told the Working Group that consultations had been held with governments, GCLME Inter-Ministerial Committees and non-government organizations in the GCLME region. A decision to transform the Interim Guinea Current Commission into a permanent



Photo: Yao Modenou/IGCC GCLME



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Guinea Current Commission was taken by the Ministerial Committee of the 16 GCLME countries on 2 July 2010 through the Osu Declaration.

Appraising the Working Group on progress made so far, he said the envisaged Guinea Current Commission will have links with river basin organizations, fisheries commissions and regional economic commissions and other bodies that have responsibilities related to the management of the GCLME. In this respect, memoranda of understanding on cooperation had been drafted with regional fishery bodies and projects such as CECAF, COREP, SRFC, FCWC, ACP-FISH. These could form part of a proposed Platform on Fisheries, which would be an instrument for institutional and operational cohesion for the Fisheries sector within the Guinea Current. The Working Group is made up of Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria; as well as United Nations agencies FAO, IMO, UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO.

The Group's meeting was convened by the Chair of the IGCC Ministerial Committee Working Group on the Guinea Current Commission. Some 21 people were in attendance, of whom 13 were members of some of the Working Group.

### *Abidjan Convention agrees to support permanent Guinea Current Commission*

The Conference of Parties of Abidjan Convention has agreed to boost institutional cooperation with Large Marine Ecosystems institutions/programmes in West, Central and Southern Africa. The COP 9 specifically pledged to support the establishment of a permanent Guinea Current Commission under the legal framework of the Convention, as decided by the IGCC Ministers in the Abuja and Osu declarations.

This was one of the major outcomes of the Convention's 9th Conference of Parties meeting held from 28 March to 1 April in Accra, Ghana. The COP9 further called for the Convention to define and strengthen the essential partnerships between its secretariat and the three Large Marine Ecosystems' (LMEs) institutions and programmes in the Convention area: the Canary, Benguela and Guinea Current LMEs. These bodies are at various stages of development.



*Photo: Seth T. Gafah/IGCC GCLME*

**Conference calls for Abidjan Convention to strengthen essential partnerships with Benguela, Canary and Guinea Current LMEs.**

The Executive Secretaries of the IGCC and Benguela Current Commission as well as the Coordinator of the Canary Current LME (CCLME) had earlier made presentations during the Stakeholder segment of the workshop. In his presentation, the IGCC Executive

Secretary who also serves as GCLME Regional Coordinator, Dr Stephen Donkor, briefed the meeting on the project, outlining its main objectives as the recovery and sustenance of depleted fisheries, restoration of degraded habitats and reduction of land-based and ship-based sources of pollution by establishing a regional management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources.

He also informed the meeting that the project's Strategic Action Plan (SAP), negotiated and signed in 2007, had been followed by the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) and tabled at a Partners' Conference in Cameroon in February. The NAPs are country specific priority actions which, when implemented, would ensure the achievement of the objectives of the SAP. The Interim Guinea Current Commission is working to finalize the NAPs, after which both internal and external resources can be mobilized for implementation.

In his presentation, the representative of the Executive Secretary of the Benguela Current Commission, Mr Nico Willemse, said the commission aimed to respond to the main threats to the region, namely: the Benguela Niño, the proliferation of algae, decreased ocean oxygenation, and sulphur waste. Activities implemented by participating countries (Angola, Namibia and South Africa), he said, included the application of best practices; the conservation and sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment; the protection of biodiversity through the creation of marine protected areas; cooperation with universities and research institutes; training and strengthening of capacities; the implementation of a strategic action plan; as well as evaluation, information and awareness-raising.

Dr Birane Sambe, Coordinator of the CCLME, the youngest of the three LMEs, said among the main achievements of the project to date were the establishment of a regional coordination unit; the creation of a bilingual website; and the launch of "ecosystem campaigns" to promote the adoption of an ecosystem approach to fishing in the member countries.

The COP 9 also took major decisions to:

- ask the IMO, UNIDO, UNEP and other partners to assist governments of the region speed up ratification of relevant international conventions. These include the relevant IMO conventions, particularly, the 1992 Convention on Civil Liability, the 1992 FUND Convention and its protocol of 2002. The meeting also called on governments to become parties to these and other relevant marine environment protection-related instruments;
- establish a Committee on Science and Technology to provide scientific, technical and technological advice, relating to the implementation of the Convention;
- create a Regional Centre for Cooperation in combating pollution in cases of emergency and in preventing ship-based pollution; and adopt the Regional Contingency Plan on this cooperation;
- invite the Governments of the region to speed up ratification of the relevant international conventions, including the relevant IMO Conventions, in particular the 1992 Convention on Civil Liability and the 1992 FUND Convention and its Protocol of 2003 (Supplementary Fund); and to become Parties to these and other relevant marine environment protection;
- urge governments not yet party to the Abidjan Convention to accelerate its ratification;



- urge contracting parties, where necessary, to establish, or expand, or to reinforce Marine Protected Areas in areas under their jurisdiction; and,
- operationalize Article 10 of the Abidjan Convention on coastal erosion.

