



IGCC NEWSLETTER



September, 2007

Edition

<http://www.gclme.org>

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

2nd Global Conference on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs): Qingdao, China, 11-13 September, 2007

Between 11 and 13 September, the Executive secretary/ Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe participated in the 2nd Global Conference on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in Qingdao, China.

The Second LME Conference sought to examine the scientific advances made in ecosystem assessment by LME projects around the globe and gauge the progress of the 16 GEF funded LME projects in achieving the targets put forward at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The presentations at the Conference addressed both theoretical and practical aspects of the LME concepts and how they are being implemented in selected regions.

Prof Ibe show-cased the success story in the GCLME. Within two years of implementing the expanded phase involving 16 countries, an Interim Guinea Current Commission has been established in Accra, Ghana. This is the highest decision making body which comprise of government ministers responsible for the marine and coastal environment.

As part of his presentation, Prof. Ibe gave the audience a taste of a documentary on the GCLME titled "Africa on the cutting edge - leading the Global Marine Ecosystem Recovery". The documentary revealed the problems confronting the continent with regard to the marine and coastal environment, the commitment of the people and their leaders, and the drive to address the issues at all levels.

Beside Prof Ibe, other presentations from the GCLME participants were made by Dr. Chika Ukwe, GCLME Project Manager, Prof Jide Alo, Chairman of the TDA and SAP Working Group and Dr. George Wiafe, Coordinator of the Regional Marine Productivity and Biodiversity Centre.



L-R: Dr. Chika Ukwe, Prof. Qisheng Tang and Prof. Chidi Ibe.



Panel discussion on future of Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)



A view of the participants to the Conference



Dr Ukwé reported on emerging projects on coastal tourism, industrial and artisanal fisheries, and nutrient over-enrichment in the LMEs. Such an integration is in line with the ecosystem based approach for sustainable resource utilization and management. Prof. Alo on his part recounted the GCLME experience with ecosystem valuation and the need to manage it sustainably for the present and future generations, cognizant of its impact on the social and political life of the people.

In his submission, Dr. Wiafe addressed the issue of climate forcing and ecosystem impacts on the productivity of the highly variable GCLME. He informed participants that the current trend of increase in sea surface temperature could significantly reduce abundance of zooplankton within the highly productive upwelling region with consequent reduction in small pelagic fish stocks.

At a closing panel discussion to scope the future of the LME concept, Dr. Wiafe submitted that great achievements have been made over the past 17 years. Most of the proponents of this idea have greatly advanced in years. Great personalities like Dr. Ken Sherman, Prof. Gotthilf Hempel, Prof. Chidi Ibe and Prof. Qisheng Tang have successfully led this initiative, and the younger generation must learn from these people and carry the torch on to greater heights.



Prof. Chidi Ibe chairing a session.



Co-organizers, Dr. Ken Sherman and Prof. Qisheng Tang.



Dr. Ken Sherman addressing audience during closing.

2ND SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE SHARED STOCK OF SARDINELLA OF ANGOLA, CONGO, RDC AND GABON: ANGOLA, 5 TO 7 SEPTEMBER 2007.

Between 5 and 7 September, the 2nd sub-regional Workshop on Management of the Shared Resources of Sardinella between Angola, Congo, RD Congo and Gabon, was held at the Conference hall of the National Institute of Fisheries Resources of Angola. The objectives the Workshop which was organized by IGCC were to:

- Assess the existing biomass, length frequency and catch statistics from the four countries
- Design a sub-regional sampling protocol at the level of artisanal fisheries to compliment the studies of reproductive pattern and feeding behaviour and
- Create a consultative organ at both scientific and administrative levels for the management of the shared resources.

The Workshop was officially opened by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Fisheries for Angola, Dr. Victória de Barros Neto in the company of the General Director of the National Institute of Fisheries Research, Dr. Francisca Pires Delgado.

The workshop was attended by two representatives from Management and Fisheries sectors of each of three countries of the sub-region, For Angola, representatives from the fishing industry, Institute of Artesanal Fishery and Development of Aquaculture, Angolan National Bank and fisheries research attended the workshop.

