

ASCLME Regional Project Coordination Forum

2-4 October 2008

La Plantation, Mauritius



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Proceedings**DAY ONE****2 October 2008**

Registration commenced at 08h00**1. Welcome and opening address**

The ASCLME Project Director, Dr David Vousden, warmly welcomed the UNDP Resident Coordinator, Mr Claudio Caldarone, Dr Aubrey Harris, Secretary to South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, and all the members present. The Director remarked that the ASCLME Project has been running for almost a year and is being implemented in eight countries in the region. He further referenced the success of the 1st Regional Meeting of ASCLME Technical Coordination Groups (COGs), which was held from 29 September to 1 October 2008 at the same venue. He attributed the success to the active participation of closely-linked technical coordination working groups. The Director mentioned that he was looking forward to the equally exciting Regional Forum, which will run for the next three days. The ASCLME Regional Project Coordination Forum aims at the realisation of better communication and coordination among national and regional marine and coastal projects in the region. He also hoped that discussion during the meeting would lead to improved communication that could be developed among the partners to yield better success of all the projects. The Director also remarked on the warm welcome and encouragement provided by the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit of Mauritius, Mr Lormus Bundhoo on the very first day of the 1st Regional Meeting of ASCLME Technical Coordination Groups.

Mr Claudio Caldarone welcomed the representatives of regional projects and institutions, ASCLME Project coordinators and all participants to the ASCLME Regional Forum. He raised the importance of regional projects in contributing to sustained long-term ecosystem-based management in the region. He noted that around 160 million coastal people are involved in coastal resource use and about one third of them are directly dependent on the sea for food security. Thus, he believes that it is high time to aim to provide each country the opportunity to engage in regional collaboration, raise awareness and create mechanisms for cross-country dialogue. Joint activities and sharing of baseline scientific data, especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), will help them realise these challenges. This is an ideal way to mobilise all necessary efforts to map out the resources for better management. He looked forward to an active and successful participation by the nations of the region.

Dr Aubrey Harris expressed his gratification in seeing such a broad group of stakeholders present, and welcomed all members and participants. He emphasised that this is a very good opportunity to look at the objectives and outcomes of various projects in the region. He highlighted the importance of having an ecosystem-based approach to managing the fisheries in the region. He looked forward to increased collaboration amongst projects for the benefit of the people of the region.

2. Introduction to the workshop and discussion of the agenda

Mr David Laroche was nominated as the Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the members and requested self introductions by the participants. He then briefly presented the programme for the meeting. The programme was endorsed by the delegates.

3. Session 1: Project Presentations

The representatives of the various projects made presentations as described below.

3.1 Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) Project was presented by Dr David Vousden, Director of the ASCLME Project [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [4.1 MB]

The presentation covered the following points:

- Project Details:
 - ASCLME System Boundary
 - Project Objectives
 - ASCLME Programme
 - Project Outcomes 1-4
 - ASCLME Regional Project Management Structure
- Progress to date
- Updates to LME websites
- ASCLME Research Cruises
- Project National Structure
 - Summary of principal national COG inputs to ASCLME Project delivery

3.2 South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP) was presented by Kaitira Ibrahim Katonda, Interim Regional Coordinator, SWIOFP [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [429 KB]

SWIOFP is a fisheries research and management module within an LME framework. The presentation highlighted the following areas:

- Introduction – 9 countries. Due to the present political situation, Somalia currently has an observer status.
- Background – problem: lack of information, capacity and structures
- Aims & objectives – ecosystem approach to marine resource assessment and management
- Specific objectives
- Six components were described, including planned activities, with subcomponents in some cases
- Three phases depending on timing of implementation
- Project management structure includes:
 - Regional Management Unit – RMU
 - National management units – NMUs
 - National component coordinator (NCC)
 - Regional component coordinator (RCC)

- Regional component working groups (RCWG) – standardisation of data collection
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) developed and signed by each of the participating countries except France
- Integration of SWIOFP, ASCLME & WIO-LaB to achieve a pragmatic approach
- Specific areas of co-operation
 - ASCLME productivity data will be used to explain the abundance and distribution of fisheries in the region
 - Sharing of staff
 - Sharing of Nansen cruise time
 - Plan to consult for 2009 cruise
- SWIOFP is restricted to the EEZs (i.e. not high seas) of participating countries.

3.3 Addressing Land-Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB) was presented by Johnson Kitheka, representative of WIO-LaB: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [2.3 MB]

The presentation covered the following areas:

- WIO-LaB addresses issues related to degradation of the coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean due to land-based activities
- Eight countries are involved
- Three main objectives under the auspices of Nairobi Convention
- Project coordination structure
 - Project management unit; national focal point institutions, national/inter-ministerial coordination committees
 - Project governance – focal points forum; project Steering Committee
 - Technical working groups and task forces
 - Informal structures for stakeholder consultation and involvement in the WIO region
 - National nodes for the Clearinghouse Mechanism
 - TDA drafting task team
- Eight components of the project, including 10 demonstration projects
 - Main thematic areas and activities
 - Thematic areas for training
 - Regional assessment and reviews
- LBA TDA and SAP
- Consultative meetings on TDA-SAP
- Key features of the WIO-LaB TDA/SAP process
 - Key transboundary problems/issues
 - Underlying root causes
 - Validation of TDAs
 - SAP for addressing land-based activities in the WIO region

The Chairman highlighted the advantage of having members of WIO-LaB also being the National Focal points or COG members for ASCLME, which will help to ensure continuity with the ASCLME efforts.

