

FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CBSC (CBSC14)**24-26 May 2016, Abu Dhabi (UAE)****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 CBSC14
Reference:	Action CBSC13/11 (<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 CBSC13/11 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 ten are observers. The African part of the region is especially concerned by capacity building issues. 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”.

As a consequence, the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy has included in 2012 in its framework for strategic action:

“The African Union shall make an assertive call to concerned Member States to become members of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), World Meteorology Organisation (WMO) and UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanography Commission (IOC) so as to advance maritime safety, efficiency and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment. This will help create a global environment in which AU coastal Member States provide adequate and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use.”

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

Analysis – Discussion

7. The work of the last conference of the EatHC in (EAtHC13, Casablanca, 16-18/09/2014) showed continuing challenges:

- increasing maritime co-activities in the African sub-region, making urgent to raise the awareness of high-level political decision-makers on the importance of hydrography for the governance of their maritime space;
- the need to enhance the data available in the African sub-region, for the benefit of national planning or for other applications, such as marine disasters prevention;
- concern for the setup of regional hydrographic course adapted to the needs of coastal States;
- difficulty, in some cases, to put into practice the training received, due to the lack of equipment.

Discussion resulted in several ways forward:

- interest to develop regional hydrographic courses, based on existing African maritime academies;
- need to address several uses, to take into account increasing concern of coastal States for management of resources, marine disasters prevention, 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 CBSC13 :

- A Technical Visit to Liberia, whose request for an IHO technical visit to the Republic of Liberia was approved in 2014 by the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee to assess the current status of nautical charting and hydrography in the country and to provide advice to the government and to stakeholders on a way ahead. The visit had to be postponed due to the regional Ebola epidemic which gravely affected Liberia from August 2014 to September 2015. The International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) jointly formed the visiting team. The visit was conducted from 3 to 5 February 2016, supported by the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA).

- The follow-up of the definition study for a long term capacity building project with the beginning of the analysis part (SWOT) in order to design the main development axes of the regional project that will lead to concrete proposals with eventually funding perspective. Several visits have been performed in the frame of the study: Cote d'Ivoire (MOWCA, ARSTM, APA) in September, Accra (GPA, RMU), Paris (AFD, ADB, Business France). The final report will be presented at the forthcoming 14th EAHC Conference (Cadix – October 2016).
- The ongoing e-learning MSI experimentation, which aims at developing a MSI Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) based on the IHO 3 days academic course. First MOOC version is expected to be presented at the forthcoming WNWNS Conference in Norway in September 2016. Pilot guided session (4 weeks duration) is expected to take place in November 2016.
- The high level visit to MOWCA project (A-10), initially scheduled in 2014 CBWP, then postponed in 2016 to participate to the African Union Summit on Maritime Security scheduled in October 15th 2016, in line with the outcome of the HydroMAOC definition study.

Action Required of CBSC

9. The CBSC is invited to take note of this report.
10. Consider widening the CB Phase 1 scope to other awareness thematic course (maritime boundaries, marine GIS applications, survey specification, maritime spatial planning, ...)