



IGCC NEWSLETTER

July, 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

Global Environment Facility 4th Biennial International Waters Conference, Cape Town International Convention Centre: July 31 - August 3, 2007

Between 31 July and 3 August, the IGCC Executive Secretary and GCLME Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe participated in the 4th Biennial International Waters Conference which took place in Cape Town, South Africa.

A highlight of the Conference was an Award Ceremony organized on the final day in Plenary Session by the emerging African LME Alliance (ALMEA) to honour and thank Dr. Ken Sherman for his invaluable contributions to sustainable development on the African Continent.

The purpose of the Conference which was organised by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was to bring executors of Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects in International Waters (IW) together to share experiences and innovative practices, promote learning and capacity building, develop strategies to enhance stakeholder collaboration, and encourage GEF IW projects to apply evolving GEF policies and procedures during implementation. The focal areas were Groundwater, Lake Basins, River Basins, Coral Reefs, Coastal and Marine Projects (including LMEs), Contaminant-Based, and Learning-Based.

An Innovation Marketplace Exhibition Center was mounted for stakeholders to showcase their activities. The IGCC mounted an exhibition on its activities during the expanded phase. This was in the form of large sized posters (1.2m x 2.0m). Twelve posters were exhibited and they covered the following Subject Areas:

1. The IGCC
2. Adoption of the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) concept
3. Transboundary concerns
4. Regional demonstration projects
5. National demonstration projects
6. Integrated coastal areas and river basin management
7. Productivity assessment
8. Information management and decision support systems



Presentation of Appreciation Award to Dr. Ken Sherman by the African LME Alliance



Recognition of Scholarship and Leadership - Dr. Sherman in a pose with Prof Ibe and Dr. Ukwue following the Recognition Award Ceremony



GEF's Dr. Al Duda, Prof. Ibe and Conference Reporter in a chat at the GCLME booth



9. Recovery and sustainability of fish and living marine resources
10. Pollution and ecosystem health
11. Socio-economics and valuation of ecosystem goods and services
12. Future Perspectives

The posters were displayed and visitors to the booth were given insight to activities of the GCLME Project of the IGCC. The achievements and innovations of the Project were also highlighted.



L-R: Dr. Etienne Massard Makagah, Director General of Environment and GCLME National Director, Gabon, Mr. Chukwudi Anyanwu, PTC/ECB/WMU, UNIDO, Vienna, and Prof. Chidi Ibe before the IGCC exhibition booth.



'Job well done'. Dr. Ken Sherman congratulating Prof. Ibe on the IGCC Exhibit

IGCC Regional Center for Marine Productivity & Biodiversity

The IGCC has established a Regional Center for Marine Productivity and Biodiversity at the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Ghana, Accra under a MOU with the University of Ghana, Legon.

The Center will contribute to the sustainable exploitation of living marine resources.



Assisted by Prof. Kwesi Yankah (middle), Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Mr. Abraham Odoom, Deputy Minister, MLGRDE and Hon. Daniel Dugan, Dep. Min., Fisheries unveiling a plaque to mark the commissioning of the Center. Behind from left are: Dr. Jacques Abe of IGCC and Mr. Armah, Head of Dept. of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Ghana.

According to the Head, Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, Mr. A. K. Armah, the acceptance by his Department to host the Center of excellence has placed a challenge on them to lead the sub-region to excel to world standards.

Dr. George Wiafe, Senior Lecturer and Planktonologist has been designated Coordinator of the Center



L-R : Mr. Abraham Odoom, Hon. Daniel Dugan and Prof. Kwesi Yankah cutting the ribbon. L-R behind are Prof. F.K. Rodrigues, Dr. Jacques Abé, Mr. A. K. Armah and N. Gbolonyo.

EXPANDING COLLABORATION WITH THE ERDC OF THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

July 2007 kicked off with the mission of the Executive Secretary of IGCC, Prof. Chidi Ibe and a delegation of US Army Corps Engineers made up of Dr. Robert Kennedy, Dr. Steve Grant and Dr. Leonard Kotkiewicz to Lagos and Abuja Nigeria. The purpose of their mission which took place from from 2 to 4 July was to meet with the Director General of National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) on Regional Emergency Preparedness, the Director, Erosion, Flood Control and Coastal Zone Management of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Housing on flood disaster management, and to visit the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) Center in Lagos for discussions on data management as part of the expanding collaboration between the USACE and the IGCC.