### ***Interim Guinea Current Commission development partners give strong promises of support for resource mobilization***

Senior environment officials from 15 of the 16 countries making up the [Interim Guinea Current Commission](#) (IGCC) ended a two-day conference on 18 February, and obtained backing for resource mobilization from their development partners. A firm commitment and advice on bundling some national actions into regional programmes suitable for donor support were also made.



Photo: IGCC/GCLME

### ***GCLME partners back resource mobilization for multimillion-dollar planned development projects***

The officials met with development partners of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project, seeking support for the implementation of their national investment priorities which will contribute to achieving the goals of the GCLME Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The meeting took place in Cameroon's commercial capital, Douala, and marked the start of mobilizing domestic and international support for their multimillion-dollar planned projects to protect Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystems.

Collectively, these projects, drawn from country National Action Plans, are estimated to cost US \$189 million. Of this estimate, Nigeria seeks to mobilize the most funding (\$63 million) and São Tomé and Príncipe, with \$2.3 million, the least. The projects chosen as priority span ecosystem recovery and management activities ranging from reducing coastal pollution, halting coastal degradation, restoring fish stocks and the conservation and management of living and non-living scarce marine resources including Oil and Gas.

Some countries within the GCLME region have the same marine ecosystem problems. These similarities augur for joint action through regional cooperation. They therefore resolved package these activities in regional programmes and seek funding together. Broadly, these are in the areas of fisheries management, waste management and pollution control, coastal erosion and habitat degradation.

The meeting reached consensus on integrating elements of national investment proposals with regional dimensions in the GCLME SAP Implementation Project under preparation and which will be presented to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to follow the

ongoing SAP Capacity Development Project. The SAP is a policy document setting out the policy, legal and institutional reforms plus investments needed to resolve the GCLME's foremost transboundary marine ecosystem problems.

Summarising on the way forward, the IGCC Executive Secretary, Dr Stephen Donkor, recalled the advice given by GCLME's partners.

First, he said, at local levels, countries should share their NAPs with the GEF focal points in-country. He said these NAPs should be framed in a way that would make it much easier for their National GEF Focal Points to integrate elements of the NAPs in their non-international waters GEF portfolios that they manage. This is especially relevant to the Climate Change and Biodiversity portfolios.

Second, he said, countries should review the profile and interests of their traditional donors, and then share their NAPs at the national-level but in a manner that donors could "understand and accept." This implies presenting the NAP components which fit into the donor partners' profile and objectives. National donors/partners roundtables can be organized which bring together the GCLME Inter-ministerial committees and the development partners discuss funding support.

"Within the limits our funding resources and in consultation with our implementing and executing partners, IGCC will help support this work," he said.

### ***Guinea Current fish farmers urged to diversify into mariculture***

Fish farmers from some West and Central African countries have expressed the desire to diversify their fish farming activities into the sea in the form of mariculture in the GCLME region.

Their interests were stimulated by the presentations on mariculture technology, made 23-25 February by the Yellow Sea expert on the subject, Dr In-Kwon Jang. The participants were also exposed to cage culture technology practised in the freshwater environment of the Volta Dam, Ghana.

Dr Jang is from the **Yellow Sea LME** project, a major effort by China and South Korea to reduce environmental stress in the sea, using the LME assessment and management approach for restoring and sustaining marine resources, as well as coastal environments.



Photo: Yao Modenou IGCC/GCLME

### ***Dr In-Kwon Jang, an expert from the Yellow Sea, spoke on mariculture technology of shrimps in the Yellow Sea and the Sahara Desert***

The Interim Guinea Current Commission organized the meeting on mariculture development in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem. In collaboration with the Water Research Institute of

Ghana. It was held to connect fish farmers in the region with their counterparts in the Yellow Sea, who have extensive experience in mariculture, and set the stage for enhanced food security in the GCLME region and entrepreneurial exchange with fish farmers in the Yellow Sea.

