



IGCC NEWSLETTER



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

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TRIPARTITE TELECONFERENCE, 30TH JANUARY 2009

To improve project coordination and implementation of activities a teleconference was organized as part of the tripartite review meeting of the project between agencies (UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP and the RCU). The conference also created a forum for the parties to review project activities which had been implemented and those which are yet to be done. The parties included, Dr. Abdulaye Ndiaye (UNDP), Ms. Virginie Hart (Task Manager of UNEP), Dr. Pablo Huidobro (Project manager, UNIDO/GCLME), Mr. Christian Susan, (UNIDO), and Dr. Jacques Abe (RCU).

VISIT BY US NAVY ON COASTAL EROSION MODELLING, 29TH FEBRUARY 2009

Mr. Augustus Vogel of the US Navy visited the GCLME project office to discuss possible collaboration of the US Navy with the GCLME Project in the implementation of coastal erosion activities. He was accompanied by Dr. George Wiafe, Coordinator of the Regional Productivity and Biodiversity Centre at the University of Ghana, Legon.

GCLME GETS A NEW PROJECT MANAGER



A new Project Manager has been appointed by UNIDO to oversee the activities of the GCLME Project from Vienna.

Mr. Christian Susan holds a Masters Degree in Water and Natural Resource Management. His main fields of expertise are Water Resource Management, Policy Development, Institutional Capacity Building and Environmental Valuation.

While in university he had the opportunity to gain international work experience in the water sector through internships in several African countries and through an internship with the World Bank on Public-Private-Partnerships.

From 1994-1997 he worked as an academic research assistant with the Institute for Water Provision, Water Ecology and Waste Management at the University for Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna.

From 1998-2002 he was employed as Deputy Head of Mission with the Austrian Embassy, Regional Bureau for Development Cooperation in Kampala, Uganda.

Mr. Susan took up an assignment as an advisor for integrated water resource management for PDAM Tirtanadi with the German Technical Cooperation (Gtz) in North Sumatra, Indonesia, in 2002.

From July 2004 until September 2008 Mr. Christian was employed by the Austrian Federal Forests' Consulting Department as a Senior Consultant for Natural Resource Management.

Amongst many others he was involved as a key-expert and working group leader in an EU Twinning project in Slovenia (Introduction of Economic Instruments for Water Resource Management), as the team leader in the on-going World Bank funded mediations between the Georgian Ministry of Environment and BTC Co on eco-compensation measures, the feasibility study for REDD (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) in Indonesia for the German Development Bank and in the ecological restoration of the water bodies in China.

In October, 2008, Mr Susan joined UNIDO's Water Management Unit and in February 2009 he was given project management responsibility for the GCLME project.



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FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS AND ACTIVITY CENTRE COORDINATORS, 4th -6th March 2009

The problems posed by marine coastal erosion, pollution and general degradation of the GCLME region are enormous. As part of its coordination Mechanisms, the GCLME Project operates Country Coordination Units in all its 16 member states to, among other things, monitor and control activities within this large marine ecosystem. National Programme Assistants have also been appointed in all the sixteen countries to facilitate the implementation of the project in their respective countries and to act as liaison between the Regional Coordination Unit and coordination Units in their respective countries. The Project has also established five Regional Activity Centres (RACs) in all the five



Group Photograph of Programme Assistants and RAC Coordinators

modules in four countries to serve all sixteen countries of the GCLME as part of the requirements for project implementation. A meeting was therefore organized to bring together National Programme Assistants from all sixteen IGCC countries and coordinators of the five Regional Activity Centres with the Interim Regional Project Coordinator and the Project Manager to present progress in implementation of activities in the various countries and Activity Centres.

The following Outputs were achieved:

- A better focused and well oriented Programme Assistant
- Work programmes of Regional Activity Centres aligned and harmonized with the project's workplan for the period 2009-2010 and the available budget
- A better approach adopted by Project Activity Centres to better service project collaborators and Partners.



Mr. Christian Sussan and Dr. J. Abe addressing Participants



Participants at the Workshop

**REGIONAL INTRODUCTORY BALLAST WATER
MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP, 31st
March to 3rd April 2009**

Over the past two decades ballast water has been increasingly recognized as one of the major vectors for the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens into aquatic environment and these alien invasive species as one of the four biggest threats to the marine environment. However, about 60 percent of the now over 6 billion world population lives within 60 kilometers of the coast. In the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem region stretching from Guinea Bissau in the north to Angola in the south, approximately 40 percent of the 300 million population (more than half of the population of the African continent) live in coastal areas, many of whom are dependent on the lagoons, estuaries, creeks, and other in shore waters for their food security and general well being.



**From Left to Right Mr. Francois d'Adesky,
Mr Michel Luguje, Hon Sherry Ayitey,
Mr Fredrik Haag and Dr. Jacques Abé**

To achieve a balanced environmental planning and sustainable exploitation of these natural resources in coastal areas within the Gulf of Guinea, senior representatives from the Maritime Administration and other relevant organizations from the 16 GCLME countries through the integrated management strategy and a knowledge-based system gathered to define, evaluate and select the most appropriate technologies, baselines and protocols for a sustainable management of sensitive coastal ecosystems.



