

# NEPAD AND UNESCO RENEW COOPERATION

The NEPAD Coastal and Marine (NEPAD COSMAR) Secretariat and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the implementation of the Coastal and marine sub-theme of NEPAD Environment Action Plan.

The MOU, signed in February 2007 is a renewal of an earlier one drawn in January 2004 which lapsed in January 2006.

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. (Prof.) Kivutha Kibwana, signed the MOU on behalf of NEPAD COSMAR while the IOC Executive Secretary, Dr. Patricio Bernal, signed on behalf of UNESCO/IOC. The Government of the Republic of Kenya coordinates NEPAD COSMAR through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

The activities to be covered under the renewed framework of cooperation include strengthening of NEPAD COSMAR communication strategy, promotion of Integrated Coastal Management and capacity building activities in ocean governance.

In addition, UNESCO/IOC shall assist NEPAD COSMAR, within the framework and when appropriate, in the elaboration of reports to global and regional organizations, such as the African Union, African Ministerial Committee on environment, NEPAD Heads of State & Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) and G8 among others.

provision of equipment and support for research assistance.

The review of projects and programmes was a major undertaking within the first framework of cooperation and it is anticipated that the report will form a source of useful information to guide future investments in the area of coastal and marine programmes in Africa.

The COSMAR Website ([www.nepadcosmar.org](http://www.nepadcosmar.org)) and the quarterly produced COSMAR newsletter have become important information tools that directly contribute to the goals of both NEPAD and UNESCO/IOC in enhancing the sharing and exchange of information on marine and coastal issues in Africa.

The renewed MOU between NEPAD COSMAR and UNESCO/IOC will be implemented over a two year period (2007-2008). The two partners shall regularly review their collaborative activities and explore additional opportunities for collaboration where necessary over this period.

For more information visit:-  
<http://www.africanoceans.net>



*Dr. Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and Assistant Director General of UNESCO*

Substantial progress was achieved in the implementation of the first MOU between UNESCO/IOC and NEPAD COSMAR.

These include the development of a communication strategy for NEPAD COSMAR, review of projects and programmes on coastal and marine issues in Africa and enhancement of coordination capacity of NEPAD COSMAR Secretariat through

## NEPAD AND UN LAW OF THE SEA TIPS

The NEPAD Coastal and Marine (NEPAD COSMAR) Secretariat in collaboration with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and UNEP Global Resource Information Database (GRID) have initiated a joint regional programme aimed at sensitizing the coastal states of Africa on Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The law provides for the delimitation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical miles. The initiative to sensitize the states was conceived after it was realized that the level of awareness of the provision ranked low in Africa.

The situation in Africa, however, is worrying with limited awareness about the impending deadline and the possible loss of opportunity. Only a few countries have active ongoing delineation programmes. This has necessitated the sensitization programme by NEPAD COSMAR Secretariat jointly with UNESCO/IOC and UNEP GRID.

The sensitization programme by the three partners kicked off in January 2007 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22<sup>nd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

The partners attended the Summit and made exhibitions, held media



*Dr Y. Beaudoin (UNEP GRID), Mr. A. Mohamed (NEPAD COSMAR), Ms. A. Mateos (UNESCO/ IOC) and Prof. C. Kiamba (Kenya) at the NEPAD COSMAR stand during the 8th AU Summit*

Claims over the extended continental shelf, unlike other zones that are automatic jurisdictions, is subject to submission of scientific proof of the natural prolongation of terrestrial land into the sea. Submissions are to be made to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) by May 2009 after which time parties may forfeit chance to claim.

Coastal states around the world are in a rush to meet the deadline and secure the ocean resources for future generations.

conferences and circulated materials about the subject matter. The exhibition event attracted more than 300 visitors most of whom were delegates from coastal states of Africa including Ministers, Technical Officers and Heads of State while the press conference saw more than 20 media organizations participate.

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## EDITORIAL

The fact that countries in Africa are being more proactive towards sustainable utilization of fisheries resources is proof that the threat of depletion is finally being taken seriously.

From the banning of driftnets in Morocco to the rationalization of exploitation methods in Ghana and the setting up of new quota's in Namibia and South Africa, it is clear that the alarms sounded across the board are being heeded.

One of the reasons why this is possible is due to the improved exchange of data by all the stakeholders through the numerous multilateral organs existing on the continent.

