



IGCC NEWSLETTER



March, 2007

Edition

<http://www.gclme.org>

ANGOLA - BENIN - CAMEROON - CONGO - CÔTE D'IVOIRE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GABON - GHANA - GUINEA - GUINEA BISSAU - LIBERIA - NIGERIA - SAO TOME & PRINCEPE - SIERRA LEONE - TOGO

MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY, ACCRA, GHANA, 26 FEBRUARY - 02 MARCH, 2007

As part of regional activities to develop appropriate strategies for the protection and conservation of the region's biodiversity, the IGCC organized the Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Biodiversity, from February to 02 March, 2007.

The Group, chaired by Prof. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, the IGCC Regional Consultant on Biodiversity, and chairman of the Ghana National Biodiversity Committee, was assigned the task of Improving National Biodiversity Action Plans, Updating the Regional Biodiversity Action Plan and finalizing the nature and kind of museum collections to be displayed in the Biodiversity Museum located in the Regional Marine Productivity and Biodiversity Centre, University of Ghana, Legon.

The Guest of Honour for the opening, Deputy Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Daniel Dugan, charged the experts to evolve strategies to ensure that coastal and marine resources are used sustainably, in conformity with international obligations of the Convention on Biodiversity.

The Executive Secretary/Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe, asked the delegates to be steadfast in pursuit of the task assigned them and expressed optimism that the Group would formulate appropriate strategies to enhance and conserve the coastal and marine biological resources of the GCLME.



L-R: Madam Therese Edoah, Togo, Prof Alfred Oteng Yeboah, Ghana, Hon. Daniel Dugan, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ghana, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Executive Secretary, IGCC/Regional Director, GCLME Project and Mr. Jonathan Allotey, Executive Director, E.P.A., Ghana.



The Angolan participants. L-R: Mr. Manuel José Fernandes and Mrs Tania Celia Do Amaral Mandinga Da Silva Ramos. In the Background, Ms. Sylvia Nsenkyire, National Programme Assistant for Ghana.



A cross section of participants at the Meeting. L-R Mr. Pedro Malavo Nsene & Esono Masiemangue Paulino, Equatorial Guinea. Back row: Prof. Emmanuel Obot, from Nigeria, Prof. A.K. Armah from Ghana



SECOND TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR NGOS ON INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS, 26-30 MARCH, 2007

Mass communication, in the context of the management of coastal and marine environment, is an increasing valuable tool to ensure effective management of the coastal and marine environment.

It is in this regard that the IGCC hosted Representatives of multidisciplinary NGOs within the region at the Second Training Workshop on Integrated and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Areas, from 26-30 March. This was a follow up to the First Workshop held in September, 2005.

The training was focused on basic concepts of IEC (Information, Education and Communication), and on sustainable financing mechanisms of NGO activities in coastal and marine areas. This contributes to the IGCC's goal of equipping the various actors in the coastal and marine areas of the GCLME with the necessary qualifications, information and approaches towards integrated environmental and living resources management as well as ensuring continuity to their activities through sustainable financing.

Other activities undertaken by the participants during the workshop included the election of new Executives for the IGCC-NGO Coordination Taskforce and Finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding on the IGCC-NGOs Partnership,

The Guest of Honour for the Opening Ceremony, the Minister for Information and National Orientation, Ghana, Hon. Kwamena Bartels (MP) charged NGOs present to reflect on ways of working together to create a conducive environment for regional cooperation and collaborative capacity building to combat the depletion of living resources and also eliminate the threat to fish food security on which majority of coastal populations in the region depend for economic benefits.

He was optimistic that the meeting would bring to bear strategies to facilitate information dissemination and management by NGOs



