

FROM THE EDITOR :

From 10 - 14 April, the GCLME project organized a Regional Workshop of Pollution and Ecosystem Health Working Group in Accra, Ghana, at the conference room of the Regional Coordination Unit. The Workshop with one of its main objectives as "to improve the "Training manual for the Development of National Programme of Action on the Land-Based Activities (NPA/LBA) of the Global Programme of Action (GPA)" and the "Marine Pollution Monitoring Manual" was officially opened by the Ghanaian Minister for Environment and Science, Honourable Christine Churcher.

Honourable Churcher appreciated the significant progress being made by GCLME Project in the implementation of its strategic plan and underlined the importance of trans-boundary approach in addressing the problem of Pollution and Ecosystem Health overexploitation within the region. She acknowledged the bond being established between the 16 countries in building very strong network of technocrats, researchers, environmental planners, scientists, and other senior level experts from the various Ministries and Institutions.

While referring to the objectives of the Workshop, she advised all to take advantage of the existing partnership and strive to build the regional capacity in addressing fully, the trans-boundary challenges, using appropriate techniques and strategies which she sees as the only way to regain control over the marine resources.

Dr. Jonathan Allotey, Director of EPA, Ghana who chaired the opening ceremony cited pollution from land-based activities as one of the major concerns of the countries in the GCLME region while the Regional Director, stressing the main objective of the Workshop highlighted the threat posed by pollution to the enormous marine resources potential and ecosystem health of the GCLME. He however, implored the Honourable Minister to sustain her activities aimed at "Recovering and Sustaining Ecosystem Health and Marine Resources" in the GCLME region.

POLLUTION AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH WORKING GROUP ACCRA, GHANA, 10 - 14 APRIL, 2006.



L-R: Mr. J.A. Allotey, Executive Director, EPA, Ghana, Minister for Environment & Science, Hon. Christine Churcher and the Regional Director, GCLME, Prof. Chidi Ibe.

R-L from Nigeria are: Dr. J. P. Uyimadu, Asst. Chief Research Officer, NIOMR, Lagos, Dr. L.O. Chukwu -Dept. of Marine Science, Uni. of Lagos and Mr. Ugochukwu Ernest-Ihemejeh, GCLME National Programme Assistant for Nigeria.



L-R: Prof. Oteng-Yeboah, Dep. DG. CSIR (Env. & Health), Mr. William Fomban, Chairma, GHC, Ghana, Min. for Environment & Science, Hon. Christine Churcher, Prof. Chidi Ibe and the Deputy Min. for Env. & Science, Dr. G y e s i k a

Agambila at the Closing Ceremony.

The GCLME Regional Training Workshop on the use of Ecopath with Ecosim model (EwE) for ecological, biological and socio-economic analysis of fisheries was held at the Regional Coordination Unit of the GCLME, Accra, Ghana, from 18th - 22nd April, 2006. All the sixteen member countries were present at this regional training workshop with a total of 26 participants.

The realization of this important workshop is the result of a fruitful cooperation between the GCLME project and one of the leading fisheries research institution, the Fisheries Center of the University of British Columbia, Canada. In fact, Ecopath with Ecosim (EwE) appears to be the World's de facto standard for research on ecosystem-based management of fisheries, with 3000 registered users in 124 countries, over 200 hundred published applications, and more than 40 graduate theses completed based on the approach.

The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the knowledge of fisheries scientists of the GCLME region. Specific objectives were to:

- Address ecological questions in fisheries management;
- Evaluate the effects of fishing on the ecosystem;
- Explore bio-socio-economic management policy questions;
- Evaluate impact and placement of marine protected areas; and
- Assess effect of environment changes;

At the end of the workshop, country delegates were able to:

- Have an overview of the rationale for and implications of ecosystem modeling;
- Be comfortable users of the models (creation of their country's model);
- Share information and grow together in better understanding of what is possible with ecosystem modeling and what is not;

Recommendations made by the participants at the end of the Workshop included:

- development of a model by each of the participating countries and;
- using available data as well as development of a core group on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) in the region which would develop a GCLME-wide ecosystem model incorporating historical and present available data.

Profs. Villy Christemen and rasheed Ismaila were the Workshop Directors.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT USING EwE SOFTWARE ACCRA, GHANA, 18 - 22 APRIL 2006.



L-R: Dr. Mrs.. Anyanwu from NIOMR, Lagos and Prof. Chidi Ibe.

L-R: Dr. Benedicta Mbu Obon from Cameroon, Mrs. Catherine Isebor from NIOMR and Mrs. Foluke Areola from Federal Department of Fisheries, Lagos, Nigeria



R-L: Mrs. Virginia Godinho from Sao Tome e Principe, Ms. Vanaquissa Jonica from Angola and Mr. Chiambeng Yongbi from Cameroon.

On 2 - 3 May 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency organized a Two (2) Day Roundtable for Stakeholders on Waste Stock Exchange Management System (WSEMS) at the Regional Coordinating Unit of GCLME, Accra. The GCLME sponsored meeting is a follow up to the former held in 1997 and was intended to further deliberate on the WSEMS with all relevant stakeholders and to clearly define the way forward in implementing the waste stock exchange idea.

