

# GCLME NEWSLETTER



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## By Kelechi Ihemeje, Editor

On 11 May 2006, the Commissioning of the RCU Conference Hall as the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall" by the Ghanaian Minister for Fisheries, Honourable Mrs. Gladys Asmah, preceded the Opening Ceremony of the Second GCLME Steering Committee Meeting which was a necessary step towards the effective implementation of the project. The Objectives of the Meeting were to provide strategic orientation for the management of the project, assess progress achieved so far in project implementation and discuss and approve the annual work programme and budget.

The Commissioning was witnessed by National Directors and representatives of the 16 GCLME member 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 while the Special Guest of Honour was Dr. Kenneth Sherman, Director, Narragansett Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US-NOAA).

The participants accompanied the Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Dr. Sherman and Dr. Chika Ukwe, GCLME Project Manager as they escorted the Honourable Minister to the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall" for commissioning as well as unveiling of Dr. Kenneth Sherman's portrait adjacent to the Hall.

Prof. Ibe described the gesture as the project's way of paying tribute to Dr. Sherman for his invaluable contributions to the sustainable management of coastal and marine environment through the Concept of Large Marine Ecosystem, of which he is the principal proponent. Hon. Mrs. Asmah applauded the contributions of Dr. Sherman to rational environmental and living resources management in Africa and beyond and expressed joy in being present on the occasion to honour him.

## Commissioning of the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall" of the RCU, Accra - Ghana, 11 May, 2006.



*L-R: Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah, Ghanaian Minister for Fisheries, Dr. Kenneth Sherman and Dr. Chika Ukwe of UNIDO being escorted to the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall" for commissioning.*

*R-L Prof. Ibe briefing the Hon. Minister on the contributions of Dr. Sherman to the GCLME project.*



*Hon. Mrs. Asmah (right) being assisted by Prof. Ibe (left) unveiling a picture of Dr. Sherman adjacent to the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall".*

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### The Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Accra - Ghana, 11 May, 2006.



*L-R: Mrs. Madeleine Bolliger - Klah (UNDP), M. Leonard Muamba Kanda, GCLME National Director from Congo RDC, Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Dr. Kenneth Sherman and Dr. Chika Ukwe at the Opening Ceremony.*

*L-R: Dr. Chika Ukwe, Mr. Joshua Ndubuisi (GCLME ICT Specialist), Ms. Carolyn A. Ristau (Consultant to Pro-Natura), Mr. malamine Thiam (IMO) and Mrs. Madeleine Bolliger-Klah (UNDP).*



*R-L: Mr. A. Karikari, Ghana, Bar. Patrick Odok, Comm. for Env. CRS, Nig. & Mr. B. d'Almeida, Sao Tome. R-L behind Mr. Karikari are Prof. Emmanuel Obot, Nig., Mr. Henry Okoli, an Ind. Consultant from Vienna and the GCLME Editor, Ms. Kelechi Ihemeje.*



Following the Commissioning of the Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall was the Opening Ceremony of the Second Steering Committee of the project. While stressing on the all-inclusive nature of the project, Prof. Chidi Ibe expressed appreciation for 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 reiterated their organizations' commitment to the success of the Project.

Honourable Mrs. Asmah 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 reassured all present of the continued support of the Government of Ghana for the implementation of Project.

Prof. Ibe recapped the main objectives of the project, its focal areas and discussed the main strategies for the project implementation. He highlighted the achievements and progress of the project since the last session of the Steering Committee and presented GCLME project work plan for 2006. He informed the meeting that the work plan for the first quarter of 2006 had so far been achieved.

The Project budget for 2006 was presented by the Project Manager, Dr. Chika Ukwe of UNIDO while the GCLME National Directors made progress reports on the implementation of the Project in their respective countries. 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 and also reiterated the support of their respective governments for the Project.

Recommendations of the Meeting included adoption of the Progress Report for 2005 and further consolidation of collaboration on pragmatic activities with various UN and non-UN Agencies like FAO, IOC-UNESCO, IMO, IUCN/WWF, IMR (Norway), US-NOAA, USACE, Canadian CIDA, ICS-UNIDO, SPLFDFID etc, for project implementation and cross-sectoral co-operation within project countries.



