



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**THIRD SESSION**  
**OF IOC SUB COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE ADJACENT ISLAND STATES**

Nairobi, Kenya  
14-15 April 2015.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3, the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOC-AFRICA), as a Primary Subsidiary Body of IOC, is required to report to a Governing Body on its sessions.

The IOC Assembly at its 28<sup>th</sup> Session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary.

1. The Third session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was officially opened by the Kenya's Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Prof Fred Segor on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary. The opening session was also addressed by Dr Felix Toteu, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (on behalf of the Director), Dr Monde Mayekiso, IOC AFRICA Chair, Dr Vladimir Rybinin, IOC Executive Secretary (via recorded video message), Prof S.K. Byun, IOC Chair and Mr Simon Warui, Director Kenya State Department of Fisheries.
2. **The Sub Commission thanked** the IOCAFRICA Technical Secretary for the detailed presentation on IOC Activities in Africa in the period 2013-2015. These included: (i) Capacity development in marine science and technology, with training courses and workshops organized during this period covering a wide range of topics, including coastal and marine atlases development, information portal development, marine instrumentation, ocean modelling and forecasting, and marine biogeography and biodiversity, (ii) An African Summer School on the Application of Ocean Data and Modeling products held from April-September 2014, (iii) Establishment of four Regional Training Centres in the framework of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy, in Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, and South Africa, (iv) An assessment of capacities available (human resources, infrastructure and equipment), (v) The implementation of the Integrated Data and Information Products and Services for the Management of Oceans and Coastal Zones in Africa (ODINAFRICA-IV) continued, with a focus on development of national and regional coastal and marine atlases, the African Register of Marine Species, experts and institutions database, projects database, and institutional websites and portals, (vi) An artwork competition for children and youth (organized to mark the 2014 World Ocean Day and African Day of Seas and Oceans), which drew more than 250 entries and served to increase awareness on marine science issues, (vii) An Assessment of coastal erosion problems in Congo and Gabon undertaken and proposals made for remedial measures, (viii) A "Directory of Atmospheric and Biological datasets for the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem" through the project on "Enhancing Oceanography Capacities in West Africa", and (ix) preparation of a report on "Oceanographic and Biological features in the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem" through the same project.

3. **The Sub Commission noted** the guidance provided in the UNESCO Strategic Plan 2014-2021, and the IOCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2014-2021, and took these into account in their deliberations. The following meetings held before the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Sub Commission provided useful input in the preparation of the work plans: (i) The second China-Africa Forum on Marine Science and Technology (9-10 April 2015), (ii) Forum on the Future of Sustained Ocean Observations in IOC Group V – Africa and Arab countries (11-13 April 2015), (iii) Western Indian Ocean regional planning meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Indian Ocean Expedition (11-13 April 2015), and (iv) Ad-hoc Working Group for IOCAFRICA III (13 April 2015). The summary reports of these meetings are attached.
4. **The Sub Commission reiterated** that IOCAFRICA is a framework for the implementation of regional activities. IOCAFRICA should provide a platform for Member States and regional organizations, programmes and projects to report on their activities, share experiences and lessons learnt, and facilitate synergies between them. IOCAFRICA should focus on developing partnerships and linkages, setting standards, and identifying core ocean parameters and variables that need to be measured in order to increase the understanding the ocean and coastal processes around Africa and how they impact on the environment and resources.
5. **The Sub Commission welcomed** the presentations that were made on relevant activities of the IOC Sub Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC), and other projects and organizations. These included presentations by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and Food and Agricultural Organization's EAF Nansen Project. The session requested the secretariat to follow-up on the opportunities for collaboration identified in the discussions following the presentations.
6. **The Sub Commission adopted** a provisional work plan for the period 2015-2017, that will focus on: (i) Development and implementation of an Ocean Observations network, (ii) Participation in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition, (iii) Improving access to ocean data and information, (iv) Developing a marine biodiversity and biogeography programme, (v) Preparation of ocean data and information products for Sustainable Development of the Ocean and Coastal regions, (vi) Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal zones, (vii) Ocean modelling and forecasting, (viii) Harmful Algal Bloom surveys, (ix) Development of other ocean science initiatives for the region, (x) Development of an IOCAFRICA Capacity Development portal, (xi) Continuous Professional Development for marine scientists from the region, (xii) Strengthening and Development of regional training centres, (xiii) Mentorship and programmes targeting youth and female scientists, (xiv) Coordination and resource mobilization, (xv) Developing partnerships and linkages with other organizations, programmes and projects, and (xvi) Public awareness and advocacy.
7. **The Sub Commission elected** the following members of the Bureau for the Sub Commission to serve for the next inter-sessional period and the fourth session of the IOCAFRICA:
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|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chair:               | Dr Monde Mayekiso (South Africa)      |
| Vice Chair region A: | Dr Aka Marcel KOUASSI (Côte d'Ivoire) |
| Vice Chair Region B: | Mr Renganaden VIRASAMI (Mauritius)    |
| Vice Chair Region C: | Prof Mohamed Ahmed Said (Egypt)       |
8. **The Sub Commission decided** to hold its next session in the first quarter of 2017, and **welcomed** the offer of Egypt to explore the possibility of hosting the next session. The Sub Commission thanked the various partners that have continued to support the activities of the Sub Commission, especially the Governments of the Belgium, China, Kenya, Nigeria, Republic of Korea and South Africa.
9. **The Sub Commission adopted** recommendations as follows:

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-III.1

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN EXPEDITION – IIOE-2 (2015-2020)**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Notes that** the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition IIOE-2 (2015-2020) provides an excellent opportunity for African member states to improve their understanding of ocean and coastal processes in the Indian Ocean waters adjacent to the continent, and also to develop capacity for marine sciences,

**Welcomes the** recommendations of the Western Indian Ocean Planning meeting for the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (11-13 April 2015, Nairobi, Kenya),

**Establishes the** IOCAFRICA Group of Experts to develop a concise, well thought-out plan for participation of the Western Indian Ocean region in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (including possible financing mechanisms),

**Recognises the** importance of having a regional coordination framework for IIOE-2, and requested the IOCAFRICA secretariat to take on this role. The secretariat should work with other organizations, programmes and projects in the region (including WIOMSA, FAO-EAFNANSEN, the UNEP Nairobi Convention secretariat, WMO Regional Office etc.) to ensure the active participation of the region in IIOE-2.