“The workshop on sustainable mariculture development with environmental management is probably the first of its kind in the GCLME and this in itself is an achievement,” Dr Mohamed Seisay, the GCLME Fisheries Expert, said.

Dr Jang's presentation on the Yellow Sea and on mariculture technology of shrimps in the Yellow Sea and the Sahara Desert stimulated intense discussion. Technical presentations on aquaculture practices and mariculture development potential were also made by Dr George Darpaah and Dr Ayaa Armah from the University of Ghana as well as Dr Joseph Ofori and Dr Ruby Asmah from the Water Research Institute of Ghana.

The meeting underlined the role of the private sector to invest in development of sustainable fish markets for their mariculture products. It also called for national institutions to develop an appropriate aquaculture policy and legal framework for mariculture development; to build capacity and train fish farmers in the Guinea Current region; and make efforts to ensure that commercial fish farms are sustainable through a strengthened private sector.



Photo: Yao Modenou GCC/GCLME

### ***African fish farmers view cage culture technology on Lake Volta, Ghana***

Other recommendations are to conduct research into producing fish feed in the region; conduct a study on the feasibility for mariculture in the region; and identify the potential and financial return on investments. In this respect, participants suggested that a couple of sites should be identified for mariculture pilot projects which could, if successful, be replicated to scale in suitable sites in the region.

An Interim Network of Guinea Current Fish Farmers was created, with the Nigeria catfish farmer from Samaritan Fish Farms, Mr David Ogwu, as interim president. The main objective of this interim body is to promote mariculture development in the Guinea Current. The network will link marine fish farmers from Guinea-Bissau to Angola and provide them the technical backing on mariculture, through partnership with the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem in the Far East and information exchange through the Interim Guinea Current Commission.

### ***IGCC attends 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Fishery Bodies Networks Secretariat Forum***

The IGCC, represented by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) meeting in Rome 7-8 February 2011.

The meeting was opened by the Assistant Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Fisheries Department, Mr. Arni Mathiesen. He said regional fishery bodies played a unique role in facilitating international cooperation for the conservation and management of fish stocks. These bodies, he added, represented the primary means for managing highly migratory fish and straddling stocks.

Participants included representatives from the secretariats of 27 regional fishery bodies and four intergovernmental organizations with mandates that are related to fisheries. Representatives from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department were also present.

The annual meeting provides a forum for consultations on priority issues of common concern. The meeting was chaired by the secretary of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, Mr. Kjartan Hoydal. He said the IGCC had been accorded observer status at the meeting following a request by the IGCC/GCLME project management.

Dr. Seisay made a presentation on: “GCLME in Perspective with Focus on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.” He informed the RSN and other regional bodies about the organizational structure and functions of the IGCC/GCLME; the nature of interventions; and indications of outcomes in the assessment of the GCLME including insight into current activities and plans. The meeting also initiated discussions on collaboration with RSN members having interest in the Guinea Current region to ensure synergies in planning and execution of activities, especially in the fisheries sector.

In response to ensuing discussions prompted by the RSN secretary, Dr. Hiromota Watanabe, Dr. Seisay clarified that the aim of the permanent Guinea Current Commission, which was decided by the 16 GCLME countries in the Osu Declaration, was to set up an ecosystem-based management body based on the modular LME approach. The Fisheries Platform envisaged is an organ of the Guinea Current Commission, not a fisheries commission. The purpose of the platform on fisheries management issues would be to provide a framework for coordination, information and experience sharing amongst existing fisheries bodies and member countries adjacent to the Guinea Current. Thus, it will be a platform for regular discussions and will be expected to generate synergies so that issues of particular interest of the region's 300 million people would be discussed and acted on in a synergistic manner.

### ***Upcoming events***

- Regional dissemination workshop on the finding of the demonstration project on Marine Protected Areas. - Cotonou, Benin. 12-14 April
- Caucus of Large Marine Ecosystem Institutions/Programme in Africa - Accra, Ghana. 16 May 2011
- 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting - Accra, Ghana. 17-18 May
- Tripartite Review Meeting - UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO - Accra, Ghana. 19 May
- Seaboard Training workshop on water and sediment analysis - Oweri and Lagos, Nigeria. 24-28 May
- Regional workshop on Dispersant Use Policies IMO/GCLME. - Lome, Togo. 20-22 June
- IMO/GCLME Training on Port Biological Baseline Survey. - Lome, Togo. September.
- Regional Task Force meeting on the ratification and implementation of the IMO convention and ballast water management. - Lome, Togo. 13-15 Sept.