

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CBSC (CBSC12)

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Paper for information of the CBSC

Summary report of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC)

Submitted by:	FR as CB Coordinator for the EAtHC
Executive Summary:	This paper provides a summary report of CB activities to CBSC12
Reference:	EatHC8-7A « <i>Developing hydrographic capabilities in West/Central Africa - an IHO capacity building project</i> » (2004) Action CBSC11/10 (« <i>To provide summary reports for their respective Region</i> ») IHO Capacity Building Strategy v2.0

Introduction - Background

1. This summary report is the response of the EAtHC coordinator for capacity building to CBSC11/10 action.
2. The EAtHC region comprises 23 coastal States, including two island States. Six are IHO and EAtHC members, nine are EAtHC associated members and eight are observers. The African part of the region is especially concerned by capacity building. This report deals only with this sub-region.
3. Hydrographic challenges in this part of the EAtHC area are:
 - rapid development of shipping and exploitation of marine resources;
 - scarcity of adequate hydrographic knowledge: for half of the coastal States, the hydrographic knowledge is assessed as satisfactory for half of their maritime domain; for a third of the coastal States, the ratio is less than 10%.
4. A few coastal States have started to develop hydrographic organizations. They mainly consist in hydrographic cells under the main port authority. They may include well trained people, although in small numbers, and, in a few cases, have recent equipment. However, they are suited for limited surveys, and may be in a near future inadequate for important development of harbours planned in several areas, and for meeting the requirements induced by economic development and the increased concern for maritime safety in the sub-region. At last, too few coastal States have managed to set up an organization for collecting and disseminating marine safety information.
5. Since 2002 (Western African Action Team – cf. EAtHC8) a specific effort in capacity building has been undertaken. It has mainly included:
 - technical visits: seventeen coastal States have been visited since 2002, some of them twice;
 - awareness or technical workshops on maritime safety information (MSI), hydrography and charting;
 - category B and A training (separately funded).

6. Awareness has increased, including at the highest political level, as reflected in the 2007 Abuja declaration, in which the African ministers responsible for maritime transport,
- “Concerned by ... the lack of ... modern hydrographic surveys, up-to-date nautical charts and maritime safety information in a number of African countries ... undertake to ... promote and encourage appropriate structures and measures for the improvement of ... hydrographic survey, nautical cartography and maritime safety information”.*

However, slow progress is noted in hydrographic capacity, including nautical information.

Analysis – Discussion

7. The work of the last conference of the EAHC in (EAHC12, Lisbon, 14-16/09/2012) showed continuing challenges:
- concern for the replacement of category B port hydrographers, who will retire in a near future;
 - difficulty, in some cases, to put into practice the training, due to the lack of equipment;
 - increasing maritime co-activities in the Gulf of Guinea making urgent for efficient MSI organization.

Discussion resulted in several ways forward:

- interest to develop mutualization, especially in the field of training;
 - need to address several uses, to take into account increasing concern of coastal States for management of resources, protection of the environment and maritime security;
 - involvement of the political level through the Maritime Organization of Western and Central Africa (MOWCA).
8. Several actions related to capacity building has since taken place since EAHC12 :
- IMO-IHO regional training course on hydrography and marine cartography in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (19/11-01/12/2012), supported by practising with light equipment (see report 13/SHOM/DRH/FOR dated 06/02/2013);
 - IMO-IALA-IHO regional awareness seminar on safety of navigation (French speaking) in Nouakchott, Mauritania (23-25/09/2013, see IALA-IMO-IHB report);
 - MOWCA-IHB-EAHC workshop on hydrography in Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo (18-19/11/2013, see report10/ SHOM/DMI/REX dated 06/05/2014);
 - IMO-IALA-IHO regional awareness seminar on aids to navigation, hydrography and nautical charting, vessel traffic services and ship routing system (English speaking) in Accra (7-9/04/2014);
 - Ongoing category B training.
9. At the workshop in Pointe-Noire, contacts with the General Secretary of MOWCA and the Minister for Merchant Navy of the Republic of Congo, vice-president of MOWCA, concluded in the need to investigate a comprehensive approach, in accordance to the future revised CB strategy of the IHO. Through a first exchange of letters, MOWCA expressed its interest of taking advantage of ongoing initiatives in the fields of maritime training and maritime security (Maritime Academies of Accra and Abidjan, Centre of Information and Communication - CINFOCOM) and has proposed to explore further this path. A review will be done during the 13th Conference of the EAHC in Casablanca, Morocco (16-18/09/2014).

Action Required of CBSC

10. The CBSC is invited to take note of this report