3.4 Western Indian Ocean Projects of the IRD/France - presented by Jean-Francois Ternon:
[LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[5.1 MB\]](#)

The presentation included the following areas:

- The IRD THETIS/EME research unit
- Exploited marine ecosystems – WIO (tuna fisheries and marine top predators), Pacific (Peru), Benguela Current (upwelling systems, small pelagic fisheries).
- THETIS within SWIOFP/ASCLME – SWIOFP, EU (MADE), French national ANR programmes (REMIGE, BIOPS)
- Participation in leg 4 of the 2008 *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* cruises
- Capacity building in SWIO Region on pelagic fishes and ecosystems
- MESOP 2009 – mesoscale dynamics influence on pelagic resources, focus on physical processes associated with eddies in the Mozambique channel
- Scientific questions
 - Physical processes versus biological signature
 - Mesoscale activity within the Mozambique channel: evidence from biology and impact on exploited resources
 - Gaps could be bridged along with aims of ASCLME & SWIOFP
 - The perspectives for MESOP
- Other projects of THETIS in the WIO Region
 - FP7 MADE – 2009-2010
 - ANR BIOPS – 2008-2010
 - ANR REMIGE – September 2009
- Long-term research actions
- IRD Research Vessel *Antea* in the region in coming years (2009-2010)

3.5 African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP) was presented by Dr Tommy Bornman, representative of ACEP: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[2.1 MB\]](#)

In introducing the presentation by ACEP, the Chairman clarified the significant role that ACEP had undertaken in getting the ASCLME project up and running and the on-going close partnership that exists between ACEP and the ASCLME.

The following points were presented:

- Introduction
- ACEP phases I (2002) & II (2007-2011)
- Difference between ACEP I & II
- Objectives for ACEP II
- Funded projects (2008-2011)
- ACEP cruise plans
 - ROV procurement
 - Coastal research platform

The Chairman indicated that in 3-4 years time the results from these efforts will contribute towards the realisation of the ecosystem-based management of the marine and coastal resources in the region.

3.6 Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) was presented by Melckzedek Osore: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[1.8 MB\]](#)

The following was presented:

- Background to WIOMSA
- MASMA – 5 components
- Research grants – 5 activities
- Publications (e.g. Journal of Marine Science – WIO, Ambio, Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science, Ocean and Coastal management, books, technical reports and publications in the pipeline)
- Projects
 - Completed research projects
 - Ongoing research projects
 - Newly launched projects
- WIOMSA interest in ASCLME
 - Exchange of information
 - Organisation of joint activities
 - Increasing engagement of regional institutions

3.7 IOC/UNESCO Projects in the WIO Region was presented by Mr Mika Odido: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[5.1 MB\]](#)

The presentation covered the following areas:

- Objectives
- IOC regional groupings
- Activities
 - Capacity building/development strategy – 3 areas
 - Capacity Development (CD) Phase I – institutions – workshops for heads of marine-related academic/research institutions in the region; proposal writing workshops; decision support tools; modelling workshops
 - Other topics in capacity development
 - Sea level monitoring network
 - Tsunami sea level station monitoring facility
 - Development of databases
 - Development of the African Marine Atlas
 - Development of the African Ocean Portal
 - Assessments undertaken
 - ODINAFRICA – IV
- Possible areas of collaboration with ASCLME
 - Assessment of capacities available
 - Further development of the African Marine Atlas
 - Capacity building/development

Discussion

It was suggested that a website be developed to carry the posting of the summaries of the projects presented during the Forum meeting. It was agreed that the ASCLME Project will facilitate the development of such a web facility, which will have links to the websites of the relevant projects such as the ODINAFRICA and the Nairobi Convention CHM.

Judging from the information presented by the projects it is clear that there is sufficient knowledge to guide management actions.

It was noted that national data centres used during ACEP I would be part of the ASCLME network. It was also clarified that ACEP II is not isolated from the regional effort, despite only funding South African research at present. ACEP is an integral part of the ASCLME, as described in the Project Document that has been signed by the countries of the region. Concern was expressed by participating countries regarding the lack of publication from the work done and results obtained by ACEP I. The presenter clarified that arrangements were being made for the publication of those results under ACEP II, with assistance from ASCLME.

The delegates agreed that the meeting had provided a valuable avenue for exchange of information and experiences. As a consequence it was suggested that the Forum should meet periodically, for example once a year, to discuss how resources could be shared in a cost-effective way among ongoing projects in the region and continue with exchange of information and experiences. It was further agreed that the Forum should reconvene during the WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, which is planned for August 2009. It was proposed that the ASCLME website be a platform for posting information on the Forum activities.

