

# GC LME Newsletter



First Edition  
May, 2005

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



## BACK TO STAGE :

The Implementation of the GCLME project (a carry over from the pilot phase Gulf of Guinea LME Project 1995 - 1999) commenced officially in Mid November 2004.



I was lucky to arrive in the Regional Coordinating Unit on 19 April 2005, less than a week before the organization of the First Regional Steering Committee Meeting 25-27 April 2005.

This First Edition of the GCLME Newsletter has been a little rushed but for good reasons - to report on the Meeting. What transpired during the 3 days was both exhilarating as it was inspiring. And I could not wait to share it with you. Further editions can only get better.

Happy reading.

**Kelechi Ihemeje**  
Editor

## OPENING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS :

The First Steering Committee of the GCLME was held at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra from 25 to 27 April, 2005. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Edward Nsenkyire, Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment and Science. Following recapitulation of the highlights of the approved GCLME Project Document, the Regional Director presented a progress report which included actions in relation to the establishment of the Regional Coordination Unit and the development of regional coordination mechanisms. He also presented a catalogue of activities undertaken since the formal commencement of project implementation in November 2004.



*Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Edward Nsenkyire, Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment and Science (Ghana). To his right is the Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Ibe Chidi.*

## OVERVIEW / RESUME OF THE GCLME PROJECT :



*The 16 GCLME Countries*

The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) Project is an ecosystem based effort to assist the sixteen (16) countries adjacent to the Guinea Current Ecosystem to achieve environmental and resource sustainability. This would be accomplished by shifting from short-term sector by sector driven management objectives to a longer-term perspective and from managing commodities

to sustaining the production potential for ecosystem-wide goods and services.

## THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S PROGRESS REPORT :

The Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe presented the achievements made so far which include :

- ✧ Establishment of a well equipped Regional Coordination Unit office with the support of the Ghanaian government.



*The GCLME RCU, Accra, Ghana*

- ✧ Made substantial progress in the recruitment of staff
- ✧ Ongoing process for the establishment of Regional Activity Centres i.e. the Regional Marine Productivity Laboratory at the University of Ghana, Legon; the Regional Environmental Information Management Centre at the University of Lagos; the Regional Pollution Monitoring and Research Centre in the facilities of the Imo State Environmental Protection Agency (ISEPA), Owerri, Nigeria; the Activity Centre (cont. page 2)

for Comprehensive Risk Analysis and Management in Libreville, Gabon and the Fisheries Activity Centre in Luanda, Angola.

The achievements also include the following project activities already undertaken :

- ✧ Training on Geographical Information Systems (in collaboration with ICS-UNIDO), Lagos, Nigeria, 6 -10 December, 2004.



*The participants to the Regional Training Workshop on GIS, Lagos, Nigeria, 6-10 Dec. 2004*

- ✧ Workshop on Coastal Dynamics and Early Warning Systems (with AU-STRC and IOC-UNESCO), Accra, Ghana, 14 - 18 March, 2005.



*The high table at the Closing Ceremony of the Workshop on Coastal Dynamics and Early Warning Systems, Accra, Ghana, 14 - 18 March, 2005*

*The Workshop participants on a site visit of gabions installations Ghana, March, 2005*



- ✧ Formulation of Strategic Plan for the Identification and Mapping of Physically Altered Sensitive Habitats, March, 2005.
- ✧ Mission to some central African countries to identify pollution hotspots, 2 - 15 April, 2005.
- ✧ Workshop on Integrated Coastal Areas Management (ICAM), Kribi, Cameroon, 11 - 15 April, 2005.



*Group photo ICAM Workshop, Kribi, Cameroon, 11 - 15 April, 2005*



*The Regional Director (GCLME) escorting Madame Fatima Bennani - Baita (UNIDO Representative for Central Africa based in Cameroun). Following the official opening of the ICAM Workshop on 11 - 15 April, 2005. To her right is Dr. Jean Folack, who was the Local Organizer of the Workshop.*

- ✧ Joint Workshop on TDA and Indicators, Accra, Ghana, 18 - 22 April, 2005.



