

BENGUELA CURRENT CONVENTION

The first legal framework in the world to be based on the Large Marine Ecosystem concept of ocean governance



THE BENGUELA CURRENT LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

- The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) is one of the major eastern boundary upwelling systems in the world and an important centre of marine biodiversity and marine food production.
- It is productive in terms of living marine resources such as fish stocks, seabirds and marine mammals. Commercial fisheries and extraction of non-living natural resources such as oil, gas and diamonds, are the focus of economic activities in the region. **It is estimated that coastal and marine resources contribute approximately US\$269 billion per year to the economies of Angola, Namibia and South Africa.**
- Threats to the ecosystem include climate change and climate variability and seasonal, inter-annual and longer periods, non-optimal harvesting of shared fish stocks, impacts of exploration and extraction activities on the ecosystem, deterioration in coastal water quality and threats to species and habitats as a result of human impacts

TDA, SAP STATUS

- The original Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was prepared in 1999 and the current version was updated in 2013. The BCC has a five year Strategic Action Programme (2015-2019) with eight thematic areas, namely living marine resources, non-living marine resources, productivity and environmental variability, pollution, ecosystem health and biodiversity, human dimensions, enhance the economic development potential and governance.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Benguela Current Convention was signed in March 2013 and entered into force in December 2015. The objective of the Convention is to promote a coordinated approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the BCLME, in order to provide economic, environmental and social benefits. It provides a legal framework for cross-border cooperation between the Parties.



Improving Ocean Governance and Integrated Management (BCLME III) Project

Progress by the BCC towards stress reduction on the ecosystem and socio-economic development:

- Development of stock assessment models to inform sustainable fisheries practices
- Improvements in fisheries management through the application of ecological risk assessment reviews and development of management plans for key fisheries conducted;
- Identification of pollution sources and hotspots and development of monitoring programmes.
- Identification of threats to vulnerable marine species and habitats and development and/or updating of national plans of actions to reduce incidental catches of seabirds and turtles
- Strengthened regional capacity to sustainably manage the BCLME through direct training and capacity development interventions such as fisheries management and designing of pollution monitoring plan.

Some new/ongoing initiatives

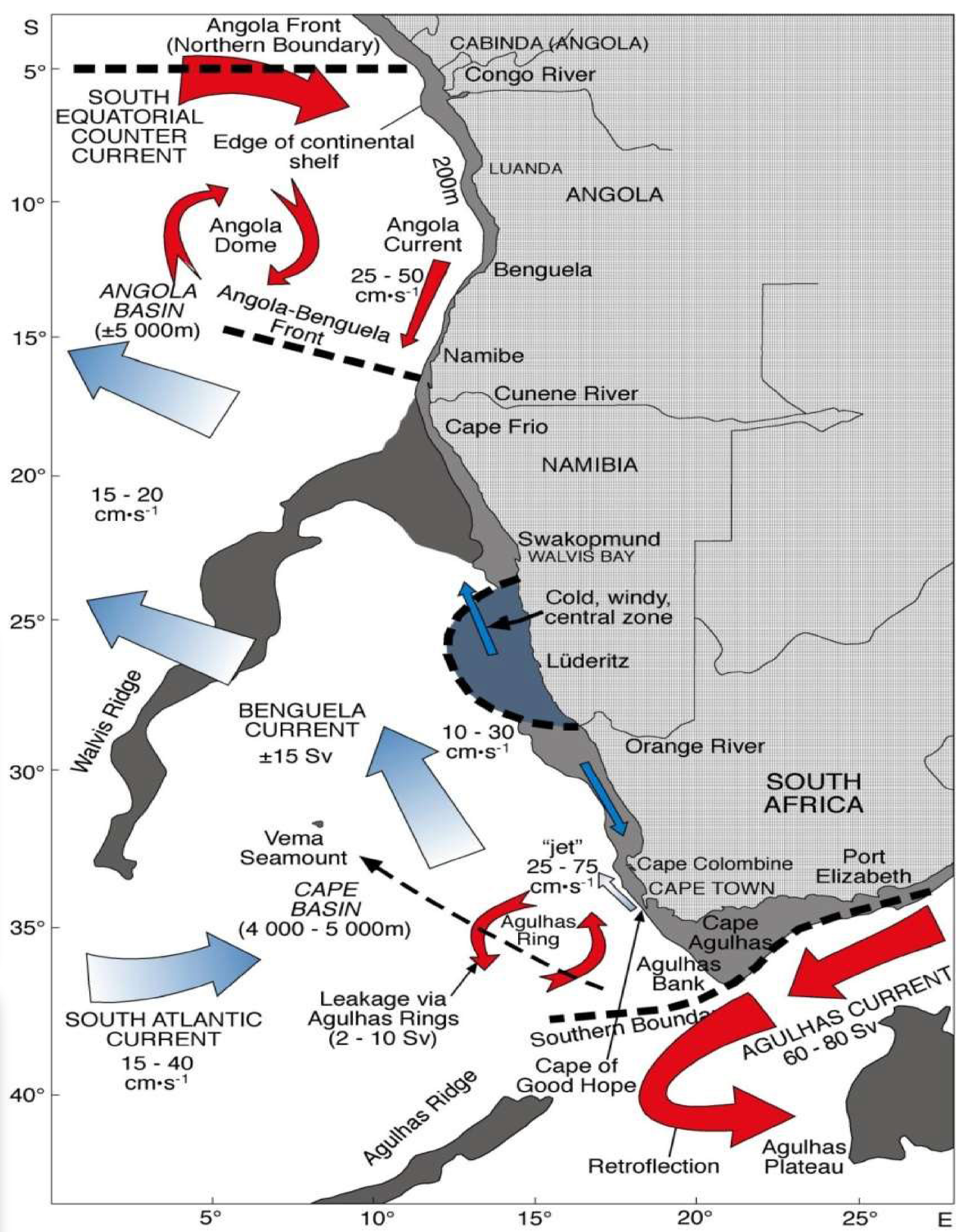
- Marine Spatial Planning for enabling multi-sector sustainable use in the BCLME. MSP is being mainstreamed into the national policies and programmes.
- Enhancing climate change resilience of fisheries systems
- Initiation of demonstration projects: on sustainable fisheries practices in Angola, integrated coastal and marine management for promotion of blue economy in Namibia and strengthening national standards and guidelines for water quality maintenance for sustainability of estuaries in South Africa.

The BCLME III Project aims to support ocean governance in the BCLME through implementation of the SAP. The project is building on progress made by the BCC on long-term cooperation for the sustainable development through the following four components:

1. Policy, legislative, institutional and management support for ecosystem-based management;
2. Effective stakeholder engagement and partnerships;
3. Capacity development for ecosystem-based management; and
4. Marketing and resource mobilization.

Project donor: Global Environment Facility (GEF) with co-financing from the BCC Parties
GEF Grant: USD 10,900,000
Co-finance by Parties: USD 135,000,000
Duration: 63 months (January 2017 to March 2022)
GEF Implementing Entity: United Nations Development Programme
GEF Executing Entity: Benguela Current Convention

Physical features of the BCLME



Three countries sharing a productive ecosystem
Três países que compartilham um ecossistema produtivo



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.