3.8 Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Projects in the WIO were presented by Aubrey Harris (Secretary, SWIOFC) and Kwame Koranteng, FAO Representative (Rome)

The SWIOFC Commission and its various activities: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[1.6 MB\]](#)

- Background and history
 - 1980 SWIOF
 - 1990 IOTC
 - 1999 Fisheries Commission to FAO council
 - 2004 SWIOF Commission
- What is it?
 - Advisory fisheries commission
 - Objectives
 - Eligible members
 - Right to attend
 - Observers
- Operation
 - Rotating chair and bureau
 - Secretary
 - Session
 - Scientific

- Other committee or working parties
- Decision by majority, usually is general consensus
- Supporting activities
 - Travel support
 - Training workshops
 - Ecosystem approach to fisheries management
 - Working party on fisheries
- 3rd session
 - Seychelles – safety at sea projects
 - Regional conference on fisheries development
- Summary
 - Commission structure to turn scientific information and recommendations into agreed regional fisheries policy and management
 - Rarely absolute answers; management should be based on the best of our knowledge
- FAO projects
 - Multilateral
- FAO assistance
 - Ad hoc assistance on request
- Recent and new projects
 - Ecosystem approach to fisheries – Nansen project
 - Strategic interventions in fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
- Areas of collaboration with ASCLME
 - Strengthening the monitoring of artisanal and small scale fisheries (catch, value, socio-economics)
 - Increase contribution of fisheries to poverty reduction

The EAF-Nansen Project: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [12 MB]

- Nansen survey 1975-2007
- Description of the EAF-Nansen Project
 - Long-term objectives of this project:
 - Project organisation
 - Funded by NORAD
 - Expected results
- Collaboration with ASCLME
 - ASCLME to take onboard EAF principles to influence policy and management
 - Providing additional data for TDA
 - GIS & EAF (expert meeting in progress in Rome)
 - Other project contributions to the TDA process
 - RAG for SWIOFC region – discussions in Maputo
 - Formal participation of ASCLME in NTGs

Ecosystem surveys and special studies – R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [11 MB]

- Introduction
 - Access to the vessel
 - To request for Nansen time, the survey of fisheries or ecosystem approach should be one of the objectives.
 - What does the vessel do at sea?
- Research activities onboard the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*
- In the ASCLME survey, what needs to be done is summed up in the Sailing Orders. EAF Nansen and FAO are particularly pleased with this approach. Research activities include:-
 - Meteorological and hydrographic sampling
 - Seafloor mapping
 - Fish biomass estimates
 - Biological fish sampling
- Capacity building
- Data and information policy
 - IMR maintains the database (Nan-SIS)
 - Data belongs to governments
 - Reporting
- Who participates in the surveys?
- Who pays the bill?
 - USD\$23,000 per day
 - USD\$10,000 (ASCLME) and USD\$13,000 (FAO)

General Discussion

The Chairman opened the floor for discussion to allow delegates to reflect on the presentations. The ASCLME Project Director thanked Mr Koranteng and the FAO for their ongoing support of the joint cruises. He also assured them that the ecosystem approach is always at the forefront of the ASCLME project activities.

The Chairman highlighted the cost effectiveness and the geographical coverage of the Nansen compared to other locally available research vessels.

3.9 Indian Ocean Commission (COI) Projects in the WIO were presented by Gina Bonne, Executive Director, COI: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [422 KB]

- Overview
- Intergovernmental organisation
 - for regional cooperation
 - to safeguard the interest of its island states
- Outline of the strategy
- Political, diplomatic and security
- Economic
- Environment
- Human safety
- Structure of organisation
 - Head office

- Permanent liaison officer
- Council of ministers
- Head of state summit
- Head office (secretariat general)
- 5 officers in charge
- Partners
 - Member states
 - Regional organisations (COMESA, EAC, IGAD, AU and SADC)
 - International organisations (UN agencies – UNDP, UNEP, FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO etc.)
- Funding agencies
 - European Commission
 - African Development Bank
 - World Bank
 - French GEF
- Projects and programmes
 - Pilot project education for environment
 - Coral reef monitoring/Coremo
 - Regional environment programme
 - Regional oil spill contingency planning
 - Regional marine protected areas programme (RAMP-COI)
 - Control monitoring and surveillance
 - Regional tuna tagging project
 - Regional fisheries surveillance plan
 - WIO marine highway programme
 - Regional programme for the sustainable management of coastal zone
 - Regional climate change adaptation project
 - African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD)
 - Programmes in perspective
 - Regional cetacean conservation project
 - Regional fisheries management project

3.10 Réseau des aires marine protégées des pays de la COI (RAMP-COI) was presented by Denis Etienne: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [8.3 MB]

