

Second Steering Committee Meeting

Introduction

The Second Steering Committee Meeting of the GCLME Project, “Combating Living Resource Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem through Ecosystem-Based Regional Actions” was held in the Conference Room of the GCLME Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in Accra, Ghana on 11th May, 2006.



The High Table at the Opening Ceremony. L-R : Mrs Madeleine Bollinger-Klah,(UNDP), Mr. Leonard Muamba-Kanda, Chairman, Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah, Minister of Fisheries, Ghana, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Regional Director, GCLME, Dr. Ken. Sherman (US-NOAA) and Dr. Chika Ukwé (UNIDO)

The Opening Ceremony was performed by the Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah and chaired by Mr. Leonard Muamba Kanda, National Director and Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Special Guest of Honour was Dr. Ken Sherman, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Centre of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US-NOAA).



A cross section of the Meeting

The meeting was attended by National Directors and representatives of the 16 participating countries, NGOs, Representatives of the Private Sector, Observers, as well as National, Regional and International Organizations, including UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, US-NOAA, IMO, FAO and NEPAD (Annex 10: List of Participants).

The Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe, expressed his appreciation of the individual and collective support and contributions of all stakeholders towards the advancement of the project. The representatives from UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, US-NOAA and NEPAD each made brief statements reiterating their organizations' commitment to the success of the Project.

The Minister for Fisheries of the Republic of Ghana described the significant progress made by the project within the first year of implementation as remarkable and precise. She commended the GCLME Team, both at the regional and national levels as well as the Implementing Agencies (UNDP and UNEP) and Executing Agency (UNIDO), for the important and strategic roles played in project implementation. She ended by reiterating the continued support of the Government of Ghana for the Project.

The Regional Director's Progress Report

The Regional Director presented the achievements and progress of the project since the last session of the Steering Committee (Annex 3). He recapped the main objectives of the project, its focal areas and discussed the main strategies for project implementation.

Some of the achievements the Regional Director highlighted were:

- Functional Regional Coordination Unit
- Regional Steering Committee
- Technical/Scientific Advisory Groups at both National and Regional Levels
- NGO/CBO Networks
- Establishment of Regional Activity Centres in five countries
- Development of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Indicators
- Development of preliminary Strategic Action Programme (SAP)
- Monthly Newsletters
- Setting up of country project offices
- Remarkable progress in the implementation of all the components of the project
- LOAs/MOUs with a broad spectrum of Co-operating Partners from UN and non-UN Organizations including the Private Sector

- and NGOs/CBOs
- Considerable co-financing leveraged



Prof Chidi Ibe, Regional Director, GCLME, during his presentation

He also enumerated some pending actions as follows:

1. Convene the meeting of the Ministers of Environment and Fisheries
2. Complete and circulate for comments the consultancy reports on Institutional and financial matters pertinent to the creation of Interim Guinea Current Commission
3. Expedite the purchase of equipment and facilities for the Regional Activity Centres and national laboratories
4. Initiate competitive bidding for the contracts associated with the National Demonstration projects to ensure commencement of activities by the second semester of 2006
5. Resolve the continuing problems with availability of "regional oceanographic vessels" pledged by Guinea and Nigeria

Commissioning of the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall" of the Regional Coordination Unit



Prof Chidi Ibe introducing Dr. Ken Sherman and explaining to the distinguished personalities the essence of the Ceremony



Mrs. Gladys Asmah then proceeded with the commissioning the Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall : She cut the ribbon



.... unveiled the plaque....



and a Giant Picture of Dr. Ken Sherman assisted by Prof. Chidi Ibe



Dr. Ken Sherman was then congratulated by the august assembly by a loud round of applause.

National Directors' Progress Reports

National Directors presented progress reports on the implementation of the GCLME Project in their respective countries. The project was on course in all the countries with no major problems. Image



Countries were represented by their National Directors. Here Mr. Wassouni Amadou (Cameroon), Dr. Francisca Delgado (Angola) and Prof. Sikirou Adam

They each reported on progress made with the launching of Project activities in their countries as well as the status of National Demonstration Projects where applicable. All the ten new countries have completed Draft Coastal Profiles. Some countries (Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone) have completed their Draft National Programmes of Action (NPAs) while others reported significant progress made towards preparation of the document. (CEDA), one of the NGOs representatives.

Any Other Business

Mr. Okoli Henry, Business Development and Sales Coordinator, Africa for Chukasdorf, a consulting and engineering firm based in Germany presented a paper on "Environmental-friendly Waste Management Solution- Waste to Diesel". His presentation described the method of Catalytic Depolymerization of Waste Material into Diesel fuel. The method, which he described as effective, inexpensive, decentrally placable and able to use most raw materials, enables the transformation of fast growing resources such as straw, wood, energy plants, e.g. sunflowers, plastics, waste oil, abbatoir waste and any form of organic and mineral hydrocarbon containing material into a final end product of Synthetic Diesel fuel with over 60 Octan, using the Catalytic Depolymerization Processing Plant. He presented the benefits of the process including clear reduction of the CO2 output. Production of fuel almost without environmental harmful residual substances is a highlight of this process. He concluded by outlining the dimensions and components of the CDP Plant as well as cost and job creation considerations.





Group Photograph of the Steering Committee

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