

SUMMARY REPORT

FIRST ODINAFRICA PROJECT MANAGEMENT MEETING

26-30 October 2004 Accra, Ghana

The meeting was opened by the Director of the Marine Fisheries Research Division (MFRD) who is also the Chairman of GOOS Africa, Dr Kwame Koranteng. Welcoming the participants to Ghana, Dr Koranteng assured the group that the Project Steering Committee has full confidence in them. He informed the PMC that GOOS Africa is working on the design for platforms to be constructed locally to be used for measurements (eg floats) on which sensors will be put. He requested the PMC to ensure that the National Project Coordinators for work package 2 should submit copy of their reports to the GOOS Africa Coordinating Committee.

WP1: MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The Project Manager reported that the first Steering Committee meeting was held at the UNESCO Nairobi Office from 12-15 July 2004. During this meeting the Terms of Reference for the Project Management and Coordination structures were reviewed, Regional Coordinators for the work packages were selected, and the budgets and work plans revised due to the delays in transfer of funds from Flanders to UNESCO. The meeting also endorsed the re-location of the project office to UNESCO Nairobi Office, which is also the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa (UNESCO/ROSTA). A copy of the decisions of the PSC meeting had been circulated to all the ODINAFRICA partner institutions and national contacts.

WP2: COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS

The responses to the questionnaire circulated to national coordinators for WP2 were reviewed. It was agreed that a total of about 15 sea level stations, evenly spaced along the African coast, providing data near real time, and addressing the key oceanographic phenomena be proposed to the Advisory group for WP2 for installation.

Five of these will be procured in the first year with the rest in year 2. In addition in 2005, support will be provided to Nigeria to enable them install a gauge already acquired, and to Benin to get a gauge which was installed in 2003 operational. This will make a total of 17 new stations during the duration of the project. The countries participating in ODINAFRICA should also be encouraged to install additional stations to complete their national networks and contribute to better understanding of regional phenomena. Emphasis was put on the need for an operational station on the coasts of the coasts of Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan which are not participating in ODINAFRICA.

It is important to collaborate with other groups that have installed or maintain sea level stations on the African coastline as well as the national meteorological agencies in order to ensure that the African coastline is optimally covered. These include the South African Hydrographic Office, UHSLC, POL/PSMSL, SHOM, Portuguese and Brazilian initiatives. The Regional Coordinator for WP2 should therefore counter check the questionnaire responses with information available with these groups- especially UHSLC and the POL/PSMSL.

The following potential locations were identified:

YEAR 1: Comoros (Moroni), Cote d'Ivoire (Abidjan), Mauritania (Nouadhibou), Senegal (Dakar), Morocco (Casablanca), Tunisia (Sfax or Haouria or Gabes).

YEAR 2: Egypt (Alexandria), Kenya (Malindi), Tanzania (Mtwara), Namibia (Luderitz or Walvis bay), Angola (Luanda or Lobito), Congo (Pointe Noire), Cameroon (Kribi), Togo (Lome), Madagascar (NosyBe).

The Advisory Group for the work package will advise on the best locations, type of gauges, and data transmission mechanism to be used.

Training on installation and maintenance of tide gauges will be provided to the local technicians during installation of the equipment. One or two local technicians who demonstrate proficiency in their work should be identified so that they can be used to assist their colleagues in maintenance of the equipment, as well as providing refresher/remedial training for other technicians during the duration of the project.

The possibility of installing ocean/met stations at all the new sites will be considered depending on the cost of the equipment. The Regional Coordinator WP2 was asked to confirm the costs and inform the PMC.

Two training courses on sea level data analysis as well as maintenance of gauges to be held in 2006 and 2007 respectively were proposed. These will be attended by participants from all the countries which have tide gauges (both installed by ODINAFRICA and other organisations).

WP3: DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.

Establishment of new data and information centres

Training workshops on data and information management will be organised for the five new countries and countries that participated in ODINAFRICA-II but still require training from scratch.

The data management training course is tentatively scheduled for 4-22 April 2005 at the IODE Project Office in Oostende, Belgium and will be attended

by data managers from Algeria, Angola, Congo, Egypt, Namibia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Gabon.

The marine information management training course is tentatively scheduled for June 2005 at the Limburg Universitaire Centre in Belgium and will be attended by librarians/information managers from: Algeria, Angola, Congo, Egypt, Namibia, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea and Madagascar.

For the new countries the allocation for "training of new countries" will be used, and where necessary this will be topped up using national allocations for 2004. For the other countries the training will be charged fully on their national budgets. In addition they will have to provide an assurance that the selected candidates are competent and able to follow the programme to avoid wasting of time and resources once again. In both instances detailed CV's of nominees, together with a commitment from the respective institutions that the trainees will be available for the tasks for which they will be trained will be required.

The training courses should be held as soon as possible, ideally in January 2005 to ensure that the new countries can immediately start participating in the project activities.

The funds allocated for purchase and delivery of equipment for the new centres will not be sufficient. Since these countries will not be able to implement any activities in 2004, part of the funds allocated to them for this should be added to the budgets for purchase of equipment for the data and information centres (Note that the same budget will supplement the allocation for training!!). The equipment should be delivered immediately after the training is provided. The costs of a basic suit of equipment should be confirmed: 2PCs, scanner and printer for information centre, and PC and printer for data centre. The same should be done for the software required for the new centres such as INMAGIC.

Operation of existing national data and information centres

The Project Manager reported that as at the end of October 2004 contracts for 2004 had already been processed for ten countries (Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia). Another six had been submitted for processing (Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Togo).

