

## Namibia ratifies the Benguela Current Convention

**The National Assembly of Namibia ratified the Benguela Current Convention in July, following the signing of the groundbreaking environmental treaty by the three countries of the Benguela region in March.**

The Benguela Current Convention was signed in the Angolan city of Benguela on March 18, marking the establishment of the first multi-lateral Commission in the world to be based on the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach to ocean governance, and ushering in a new era of cooperation between the governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

The signing ceremony was attended by a large number of government ministers and officials from Angola, Namibia and South Africa, and representatives of the UN agencies and other development partners that have provided funding and support for regional cooperation in the Benguela region since the early 1990s.

With the signing of the Convention, the

Benguela Current Commission (BCC) becomes a permanent institution through which Angola, Namibia and South Africa will collaborate in promoting the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME).

The ratification process has been completed in Namibia and is underway in South Africa and Angola.

At the heart of the Benguela Current Convention is the concept of the ecosystem approach: a long-term approach that aims to maintain ecosystem goods and services for sustainable use, while recognising that humans are an integral part of the process.



## Capacity building initiative launched in Cape Town

The African Centre for Capacity-Building in Ocean Governance (AfriCOG), which brings together 18 partner organisations with the goal of building capacity in ocean governance, was launched in Cape Town in September.

The new multi-sectoral initiative recognises that the sustainable use and management of marine and coastal resources across Africa is largely dependent on the capacity of nations to carry out research, monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities.

AfriCOG seeks to foster partnerships and support for strengthening Pan-African capacity and skills in marine resource management and ocean governance. It also aims to enhance and encourage the use of trained professionals in the sustainable management and use of coastal and marine goods and services for the long-term security and welfare of associated countries and communities.

**For more information, please turn to page 4.**

Download the full text of the Benguela Current Convention at:

<http://www.benguelacc.org/index.php/en/about/the-benguela-current-convention>



*Honourable Bernard Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia, Honourable Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs in South Africa, and Honourable Victoria de Barros Neto, Minister of Fisheries in Angola, exchange signed copies of the Benguela Current Convention.*

## Le projet sur le GEM du Courant des Canaries finalise son ADT

Une Analyse Diagnostique Transfrontière pour le GEM du courant des Canaries sera présentée à la réunion du Comité de Pilotage du projet CCLME, prévue à Banjul (Gambie) du 2 au 4 décembre 2013.

L'état de progrès actuel de l'ADT du projet fait suite à plusieurs mois de travail intensif par de nombreux groupes de travail et des ateliers. On peut évoquer le groupe de travail socio-économique et commerce; le groupe de travail planification et analyse des campagnes écosystémiques; et l'atelier sur les Aires Marines Protégées (AMP) et d'autres ateliers dédiés à plusieurs projets de démonstration.

En septembre, lors d'une réunion du groupe de travail Socio-économie et commerce, une première évaluation socio-économique des biens et services fournis par le CCLME a été réalisée. Le groupe de travail s'est concentré sur les informations socio-économiques disponibles pour le secteur de la pêche et la façon dont cette information est utilisée dans la gestion des pêches dans chaque pays et au niveau régional. Il est à noter que ce groupe de travail a également examiné les impacts sociaux et économiques des mesures de gestion alternative, en plus des options pour le développement et le commerce des produits de la pêche dans les pays CCLME.



Le groupe de travail Analyse et Planification des campagnes écosystémiques qui a évalué les données recueillies au cours de cinq campagnes scientifiques menées dans le cadre du projet CCLME s'est également réuni. Un des résultats attendus de ce groupe de travail est un point de

référence pour toutes les composantes de l'écosystème, y compris les ressources marines du CCLME. Cette connaissance sera également une contribution importante dans l'ADT.

Enfin, un atelier sur les Aires Marines Protégées et la pêche a eu lieu en octobre. Les participants ont été chargés de valider et d'adopter l'étude sur la méthodologie d'évaluation participative et de surveillance des ressources et des Pêcheries démersales dans deux sites pilotes AMP. Sur la base des résultats de cette étude, le groupe de travail a formulé des recommandations pour le suivi et l'évaluation participative dans le cadre de la cogestion des pêches dans la région CCLME.

Toutes ces rencontres ont eu lieu dans la salle de conférence de l'Unité Régionale de Coordination du projet CCLME à Dakar, au Sénégal. Les experts des pays participants ont été rejoints par un certain nombre de spécialistes internationaux. Les résultats des réunions contribuent à l'élaboration de l'ADT du projet CCLME.

