

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CBSC (CBSC15)****7-9 June 2017, Paramaribo (Suriname)****Paper for information of the CBSC****Summary report of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC)**

<i>Submitted by:</i>	FR as CB Coordinator for the EAthC
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	Promotion and achievement of the HydroMAOC study
<i>Reference:</i>	2017 Capacity Building Work Programme (P-12)

**Introduction - Background**

1. This paper reports on the actions and achievements made under project P-12 on the follow-up of the HydroMAOC definition study.
2. The United Nations and the African Union emphasizes the fact that the development of the Blue Economy in Africa is to be a major leverage. However, most investors and funders haven't implemented marine knowledge as a prerequisite to a sustainable and comprehensive development of the maritime economy. Worse, the development of marine knowledge and expertise is completely off the grid to some of major funding organizations strategy in the region.
3. In that scope, the HydroMAOC definition study held in 2015-2016 has set a dedicated regional CB programme. This programme relies on multiple targeted initiatives and projects that would significantly leverage the development of hydrography in that region. As those projects require significant funding, they're supposed to be carried out towards international and regional funding organizations acting in that region.
4. The HydroMAOC study follow-up project (P-12) included in the 2017 CBWP aims at putting into practice the regional CB programme designed through that study by liaising with other stakeholders communities and funding organizations in order to set funding perspectives for hydrography in major maritime and marine initiatives.

**Achievements**

5. The principles and ways forward of the HydroMAOC study were presented at several events:
  - a. The Extraordinary Summit of the African Union Assembly on Maritime Security, Safety and Development which took place in Lomé, Togo from 10 to 15 October 2016. The Lomé Summit was composed of three main segments. From 11 to 14 October, the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Executive Council of the AU met in closed session to discuss and finalize the draft of an "African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development". In parallel, a series of side-events addressing the theme of the Summit was held from 10 to 14 October together with an exhibition of posters and demonstrations illustrating activities and tools related to maritime safety and security. Finally, the Heads of State and Governments met on 15 October to review and approve the draft Charter. The side-events brought together up to 500 participants from 25 different countries, representing the different

branches of the maritime sector - including international and regional organizations, national maritime administrations, navies, port authorities, industry, academia - and also the civil society. A summary of the panel discussions was presented at the closing session of the side-events by Mr Lionel Zinsou, former Prime Minister of Benin. He described the oceans as the “best kept secret of Africa”, noted that the development of the blue economy is dependent on a safe and secure marine environment, welcome the interest of several landlocked States in maritime affairs and highlighted the importance of close intergovernmental cooperation and information sharing in order to address the threats associated with illegal activities at sea conducted by unconventional actors that are considered more powerful than most African States individually.

With the kind assistance of Professor Adote Blivi, IOC focal point for Togo, several posters provided by the IHO Secretariat and by the French Hydrographic Office (Shom) were displayed in the exhibition complementing the side-events. The IHO display was presented by Director Bessero to Her Excellency Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission, and by Ingénieur général Frachon to EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, M. Karmenu Vella.

- b. The 4th conference of IOCAFRICA, the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States that took place in Alexandria (Egypt) from 6 to 8 March 2017. The Vision of the IOCAFRICA is to be the voice of Africa on matters related to ocean science and the science base for ocean management, providing a unique Africa-wide platform, bringing together Member States, UN agencies and other stakeholders, to drive research, observations, and disaster preparedness and mitigation for the sustainable management of the African oceans and coastal areas. IHO was represented by Captain Juan Antonio Aguilar Canavillas (IHM-Spain) as Chairman of the EAtHC and by Ingénieur principal Eric Langlois (Shom-France) as EAtHC CB Coordinator. The opportunity to report on IHO Capacity Building strategy and current challenges, and to present the ways forward through the HydroMAOC definition Study. Posters illustrating the HydroMAOC study concept were exposed alongside the conference. Supported by IHO and CIESM, the Sub Commission approved the creation of a new working group on geosciences, in which questions related to bathymetry (data, campaign, training, expertise) are to be addressed. The ocean science community was pretty much receptive to the IHO CB approach. Respectively, the Ocean Teacher Global Academy Programme reported significant achievements such as the use of distance learning technologies and the development of a regional training centres in Kenya, Mozambique and Senegal. Some of the challenges faced by the ocean science in terms of training are similar to ours: need to train more students from each country, to reduce travel costs, to provide training in local language and to provide a regional response to local issues.
- c. The participation of the EAtHC CB Coordinator to the CIDCO Seminar held in Rimouski from 8 to 11 May 2017 was also the opportunity to address the challenges faced by Africa in hydrography, and to browse the different responses provided by IHO to resolve them. The participation to that seminar also gave the opportunity to attend a dedicated seminar on hydrographic survey specifications. This first of that kind event aimed at provided guidance and principles to local administration and stakeholders on how survey specifications should be designed. This experience will be taken advantage of with the design of a dedicated MOOC on that topic, as part of the 2017 CBWP (project P-14).

6. Besides, the dialogue with funding organizations on EAtHC challenges has been boosted with the signing of a MoU between the French Ministry of Environment and the World Bank, as a direct outcome of the COP21 Paris Event on climate. This agreement, signed in April 2016, is focused on the WACA Programme (West Africa Coastal Areas). WACA, in response to this growing need for regional integration in terms of use and management of Marine ecosystems, was created as a convening platform where technical and financial partners support sustainable development in the coastal zone, using management of the coastal erosion and hazardous flooding as the entry point. The inclusion of Shom in the French experts panel created to dialogue with the WACA project team gave the opportunity to initiate dialogue with an international funding organization and to infuse some of the HydroMAOC study outcomes and ways forwards. A dedicated project on 'coastal hazards and adaptation of West Africa coastal areas' is being subñitted by France within the WACA programme through the French World Environment Fund (FFEM). This project, focused on the integrated management and resilience of coastal and marine areas, target coastal areas of 11 Western African coastal States. This project focuses on improving the coastal knowledge by establishing a consolidated dissemination chain for coastal hazards indicators and also building capacities for West African coastal managers and stakeholders in terms of coastal hazards reduction. This 4 years project benefits from an initial fund of 5M€ from various national and international partners (World bank, France, Clim-Dev Africa Special Fund, ...). In that project, Shom has been identified to participate in the diagnostic and development of the West African tide gauge network and in the diagnostic on the availability of shallow water bathymetric data in order to build a regional coastal bathymetric data gathering programme. Lately, France has initiated a national initiatives to support the WACA programme with the digitalization of cartographic archives from Shom and the French Mapping Agency (IGN). This initiative include the digitalization, georeferencing and extraction of bathymetric data to be handed over and then used by West African coastal managers and stakeholders to study coastal hazards impact.

#### **Action Required of CBSC**

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