- MAP network in the region
- Maintain biodiversity through well-managed prevailing networks
- Five countries
- Funding: 2 M Euros
- Motivation
 - high biodiversity in the region
 - many anthropogenic threats
- 26 MPAs created but little management
- Components:
 - create a regional strategy
 - hotspot identification
 - bathymetry

- surface currents
- coral reef diversity
- reef fish biodiversity
- creation and support of existing MPAs
- regional forum for managers to meet once a year
- sensitisation of people about the importance of creating MPAs
- Links with ASCLME
 - Exchange of data
 - Studying connectivity/larvae
 - Strengthening capacity
 - Socio-economic analyses

3.11 Cetacean & dugong study and conservation was presented by Denis Etienne: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[1.9 MB\]](#)

- Five countries
 - 1979 Indian ocean sanctuary creation
 - Whaling problems
- Reasons
 - Lack of information, e.g. on dugongs
 - Threats
 - Locals are not aware of threats
 - Degradation/economic loss
 - No regional coordination so far
- Steps
- Objectives
- Components:
 - Creation of a network
 - Ecotourism & sensitisation
 - Dugongs (in Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros)
 - Way forward
 - Funding – 3-4 M Euros
 - Coordination with ASCLME
 - Collect data on cetaceans links to the TDA
 - Biodiversity & SWIOFP

3.12 GEF-WIO Marine Highway Development and Coastal Marine Contamination Prevention Project was presented by Raj Prayag: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[5.7 MB\]](#)

WIO regional oil spill contingency plan project (3.1 M Euros)

- 5 countries
- Global objectives
 - Reactive approach
 - Develop manual
 - Training
 - CB&T
 - Sustainability

- Components
- Performance indicators
- Proposed marine highway development (initiated 2003)
 - Introduction
 - Five countries
 - Project sites
 - Regional maritime traffic
 - 5000 trips, 500 m tons of oil products
 - Creation of highway in the Mozambique Channel
 - Implemented in various phases
 - Hydrographic surveys carried out on proposed routes and will be provided to captains of appropriate ships
 - Products of the respective components:
 - Electronic nautical charts will be produced
 - Sensitisation for coastal and marine protection
 - Sensitive sites
 - Integration of IMO conventions
 - Coordination with other related GEF supported projects
 - Implementation status

The Project Director noted that many projects are underway in the region and can provide significant synergies with ASCLME activities, and that there are many potential advantages for coordination. Identifying and realising this potential synergy and reaching cooperative agreements was one of the fundamental purposes of this forum. He thanked each of the presenters. The Chairman added that as a project developer it is exciting to be in a meeting of this nature and to see what happens when a project like ASCLME grows and flourishes.

The meeting noted that consultations, collaborations and awareness are key issues. It was suggested that a review of the experience of the consultations carried out in the region over the last five years could help identify weaknesses and strengths in collaborations.

The first day of the meeting ended at 18h00.

Proceedings

DAY TWO

3 October 2008

The second day of the Regional Forum started at 08h40

1. Session 1: Presentations (continued)

Chairman: Mr David La Roche

3.13 Regional Programme for the sustainable management of the coastal zones of the Indian Ocean countries (ReCoMap / ProGeCo) was presented by Winfried Wiedermeyer: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [5.4 MBL]

The following points were addressed in the presentation:

- Background
- 5yr programme IOC
- EU-funded – 18 M Euros
- Regional Coordination Unit
- ReCoMap National ICZM officers in each country
- 7 countries partners
- 2 projects in Somalia
- Regional structure
- 7 Thematic areas:
 - Management of coastal resource use
 - Capacity building
 - Sensitisation on ICZM
 - ICZM structures and plans
 - Capacity building for MEAs
 - ICZM implementation through Non-State Actors (6.5M Euro)
 - Regional policy consensus and Networks
- Activities: Fisheries
 - Kenya & Madagascar
 - Mauritius/Rodrigues assembly
 - Seychelles
 - Tanzania
- Regional SOCMON-WIO Manual
- CORDIO
- MASMA
- WION managers network
- MPA handbook in French
- WIOMSA – COMPASS programme
- MPA grants (Euro 600,000)
- MPA Regional Training Capacity
- Activities: Coastal Zones
 - Coastal tourism: Mauritius
 - Solid waste management – regional
 - ICZM: support to national ICZM bodies and frameworks
- ReCoMap – ICZM short courses

- Training course – CHARM, Thailand
- Activities: Non-state actors participating in ICZM
- Main themes
 - Marine resources
 - Soil erosion
 - Coastal erosion
 - Solid waste management
 - Waste water management
- National Data Nodes
- Web-based ICZM KMS
- Regional assessments
 - GIS
 - Coastal mariculture
 - IOC coral reef network
 - Coastal tourism/SEAs
 - Solid waste management
 - WIO cetacean network

3.14 International Knowledge Management was presented by Francois Odendaal: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[302 KB\]](#)

The presentation included the following:

