

# GCLME NEWSLETTER



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ANGOLA - BENIN - CAMEROON - CONGO - CÔTE D'IVOIRE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GABON - GHANA - GUINEA - GUINEA BISSAU - LIBERIA - NIGERIA - SÂO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE - SIERRA LEONE - TOGO

## FROM THE EDITOR :

The month of September started off with the concluding part of the joint mission of the Teams from the US Army Corps of Engineers, and GCLME Project to Abidjan and Assinie, Côte d'Ivoire and Libreville, Gabon. The mission started from 28 August and ended on 3 September. Members of the Team were: Dr. Robert Kennedy, Mrs. Joan Pope and Dr. Joseph Gailani from the US Army Corps of Engineers and Dr. Jacques Abe, Environment Officer, GCLME, Engr. Goerge Nai, GCLME Regional Consultant on Coastal Erosion and the Editor, Miss Kelechi Ihemeje. At the Assinie Beach, the team discovered two hotels (Valtour and Club Méditerranée) that used to be attractive sites for tourists abandoned partly due to wash over from the beach while in Gabon buildings at the presidential areas are threatened by erosion. Still in Gabon, a structure that used to be Dialogue Hotel was found abandoned due to the effect of erosion. The team held discussions with Government officials who indicated interest in the idea of finding Low-Cost Low-Technology Erosion Control Measures.

Between 19 and 23 September, the Regional Director, GCLME accompanied by Dr. Brad Brown, Consultant to US-NOAA visited Angola for meetings with high level government officials including the Deputy Minister for Fisheries, Dr. Victoria Cristovoa de Barros Neto, Deputy Minister for Environment and Urban Affairs, Mr. Graciano Domingos, the Deputy Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Anibal Silva, the Pro-Rector of the Augustino Neto University, Prof. Esperança Costa and the Director General of the Institute of Marine Research, Dr. Francisca Deldago. All the officials re-assured the Regional Director of the political and technical support of Angola for the GCLME Project. The Institute of Marine Research is the designated Regional Activity Centre for Fisheries and would receive State of the Art equipment and support from the project.

The Project would support the planned Mangrove Reafforestation Programme in the oil rich Cabinda Province being spearheaded by the Pro-Rector of the University, who

## Mission to Abidjan / Assinie, Côte d'Ivoire and Libreville, Gabon by the USACE/GCLME Team : 28 Aug. - 03 Sept., 2005.



*At the Assinie Beach, the Director of one of the hotels narrating their experiences as neighbours of the erosion site to the Team.*

*The Team in the frontcourt of Dialogue Hotel in Gabon abandoned because of erosion problems.*



## Mission of the Regional Director, GCLME to Luanda, Angola : 19 - 23 September, 2005.

*Among the High Level Personalities the Regional Director met during his Visit to Angola are L -R : Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Dr Victoria Cristovoa de Barros Neto and Deputy Minister of Environment, Mr Graciano Domingos. He also met the Deputy Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Anibal Silva (not in the photograph).*





is also the Curator of the National Botanical Gardens.

At the request of the Regional Director, the Deputy Minister of Petroleum promised to get the petroleum industry interested in the mangrove restoration project.

Between 19-24 September, a Workshop on Mangrove Restoration was organized at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra, Ghana. The Opening Ceremony chaired by Dr. A.K. Armah, Head of Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Ghana, Accra, was honoured by the Minister of Environment and Science, Honourable Christine Churcher, her Deputy, Dr. Ghesika A. Agambila and the Chief Director, Ministry of Environment and Science, Mr. Edward Osei Nsenkyire. The Workshop on Mangrove Restoration was organized to, among others, train National Experts in the identification of mangrove flora and fauna. The Workshop was attended by experts and senior level functionaries from the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries, Land Use Planning and Industry, Provincial and Local Governments, Universities and Research institutions of the sixteen project countries, that have preliminary experience in scientific and technological activities on mangrove and wetland management.