The exchange and dissemination of information is a crucial factor in improving the management of the resources and that is why this volume of COSMAR Newsletter (the first in 2007) applauds the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

We equally applaud the continued success of WIO-Lab and WIOFish and other programmes which are crucial in information and data exchange mechanism.

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For further information on the stories carried in this issue please visit:-  
<http://www.africanoceans.net>  
<http://www.nepadcosmar.org>

## UNEP: GRIM WARNING ON FISH STOCKS

Commercial fish stocks will be depleted by 2050 if over-fishing and climate change are not immediately

Experts have found that marine protected areas, which currently cover 0.6 per cent of the world's oceans, have increased the number of fish species by more than a fifth.

Globalization poses both risks and opportunities for sustainable development and identifies strategies to help protect environmental integrity and human well being in an economically and socially interconnected world.



*Mr Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director*

Governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 backed a plan to develop a network of marine reserves by 2012. But the Year Book warns that the pace at which new marine reserves are being listed, the goal will be achieved three decades after the collapse of the current

The Year Book, which contains the work of more than 80 scientists and policy experts from across the world, aims to inform the ongoing debate on the environmental costs of globalization. Some of the potential costs of globalization include, decreased government ability to regulate and cope with environmental management challenges and increased corporate power and reach.

addressed, a new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reveals.

commercial fish stocks.

“At the current rate of designation, the target will not be reached until 2085,”

However, the report says that global corporations can spread the latest

The Global Environment Outlook Year Book 2007 reveals that climate change may increase the acidity of the oceans and seas by bleaching coral reefs where fish breed.



*Some commercial fish stocks like shrimps are getting depleted*

technologies and techniques for sustainable environmental management and that globalization can increase incomes, creating larger government budgets for environmental programme and increased public demand for environmental amenities.

According to the Year Book, scientists estimate that by 2050, the world would have lost all its commercial fish stocks, unless better

management is introduced. “The fate of the world’s fisheries underlines the challenges facing governments in a globalized world,” the report says.

says the report. The report outlines a range of options that will lead to a more sustainable use of marine resources.

The Year Book was launched in Nairobi during a five-day forum where the risks and opportunities of globalization and booming transnational trade were high on the agenda.

To counter the collapse, the number of marine protected areas should be increased, the UNEP Executive Director, Mr Achim Steiner said.

It acknowledges the importance of responsible business and the power of consumption to direct globalization.

*For more information visit:-  
<http://www.africanoceans.net>*

## UPDATES ON REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

### WIO-LAB PROJECT GOING STRONG

The UNEP-GEF WIO-LaB Project '**Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean region**' has now completed two years of implementation. The project has been working closely with its partners and collaborators at both national and regional level in order to strengthen institutional capacity and implement various activities focused on the protection of the coastal and marine environment from land-based activities.

One of the outstanding achievements of the project is the preparation of a Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBSA) Protocol for the Nairobi Convention. The protocol sets the principles for the establishment of legal, policy, technical and institutional frameworks for the management of the impacts of land-based activities on the coastal and marine environment.

Legal experts from key national institutions in all participating countries have participated in the preparation of the LBSA Protocol. The draft Protocol is currently being reviewed at national level in various stakeholder forums before submission to the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention scheduled to be held in South Africa in September 2007.

The WIO-LaB Project is also implementing a series of demonstration projects whose main aim is to demonstrate at the national and regional level, how appropriate low cost technologies can be used to reduce impacts of land based activities on the marine environment.

Two demonstration projects in Tanzania and Mozambique have

entered into full implementation stage and seven other demonstration projects are currently under development in the other project countries. These projects cover different aspects related to LBSA Management, wastewater management, community-based coastal zone management and eco-tourism development, solid waste management, habitat conservation and soil erosion control.

update their national pollution status reports that set the basis for targeted management of pollution hotspots.

In support of this process, the WIO-LaB project has initiated a regional water and sediment quality monitoring programme in Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania.

A similar programme will be launched in Mozambique, South Africa and Comoros by May 2007. Participating Countries have already received sampling equipment as well as training focused on the analysis and monitoring of nutrients in seawater, heavy metals and organic contaminants.