- Origin of the DLIST approach (www.dlist.org)
- Obstacles in the way of sustainable development
 - Whose reality counts? – people on ground, target people with lack of information and access to information
 - The information divide
 - Compartmentalisation of information flow
 - Informed participation
 - Engagement
- Distance learning information
- Components of the web-based platform: information sharing
- General activity
- Courses: 5 different courses, 4 tertiary institutions
- Stakeholder participation for a better future
- ICZMC
- Cleaner production course
- ASCLME – different languages
- ICT: reaching beyond connectivity
 - Radios
 - Cell phones
 - Travelling film festival
 - Using country television networks
 - Using local networks, structures, mechanisms and programmes
- Enriching the TDA and the SAP through the DLIST approach
- From before, to steps ahead
- Example: Antingil Bay, northern-eastern Madagascar

3.15 GOOS-Africa projects and CLIVAR/TRIO Projects were presented by Dr Juliet Hermes:

[LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[GOOS \[14 Megabytes\] / CLIVAR \[5.4 Megabytes\] / TRIO \[7.6 Megabytes\]](#)

- New marine observing systems around Africa
- Cooperation: African LMEs & GOOS-Africa
- Vision of GOOS-Africa
- CLIVAR
- Ferry Box-Africa
- Drivers: societal issues
- Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS)
- RAMA
- ARGO floats

Discussion

The discussion that followed centred on the DLIST presentation. With regard to language barrier related to DLIST activities, it was clarified that information would be translated to the communities to establish a good link between science and people; language should not be a barrier. Currently three main languages (English, French and Portuguese) are being employed and computers are also reaching rural areas. It was further clarified that the DLIST is not the full communications strategy but is part of the strategy that ASCLME programme would like to adopt.

2. Session 2: Cruises

Chairman: Mr Mike Roberts

A summary of the deliberations on the planning for the ASCLME cruises presented by Tommy Bornman, Regional Cruise Coordinator: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG \[4.1 M\]](#)

- (a) 2009 Cruise
 - East Africa Current Survey (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique with 4, 3 and 1 environmental lines, respectively)
 - Comoros Basin Survey (4-5 Environmental lines & moorings)
- (b) 2010 Cruise
 - 60 days available on R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*
 - West Madagascar Shelf
 - Mozambique Shelf
 - Fill data gaps
 - 20 days on Nansen for research on seamounts
 - 60 days on FRS *Algoa*
 - Natal Bight
 - Agulhas Bank
 - 3 - 6 day training cruise
- (c) Cruise planning requirements were identified:
 - Cruises to be planned
 - 2009 - URGENT
 - 2010

- Discuss & agree on:
 - Area of operation
 - Research needs (gaps)
 - Scientific work plan
 - Scientific expertise/training required
 - National Cruise Coordinators
 - National COG
 - National scientists
 - Regional Cruise Coordinator & PCU
- (d) Appropriate training and capacity building requirements were identified:
- Training cruise
 - ASCLME training programme
 - Large research ships & coastal craft
 - Oceanography & fisheries
 - 2008: Two trainees from South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. Location: Cape Town
 - 2009: Two trainees from Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia and Comoros. Location: Cape Town
 - On-board training on *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*
 - ASCLME Research Cruises
 - Scientists from region
 - Oceanographic equipment

Discussion

It was noted that the ASCLME would be working with other projects such as: CORDIO to look at coral reef and larvae in the Comoros, similar projects funded by MASMA and Dutch teams to look at bottom sediments and physics in the East Madagascar current in order to assess seasonal variability, as well as the GEF Global Seamounts project in the southern Indian Ocean.

Discussion centred on:

- Moorings:
 - ACEP funded the deployment of moorings around the Western Indian Ocean, but funding for servicing was not sustained. These moorings can be used by other projects.
 - Buoys for the collection of near real-time data
 - Ocean tracking network
 - ACEP II restricted to SA

It was suggested that it would be necessary to establish a programme or routine for repair, monitoring or replacement of existing mooring buoys, possibly assisted through the use of schedules similar to those for the vessels.

The delegates were informed that a website will be created and relevant information could be sent to the PCU of the ASCLME so that everybody can see what is going on in the region. It was also noted that CLIVAR has a similar website.

Collaboration with the private sector was proposed for the collection of data in this area (for oil/gas exploitation). An example was cited of the South African company that has deployed moorings, although they do not necessarily share data.

It was further suggested that sharing of cruise plans could facilitate improved planning by all projects, and allow for shared ships' time, and/or data exchange to address the spatial and temporal gaps in surveys. There may be an opportunity for a meeting in Seychelles in November 2008 (in conjunction with the ASCLME Steering Committee meeting) to plan SWIOFP-ASCLME cruises.

It was clarified that biodiversity studies have been scheduled for the seamounts.

It was also suggested that the ASCLME Cruise Coordinator should communicate/liaise with THETIS/IRD regarding the French cruises scheduled in the region.

It was noted that IOC programmes have cruise announcements on websites.

It was proposed that the ASCLME Regional Coordinator for Data and Information would send out requests to projects for inputs regarding their project activities and use of ship time. and the gathered information would be put on the website as a starting point. Similarly, others engaged in similar cruise activities could also post their activities. The details of the online tables were discussed.