**Turn to page 6 for English translation.**



*Le Groupe de Travail Socio-économique et commerce*



*Le Groupe de Travail Planification et Analyse des Campagnes Ecosystémiques*



*Le Groupe de Travail MPAs et Pêches*



### The CCLME project

Seven countries in northwest Africa are working through the CCLME project to reverse the degradation of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) and introduce an ecosystem approach to ocean governance. The countries are Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal.

The effective management of shared fish stocks is one of the biggest challenges facing these countries and the project is promoting multi-country cooperation and co-management of shared stocks, with a view to achieving sustainable fisheries management.

## *Pays sont à l'unanimité en faveur de l'établissement d'une commission du Courant de Guinée*

Les 16 pays de la région du Courant de Guinée sont à l'unanimité en faveur de l'établissement d'une commission permanente du Courant de Guinée par un protocole de la Convention d'Abidjan.

Christian Susan (département de la gestion de ressources en eaux de l'ONUDI) a confié à LME News que le Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial (FEM) envisage le financement de la mise en œuvre d'un projet de Plan d'Action Stratégique (PAS) pour le grand Ecosystème Marin du Courant de Guinée (GEMCG). Le développement du

projet de Plan d'Action Stratégique pour le GEMCG s'est terminé le 31 décembre 2012. Suite à la demande des pays de la région lors d'une conférence ministérielle à Abidjan en Mai 2012, une demande de subvention par le FEM (PIF - Formulaire d'identification de projet) a été développée en collaboration avec quatre agences des Nations Unies : FAO, PNUD, PNUE et ONUDI. « Conformément aux instructions reçues du Secrétariat du FEM, une approche programmatique sera adoptée, permettant aux quatre agences du FEM de faire le meilleur usage de leurs

avantages comparatifs respectifs afin de soutenir les 16 pays du GEMCG dans la mise en œuvre de leur PAS », explique Christian Susan.

L'apport de l'assistance technique pour la mise en place d'une Commission permanente du Courant de Guinée par un protocole à la Convention d'Abidjan sera un élément central du projet de mise en œuvre du plan d'action stratégique.

**Turn to page 6 for English translation.**



*Fisheries scientists from Angola, Namibia and South Africa have convened a Small Pelagic Working Group that will provide advice to the Ecosystem Advisory Committee of the Benguela Current Convention. At the first meeting of the Working Group, specialists in small pelagic fisheries from Norway and Senegal were invited to share their knowledge and experience of managing shared fish stocks.*

### **BCC convenes Small Pelagic Working Group**

Scientists with specialist knowledge of the small pelagic fisheries of the Benguela region met in Cape Town in November to establish a Small Pelagic Working Group that will provide scientific recommendations and advice to the Benguela Current Commission.

The collaborative management of shared fish stocks is one of the primary functions of the BCC, a permanent inter-governmental body that was formally established in March this year following the signing of the Benguela Current Convention.

According to Dr Hashali Hamukuaya, Executive Secretary of the BCC, the establishment of the Small Pelagic Working Group represents an important first step in the

process of jointly managing shared fish stocks.

“The convening of this working group is a very significant step,” said Dr Hamukuaya, explaining that the working group is made up of scientists from each of the three countries.

“Their role is to assess the status of the transboundary small pelagic stocks and their fisheries, promote collaborative research, advise on common data collection and analysis methods and identify and prioritise research needs.”

The Small Pelagic Working Group will work through the Ecosystem Advisory Committee of the BCC which provides scientific recommendations to the government ministers who serve on the Ministerial Conference of the BCC. This

includes advice on total allowable catch (TAC) and/or other management and conservation measures aimed at protecting and managing the resources of the Benguela region.

Small pelagic species that occur in the Benguela region are horse mackerels, sardine, anchovy, sardinellas and round herring. In Angola and Namibian, there are important fisheries for horse mackerels, sardines and sardinella, while in South Africa sardines and anchovy are targeted by purse seiners and horse mackerel are landed by midwater and demersal trawlers.



## More about AfriCOG

Initially developed as a joint output from the ASCLME Project and Rhodes University in South Africa, AfriCOG has since evolved rapidly to include provincial, national, regional and international partnerships.

### Mission

To provide partnership and support for training and strengthening capacity and skills in marine resource management and ocean governance and to enhance and encourage the use of trained human resources in the sustainable management and use of coastal and marine goods and services for the long-term security and welfare of associated countries and communities.