*Group photo TDA Workshop, Accra, Ghana, 18 - 22 April, 2005*



*Dr. Bradford Brown leading a sub group discussion during the TDA Workshop, Accra, Ghana, 18 - 22 April, 2005*

The Regional Director's presentation also included activities scheduled in the immediate future which are :

- ♦ A Training Workshop on Mangrove Assessment and Restoration, 30 May - 03 June, 2005
- ♦ A Methodology Workshop on Fish Trawl Survey, 02 - 04 June, 2005
- ♦ A Regional Fish Trawl Survey, 05 June - 05 July, 2005
- ♦ A Ship Board Training on Marine Pollution Sampling and Analysis, 07 - 15 June, 2005

He also briefed the Committee on the steps taken to establish or consolidate partnerships for an efficient implementation of the Project.



## OPENING OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT:



Hon. Christine Churcher, Minister of Environment and Science, Ghana (2nd right), unveils a plaque to inaugurate the GCLME-RCU Building, assisted by Dr. Kenneth Sherman (wearing hat) representing US-NOAA. By the Minister is the Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment and Science (Ghana), Mr. Edward Nsenkyire.



The high table at the Opening Ceremony of the First Regional Steering Committee Meeting. From left to right : Dr Abdoulaye Ndiaye (UNDP), Dr Chika Ukwé (UNIDO), Hon. Christine Churcher, Minister of Environment and Science (Ghana), Dr A.K. Armah (University of Ghana, Legon), Chairman of the meeting, Dr. Ken Sherman (US-NOAA) and Dr Vladimir Mamaev (UNEP).

## PRESENTATIONS :

The National Project Directors presented the progress reports of their respective countries.



Mrs. Maria Esperanca Dos-Santos (Angola) presenting



Mrs Kaba Nassere (Cote d'Ivoire) presenting

## COURTESY CALL ON THE GHANAIAN PRESIDENT AT "CASTLE OSU"



Read what the Regional Director (GCLME) told the Vice-President : "The marvelous facility donated by Ghana to serve as the Regional Coordinating Unit of the GCLME is yet another manifestation of the enduring interest and contributions of the leadership of Ghana to regional integration".

Seated in the background from left to right are: Dr Vladimir Mamaev (UNEP-GEF), Mr Edward Nsenkyire and Dr Agambila, Chief Director and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Science (Ghana) respectively



He also told him that the GCLME Project will be progressively transformed into an Interim Guinea Current Commission by the end of 2005 and into a Permanent Guinea Current Commission by 2009. The RD went further to say that as the seat of the RCU, Ghana has a special role to play in spearheading the initiatives inscribed in the the Project Document. "In this regard", he continued, "we will be counting on your ingenuity, your irrepressible energy, your vision, and your wise counsel. Together, Your Excellency, we can make a difference in the lives of the 300 million plus people of the GCLME Region."

### COURTESY CALL ON THE GHANAIAN PRESIDENT AT "CASTLE OSU" (cntd)



Hear what the Vice-President replied to the Steering Committee: "The President who arrived late last night from the African-Asian Summit had planned to receive you personally. He has, however, asked me to state that Ghana attaches great importance to attaining the development goals and objectives of the GCLME Project, because historically, the well being of our populations has been tied to the marine environment and its resources. Ghana is a proud host of the RCU and will do its utmost to support the transformation of the GCLME Project into a Permanent Commission



See what Dr Chika Ukwé, the Project Manager (UNIDO) presented to the Vice-President: a UN folder and a UN pen as souvenir of the visit.



A cross section of the Regional Steering committee that accompanied the Regional Director on the visit to the Presidential Castle, OSU. The Editor, Ms. Ihemeje is sitting between Mrs Solange Ndoulou Loubamono (Gabon) and Mr Paulino Esono (Equatorial Guinea). Also sitting (left) is Dr Fortunato Eneme Efua (Equatorial Guinea). Standing are (left to right) Prof. Tchala Abina François (Cameroon), Mr Lourenço Vaz (Guinea Bissau), Mrs Dora Blessich (FAO), Prof. Kolawole S. Adam (CEDA, Benin), Ms Fabia Fabyan (Pro-Natura Int.) and Mr Robert Kennedy (US Army Corps of Engineers - European Research Office)

### DR KENNETH SHERMAN : A SPECIAL PARTICIPANT



Dr Kenneth Sherman, a high profile participant representing US-NOAA. Dr Ken Sherman is the originator of the LME concept of marine environmental and living resources management. He is the Director of the Narragansett Marine Laboratory and Adjunct Professor, University of Rhode Island.



A view of the GCLME RCU office building, Accra, Ghana