The remaining countries were either new participants in the project (Algeria, Angola, Congo, Egypt, and Namibia), had not submitted their work plans for 2004 (Seychelles and South Africa), outstanding contracts that had not been finalised (Madagascar) or required training for the data and information centre personnel before funds can be provided (Gabon).

The order for upgrade of the INMAGIC software had already been processed for all the institutions that participated in ODINAFRICA-II. However there was concern that a number of institutions did not even know the serial numbers of the software they had received. This meant that the software had not been installed or used and the funds spent on it had been wasted.

Many of the data and information centres had requested for upgrades of equipment and software, as well as purchase of new equipment and software for development of specialised products. These upgrades and purchases (except for the INMAGIC software upgrade) should be covered from the budgets for national activities in 2004 and 2005. A number of institutions requested for software that is available freely over the internet. The Regional Coordinators should find out why the centres cannot download the software.

Remedial training will be arranged for countries that require it by sending some of the better students during the previous phase to train people locally. This will ensure that a larger pool of people are trained at the local level, and may be even lead to identification of alternative expertise. The countries that require remedial training for data management are Benin, Guinea, Morocco, Mozambique and Tanzania, while for information management these are Benin, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco and Togo. The proposed dates for the training is between July - November 2005 and resources allocated for national activities will be used since these countries had already been provided with training in ODINAFRICA-II.

It is important to ensure that the products already developed such as directories of experts and institutions, library catalogue, and catalogue of publications from/about Africa, and meta databases are be cleaned up, merged and availed over the project websites. Proficient data/information managers from the ODINAFRICA institutions will be identified and contract to perform these tasks.

The merged catalogue of holdings of libraries of the ODINAFRICA institutions (AFRILIB) will form the basis for the document delivery service in the current phase of the project. AFRILIB must therefore be updated, quality checked and availed over the ODINAFRICA website as soon as possible to facilitate inter-library requests among the ODINAFRICA institution. The Regional Centre in Mombasa will be retained to handle requests for documents not available in AFRILIB only, and these will be delivered electronically. It was noted that several institutions maintained their library catalogues in more than one software (INMAGIC, CDS-ISIS, ASFISIS, WIN-ISIS etc) in order to facilitate exchange of information between them and partners in other institutions.

IAMSLIC membership subscription will be renewed for all the ODINAFRICA for another two years to enable them benefit from the services offered by

IAMSLIC. Subscription to IAMSLIC for two years will also be paid for librarians from institutions in the five countries that have joined ODINAFRICA during the current phase.

The institutions will also be able to benefit from document access and bibliographic search services offered free of charge through initiatives such as AGORA, PERI/INASP, HINARI, and the ASFA programme for LIFDC. Efforts will be made to explore the possibility of countries not part of LIFDC benefiting from the ASFA programme. Otherwise the possibility of providing a subscription to them will be considered.

It was decided that none of the countries that participated in ODINAFRICA-II will get funds for 2005 without demonstrating that it has a website by either submitting a working URL, or the developed site for hosting on the IOC server (ODINAFRICA site).

Two OBIS training courses were proposed instead of the one currently provided for in the project document. This will give smaller class sizes, which are more manageable. They could also be done using different languages (English, French). The arrangements for this will be discussed further with Edward Vanden Berghe who is responsible for the OBIS training.

WP4: ICAM- PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION

The possibility of merging the training courses on "Regional/National Marine Atlases" and "Coastal sensitivity mapping" to get a training course providing the necessary tools for the above- including remote sensing and GIS techniques should be considered. The countries can be grouped together on the basis of LME's for practical exercises during the training (Somali, Agulhas, *Mascarenhas*, Benguela, Gulf of Guinea and Canary current). The countries from the Western Indian Ocean will have their training separate from the countries from the Eastern Atlantic Ocean. Each of the training workshops should be between 3-4 weeks. It will be important to bring in other partners (LME projects, FAO, UNEP etc) in this initiative. In view of this it was suggested that the course(s) be held in late 2005 or early 2006 to give sufficient time for consultation.

The PMC recommended that the funds allocated for "Identification and provision of necessary infrastructure for modelling....." be used to support ODINAFRICA participants in the JCOMM modelling course. However the PMC expressed it's concern on the whether the modelling software used during the training will be freely available or the participants will be required to purchase it.

Publicity for the project activities- and especially the services and products is really important in order to raise the profile of the project. The project website will be re-structured so that it can be better used as a source of

information on the project. The newsletters will also be improved and posters developed to publicize the project.

The PMC felt that it is important for the Project Manager to attend the meeting of focal points for the Abidjan convention which will be held in Accra, Ghana 22-24 November 2004 in order to discuss with other players in West Africa the possibility of collaboration in implementation of activities.

The PMC discussed the ODINAFRICA seminar scheduled for year 2 and were unable to justify the holding of the ODINAFRICA seminar in first half of 2005. They agreed that the seminar should be used to review progress and therefore it is not appropriate to hold it at the start of the project. A date in 2006 would be more reasonable.

However being aware of the importance of having as many people from the ODINAFRICA institutions as possible attending IODE-XVIII and the opening of the IODE Office, they looked at other functions that could be held at the IODE Office around that time and came up with the following list:

- One of the OBIS training courses
- New countries training course
- PMC/PSC meeting
- Modelling training course

The PMC also recommended that the ODINAFRICA institutions could use the budgets for national activities to sponsor a representative to the IODE-XVIII. However care must be taken to ensure that this does not impact negatively on the implementation of activities at the national level.

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