### Objectives

- Build capacity and skill-sets within Africa for delivering targeted scientific studies related to management and governance priorities
- ‘Think-Tank’ and develop an inclusive science-based governance mechanism
- Demonstrate/orchestrate mechanism to support the translation of scientific studies and results into adaptive management guidelines and policy recommendations
- Explore workable management and governance mechanisms for various geopolitical scenarios
- Explore new management strategies within and between various aquatic sectors

### Deliverables

- Courses in ocean governance aimed at managers; decision-makers; technical level
- Platforms for constructive partnerships and research, key expertise, mentorship, postgraduate studies (MSc, PhD), appropriate courses and research programmes
- Creation of a skill-set of “translators” and peers who can identify active trends and propose realistic scenarios for management and policy realignment
- Development of national and regional level governance and management mechanisms based on a “weight-of-evidence” approach derived from sound scientific data and monitoring results.

### Current Status

Some USD2.2 million has already been confirmed as support funds to AfriCOG for the next five years (GEF, UNDP, International Ocean Institute, Norway) and further funding is currently in advanced stages of negotiation

**For more information, visit**  
<http://www.africog.net>

## GEF to fund SAP implementation in the ASCLME region

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved a second tranche of funding for the Agulhas and Somali Current LME (ASCLME) region, providing a valuable opportunity for the countries of the region to work together to resolve some of the transboundary problems identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis published by the ASCLME project late last year. ([asclme.org/TDA](http://asclme.org/TDA) [asclme.org/SAP](http://asclme.org/SAP))

The GEF funding will be used to implement a project with the formal name “*Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms*” and the acronym “WIO-SAPPHIRE”.

The composition and location of an implementation body, or agency, has not yet been decided by the nine countries of the region. However, the strong partnerships that were established during the ASCLME Project are likely to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme. This network, commonly known as WIOSEA, is a technical and scientific alliance that supports and fosters multidisciplinary, collaborative research and is envisioned as one of the mechanisms that will support SAP implementation.

In addition, the AfriCOG initiative is expected to provide a mechanism for developing human capacity, with the ultimate goal of fostering effective ocean governance across all sectors.



## The launch of AfriCOG – September 2013

*Pictured at the launch of the African Centre for Capacity-Building in Ocean Governance (AfriCOG), are (from left to right) Edosa Omoregie, University of Namibia; Professor Warwick Sauer, Rhodes University; Blandina Lugendo, University of Dar es Salaam; Akiko Yamamoto, United Nations Development Programme, UNDP; Juliette Hermes, South African Environmental Observation Network, SAEON; Johann Augustyn, South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; David Vousden, ASCLME Project; Larry Hildebrand, World Maritime University; Adnan Awad, International Ocean Institute; Theresa Frantz, South African National Biodiversity Institute; John Wrench, Bayworld Centre for Research and Education; Coleen Moloney, Marine Research Institute, University of Cape Town; Andrew Leitch, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University; Magnus Ngoile, ASCLME Project; and Ronney Ncwadi, University of Fort Hare. Not pictured are Saleem Badat, Rhodes University; Larry Oellermann, Oceanographic Research Institute; Angus Paterson, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity; Peter Myles, Nelson Mandela Bay Maritime Cluster; and Mish Hamid, IW:LEARN.*

## Collaborative Actions for Sustainable Tourism Project (COAST): Reef and Marine Recreation Management (RMRM) in East Africa

The development of tourism in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and viable manner in the coastal areas in Africa is of paramount importance. This is particularly true in East Africa where poverty levels in most coastal villages are extremely high and where many communities depend directly on marine resources for survival. The marine and coastal environments of East Africa are renowned for their beauty, diversity and sensitivity and support a thriving tourist industry.

Over the last five years, the Global Environment Fund (GEF), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), have actively collaborated to address the sustainable tourism development in the coastal areas in Africa, through a GEF funded project, titled “*Collaborative Actions for Sustainable Tourism*” (COAST).

The COAST project comprises three Thematic Areas: Eco-tourism, Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Reef and Marine Recreation Management (RMRM). It also includes one cross cutting element that focuses on Sustainable Tourism Governance and Management.

Nine African countries are participating in the COAST project including: Cameroon, Gambia, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya,

Mozambique, Tanzania and the Seychelles.

This article highlights aspects of the **Reef and Marine Thematic Area** of the COAST Project, focusing on progress on the mapping outputs. The RMRM thematic area runs across three East African countries: Kenya (Watamu), Mozambique (Tofo-Barra-Tofinho) and Tanzania (Bagamoyo). The aim of the RMRM activities is to promote sustainable reef and marine recreation practices at each of the selected demonstration (demo) sites.

