



# IGCC NEWSLETTER



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

## ANGOLAN DELEGATION TO LIBREVILLE, GABON, 26 APRIL - 2 MAY, 2008

Between 26 April and 2 May, 2008, a team from the GCLME Regional Activity Center for Fisheries Resources in Angola undertook a field mission to Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Gabon. The mission was a follow-up of the Sub regional Workshop on the management of shared stock of Sardinella Angola, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Gabon held in Luanda, Angola from 5 to 7 September 2007.

After deliberations at the Workshop, the participants resolved that gaps still exist in the knowledge of important aspects of basic ecology of the main sardinella species in the four countries. Hence, the need to study the Sardinella species in the countries since the small pelagic fisheries provide nearly half of the animal protein to the people of the four countries and is an important source of employment, often the only source of livelihood for the poorer population groups.



*Visit to the Nomba Bridge which is the onloading site for fish sellers in Gabon.*



*Angolan delegation with officials of the Fisheries Department, Gabon.*

the sardinella stocks by promoting and facilitating effective co-operation in research and management of fisheries for the conservation and the optimal exploitation of the sardinella stocks common to the four (4) countries, and finally to define and develop measures for the conservation and the sustainable management of this resource.

The objective of the mission was to setup a structure comprising of:

- a scientific working group which will be responsible for carrying, accessing and coordinating research as well as making recommendations for management.
- a coordinating committee which will be charged with management and policy making for co-operative management of the sardinella resources, and;
- a designated national focal point.

Results derived from the mission are expected to help in addressing the need to prevent possible future over-exploitation and the shift of

*Dried fish unloaded at the Nomba Bridge.*



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## *35th Session of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) GCLME-RCU, Accra, Ghana, 13-16 May, 2008*



*The High Table at the Opening Ceremony: (L-R) Dr. Miguel Palomares (IMO), Dr. Pablo Huidobro (UNIDO), Dr. Michael Huber (Global Coastal Strategies, Australia) and Dr. Tim Bowmer (TNO Chemistry, The Netherlands).*

Some of the planned activities are:

- Evaluation of the hazards of harmful substances carried by ships (WG 1: IMO leading);
- Review of applications for 'active substances' to be used in ballast water management systems (WG34: IMO leading);
- Development of activities in relation to deepwater fisheries, fisheries habitat and related ecosystem concerns (WG35: FAO leading);
- Development of an ecosystem approach to mariculture (WG36: FAO leading);
- Expanded scientific review of mercury and its compounds and threats to the marine environment (WG37: UNIDO leading);
- Atmospheric input of pollutants to the oceans (WG38: WMO leading).



*Group photograph of participants to the session.*

The 35th Session of Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) was held at the Ken Sherman Conference Hall of the Interim Guinea Current Commission (IGCC) in Accra, Ghana from 13-16 May, 2008.

The mission of GESAMP is to provide authoritative, independent, interdisciplinary scientific advice to organizations and member Governments to support the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting which was chaired by Michael Huber of Global Coastal Strategies, Australia, members were informed of their specific tasks in planning of GESAMP activities



*An overview of the Conference Hall during the Opening Session.*

- Establishment of trends in global pollution in coastal environments (IAEA leading)



*Dr. Pablo Huidobro (Project Manager) and Dr. Andrew Hudson (UNDP-GEF; - 3rd-4th from left) with the GCLME-RCU staff.*



## *Improving Waste Water management in Coastal Cities, GCLME-RCU, Accra, Ghana, 26-31 May, 2008*



*At the High Table (L-R): Mr. Amlalo, Director, EPA, Dr. Jacques Abe, Officer-in-Charge, GCLME-RCU, Mr. Jonathan Allotey, Executive Director, EPA, Dr. Erik de Ruyter Van Steveninck and Diederik Rousseau of UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands.*

The Opening Ceremony of the Workshop was chaired by Mr. Jonathan Allotey, Executive Director, EPA who said that the resources within the coastal area of Ghana were found within a very fragile ecosystem. He said that degradation of the natural resource has also increased and so has the incidence of coastal erosion.