The USACE, through their Engineer Research Development Center in London, proposes to assist institutions in the GCLME Region to deal with both natural and man-made hazards through capacity building initiatives. It is hoped that with time, this would include material assistance.

On 4 July, the delegation visited the EIMS Center and extended their visit to the office of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Prof. Tolu Olukayode Odugbemi who received them warmly. He thanked UNIDO and the Executive Secretary for locating the Center at the University of Lagos. He welcomed the USACE delegation to the University and hoped that the visit would mark the consolidation of a fruitful cooperation between USACE and the University.

At the EIMS Center, the delegation was escorted round the facilities. Following a 20-minute lecture on the activities of the Center by the Coordinator, Dr. Peter Nwilo, Dr Kennedy of the USACE presented the activities of the USACE Engineer Research and Development Centre.

The delegation found the activities and facilities of the Center highly impressive and pledged to collaborate with and support the Center and its activities.

The Executive Secretary of IGCC thanked the University of Lagos for her continued support to the Center.



Dr. Robert Kennedy (USACE) Presenting souvenirs to Dr. Peter Nwilo and Prof. Babajide Alo (UNILAG)



Cross Section of Audience at the lecture



Group Picture of the Delegation and EIMS Staff

BRIEF ON THE 3RD LEG OF 2007 GCLME/FAO/IMR SURVEY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

The 3rd leg of the 2007 GCLME/FAO/IMR Survey in the Gulf of Guinea was executed using the Norwegian Research Vessel, Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, from 25th June - 6th July 2007 and covered the waters between Gabon and Republic of Congo. The Norwegian Cruise Leader was Jens Otto Krakstad while the Regional Cruise Leader was Jean Gabriel Goussilou from Gabon.

A total of 8 regional scientists from Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola participated in the research cruise. The Regional Scientists embarked the research vessel on 25th June 2007 at Port Gentil, Gabon and disembarked on 6th July 2007 at Pointe Noire, Congo.

A pre-survey meeting was held between the regional scientists and the Norwegian scientists on board the vessel on 25th June 2007 to discuss sampling protocol and also either confirm or amend the survey objectives.



The Regional Scientists sorting fishes for length, width and other biological measurements.

The survey objectives and sampling protocols for fisheries, benthos and plankton were the same as in the 1st and 2nd legs except that the CPR was not deployed during the 1st and 3rd leg. In addition sampling intensity for small pelagic resources was higher during the 3rd leg than the other legs.

This was to ascertain and/or otherwise the hypothesis that southern part of Gabon and Congo are the spawning/breeding grounds of the Sardinellas species

(*Sardinella aurita* and *Sardinella maderensis*), a shared resource off Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola. The Survey continued in Angolan waters.



A length measurement of selected fish species on board the R. V. Fridtjof Nansen

Other Major Events

- The Environment Expert, Dr. Jacques Abé undertook a mission (1-4, July, 2007) to Nairobi to participate in Consultative Forum of LME Projects and the joint Bureau of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions in preparation of the Conference of Parties in South Africa (5-8 November, 2007). The IGCC Consultant, Dr. Emmanuel Ajao made a presentation focused on strategies to improve on a few critical issues like; visibility of the Convention, the importance of the nodal structure, collaboration and cooperation among LMEs and sustainable financing mechanisms.
- From July 8-12, The Executive Secretary was on mission to Paris, France to participate in IOC-IUCN-NOAA-UNEP Large Marine Ecosystem 9th Consultative Committee Meeting.
- From 16 - 20 July, the Environment Expert, Dr. Abe went on mission to Libreville, Gabon to meet with Govt. officials in connection with preparations for the next IGCC Ministerial Meeting. He also met with the Vice-Prime Minister, in charge of Environment who confirmed their commitment to the organization of the Second Meeting of Ministers in Libreville, Gabon scheduled for November, 2007 and now postponed to end January/early February, 2008.