Participants at the BWM workshop.

The training workshop which was organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation and the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships project aimed at assisting these countries to:

- Reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water;
- Build capacity to address the ballast water issues;
- Undertake legal, policy and institutional reforms; and
- Implement the Ballast Water Management Convention.

The training course provided a common set of knowledge and skills to all participants to enable them take appropriate action in their various capacities with the view of promoting uniform implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention.

An additional objective of the training was to build the necessary capacity in the region to offer similar training to a wide range of stakeholders at national and regional levels. The course also provided the "train-the-trainer" opportunity and provided the trainee with the necessary skills and knowledge to organize and deliver national level introductory training on ballast water management, resulting in a multiplier / cascading effect.

It is expected that the workshop will have a significant impact on the obligation to meet with international regulations for the protection of the Marine Environment in the region.

STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP ON "ENHANCING REGIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF CONTAMINANTS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT".

A one-day intensive stakeholders' workshop on the theme, "Enhancing Regional Capacity for the Assessment of Contaminants in the Marine Environment" was jointly organised by the IAEA Raf/7/008-9002 and the GEF/UNDP/IMO-GloBALLAST projects. The Workshop was organised at the Centre for African Wetlands of the University of Ghana, Legon on Tuesday, February 10th 2009 to address some marine pollution problems along Ghana's coast prior to the commercial drilling of oil in Ghana.



Participants at the Workshop

Participants at the workshop included representatives from oil companies, industries, government institutions, environmentalists, policy makers and water quality experts from various research institutions. The IGCC was represented by Dr. Jacques Abe, Officer-in-Charge of the RCU.



Dr J. Abe making a presentation

He made a presentation on UNIDO/IGCCs collaboration with IMO to implement the GloBallast Programme.

ARRIVAL OF INTERIM UNIDO REPRESENTATIVE TO GHANA AND TOGO



The newly appointed UNIDO Interim Representative for Ghana and Togo, Mr. Francois d'Adesky assumed office on the

12th March 2009. He met the UNIDO project staff in Ghana on the 17th of March 2009 to discuss problems facing the projects, their prospects and at what level he could be of assistance to them.

Present at the meeting were the Coordinators of the three UNIDO projects in Ghana which are: The Refugee project, GCLME Project and the Trade Capacity. All three Coordinators discussed the mandate of their projects, achievements so far and the way forward.

COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BY THE INTERIM UNIDO REPRESENTATIVE TO GHANA AND TOGO

The UNIDO Interim Representative to Ghana and Togo, Mr. Francois d'Adesky paid a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Minister for Environment Science and Technology of Ghana, Hon. Sherry Aryitey on Friday 27th March 2009.



**Left to Right Hon. Sherry Ayitey,
Mr. d'Adesky and Dr. J. Abe**

He was accompanied by the Officer-in Charge of the GCLME Project, Dr. Jacques Abe, the Administrative Officer Mr. Napoleon Gbolonyo, and the National Programme Assistant of Ghana, Ms Sylvia Osei Nsenkyire. Mr. d'Adesky congratulated the Minister for her nomination and appointment as Minister of Environment Science and Technology. He then presented the Minister with brochures containing information on UNIDO and briefed her on UNIDO's activities worldwide and in Ghana. He also informed the Minister about the importance of the GCLME project in addressing environmental problems in the countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea.

The UNIDO representative reiterated that following the re-launch of project activities, there has been an urgent need to accommodate the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) which should be done before the next Regional Steering Committee Meeting. The Hon. Minister underlined the fact that Ghana is privileged to host the GCLME Project since it aims at addressing the environmental problems associated with pollution of the Gulf of Guinea. She said addressing problems of coastal degradation will also contribute significantly to the tourism sector of the economy which is a good foreign exchange earner.

Meeting on LBSA Protocol

Final Negotiations Meeting on the Text of the Protocol Concerning the Protection of the Marine and Coastal



A Section of participants
at the LBSA Meeting

Environment from Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol), was held in Accra, Ghana, 30 March to 1 April, 2009, at the Miklin Hotel. The Officer-in-Charge of the GCLME project attended the meeting.



Dr. J. Abe, Mr D. Amlalo, Mr. Scott and Mr. Quaison Interacting with the Minister Hon. Sherry Ayitey after the Opening Ceremony.

UPCOMING EVENTS

✂ **Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting-Accra, 24th to 25th June 2009**

✂ **Regional Training Course on Port Biological Baseline Surveys - Abidjan, 6th to 8th July 2009.**

✂ **Regional Workshop and Task Force Meeting on the Ratification and Implementation of the IMO Convention on Ballast Water Management - Abidjan 9th to 10th July 2009.**

✂ **Coastal Zone Management in Africa Workshop -Accra 2nd to 7th August 2009.**