The RMRM work focuses on reef surveys and GIS mapping of sensitive areas and damaged sites within the Demo Sites, and includes management planning, awareness creation and capacity building on reef management and conservation to reduce pollution, the loss of biodiversity and other negative impacts. A Demo Site was established in each country with the purpose of testing and supporting Best Available Practices (BATs) and Best Available Technologies (BATs), in coastal tourism and for these practices to be more widely understood at the local level.

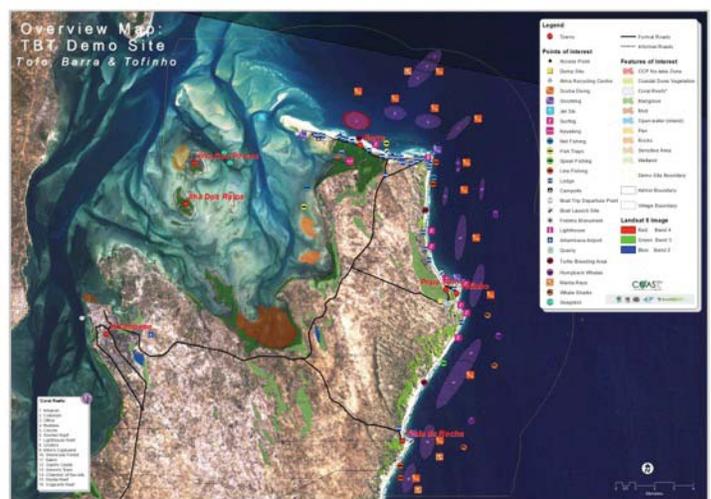
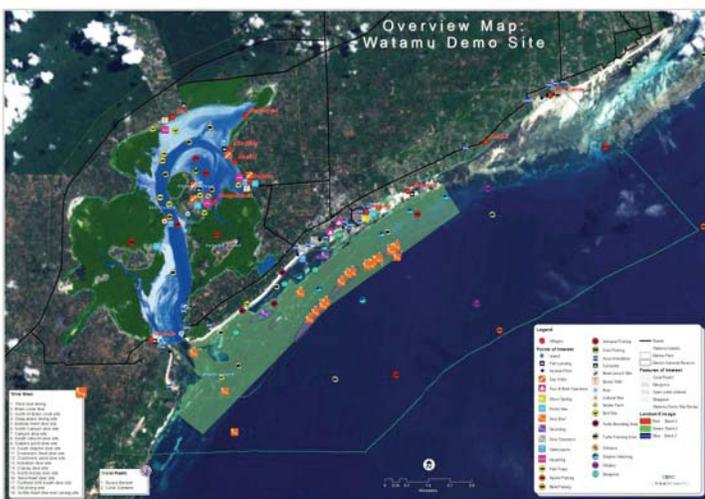
### The Reef and Marine Mapping Process

Through various stakeholder consultations, discussions with the local user groups and rapid reef surveys, an approach was identified to assess the reefs within all 3 Demo Sites. A combination of rapid assessment techniques were used including: (i) random photographic profiling; (ii) fish and coral counts (hard and soft corals and

other indicator species); (3) photographic profiling along a line transect; and (4) video transects. These rapid assessment techniques were done to obtain a snapshot of the reefs and the associated marine systems within each of the Demo Sites. Information from the assessments is being used in conjunction with participatory mapping techniques to identify the sensitive and degraded marine areas within all Demo Sites, and those marine recreation areas most in need of stronger management.

Preliminary outputs for the mapping thus far, include draft maps for each of the Demo Sites showing key marine ecosystems and sensitive areas, tourism activities, existing management measures and specific sites of degradation and/or vulnerability. The maps will inform the recommendations for improved management that will be outlined in the Sustainability Plan currently under development for each site. The purpose of these Plans are to guide and promote sustainable marine tourism within the Demo Sites to maximise the benefits from healthy marine ecosystems.

The preliminary maps published on page 6 are examples of the kinds of maps produced by the mapping activity. They are a “work in progress” and are used to inform and promote sustainable reef and marine recreation activities within each of the demonstration sites.



Maps of demonstration sites in Watamu, Kenya, and Tofo-Barra-Tofinho in Mozambique. The maps are used to inform and promote sustainable reef and marine recreation activities within each of the demonstration sites.

## Canary Current LME project to finalise TDA

A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Canary Current LME will be presented at the steering committee meeting of the CCLME project, scheduled to take place in Banjul, Gambia from 2 to 4 December 2013.



The finalisation of the project's TDA follows several months of intensive work by many working groups and workshops. These include the Socio-economic and Trade Working Group; the Ecosystem and Survey Planning and Analysis Working Group; and the Working Group on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Fisheries and workshops devoted to several demonstration projects.