Note was taken regarding circulation of the documents to the countries and cruise coordinators / projects and then circulated back to have further comment on the cruise plan, with a deadline before the FAO coordination meeting in December 2008.

3. Session 3: Data and information

The summary of the deliberations on data and information were presented by Lucy Scott, ASCLME Regional Coordinator on Data and Information: [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) (4.3 MB). The presentation gave an update from the Regional COG meeting as follows:

- Preparation of activities, 2004
 - Regional projects and programme collaboration encouraged
- Recent development
 - Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism
 - Data nodes
 - ODINAFRICA / African Marine Atlas
 - ACEP
 - Long-term ownership of data by participating countries (data centres)
- ASCLME approach and update
 - COGs
 - Data coordinators
 - Continuity of ACEP
 - MEDA

- Data management plans developed by countries
 - COG meeting: ASCLME document guidelines and principles for data management
 - Overall framework for D&I management.
 - Collaborations
 - Summary document of profiles of WIO regional projects
- **Presentation: Ocean data and information network for Africa – ODINAFRICA** (Mika Odido [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#)) [5.1 M]

The following was addressed in the presentation:

- ODINAFRICA – the Network
- ODINAFRICA – III Goals
- Coastal observations
- Sea level stations
- Near real-time data access
- Sea level training course
- Co-location of GPS stations
- Data management
- Information management
- Products development
- Marine biodiversity
- Development of the African Marine Atlas
- Improvement of internet access
- Public awareness
- ODINAFRICA – IV coordination
- Development of national atlases
- Other product development
- Establishment of Ocean Data Portals
- Portal Geospatial query interface
- Web-based data and information services
- Publications online
- Outreach activities

Day 2 of the Regional Forum ended at 14h50. Participants proceeded to the Port-Louis harbour to visit the vessel and participate in the function.

Proceedings

DAY THREE 4 October 2008

Day 3 of the meeting started at 08h55

The Chairman welcomed the participants.

1. Session 3: Data and information (continued)

- **Presentation of the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse and Information Sharing System**
(Mr Mwangi Theuri [LINK TO THE PRESENTATION ON ASCLME.ORG](#) [13 MB])

The presentation highlighted the following points:

- Purpose and obligations of the Nairobi Convention
- Article 14: Scientific and technical co-operation
- Decision 4/8 of 4th CoP (2004)
- Objectives of the Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM)
- Theory behind the CHM
- Expected impacts of the CHM
- Nairobi Convention CHM Benefits – enhanced visibility of the region attracting new funding
- Implementation structure
 - UNEP + 8 national institutions
 - Regional collaboration
- CH progress since 2006
- Website of the regional Clearinghouse Mechanism
- Some capabilities
- CHM sustainability strategy (ownership of data by involved nations)
- National nodes of Tanzania and other countries
- Way forward with ASCLME

Discussion

It was noted that the data from regional projects should also be kept in national data centres to secure sustainability of collection and continued use after projects end. Thus coordination of collection and storage of data on a continual basis is imperative. It was highlighted that the data need to be transformed into useful information for ecosystem-based management.

It was further noted that ASCLME could give support in the long term to identify activities for sustainability, capacity building, data analysis and access to information important for the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) as well as seeking additional funding opportunities.

The delegates urged the participation of France in the Clearinghouse Mechanism in future since France is a contracting party to the Nairobi Convention.

Note was taken that data collected would be published in peer-reviewed journals and transformed into information useful for ecosystem-based management actions.

It was also noted that FAO do not analyse data statistically but act as a data repository and organiser. Statistical analyses need technical staff, which is provided by the countries.

Specific discussions concentrated on the following themes:

a) Repatriation of cruise data

The forum was informed that the ASCLME has developed guidelines for data sharing, which will be applied in the region, and a clear mechanism to ultimately publish and submit the data to respective countries' data centres would be adopted by the ASCLME Project.

In addition it was noted that specimens collected by the ASCLME will be safely preserved and kept at museums or institutions with the right expertise for identification and repatriation to respective countries.

It was also highlighted that FAO has a structure for a regional task group to meet and discuss relevant issues and it was suggested that both SWIOFP and ASCLME could nominate their representatives to attend these meetings.

b) Sustainability of archives

It was suggested that nationals be empowered to archive project data & information at both regional and national institutions.

It was noted that data management is a professional activity, requiring skills and training. Retaining capacity for data management is challenging due to high turnover of government employees. After some time, people and facilities are often lost. Another challenge is that national focal points do not always share data with other local institutions. Thus governments must be committed to have local structures to archive as well as to share data and/or metadata.

It was proposed that diversification is the answer – through the use of national, regional and global (e.g. The World Ocean Database) data centres for the archiving of new data.

The Chairman highlighted the complexity of D&I management. It was suggested to arrange for D&I coordinators from SWIOFP, ODINAFRICA and ASCLME to meet physically to discuss and resolve some of the challenges.