The project is also working towards the development of the Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism that will promote coastal and marine data and information exchange

and build the capacity of national institutions that are responsible for archiving of data and information on coastal and marine environment. The Governments of participating countries have already appointed the National Institutions that will work with WIO-LaB Project in order to further the development of the Regional Clearing House Mechanism. The Clearing House Mechanism is being developed in collaboration with the National Oceanographic Data Centres established with the support of UNESCO/IOC. For more details about the programme please visit the website: [www.wiolab.org](http://www.wiolab.org)



*Participants during a WIO-Lab Leadership Development Training Workshop held in Durban, South Africa, October 2006.*

The project is assisting the participating countries to address Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) especially for projects that may lead to trans-boundary environmental problems. A draft version of the Regional Guidelines was developed under the guidance of a Regional Task Force composed of EIA experts from the WIO Region.

The draft has been forwarded to the countries to facilitate national dialogue on its applicability and compatibility with existing legislations on environmental impact assessment.

All the countries of the WIO region have ongoing programmes that will set environmental standards.

The WIO-LaB project has supported most of the participating countries to

*For more information visit:-*  
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## UPDATES ON REGIONAL PROGRAMMES.....Cont. from page 4

### WIOFISH IMPROVES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Since 2001 several countries of the western Indian Ocean have been collaborating to develop a database that will document all the traditional, small-scale fisheries in the region.

The project initially instigated by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) with partner institutions in Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, Mozambique and South Africa has led to the development of a unique inventory of coastal and marine fishery types.

Each fishery is described as comprehensively as possible, detailing aspects such as vessels and gear used, catch composition, catch rates, habitat impacts, socio-economic characteristics, conservation status and management protocols.

The database has been designed to be an evolving system that is constantly updated. It marks a

significant contribution to the Nairobi Convention and the tasks of NEPAD coastal and marine programmes in the region.



*Fishing using a homemade spear and machete to catch mullet in the rock pools at Dog Point, northern KwaZulu-Natal.*

The Oceanographic Research Institute (South Africa) is the lead institution in the development and application of the database.

With the input of the partner institutes, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research

Institute (Kenya), Institute of Marine Sciences (Tanzania), Seychelles Fishing Authority (Seychelles) and the Instituto de Investigação Pesqueira (Mozambique), extensive information has been collected and assembled into the database.

Currently there are 163 fisheries described, probably reflecting the most comprehensive inventory of fisheries in the region. Furthermore, it has highlighted the inadequacy or complete lack of management of these fisheries, especially since long-term sustainability of them is in question.

To facilitate access to the database it has been made available on the internet at no cost to users at <http://www.wiofish.org/>

For more information visit:-  
<http://www.africanoceans.net>

### BCLME PROGRAMME EXTENDED FOR A YEAR

The Programme Steering Committee and the implementing agency UNDP have decided to extend the lifetime of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Programme for another 12 months (at no additional cost to GEF) until the end of March 2008.

This is to allow the completion of a number of activities to fulfill the objectives and aims of the BCLME programme which was originally scheduled to end in March 2007.

The BCLME Programme has been extremely successful in capturing vital knowledge and information necessary for the development of an integrated, ecosystem-based and cooperative management approach.

The Programme has made significant advances in capacity building and

training. Most importantly the programme has created an environment of trust and partnership between Angola, Namibia and South Africa at the scientific and, to some extent, middle management level. In order to strengthen the capacity of the newly formed Benguela Current Commission and entrench key fisheries governance mechanisms, the three BCLME partner countries are proposing a new UNDP/GEF Project entitled 'Implementation of the Benguela Current LME Action Programme for Restoring Depleted Fisheries and Reducing Coastal Resources Degradation'.

This new project will focus on regional management of the fisheries resources using ecosystem based approach.

A GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) has been submitted and approved for this new project, which now enters the GEF pipeline. Development of the new project document is currently underway and will be submitted to GEF in August 2007.

It is expected that funding for the PDF phase of this new project will be released shortly. Once approved by the GEF, it is expected that up to US\$ 5 million will be available to implement the next stage in the cooperative management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem by the three partner countries.

For more information visit:-  
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## COUNTRIES BID TO HARMONIZE FISHERIES LAW

West African countries are seeking the harmonization of their statutes to establish legislation that can encourage responsible exploitation of their fishing resources and protect the environment.

During a workshop held in March 2007 in Lagos, Nigeria, four maritime nations started the process of looking at their respective fisheries laws to identify points of convergence.