On 22 September, 2005 as part of the approaches to achieving the aim of the Workshop, the participants led by Drs. A.K. Armah, and Adomako both of the Department of Fisheries and Oceanography, University of Ghana, Accra, went on a field trip to see a Mangrove Restoration pilot project site at Winneba, a coastal village in Ghana. The Project got the traditional ruler involved and encouraged the villagers not to cut the mangroves by introducing them to alternative livelihoods. The participants discovered that the project has been successful. During their visit to the palace of the Chief of the village, the latter confirmed to the participants that his followers have benefited from the alternative livelihoods provided by the Project. He also indicated interest in getting more involved in the activities of the GCLME Project.

Following the Workshop on Mangrove Restoration at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra, Ghana was a Regional Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs on Integrated and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Areas from 26 to 30 September, 2005.

The Minister for Environment, Honourable Christine Churcher honoured the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop with her presence in company of Mr. Ajab the Head of Human Resources, Ministry of Environment. Mr. Martin Asamoah-Manu, Managing Consultant, Mamsco Environmental Management Consortium Limited chaired the Open-

### Regional Workshop on Mangroves Restoration, Accra: 19 - 23 Sept. 05.

*The Minister for Environment & Science, honourable Christine Churcher wondering "why the bitter lessons have not changed the way we do things". To her left is Dr. Aya Kojo Armah, Head of Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Ghana who chaired the Opening Ceremony.*



*Prof. Sieghard Holzloehner, Inst. of Oceanography, University of Calabar, Nigeria. Behind him from right are: Mr. Stephen Bette, Mr. Arikpo Ettah and Prof. Emmanuel Obot from Nigeria.*

*The Workshop participants at a Mangrove Restored site in Winneba village led by a sub Chief of the Village.*



*A group picture of the participants with the Chief of Winneba Village, Ghana during their visit to his palace.*



ing Ceremony of the Workshop. The Training Workshop was organised to help the NGOs acquire the necessary qualifications, information and approaches for guiding the various actors in the coastal and marine areas towards integrated environmental and living resources management as well as to ensure continuity to their activities through sustainable financing. In attendance were participants from multi-disciplinary NGOs working in close cooperation with the populations and decision makers in the coastal areas of the 16 countries bordering the Guinea Current. The training focused on basic concepts of IEC (Information, Education and Communication), and on the sustainable financing mechanisms of NGO activities in coastal and marine areas. As Part of the activities of the Workshop, the participants led by Engr. George Nai, GCLME Regional Consultant on Coastal Erosion visited the Erosion Control Sites at Labadi, Accra and Tema on 29 September.

From 5 - 10 September, the Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe was on mission to Liverpool to participate in the International Workshop on Coastal Processes, Measurement and Modelling. The Workshop, funded by the Corps of Engineering (and the US Navy) and organized by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory was held 7-9 September, 2005 in Liverpool, England. It was also an opportunity to the Regional Director to discuss with some participants plans for the proposed Workshop on Coastal Processes and engineering to be held in Calabar, Nigeria in December 2005.

From 12 to 16 September, 8 experts, from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria took part in the First Plankton and Benthos analyses to analyze samples collected during the June - July Regional Fish Trawl Survey aboard the R.V. Fridtjof Nansen and also to standardize methodologies for sampling and estimating the biomass of Plankton and Benthic Fauna. The Workshop organized at the laboratory of the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Ghana, was supervised by Dr George Wiafe from this institution. This assessment of plankton and benthos, critical in understanding the productivity pattern of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem is the first step towards the modeling of the system and also the basis for recommendation of appropriate management strategies for exploitable living resources.

As a follow-up of the visit of Senator Francis Ella, Chief Executive of Lakes Fish Farm Plc to the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra, Dr. Theodore Djama, the Fisheries Officer, GCLME, in company of Dr. George Darpaah, Expert in Aquaculture, Coastal Resource Unit of the University of Ghana and Mr. Linus Kumah, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Ghana were on mission to Rivers State, Nigeria. The objective of the visit was to inspect the 100 acre- Lakes Farm owned by Senator Ella and to draw lessons for the larger assessment of Aquacul-

### Regional Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs on Integrated and Sustainable Management at the RCU, Accra - Ghana: 26 - 30 September, 2005.