The Second Steering Committee Meeting was followed by the First Tripartite Review Meeting of the GCLME project held in the Ken Sherman Conference Hall of the RCU, Accra, Ghana on 12th May, 2006. The meeting was attended by National Directors and representatives of the 16 participating countries, NGOs, Representatives of the Private Sector as well as National, Regional and International Organizations, including UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, US-NOAA, IMO, FAO and NEPAD. The Meeting was officially opened by the Ghanaian Minister Designate for Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, Hon. Stephen Asamoah Boateng 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. Kenneth Sherman, Director, Narragansett Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US-NOAA).

Each of the representatives from UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, US-NOAA and NEPAD commended the outcomes of the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the GCLME Project, held on 11th May, 2006 and expressed satisfaction at the remarkable progress so far achieved in the first year of the project implementation.

The Minister lauded the efforts of the Project at ensuring environmental sustainability in the Region and expressed optimism that the Meeting would come out with recommendations that will clearly establish the compatibility between the objectives of the project and priorities of Governments.

Prof. Ibe's presentation focused on Project Concept and Design: Compatibility of Objectives of the Project with the Priorities of Governments; Compatibility of the Original Design with the Current Orientation of the Project; Overall Development Goals of the project: Strategies of the project: presentation of funds leveraged by various governments and agencies which include the cost of equipment and infrastructure provided. He finally assured all present that the project management will continue to follow the project guidelines outlined in the project document and will not deviate from the commitments made at the preparation stage.

The Meeting recommended among others, that National Steering Committees should be given the necessary support to continue project implementation in their respective countries

The First Tripartite Review Meeting, Accra - Ghana, 12 May, 2006.



L-R: Hon. Stephen Asamoah Boateng, Minister Designate for Local Government, Rural Development & Environment, Ghana, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Dr. Kenneth Sherman and Dr. Chika Ukwé.



L-R: Dr. Stephen Duah-Yentumi & Mrs. Madeleine Bolliger-Klah of UNDP and Mr. Maiwadar Omar, Deputy Director, federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja who is the GCLME Project National Director for Nigeria.



Group photograph of participants with the Minister Designate for Local Government, Rural Development & Environment, Ghana, Mr. Asamoah Boateng.



**Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Environmental Lawyers and Journalists, Accra, Ghana, 8-10 May 2006.**



*L-R: Mr. Soji Awogbade, President of the Nigerian Environmental Lawyers Association, Honourable Captain (Rtd.) Nkrabea Effah-Dartey, Deputy Minister for Interior, Ghana, Prof. Chidi Ibe and Mr. J.A. Allotey, Executive Director, EPA, Ghana.*

*R-L: Mr. Kiala Miranda from Angola, Mr. Ibrahim Seibure and Mr. Joseph Kobba from Sierra Leone. Directly behind Mr. Seibure is Mr. Chinedum Uwaegbulam from Nigeria.*



*Group photograph of participants with the Deputy Minister for Interior, Ghana, Environment & Science, Ghana - Honourable Captain (Rtd.) Nkrabea Effah-Dartey.*

From 8-10 May 2006, the GCLME project organized a Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Environmental Lawyers and Journalists at the RCU Conference Hall in Accra. The aim of the Workshop was to increase awareness and build the capacity of environmental lawyers and journalists on the following areas:

- Environmental rights as they relate to human rights
- Priority environmental issues in the GCLME
- Legal and Institutional Framework in place to manage priority environmental issues
- To constitute a forum to facilitate experiences and information sharing among participants
- To establish a platform for mutual collaboration and follow-up especially under the GCLME project.

The Workshop was attended by environmental lawyers and one environmental journalists from the 16 member countries, working in close collaboration with the populations and decision makers in the coastal areas of the 16 countries bordering the Guinea Current to reverse the trends of environmental degradation, through awareness creation and advocacy for compliance. It was officially opened by the Deputy Minister for Interior Hon. Captain (Rtd.) Nkrabea Effah- Dartey, Barrister at Law.

The Chairman for the occasion, Mr. Soji Awogbade, President of the Nigerian Lawyers Association expressed optimism that the meeting of the two groups would serve as a platform for pertinent interactions that would promote the course of environmental protection and the attainment to the goals of the GCLME project.

Prof. Chidi Ibe stated that the two groups which he described as "special breeds of people" had been brought together on a common platform, due to the common streak that runs through their professions which is "advocacy for environmental sustainability".

The GCLME Project Manager, Dr. Chika Ukwé of UNIDO, Vienna re-emphasized the commitment of UNIDO to the realization of the recommendations of the Workshop and stressed that the project was counting on the media and lawyers to achieve its objectives through their sustained efforts at advocacy, education and information dissemination to all sectors of society.