The workshop, which is the second in the sub-region's effort to achieve the goal was attended by participants from Cameroon, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe and host country Nigeria. The workshop was held at the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR). The workshop was prompted by the rapid introduction of technology in fishing industry which calls for the region to streamline the operation in line with the code of conduct of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

commodity which earned Nigeria a lot of foreign exchange. He said that Nigeria supported the FAO code of conduct for responsible fishing practices and was fully committed to introduction of technologies that led to sustainable fisheries development.

Dr. Ezenwa added that NIOMR was implementing the development and adaptation of appropriate by-catch reduction technologies (BRDs) for Nigerian and Cameroonian shrimp trawlers. In view of the introduction of the new technologies, it is desirable to harmonize the fisheries laws and regulations in the sub-region in order to facilitate a uniform regime of application and enforcement.

Dr. Ezenwe said that such collaboration would facilitate optimization of opportunities for utilizing the development potentials of fisheries in the region. He stressed the need to forge close relations between scientists, marine managers



*Valuable fish stocks, as well as a whole host of other marine life, are severely threatened by over fishing, caused largely by poor fisheries management.*

The Executive Director of NIOMR, Dr. Bernard Ezenwa, told delegates that research and stock surveys of the coastal and marine environments in the sub-region had shown them to be very productive and crucial to the economies of the region. Dr. Ezenwa gave the example of shrimp harvesting which he noted was a crucial export

and the fishing communities which would ensure the flow of relevant information within the sector.

*For more information visit:-  
<http://www.africanoceans.net>*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

International Workshop on Water exchange between Mediterranean Sea and adjacent seas, processes, viabilities and resulting impacts, 9 - 11 May 2007, Izmir, Turkey

IOTC Indian Ocean Tuna Commission - 11th Session, 13 - 18 May 2007, Grand Baie, Mauritius

GFCM Transversal Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), 22 - 23 May 2007, Salammbô, Tunisia

GFCM Transversal Workshop on Marine Protected Areas (MAPs), 24 - 25 May 2007, Salammbô, Tunisia

ODINAFRICA Marine Biodiversity Data mobilisation workshop 4 - 15 June 2007, Oostende, Belgium

21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, 1 - 5 July, 2007 Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Fourth World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2007) 2 - 6 July, 2007, Durban, South Africa

SEANAC International Conference 15-18 July 2007. Gaborone, Botswana

Aquatic Scientific Fisheries Abstract (ASFA) Advisory Board meeting, 3 - 7 September 2007, Mombasa, Kenya

Ocean Colour 2007 Africa, 24 Sep-5 Oct 2007, Mombasa, Kenya

The Fifth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, 22-26 October 2007, Durban, South Africa

MEDCOAST 2007, the 8th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment, 13-17 November 2007, Alexandria, Egypt

The International Chemistry Conference and Exhibition in Africa (10 ICCA) is organised by Garyounis University, Libya on 18-21 November, 2007, Benghazi Libya.



## GHANA SEEKS SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Ghana is seeking private and public participation in its drive to make the local fishing industry sustainable. The country's Minister for Fisheries, Mrs. Gladys Asmah, said that 60 per cent of animal protein taken in Ghana came from fish.



*Mrs. Gladys Asmah Ghana's Minister for Fisheries*

According to her, over-exploitation and irresponsible fishing practices as well as conflicts arising from severe competition over scarce resources had led to increased problems within the industry.

The government alone, she noted could not shoulder the enormous responsibility without the support of the many stakeholders to keep the vital sector afloat.

According to the Ghanaian Chronicle, Mrs. Asmah's statements were contained in a speech read on her behalf by the Deputy Director of Fisheries in-charge of Marine Fisheries Research Division, Mr. Samuel Quatey during a three-day sensitization workshop on the Management of Marine Ecosystems in Tema, Ghana.

The workshop held in February 2007 was organized by the Corporate Social Responsibility Movement

(CSRSM), a Tema based Non-governmental Organization (NGO), working in partnership with other organizations to advocate and adopt relevant social responsibility laws to help regulate the various sectors of the economy.

The Minister noted that human activities had not only led to the destruction of the environment but had dislodged numerous other stakeholders from the economic livelihood due to the degradation of the fisheries.

The government, she added had placed a high premium value on the fisheries sector and had initiated steps to ensure that it survived and continued to play a leading role in the economy.

"The fisheries sector ensures livelihood for the people, offers employment, contributes to foreign exchange earnings, reduces poverty, ensures the good health of the people, supports industry and ensures food security", the Minister observed.