R-L Are; Nicaise Moulombi, President of Croissance saine Environnement, Gabon showing the Min. for Env. Hon. Christine Churcher, the Reg. Dir. GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe and Prof. K. Adam, GCLME Consultant on Integrated Coastal Area Management.

Prof. Sikirou Adam, GCLME Consultant presenting. To his right is Mr. Nicaise Moulombi from Gabon. To his left are: Chinedum Uwaegbulam, Nig., Ms. Salteria Teixeira Mendes, Sao Tome e Principe and Mr. Uche Igwe, Nig.



R-L Are: Michel Elemawugbo from Togo, Rev. Clement Ebin from Nigeria who was the Chairman of the Workshop and Mr. Thomas Bonebo from Côte d'Ivoire.

At the visit to the Erosion Control Site at Tema Beach. the Workshop Participants were being introduced to the materials used to protect the beach from erosion by Engr. George Nai, GCLME Regional Consultant on Erosion





ture and Mariculture in the GCLME Region. During their visit to the Farm, the team identified possible threats to the development of that sector and possible partners and stakeholders in the aquaculture sector in Rivers State, Nigeria.

On 23 September, the Democratic Republic of Congo organised in Kinshasa a Workshop on Public Awareness. The Regional Director, GCLME was represented by Mr. Germain Kombo, GCLME National Director of the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, Congo (Brazaville).

Between 10 - 17 September, Mr Napoleon Gbolonyo, Administrative Officer, GCLME was on mission to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso to represent the GCLME Project at the 24th Session of the Council of Ministers of the River Niger Basin Authority and to explore possible areas of collaboration between the GCLME Project and the projects under the Niger Basin Authority.

Between 27 - 30 September, the Fisheries Officer, GCLME, Dr. Theodore Djama was on mission to Conakry, Guinea to represent the Regional Director, GCLME at the Launching of the Project Activities in Guinea.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN OCTOBER, 2005.

- \* 3 - 7 October: Workshop on Final Meeting of the Regional TDA Working Group at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra. - Ghana.
- \* 09 - 12 October: Mission to Dakar by the Environment Officer, GCLME, Dr. Jaques Abe; to represent the Regional Director at the CCLME meeting in Dakar Senegal to give an overview of the GCLME project.
- \* 10 - 14 October: Regional Fish Trawl Survey Results Validation Workshop at the RCU, Accra.
- \* 13-16 October: Mission to Lagos and Port-Harcourt, Nigeria by the Regional Director, GCLME; to inspect the boats of the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography, Lagos and that of HoneyWell Fisheries Ltd in Port Harcourt in preparation for the proposed sea based training on pollution monitoring.
- \* 24 - 27 October: Joint Mission to Nigeria by Dr Fofana Mamadou, Regional GIS Expert, Mr. Joshua Ndubuisi ICT Specialist, GCLME and Miss Kelechi IHEMEJE, GCLME Editor, to evaluate the set up including facilities and Work Plan at the Regional EIMS Centre, University of Lagos and; to develop with the Regional EIMS Expert / Coordinator of the Centre the best ways for acquisition and sharing of data within the region.

Kelechi IHEMEJE

### Working Group of Plankton and Benthos; 12 - 16 September, 2005 at the University of Ghana, Accra - Ghana



Group picture of Participants of the Plankton and Benthos: Working Group Meeting, 12 - 16 September, 2005.

### 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Ministers of the River Niger Basin Authority: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 10-17 Sept. 05



L-R : Mr. Mohammed Bello Tuga, Exec. Sec. NBA, Mr. Abdou Labo, Min. of Water Resources, Env. & Desertification Control of Rep. of Niger and also the Chairman of NBA Council of Ministers, His excellency Salif Diallo, Senior Minister for Agriculture, Hydraulics and Fisheries, Burkina Faso.

### Mission to Senator Ella's Lake Farm, Rivers State, Nigeria by Fisheries and Aquaculture Experts: 19 - 22 Sept. 05



A visit to the farm: Some specimens from the Grow-out Pond which showed stunted growth.