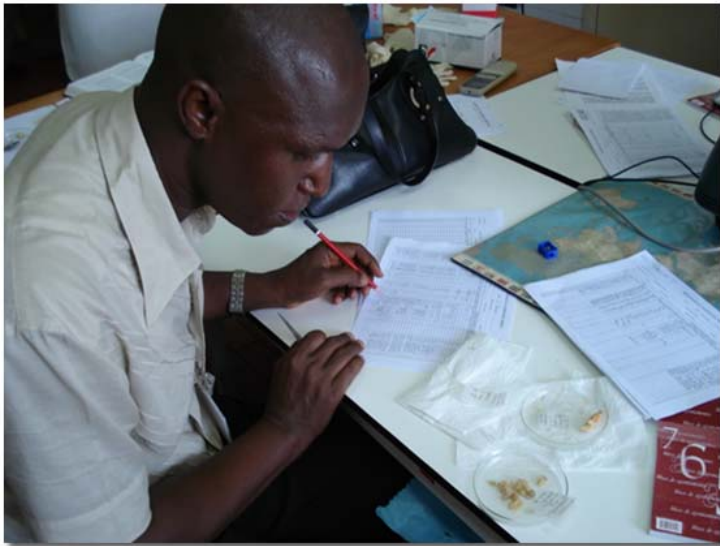
L-R Dr. Chika Ukwe, UNIDO, Prof. A.K. Armah, Head, Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Ghana, Hon Kwamena Bartels (MP), Minister for Information and National Orientation, Ghana, Prof Chidi Ibe, Executive Secretary/Regional Director, Dr. Stephen Duah Yentumi, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative



Hon Kwamena Bartels (MP) during his Keynote Address.



*Executives of the IGCC-NGO Taskforce Coordination Unit
Sitting L-R: Salteria Mendes (Treasurer, CA), Vincent Agnimel, (President) Mme Innocentia Guedegbe (Treasurer, WA). Standing L-R: Issac Ato Dodd (Auditor, WA), Dr. Francis Nunoo (Vice President, WA), Johnny Aniebiet (Secretary, WA), Nicaise Moulombi (Secretary, CA), Mr. Alphonse Dinonga (Vice President, CA)
WA: West Africa, CA: Central Africa*



Ibrahim Turay from Sierra Leone analysing fish samples at laboratory in Luanda, Angola.



Mrs Catherine Isebor, Ms. Aline Capela Fernandes de Castro and other scientists at work.

ANALYSIS OF STOMACH CONTENTS FROM FISHERY RESOURCES SURVEY, MARCH 26-30, 2007

From 26-30th March, IGCC Fisheries Experts from Angola, Ghana, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe and Sierra Leone met in Angola, to analyze stomach contents of samples from the 2006 Fishery Resources Survey.

The workshop aimed at :

- Promoting the ecosystem-based approach to resource management.
- To establish relationships between primary carrying capacity and fish yields.
- Understanding interactions in biodiversity of the marine ecosystem (feeding ecology of fishes)
- Analyse stomach content of major species to identify prey items to come up with a model (ecopath) to forecast and predict changes in the ecosystem as they affect the biomass of fish species

The results of the analyses will be used for stock assessment of the region's fishery resources through the assessment of food intakes at various trophic levels and the formulation of models for multispecies fisheries in the sub-region

This significantly contributes to efforts being undertaken by the IGCC to enhance the recovery of fish stocks and subsequently fish food security for the regions 300 million plus people.



Mrs. Francisca Delgado, Director of INIP, Luanda, Angola with some participants during the closing diner on 29th March 2007.

UPDATES

- The Executive Secretary/Regional Director attended FAO Consultative Meeting, from February, 17-23, in Rome Italy. He participated in technical discussions held at FAO Headquarters in Rome on 20 and 21 February 2007 regarding decisions and arrangements for the survey to be carried out by the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen in the GCLME area in mid-2007.
- The Environment Expert, Dr. Abe, undertook a mission to Togo, from February 21-23 to assist the National team complete the National Programme of Action (NPA). The document was finalised and submitted to National Experts for Amendment.

APPOINTMENTS

National Directors

- Ghana: Mr. Rudolph Kuuzegh, Director of Environment .
- Gabon: Mr. Massard Makagha, Director General of Environment
- Guinea Bissau: Joao Raimundo Lopes, General Director of Environment
- DRC: Mr. Mwamba Nyembo, Ministry of Environment

Programme Assistants

- Cameroon: Mr. Valentin Wagnoun, Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
- Guinea Bissau : Mr. Octavio Cabral, Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Sao Tome & Principe: Mr. Lourenco Monteiro de Jesús, Ministry of Environment
- Togo: Mr. Marc Guinhouya, Ministry of Environment

CONGRATULATIONS

The IGCC wishes to congratulate :

- Mr. Theophile Worou on his appointment as Directeur de Cabinet, Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature, Benin. He remains the National Director of the GCLME Project.
- Madam Solange Loubamono, Former Deputy Director of Environment, Gabon on her appointment as Advisor to the Prime Minister, in Charge of Sustainable Development, Environment, National Parks and Tourism. She maintains her position as the Director of the IGCC Regional Centre for Risk Assessment and Risk Management.