Dr. Brad Brown representing the Executive Secretary of the IGCC presented the Workshop documents prepared by Dr. Benedict Satia. He pointed that the background papers were excellent and should increase the understanding of regional management in all its aspects in the region.

He also stressed the need for the leaders to plan a course of action to move to the next level where a management plan can be proposed to ministerial level decision makers and that process needs to begin implementation of that process immediately.

Dr. Brown commended the logistical efforts of Angola as superb and pointed that the Facility is

excellent and the Activity Center fully capable of running workshops and when the equipment is finally in place should be able to handle hands on training as well. An excellent brochure has now been produced describing the work of the Activity Center.



The High Table at the Opening Ceremony. L-R: Dr. Bradford Brown, US-NOAA (Consultant), Dr. Francisca Pires Delgado, Director General of the National Institute of Fisheries Research, Dr. Victória de Barros Neto, Honourable Deputy Minister of Fisheries for Angola and Mr. N'Kosi Luyeye, Deputy DG of the Marine Research Institute, Luanda.



Following presentations, two working groups were formed: one for management and one for research.

RE-ORIENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

Between 24 - 26 September, the Administrative Officer, Mr. Napoleon Gbolonyo represented the Executive Secretary at a retreat organized by the Ghanaian Ministry of Local Government, Rural development and Environment, at Greenland Hotel, Swedru, Ghana.

The aim of the retreat was to re-orient the Environmental Portfolio into Local Government Programmes in Ghana as well as to develop strategies to achieve the following objectives under the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Environment:

" To intensify the application and enforcement of safe and sound environmental practices.

" To promote human development and sustain the orderly and healthy growth of human settlement in Ghana.

Participants in the retreat included: representatives from the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment (MLGRDE); UNDP; GEF/UNDP Small Grant Programme, Interim Guinea Current Commission (IGCC); Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Town and country Planning; Ministry of Aviation; and Non Governmental Organizations.

The meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, Alhaji Yusif Yeremiah who stressed the importance of the Environment sector to the Local Government structure. Alhaji Yeremiah also called for the strengthening of capacity of staff to be properly integrated into the Local Government Ministry.

Presentations at the retreat included:

" Objectives of the retreat, definition of the Environment and structure and role of the Environment Sector.

" Environmental Policies, Principles, Achievements and Challenges.

" Orienting the Environmental Portfolio into Local Government Programmes.



Group photograph of participants with the Dep. Min. of MLGRDE, Hon. Alhaji Awudu Yeremea (middle). To his left is Mr. Rudolph Kuuzegh, Dir. Env. Sector. 3rd from left is Dr. Stephen Duah-Yentumi, Asst. Res. Rep. UNDP. Also in the picture is Mr. Napoleon Gbolonyo, Admin. Officer, IGCC.

SIGNING OF THE SAP DOCUMENT

From 15 to 30 September, the Environment Scientist to IGCC, Dr. Jacques Abe traveled to Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Gabon to obtain Signatures of Ministers for the SAP Document.

The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) was adopted by the participants to the High Level Meeting for The Finalisation and Adoption of The LBS/A Protocol to The Abidjan Convention and The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) that was held from 25 - 26 June and 27 - 29 June 2007 respectively.

The document was unanimously adopted after Dr. Emmanuel Ajao, Consultant to IGCC had presented its Objectives, Rationale and Priorities by taking the delegates through the various chapters of the SAP:

1. Basis for Cooperative Action
2. Policy, Cross Cutting and Investment Actions
3. National Action Plans
4. Finance and Review (Total Investment Cost, Sources of Funding, Public-Private Partnership, Financial Sustainability)
5. Monitoring & Implementation (IGCC, Success / Performance Indicators)
6. Arrangement for Future Cooperation

It was then agreed that the SAP will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers for endorsement and signature. Dr. Abe is presently on mission to the GCLME countries obtain signature of responsible Ministers.