The Waste Stock Exchange Management System (WSEMS) is a new concept developed during the pilot phase of the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (GoG-LME) project, based on a case study of Ghana's industrial hub of Tema with the aim providing a matching service between waste generator and the potential users of these wastes.

It is noted that wastes from industry pose disposal problems. The system seeks to identify these materials classified as waste generated by other industries that can be employed as raw materials by other industries or end users. It also seeks to provide Waste Exchange Management Information System, create a wider stakeholder market and economy as a major driver to facilitate the functioning and autonomy of a stock exchange for identified tradable waste thereby institutionalizing an integrated pollution prevention and control strategy.

The main objective of the Roundtable was to seek ways of establishing an independent self-financing and fully functional waste stock exchange system in Ghana while the success of this demonstration project will propel the establishment of similar systems in the GCLME region and create a vibrant stock market in non-hazardous tradable waste.

The Roundtable for Stakeholders WSEMS brought together regulators, representatives of industry, private agencies currently involved in collection and processing wastes, policy makers and NGOs who agreed that there is need for extensive public awareness creation on the Waste Stock Exchange Management System and waste management in general in the country and to move rapidly towards the establishment of the waste stock exchange management system.

The participants acknowledged that there are enormous socio-economic and environmental benefits to be derived from the establishment of waste stock exchange management system thus stressing the need for high level of commitment from government in order to create the required policy framework and an enabling environment to ensure its implementation.

The workshop was quite fulfilling and was useful as an eye opener on the idea of the waste stock exchange management system.

Two Day Roundtable on Waste Stock Exchange Management System (WSEMS) RCU, Accra. 2-3 May 2006



L - R : Chief Director, M E S , Ghana - Mr. Edward Osei-Nsenkyire, Exec. Dir. EPA - Mr. J. Allotey and GCLME Environment Ex-

pert - Dr. Jacques Abe at the Opening Ceremony.

L - R : From EPA , Ghana Mr. Lambert. Derrik, Dep. Dir. & Mr. Dan Amlalo, Dir. Field Operations while from the



Min. of Env. & Science, Ghana are Mr. Kwamena Quaison and Mr. Kwaku Sersah-Johnson.



Prof. Chidi Ibe addressing the participants at the Technical session of the Meeting.

On the 28th of April 2006, the Honourable Minister for Industries, Ambassador Fidelis N. Tapgun visited the UNILAG/GCLME Environmental Information Management Centre, Lagos, Nigeria. Members of the honourable minister's delegation included: Dr. David .D. Tommy, Unido Country Representative in Nigeria and Mrs. Aisha Dankani, Director, Planning Research and Statistics, Federal Ministry of Industry.

The minister was highly impressed with the activities at the Centre and observed that the Centre is eminently equipped with state-of-the-art facilities will help in generating reliable information in the maintenance and management of the environment. He expressed the readiness of his Ministry to give maximum assistance, so that industries needing such information could benefit from the Centre.

Between 26 and 27 April, 2006, UNIDO and the GCLME Regional Director were represented at the 2006 SADC Consultative Conference and Inter LME meeting in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia by UNIDO Industrial Officer, Dr. Chika Ukwe, Project and GCLME Editor, Ms Kelechi Ihemeje respectively.

From 24 - 27 April 2006, the Environment Expert, Dr. Abe represented the Regional Director in participation of the 2nd ODINAFRICA Seminar on Ocean Data and Information for Management and Development in Africa which was held in Oostende, Belgium.

The modules of the GCLME project were presented and the activities of the UNILAG/GCLME EIMS Centre were highlighted to show possible collaboration with ODINAFRICA.

On 14 April 2006, The GCLME Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe in the company of Mr. A.K. Armah (Head of Department of Oceanography & Fisheries) and Dr. E. A. Ajao (GCLME consultant from the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research) visited the University of Ghana, Legon to inspect progress on the Regional Centre for Marine Biodiversity & Productivity (RCMBP) located in the Department of Oceanography & Fisheries of the University.

Kelechi Ihemeje

VISIT OF THE HON. MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES AT THE UNILAG/ GCLME EIMS CENTRE, LAGOS - NIGERIA 28 APRIL 2006

L-R: Mrs. Aisha, Dr. Nwilo, Hon. Minister: Amb. Fidelis Tapgun and the Chairman, Management Committee of the Centre: Prof. Sofola.



2006 SADC CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE APRIL 26- 27, 2006 WINDHOEK, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

A side view of the Sustainable Food Security Working Group. 3rd from left on the 2nd row is Dr. Chika Ukwe, GCLME project Manager, UNIDO.



2nd Odinafrica Seminar (Ocean Data and Information for Management and Development in Africa) Ostend, Belgium: 23-27 April 2006



Group photograph of participants to the 2nd Odinafrica Seminar in Ostend.