**Requests the** IOCAFRICA Officers, in consultation with the secretariat, to:

- (i) Develop detailed Terms of Reference for the Group of Experts.
- (ii) Identify experts from the region to serve in the Group of Experts.

**Encourages** Member States from the region to actively participate in, and contribute to the implementation of the IIOE-2

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-III.2

**DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB) PROGRAMME**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Recalls** that the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the IOC Assembly had emphasized the importance of the regional IOC/HAB groups. The Assembly had noted that there has been less focus on activities in the western Indian Ocean than in other regions, but acknowledged that activity focus reflects engagement and requests from Member States, as well as the seriousness of harmful algal events in the respective regions.

**Welcomes the** efforts of IOC HAB programme and the IOCAFRICA secretariat to assess the impact on society of harmful micro-algae events and to assess the need for assistance,

**Notes that** though HABs are a concern that needs to be addressed in the region, there is currently no HAB network in Sub Sahara Africa,

**Establishes the** IOCAFRICA Group of Experts, to develop a detailed proposal for an IOCAFRICA programme on Harmful Algal Blooms, in consultation with the IOC HAB programme for consideration by the IOCAFRICA Officers and the fourth session of IOCAFRICA.

**Recognises the** progress that has been made in the development and implementation of a HAB programme in the IOC Western Pacific region,

**Requests the** IOCAFRICA Officers, in consultation with the secretariat, to:

- (i) Develop detailed Terms of Reference for the Group of Experts.
- (ii) Identify experts from the region to serve in the Group of Experts.

**Invites** IOC/WESTPAC to collaborate with IOCAFRICA in the development and implementation of an HAB programme in the region.

### Recommendation IOCAFRICA-III.3

#### **CHINA-AFRICA COLLABORATION IN MARINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Recognizing** the importance of partnerships as a mechanism for joint planning and implementation of programmes, transfer of technology and exchange and sharing of resources,

Notes the progress in developing the framework for collaboration between China and IOCAFRICA in marine sciences and technology,

**Welcomes** the proposal to establish a Joint Coordination Committee as a mechanism to accelerate the development and implementation of joint programmes,

**Notes that** the MoU between IOC and China provides a framework for the implementation of activities identified during the Second China-Africa Forum on Marine Science and Technology (9-10 April 2015, Nairobi, Kenya),

**Establishes** an Ad-hoc Committee to finalize proposals for short, medium and longterm collaboration and submit to the Joint Coordination Committee for consideration,

**Requests the** IOCAFRICA Officers, in consultation with the secretariat, to:

- (i) Develop detailed Terms of Reference for the Ad-hoc Committee.
- (ii) Identify experts from the region to serve in the Ad-hoc Committee.

**Accepts the** proposed China-Africa work plan for 2015-2017 agreed on during the Second China-Africa Forum on Marine Science and Technology

### Recommendation IOCAFRICA-III.4

#### **PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015–2017**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Noting** the progress made in the implementation of the IOCAFRICA-II work plan,

**Bearing in-mind** the resource constraints faced by UNESCO and its IOC,

**Expresses its appreciation** to the Member States, regional and international partners who have provided financial and technical support for implementation of activities in the region, especially the Governments of Flanders (Belgium), China, Republic of Korea, and Spain,

**Thanks** the Member States from the region who have provided in-kind support for the Sub Commission, including Nigeria that has committed to publication of the IOCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2014-2021, and South Africa which provided staff to assist with the organization of the Third session of the Sub Commission,

**Adopts** the programme of work for the Sub-Commission for the period 2015–2017 with prioritisation of the following elements:

**Ocean Observations**

- (i) Development and implementation of an Ocean Observations network (including maintenance and upgrade of sea level stations)
- (ii) Participation in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition

**Ocean Data and Information Management**

- (i) Improving access to ocean data and information
- (ii) Developing a marine biodiversity and biogeography programme
- (iii) Preparation of ocean data and information products for Sustainable Development of the Ocean and Coastal regions

**Ocean Sciences and Assessments**

- (i) Climate change adaptation in the coastal zones
- (ii) Ocean modelling and forecasting (including extreme weather events such as storm surges)
- (iii) Harmful Algal Bloom surveys
- (iv) Development of other ocean science initiatives for the region

**Capacity Development**

- (i) Development of an IOCAFRICA Capacity Development portal
- (ii) Continuous professional development for marine scientists from the region
- (iii) Strengthening and development of regional training centres
- (iv) Mentorship and programmes targeting youth and female scientists

**Governance and Regional Cooperation**

- (i) Coordination and resource mobilization
- (ii) Developing partnerships and linkages with other organizations, programmes and projects
- (iii) Public awareness and advocacy

**Requests the** IOC Executive Secretary to explore opportunities for additional extra budgetary resources for the implementation of these activities.

**Urges** Member States to actively participate in the Sub-Commissions programme in accordance with their priorities, interests and capabilities.