She revealed that the Ministry of Fisheries was promoting alternative livelihood strategies as a way of tackling the high pressure on fishing within the communities. She appealed to the communities living next to the water masses to ensure that they were not polluted.

The Executive Secretary of the CSRSM, Mr. Richster Nii Armah Amarfi appealed to the media to help in the sensitization drive by the organization on the negative effects of discharging industrial and residential waste into water bodies.

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<http://www.africanoceans.net>*

## FAO ALARM OVER DWINDLING FISH STOCKS

Out of all the marine fish stocks monitored by FAO, 25% are overexploited, 17% depleted and 7% recovering from depletion.. This is reported in the latest FAO's "State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture" (SOFIA) report released recently. These figures have stayed roughly stable for the past 15 years.

Of special concern are "straddling stocks", which regularly traverse national maritime boundaries and high-seas areas as well as highly migratory oceanic sharks. More than half of stocks of highly migratory sharks and 66 percent of high-seas and straddling fish stocks rank as either overexploited or depleted. These include stocks of species such as hakes, Atlantic cod and halibut, orange roughy, basking shark and bluefin tuna.

"While these stocks represent only a small fraction of the world's fishery resources, they are key indicators of the state of a massive piece of the ocean ecosystem," said FAO Assistant Director-General for Fisheries Ichiro Nomura.

SOFIA additionally notes that monitoring of fish captures in high seas areas is inadequate, with catch statistics being reported only for very large areas making accurate assessment difficult and handicapping efforts to manage them more responsibly.

Among the most troubled areas are the Southeast Atlantic, the Southeast Pacific, the Northeast Atlantic and high seas tuna fishing grounds in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

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## GREENPEACE WARNS ON LIBERALIZATION

The liberalization of the fishing industry will have a negative impact on food security in the developing world, according to January 2007 report by the advocacy group, Greenpeace International.

"Trading Away Our Oceans" states that liberalization would cause fish prices to rise in developing countries as more resources would be diverted to fishing for export, leading to a drop in supplies for local consumption.

It would also increase pressure to divert food from the plates of the poor to fishmeal processing to supply unsustainable forms of salmon and shrimp aquaculture.

Tariffs on fish and fish products are to be significantly reduced and perhaps even eliminated by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a move that will benefit only a handful of developed fish-exporting countries that have well-established fisheries management, according to Greenpeace.

"The WTO impact will be to make fish cheaper but only in the short term," Daniel Mittler, a trade adviser with Greenpeace said at the launch of the report in Nairobi, Kenya.

Liberalisation would only accelerate resource depletion through continued over-fishing, especially in developing countries, leading to higher prices in the medium to long term as global supplies diminish, according to the report.

In addition, liberalisation of fisheries threatens the marine environment. Already, the effects of over-fishing are being felt along the Kenyan coast,

with a decline in fish stocks undermining the livelihoods of the coastal population, Athman Seif, the executive director of the Kenya Marine Forum, said.

"Boats are sailing further from the shore but returning with less," Seif said.

The cost of fish in Malindi, one of Kenya's coastal towns, has doubled from 120 shillings (US\$1.50) per fish

"Fish that should have fed the people in the developing world ends up on dinner plates in Europe," Sari Tolvanen, a marine biologist and oceans campaigner for Greenpeace International, said.

There are at least 600 foreign fishing vessels, operating with or without licenses, along the Kenyan coast at any one time, according to a 2004/2005 study by the Kenya Fisheries Department. Local fishermen cannot compete against sophisticated large trawler fishing.

Kenya should have a coast-guard system, Seif said. "Licensing of foreign fishing vessels should not take precedence over surveillance. There should be a balance between utilization and conservation", he said.

Internationally, marine life close to becoming commercially extinct includes the popular blue fin tuna (sushi), cod and merlin, according to Greenpeace.



*Liberalisation of the fishing industry will have a negative impact on food security in the developing world*

10 months ago to 240 shillings (US \$3) now, he said.

"Fishing on the inner shores is also harmful for marine life because these shores are a critical fish-breeding ground due to the coral reefs," he said.

The fishermen often lack the necessary equipment to go farther out, with offshore fishing, beyond 10 nautical miles from the shore, dominated by foreigners. The fish is usually destined for sale in Europe and Japan.

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