



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

FIRST SESSION
OF IOC SUB COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE ADJACENT ISLAND STATES.

United Nations Offices at Nairobi, Kenya
2-3 May 2012.

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 Executive Council at its 45th Session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary.

1. The First session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was convened by the Executive Secretary of IOC and officially opened by the Kenya Minister for Fisheries Development, Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi on Wednesday 2 May 2012 at the United Nation's Offices at Nairobi, Kenya. The opening session was also addressed by the Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in Africa, Dr Joseph Massaquoi, the IOC Vice Chair for Group V, Prof Adote Blim Blivi, the IOC Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr Mitrassen Bhikajee, and the Permanent Secretary in Kenya Ministry of Fisheries Development, Prof Micheni Ntiba. Dr Bhikajee also conveyed a message from the IOC Executive Secretary expressing her profound regret at not being there for the historic First Session of the Sub Commission.
2. **The Sub Commission** unanimously designated the IOC Vice Chair for Group V, Prof Blivi to Chair its first session, and the Chairs of IOCEA (Dr Folack) and IOCWIO (Mr Beebeejaun) as co-rapporteurs.
3. In their final reports, the Chairs of IOCEA and IOCWIO presented an overview on the implementation status of their respective work plans. These included participation by experts from the region in training courses on a wide range of topics organized by IOC, support for strengthening of national oceanographic data and information centres, development of coastal and marine atlases, strengthening of coastal observations, and development of various marine databases and directories. The ODINAFRICA Scientific Symposium, meeting of Heads of Institutions and ODINAFRICA Project Steering Committee were held in Saly Senegal from 30 November – 3 December 2011. An Aide Memoire had been signed with the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) project to provide a framework for collaboration. The highlight during the intersessional period was the establishment of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States. Challenges faced in implementation of programmes included: limited resources and capacities, lack of dedicated secretariat for the regional

committees to spearhead the development and implementation of programmes, and inadequate utilization of available personnel and equipment.

4. **The Sub Commission noted** the progress made in implementation of the IOCEA and IOCWIO Work Plans and commended the IOCEA and IOCWIO Chairs for their comprehensive reports. **The Sub Commission dissolved** the IOC Regional Committee for the Eastern Atlantic (IOCEA), and the IOC Regional Committee for the Western Indian Ocean (IOCWIO) in line with Resolution XXVI-3 of the IOC Assembly.
5. **The Sub Commission welcomed** the offer of collaboration that had been made by various organizations and projects during their presentations, and requested the secretariat to follow-up on these. **The Sub Commission requested** the Executive Secretary to liaise with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities in order to develop strong linkages to their ocean related programmes. This will ensure that the Sub Commission becomes the voice of Africa on oceans and coastal matters.
6. The Session identified the key issues that should be taken into account while developing the Strategic Plan for the Sub Commission for the period 2014-2021. The elements of the Strategic Plan will include: Strengthening of the Sub Commission through development of ocean research programmes, capacity development and resource mobilization. The Sub Commission established an intersessional working group, comprising its Chair and three Vice Chairs, the IOC Vice Chair for Group V, and experts to be co-opted as necessary, to finalize a draft of the Strategic Plan for consideration by the Sub Commission before it is presented to the 27th Session of the IOC Assembly. The Working Group, which may also review the mission and objectives of the Sub Commission as outlined in Resolution XXVI-3, should undertake wide consultation, taking into account the current challenges, and the regional and international framework within which the Sub Commission has been created. The results of the questionnaire survey undertaken by the secretariat and the discussions during the session will be used as valuable inputs to develop the Strategic Plan.
7. **The Sub Commission adopted** a provisional work plan for the period 2012-2013, that will focus on: (i) development of the Strategic Plan, (ii) survey of available capacities (human resource skills, infrastructure, equipment, availability of decision-support tools) and identification of gaps that need to be addressed, (iii) utilization of existing UNESCO/IOC Chairs in the region for capacity development, and addressing the gaps identified in the capacity survey and recommend specialized courses, within the region, as well as internationally, (iv) development of project proposal on regional priority issues for submission to funding agencies for consideration.
8. **The Sub Commission created** three electoral groups for the purpose of election of Vice Chairs for the Sub-Commission as listed in the Annex II to this report. The following were subsequently elected as the Bureau for the Sub Commission for the next inter sessional period and the Second Session of the IOC Africa: Chair - Dr Monde Mayekiso (South Africa), Vice Chair region A – Dr Jean Folack (Cameroon), Vice Chair Region B – Mr Mohamudally Beebeejaun (Mauritius), and Vice Chair Region C – Prof Mohamed Ahmed Said (Egypt). **The Sub Commission decided** to hold its next session in May 2013, and **welcomed** the offer of South Africa to explore the possibility of hosting the next session. The Sub Commission thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for the financial support provided for the organization of the First session.
9. **The Sub Commission adopted** four recommendations as follows:

Recommendation IOC Africa-I.1

IOC AFRICA STRATEGIC PLAN.

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

Recalling that the Resolution XXVI-3 of the 26th session of the IOC Assembly that established the Sub Commission provided a broad outline on the mission, objectives, as well as the structure and functioning of the Sub Commission

Noting the importance of a Strategic Plan as a guiding tool for strengthening the Sub Commission and developing its programmes and activities,

Taking into account the need for the Sub Commission to provide input to the IOC Medium Term Strategy for 2014-2021, which is currently under development.

Establishes an Inter-sessional Working Group comprising the IOC Africa Chair, the three Vice Chairs, IOC Vice Chair Group V, and experts co-opted as necessary to develop the draft Strategic Plan for the Sub Commission,

Recommends that Working Group undertakes wide consultation, taking into account the current challenges and the regional and international framework within which the Sub Commission was created, in order to come-up with the appropriate draft,

Requests the IOC secretariat to provide support to the working group, including preparation of background documentation and organizing two meetings enable the working group to finalize its task before the next session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States.

Recommendation IOC Africa-I.2

STRENGTHENING OF THE SUB COMMISSION

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

Noting the priority given to Africa in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2008–2013,

Recalling the Resolution XXVI-1 on “Strengthening IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies” adopted by the 26th Session IOC Assembly, and the Annexed “*Regional Strategy for Organizational Improvement*”,

Welcomes the offer of the Government of Kenya to second an expert to the secretariat of the Sub Commission, and that of the Government of Nigeria to fund the preparation, publishing and dissemination of publicity materials by the Sub Commission by the secretariat.

Reminds Member States from the region to update national focal points, and establish/strengthen National Oceanographic Committees so as to facilitate efficient and effective communication with the Sub Commission.

Recommends that:

- (i) Strong links be established between the Sub Commission and the African Union and its various ministerial conferences (e.g. AMCEN, AMCOMET, and AMCOST),
- (ii) Collaboration be established between the Sub Commission and Regional Economic Communities (e.g. COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC)

- (iii) The links with the African LME projects be strengthened, using the aide memoire already signed between IOC and ASCLME as a template,
- (iv) The Sub Commission be fully involved in IOC global programmes relevant to the region
- (v) All IOC projects with an African component (e.g. ACCC, ODINAFRICA and GOOS Africa) be coordinated and implemented by the Sub Commission,
- (vi) National focal points publicize the activities of the Sub Commission at the national level.

Calls upon Member States, particularly those from the region to provide support to the Sub Commission through secondment of staff, and provision of financial and in-kind support.