2. Session 4: Capacity building and training

Warwick Sauer presented an update from the ASCLME COG meeting.

The Regional Capacity Building and Training Working Group for the ASCLME Project agreed to:

- Work with the focal points of each country.
- All correspondence from each group will be copied to all members of the COG and the Focal Institutions.

In terms of appointing someone to collect the information:

- COGs agreed to design a common tender (all countries), translated into the appropriate language
- The COG and PCU would make the final selection.

The following were noted:

In terms of 2009 training requirements:

- The COG Coordinators for CB&T had agreed to hold the 2009 training course in Cape Town.
- Comoros mentioned that the requirements for nominating students stated the need for an ability to be able to speak English.
- In this context, language issues need to be addressed and the training institutions approached to discuss the feasibility of training in French or Portuguese.
- The course outline will be sent to all members for comment following a review of feedback from the 2008 course.
- People trained last year may be able to accompany the ship if space allows.
- Cruise planning must be carried out with training needs in mind.
- The D&I group would provide training input for GIS and remote sensing.
- If required for ASCLME MEDA development, countries would forward any urgent training requests for 2009.

Training Plan framework:

- Minor changes were suggested.
- A copy of the BENEFIT Training Plan would be sent to all.

General Discussion:

It was noted that depending on the course content of cruise training and capacity needs assessment, training sessions could be synchronised with SWIOFP and FAO training sessions.

The Chairman pointed out that the three projects (ASCLME, SWIOFP and WIO-LaB) had agreed that coordinators would meet and exchange information.

3. Conclusions and the way forward

A summary of the salient discussions, conclusions and the way forward was provided by Dr David Vousden, Director of the ASCLME Project.

- **What activities are underway in the WIO region?**

The questions we need to ask each other include:

- Who is doing what and where?
- Who is planning cruises?
- Where will the cruises go?
- What scientific questions are being answered?
- What equipment is being deployed?
- What other forms of data are being collected in the field?
- Where (which countries and areas)?
- When and using what methods?

- Where will this data be stored and who has access?
- What capacity building activities are taking place and in which institutions/countries?
- What training courses/mechanisms are planned and for what purpose?
- Who will be trained?

- **How can we coordinate activities?**
- **What are the opportunities for Cooperation and Coordination?** (based on the answers to the questions)
 - Timing
 - Cost-sharing
 - Realignment between projects to balance needs
 - Agreements for sharing of data and access
 - Country agreement
 - On-going partnership and mutual monitoring of progress and activities (e.g. Steering Committee and Technical Group membership)

- **Possible mechanisms for coordination**

What mechanisms should we put in place to be able to share information on project activities and aims?

- Use of website(s)
- Bilateral cooperation

How can we ensure/encourage that these mechanisms are used and updated frequently?

- Reminders to update website information
- Coordination workshops

Who will take responsibility for this coordination role?

- WIOMSA?
- The ASCLME Programme?
- Nairobi Convention?

- Has the Forum been a useful exercise?
- What has been particularly valuable about this meeting?
- How could we improve the meeting if we hold one in future?
- How would we wish to continue this process?
 - Possible draft Regional Project Coordination Paper (mechanisms, responsible parties and funding sources, endorsement/inclusion of policy-makers)
 - Discussion at next WIOMSA Symposium in Reunion, August 2009
 - Conference on Contribution of Fisheries to MDG
 - Endorsement by the Nairobi Convention/SWIOFC/COI?

In order to facilitate the process, the ASCLME Project Director made an offer to develop a draft Project Coordination document that would provide options for ongoing coordination and for a further Forum meeting.

It was proposed that a special session at the WIOMSA 2009 meeting report on the science of regional projects. It was agreed that a second forum coordination meeting would be held at the 6th WIOMSA Science Symposium in Reunion.

It was suggested that additional projects and international institutions active in the region, be invited again, and that if lead-up time were longer, representation would be better.

It was proposed that the outcomes from the WIOMSA meeting be taken to the conference on contribution of Fisheries to the Millennium Development Goals, where policy makers would be meeting. This would help endorsement and adoption of outputs at higher levels.

The Project Director highlighted the really valuable contribution brought by all the participants to the Regional Forum. He sincerely thanked the ASCLME team as well as the Chairman and Marie-Ange from the UNDP Country office of Mauritius and Seychelles.

The Regional Forum closed at 12h20.

