

First Meeting of the Tripartite Review

OPENING

The First Tripartite Review Meeting of the GCLME Project was held in the Conference Room of the GCLME Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in Accra, Ghana on 12th May, 2006. The Meeting was opened by Hon. Stephen Asamoah Boateng Minister Designate for Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, Ghana, in presence of Prof. Chidi, Ibe Regional Director, GCLME, Mr. Leonard Muamba Kanda, National (Chairman) Director and Secretary General of the The First Tripartite Review Meeting of the GCLME Project was held in the Conference Room of the GCLME Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in Accra, Ghana on 12th May, 2006. The Meeting was opened by Hon. Stephen Asamoah Boateng Minister Designate for Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, Ghana, in presence of Prof. Chidi, Ibe Regional Director, GCLME, Mr. Leonard Muamba Kanda, National (Chairman) Director and Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Ken Sherman, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Centre of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US-NOAA) and Dr. Chika Ukwé, GCLME Project Manager, UNIDO.

Project Concept and Design

The GCLME Regional Director gave a presentation 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.

He recapped the overall development goals of the project as follows:

- Recover depleted fish stocks
- Restore degraded habitats
- Reduce land and ship-based pollution
- Create an ecosystem-wide assessment and management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources in GCLME.

He emphasized that the project strategies are to:

- Create improved legal/ management frameworks and institutional structures to address priority regional issues including a Guinea Current Commission, a Regional and National bodies for conducting effective regional interventions for rational fisheries utilization, biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention and coastal erosion defense.
- Successfully implement ten (six national and four regional) demonstration projects to serve as a basis for replication in the region and outside the region, as concrete steps towards achieving agreed environmental quality objectives.
- Develop nationally endorsed Strategic Action Program and National Action Plans (NAPs) with accompanying sustainable financing plan to lead the way towards continued incremental improvement to the GCLME based on a solid foundation of regional commitment and consensus.

He then discussed the development goals and project identification strategies as they relate to the priorities of the participating countries.

The Regional Director also briefly presented funds leveraged by various governments and agencies. These include the cost of equipment and infrastructure provided but exclude staff time and cost of premises.

In conclusion, the Regional Director assured members present that the project management continues to follow the project guidelines outlined in the project document and will not deviate from them except if and when the participating countries so direct.

From the presentations made by the Regional Director, a number of suggestions and observations bordering on issues of transboundary concerns were made. These include but are not limited to the following:

The GCLME project management should make attempts to access funds from the African Development Bank for the Invasive Alien Species project during the upcoming donors meeting.

- NEPAD is willing to help GCLME in management of waste in the region.
- Destructive fishing practices should be considered at the national levels.
- GCLME should encourage national law enforcing agencies in the enforcement of environmental laws.
- Data collected by GCLME should be made available to the public and for free.

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