Mr. Allotey said it was in response to the threats to coastal and marine environment by land-based activities that in 2001, governments of coastal nations, including Ghana, committed themselves to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action as a way of ensuring improved governance of the marine and coastal environments.

As part of the interventions, therefore, he said Ghana started implementing policies on institutional capacity building, education and awareness programmes, regulatory and socio-economic incentives.

Dr. Jacques Abe, Officer-In-Charge of GCLME-RCU stated a recent research conducted by GCLME industrial waste management expert to assess the status of Industrial Waste Management and Identify Industrial Hotspots in the Region,



*Technical session of the Workshop.*

The IGCC hosted a training of trainers in Accra organized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ghana under the theme "Improving Municipal Wastewater Management in Coastal Cities". The Training Workshop was organized in collaboration with UNEP, UNDOALOS and UNESCO.

Similar Workshops are scheduled to be organized in Sekondi, Takoradi and Kumasi, Ghana.

Discharge of untreated waste water into rivers, lagoons and estuaries or directly into the ocean has been identified as one of the most serious threats to the health of coastal populations and sustainable coastal development worldwide.



*Group photograph of participants.*

showed that municipal effluents are regularly discharged into lagoons which finally end up in the sea. This has reduced the lagoons to an anoxic state, unable to support any aerobic form of life.

According to Dr. Abe, "time has come for us to reflect on how we can work together to create a conducive environment for regional cooperation and collaborative capacity building to combat the depletion of living resources and also eliminate threats to fish food security on which majority of our people depend for economic benefits".

## 'PROGRAMME REGIONAL D'OCEANOGRAPHIE PHYSIQUE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST' (PROPAO), 29 May, 2008

29 May, 2008 marked the Inauguration of the Physical Oceanography Project for West Africa (PROPAO) in Ghana. PROPAO Ghana is the last to be installed among the six African countries involved in the project namely, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.

The project is expected to improve the comprehension of the African Monsoon dynamics and of the impact of its variability over associated rainfall, water resources, agriculture, food security, health and socio-economic development.

The PROPAO mainly addresses the following:

- Analysis and monitoring of the oceanic conditions in the Gulf of Guinea, and principally along its northern coasts (from Nigeria to Côte d'Ivoire);
- Influence of the surface oceanic conditions on the variability of the monsoon flux;
- Impact of the oceanic and climatic conditions on resources and coastal erosion;
- Establish a regional data bank of coastal oceanographic measurements;
- Reinforce local capacities (link with universities).

The programme as well, has links with other regional and international programs like: PIRATA, AMMA, CLIV ARITACE, GOOSAFRICA, OOINAFRICA and GCLME.

The Inauguration Ceremony of the PROPAO was honored by the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Science of the University of Ghana represented by his Vice as the Chairman of the occasion.

The Regional Director of PROPAO, Mr. Djiman Roger from Benin presented the Project to the participants. The programme is expected to contribute in achieving one of the objectives of the AMMA/EGEE program, concerning the monitoring and description of the coastal upwelling along the northern coasts of the Gulf of Guinea, and of its impacts on regional climate and resources.



*At the High Table (L-R) are: Rep. from French Embassy, Dr. J. Abe - OIC, GCLME RCU, Mr. R. Djiman - RD, PROPAO, Ms. Valerie Lesbros from French Embassy, Vice Dean, Faculty of Science, Dr. G. Wiawe - H.O.D, Oceanography/ Fisheries and Mr. Bernard Bourles (IRD, France)*



*Dr. Abe presenting the TDA document to Dr. Bourles in the presence of Mr. Djiman Roger.*

The Officer In Charge of the GCLME Regional Coordination Unit, Dr. Jacques Abe presented the GCLME project and made available to participants GCLME folder with DVD Rom containing global information on the GCLME project. He also offered the TDA document to the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Ghana, Legon.

The PROPAO is being funded for three years (2007-2010) in the framework of the "Fonds de Solidarite Prioritaire- Recherche Interdisciplinaire et Participative entre les Ecosysteme, le Climat et les Societes d'Afrique de l'Ouest" (FSP/RIPIECISA) of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinated to international level by the "Agence Inter- Etablissements de Recherche pour le Developpement" (AIRD).



*Group photograph of participants.*