Recommendation IOC Africa-I.3

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Noting that the progress that has been achieved in capacity development for marine sciences in the region, through national efforts and the support of IOC and other organizations,

Recognizes that there is still need for high level training at MSc/PhD level, and improvement of infrastructure and facilities for training and research

Further Recognizes the need for initiatives to retain trained manpower, and facilitate the utilization of available expertise, including the African diaspora

Emphasises the importance of integrating oceanography training in the universities, and linking with the education sector to introduce oceanography in the curriculum at lower levels (secondary schools and undergraduate)

Recommends that:

- (i) an assessment be undertaken of the capacity available, and the capacity building needs of the region, taking into account the results of previous surveys
- (ii) mechanism be established to encourage capacity exchange between academic and research institutions in Africa
- (iii) a formal transparent on-line mechanism be established, through which African experts can provide their CVs for inclusion in a consultants database and this database be used for appointment of consultants for all IOC assignments.
- (iv) the existing UNESCO/IOC Chairs in the region be strengthened as tools for capacity development in the region, and the establishment of additional Chairs be considered

Recommendation IOC Africa-I.4

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2012–2013

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

Recalling that Africa, Small Island Developing States and Gender Equality are a priority for UNESCO and IOC,

Bearing in-mind the resource constraints outlined in IOC Circular Letter no.2426 of 15 March 2012, and the limited period remaining in the biennium,

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 Government of Korea for support in organization of the First session of the Sub Commission and for GOOS Africa, the Government of Flanders, Belgium for their continued support for implementation of the ODINAFRICA project;

Thanks the Member States from the region who have committed to secondment of staff and in-kind support for the Sub Commission,

Adopts the programme of work for the Sub Commission for the period 2012–2013 with the following elements:

- (i) Development of draft Strategic Plan for the Sub Commission (zero draft ready by September 2012, first draft in December 2012, and the final draft by March 2012)
- (ii) Comprehensive Survey of Available Capacities in the region (human resources, facilities and infrastructure, equipment etc.)
- (iii) Evaluation of UNESCO/IOC Chairs in the region, in particular their subject coverage and contribution to capacity development, identification of gaps that should be addressed through other specialized courses within the region and internationally,
- (iv) Preparation of new project proposals for submission to funding agencies such as the Climate Change Adaption Fund
- (v) Continuation of ongoing projects/programmes such as ODINAFRICA, GOOS Africa, ACCC
- (vi) Establishment of collaboration and formal links with other organizations and programmes.
- (vii) Organization of the Second Session of the Sub Commission before the 27th Session of the IOC Assembly

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to explore opportunities for additional extrabudgetary 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;

Annex II: IOC AFRICA ELECTORAL GROUPS.

GROUP A.	GROUP B.	GROUP C.
Angola Benin Cameroon* (Vice Chair) Congo Cote d'Ivoire DR Congo Gabon Ghana Guinea Namibia Nigeria Togo Sierra Leone	Comoros Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Mauritius* (Vice Chair) Madagascar Mozambique Seychelles South Africa** (Chair) Tanzania Somalia Sudan	Algeria Cape Verde Egypt* (Vice Chair) Gambia Guinea-Bissau Libya Mauritania Morocco Senegal Tunisia

ANNEX III: ADOPTED AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND OPENING
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION
 - 2.1 DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIR AND RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSION
 - 2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIME TABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
3. PRESENTATION ON IOC ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA
4. FINAL REPORTS OF EXISTING REGIONAL COMMITTEES
 - 4.1 IOC Regional Committee for the Central and Eastern Atlantic (IOCEA)
 - 4.2. IOC Regional Committee for the Western Indian Ocean (IOCWIO)
 - 4.3 Formal Termination of the IOCEA and IOCWIO
5. FUNCTIONING OF THE SUB COMMISSION AND THE REGIONAL SCOPE
6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATIONS
7. STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE SUB COMMISSION
8. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR IOC-AFRICA FOR 2012-2015.
9. ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF IOC- AFRICA
- 10 OTHER BUSSINESS
11. DATES AND PLACES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE IOC-AFRICA SUB COMMISSION
12. ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY REPORT
13. CLOSURE