ANNEX I. Provisional agenda for the workshop

ASCLME Regional Project Coordination Forum 2-4 October 2008 La Plantation, Mauritius

Provisional agenda

Time	Thursday 2 October (day one)	Speaker	
08h00	Registration		
08h30	Welcome and opening address David Vousden (ASCLME), Claudio Caldarone (UNDP), Representative (Mauritius)		
09h00	Introduction to the workshop and discussion of the agenda	Magnus Ngoile	
09h20	Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) Project	David Vousden	
10h00	Tea/coffee		
10h30	South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme (SWIOFP)	Kaitira Katonda	
10h45	Addressing Land Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB)	Johnson Kitheka	
11h00	Discussion		
11h15	Western Indian Ocean Projects of the IRD/France	Jean-Francois Ternon	
11h30	African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP)	Tommy Bornman	
11h45	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)	Melckzedek Osore	
12h00	IOC/UNESCO Projects in the WIO Region	Mika Odido	
12h15	African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD)		
12h30	Discussion		
13h00	lunch		
14h00	Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Projects in the WIO 1. The SWIOFC Commission and its various activities 2. The EAF-Nansen project 3. The Ecosystem surveys and other studies conducted by the <i>RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen</i>	Aubrey Harris and Kwame Koranteng	
14h45	GOOS-Africa Projects and CLIVAR/TRIO	Juliet Hermes	
15h00	Discussion		
15h15	Tea/coffee		
15h45	Indian Ocean Commission (COI) Projects in the WIO	Gina Bonne	
15h55	Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Indian Ocean Countries (ReCoMaP / ProGeCo)	Jim Anderson	
16h10	RESEAU des Aires Marines Protégées des pays de la COI (RAMP-COI)	Denis Etienne	
16h25	GEF-WIO Marine Highway Development and Coastal and Marine Contamination Prevention Project	Raj Prayag	
16h40	International Knowledge Management	Francois Odendaal	
17h00	Other projects (5 minutes per project)	Contributions from the floor	
17h30	Discussion		
18h30	Evening function: icebreaker		

Time	Friday 3 October (day two)	Speaker	Facilitator
Coffee/tea and lunch breaks will be announced during the course of the day			
08h30	Review of Day One and ASCLME COG meeting	Magnus Ngoile	
	Session 1: Cruise coordination		Mike Roberts
	LME Programme priorities	Johann Lutjeharms	
	Discussion:	and Tommy Bornman	
	Vessels		
	Study areas		
	Date and timing of expeditions		
	In-situ instrumentation (proposed and deployed)		
	International participation in cruises		
	Opportunities for shipboard training		
	Deployment of instrumentation		
	Use of global information resources (eg cruise reports)		
	Session 2: Data and information		Magnus Ngoile
	ODINAFRICA	Mika	
	Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse mechanism	Odidio	
	The African Marine Atlas	Mwangi Theuri	
	African Ocean Portal	Lucy Scott	
	Regional coordination plans and introduction to the discussion	Desiderius Masalu	
	Discussion:	Lucy Scott <i>et al.</i>	
	Repatriation of cruise data to participating countries		
	Selected crosscutting data requirements (3-4 themes) of Projects (breakaway)		
	The use of long term data archives		
	Requirements, suggestions and concerns from regional projects about existing data archives for the region		

Time	Saturday 4 October (day three)	Speaker	Facilitator
Coffee/tea and lunch breaks will be announced during the course of the day			
08h30	Session 2: Data and information (continued)		Magnus Ngoile
	Session 3: Capacity building and training		David Vousden
	ASCLME Training plan	Warwick Sauer	
	Types of training and training initiatives.		
	Training facilities.		
	Key role players and disciplines		
	Current assessment of training courses - quality control and accreditation.		
	Collaboration between projects and programs for training.		
	Funding sources		
	Session 4: Ongoing communication		
	Discussion of useful follow-on activities to continue inter-project communication and collaboration		
	Discussion forums		
	Internet-based resources for cruise planning, tracking and reporting		
	Increased awareness and use of existing resources		
	Summary and capture of next steps		
	Close of the formal agenda		
	Informal discussions between projects		

ANNEX II. List of Participants

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ANNEX III. List of acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
ACEP	African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme
ADCP	Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler
ALTICORE	Value added ALTImetry in Coastal Regions
ASCLME	Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems
BCLME	Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
BENEFIT	Benguela Environment Fisheries Interaction Training Programme
BIOPS	BIODiversité des écosystèmes PélagiqueS marins de l'Océan Indien
CI	Conservation International
CoML	Census of Marine Life
CTD	Conductivity, Temperature and Depth recorder
EAME	Eastern African Marine Ecoregion (WWF)
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EME	Exploited Marine Ecosystems / Ecoystèmes Marins Exploités
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization (UN)
GEF	Global Environmental Facility (UN)
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GODAR	Global Ocean Data Rescue and Archaeology
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal Unregulated and Unreported fishing
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
MADE	Mitigating ADverse Ecological impacts of open ocean fisheries
MEDA	Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis
MESOP	MESOScale dynamics influence on Pelagic resources
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NAP	National Action Programme
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
ODINAFRICA	Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (IOC/UNESCO) REponses comportementales et démographiques des prédateurs Marins de l'océan Indien aux changements Globaux Environnementaux (Behavioural and demographic responses of Indian Ocean marine top predators to global changes)
REMIGE	
RS	Remote Sensing
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SWIOFP	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
THETIS	THons tropicaux et Ecosystèmes pélagiques : Taxies, Interactions et Stratégies d'exploitation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WIO	Western Indian Ocean
WIO-LaB	Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association