In September, at a meeting of the Socio-economic and Trade Working Group, a first socio-economic evaluation of the ecosystem goods and services provided by the CCLME was compiled. The Working Group concentrated on the socio-economic information available for the fishing sector and the way this information is used in the management of fisheries in each country, and at the regional level. It should be noted that this working group also reviewed the social and economic impacts of alternative management measures, as well as options for the development and trade of fishery products in CCLME countries.

Also meeting in September was the Survey Planning and Analysis Working Group which assessed the data gathered during five scientific surveys carried out within the framework of the CCLME project. One of the expected outputs of this Working Group is a reference point for all

ecosystem components, including the marine resources of the CCLME. This knowledge will also make an important contribution to the TDA.

Finally, a workshop on Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries was held in October. Participants were tasked with validating and adopting the study on the methodology for participatory assessment and monitoring of resources and demersal fisheries at two MPA pilot sites. On the basis of the results of this study, the Working Group made recommendations for participatory monitoring and evaluation in the context of the co-management of fisheries in the CCLME region.

All these meetings were held in the conference hall of the Regional Coordination Unit of the CCLME project in Dakar, Senegal. Experts from the participating countries were joined by a number of international specialists. The results of the meetings contributed substantially to the finalisation of the TDA of the CCLME project.

## Countries unanimously in favour of GCLME Commission

The 16 countries of the Guinea Current region are unanimously in favour of establishing a permanent Guinea Current Commission by a protocol of the Abidjan Convention.

This is according to Christian Susan of UNIDO's Water Management Unit, who told *LME News* that the Global Environment Facility is considering funding for a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Implementation project for the Guinea Current LME. The GCLME SAP development project was completed on 31 Dec 2012 and, following a request made by the countries of the region during a ministerial conference in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in May 2012, a PIF (application for funding, called a Project Identification Form) was developed in collaboration with four UN agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO.

"In line with instructions received from the GEF Secretariat, a programmatic approach will be embraced, allowing the four GEF agencies to make best use of their respective comparative advantages in supporting the 16 GCLME countries in the implementation of their SAP," explained Christian Susan.

The provision of technical assistance for the establishment of a permanent Guinea Current Commission by a protocol to the Abidjan Convention will be a core element of the SAP implementation project.



### New book documents LME successes

A new volume entitled *Stress, sustainability and development of Large Marine Ecosystems during climate change: policy and implementation* has been published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The book was compiled and edited by Dr Kenneth Sherman and consists of a number of papers presented at the Large Marine Ecosystem Conference that took place in Boston, USA, in February 2013.

Together, the chapters record the scientific partnerships and investments made by the

Global Environment Facility (GEF); International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO); and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), towards the recovery and sustainable development of the world's LMEs.

Included in the book is a chapter by Dr Hashali Hamukuaya, Executive Secretary of the Benguela Current Commission and his co-authors from the UNDP-

GEF BCLME SAP Implementation Project, entitled *Science to*

*Governance in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem*. The case study documents the progress of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Programme (2002 to 2008), the establishment of the Benguela Current Commission and the eventual signing of the Benguela Current Convention.



### Third Global Conference on LMEs to take place in Namibia

The third Global Conference on Large Marine Ecosystems will be convened by the Benguela Current Commission and member countries, Angola, Namibia and South Africa, on October 8, 9 and 10 in Swakopmund, Namibia. **The Conference will commemorate 30 years of development and application around the world of the ecosystem approach to ocean governance.**

The LME approach was introduced in 1984 and the first international conference on LMEs was held in Monaco in 1990. A second conference was convened in Qindao, China in 2007. At the 2014 Conference, results of the application of the LME approach will be presented and the comparative effects of global climate change on LME productivity, resilience and governance will be reviewed.

### The African LME Caucus

Africa's five Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) encompass 33 coastal states with an estimated population of 600 million people, 50 per cent of whom live within 100 kilometres of the coast and depend on healthy ecosystems and sustainable fisheries for their livelihoods. **The African LMEs include the Agulhas and Somali Currents LME; the Benguela LME; the Canary Current LME; the Guinea Current LME; and the Mediterranean LME.**

The newsletter of the LME Caucus strives to improve communication between Large Marine Ecosystem Projects and inter-governmental commissions across Africa. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please contact Ms Petrina Mutumbulua at the office of the Benguela Current Commission: [petrina@benguelacc.org](mailto:petrina@benguelacc.org)

### Rest in peace Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, an inspiration to all



18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013