

**16th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC16
Goa, India, 30 May - 1 June 2018**

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC18

EAtHC report

Submitted by:	EAtHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at EAtHC
Related Documents:	EAtHC CB Plan 2018-2020 Paper for Consideration by CBSC16: "Towards a new implementation of the CB strategy in the EAtHC region and a strengthened involvement of the IHO" [CBSC16-06F]
Related Projects:	/

1. Introduction / Background

This summary report is the response of the EAtHC coordinator for capacity building to the actions and decisions of CBSC15.

The three-year plan for CB activity in the EAtHC region is reviewed annually based on the assessment of capacity development (as determined by the IHO's three phases of CB), needs expressed by the coastal states (annual collection process) and the CB coordinator's own assessment to ensure it meets regional requirements.

The EAtHC region comprises 24 coastal States, including two island States. Only six are IHO members, nine are EAtHC associated members and nine are observers (plus United-Kingdom and United-States). Central & Western African coastal states within the EAtHC region are especially concerned by capacity building issues, and CB efforts remain concentrated on these coastal states to build the necessary capabilities to meet SOLAS treaty obligations.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

See Excel file (Annex A).

3. Activities completed since CBSC15

- Technical Visit was undertaken to *Gambia* (24-28 July 2017, Shom & UKHO visiting team) – 2017 CBWP A-01
- Training Centre Visit was undertaken to *Nigeria* (17-24 March 2018, Shom & UKHO visiting team) – 2018 CBWP A-01

4. Activities planned for 2018

- Pursue visits to training centres - 2018 CBWP A-01
- Regional awareness seminar on maritime geospatial knowledge (backed by the next EAtHC conference) - 2018 CBWP P-04
- Pursue the promotion for a tailored EAtHC CB programme (HydroMAOC study follow-up) - 2018 CBWP P-012

- Development of an English version of the MSI E-Learning resources (previously developed in French as part of the 2017 CBWP) – Yet to be approved by the CBSC and integrated in the proposed updated 2018 CB WP
- Development of a survey specifications E-learning course – Former 2017 CBWP P-14, yet to be approved by the CBSC and integrated in the proposed updated 2018 CB WP

5. Challenges faced in the region

Hydrographic challenges in the EAtHC region are linked to the considerable gap between:

- ever-growing needs due to the development of shipping, exploitation of marine resources, risk prevention in highly humanized areas exposed to increasing hazards or maritime delineation issues
- and hydrographic services which remain globally far behind in most of the Central & Western African coastal states within the EAtHC region.

A few Central & Western African 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-region¹. At last, too few coastal States have managed to set up an organization for collecting and disseminating marine safety information.

Since 2002 (Project Hydro West Africa lead by the Western African Action Team – cf. EAtHC8) a specific effort in capacity building has been undertaken. It has mainly included: technical visits (18 coastal States have been visited since 2002, some of them twice), awareness or technical workshops on maritime safety information (MSI), hydrography and charting and category B and A training (separately funded).

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.”

Lately, the African Union (AU) convened in liaison with the Government of Togo an Extraordinary Summit of the AU Assembly on Maritime Security, Safety and Development which took place in Lomé, Togo from 10 to 15 October 2016. The Summit was organized under the aegis of the AU 2050 Integrated Marine Strategy adopted in 2012 and followed the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea that was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in June 2013.

¹ Sub-region addressed in this report, ranges from Mauritania to Angola

However, and despite these high level statements, slow progress is noted in hydrographic capacity, including nautical information.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

An overall assessment of the results of CB actions in the sub-region over the past 15 years (start of the Hydro West Africa Project and the CBWP) shows very limited progress:

- Only one state, Cameroon (has not, however, participated in the last two EAtHC conferences), joined IHO since 2002. The other eighteen Central & Western African coastal states remain either associated members (Benin, Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo) or observers (Angola, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, São Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone) to the EAtHC;
- Only 3 states have created National Hydrographic Committees:
 - Senegal in 2004 ("Comité hydrographique national")
 - Togo in 2008 ("Comité sur l'hydrographie, l'océanographie et la sécurité de la navigation maritime")
 - Ghana in 2015 ("National hydrographic and oceanographic committee")

However, the actual activity of these various committees remains unreported.

- In term of development of MSI capacity (Phase 1): none of the coastal states in West Africa fulfils independently its national obligations in a sustainable manner. For those having a bilateral agreement with another country, information feedback remains extremely limited.
- In term of surveying capacity (Phase 2): none of the coastal states in the sub-region has developed a sustainable capacity to meet its national obligations in all its waters. Most of the existing surveying capacities are limited to the harbours and are not national in scope. With the exception of Nigeria and Morocco (which are developing rapidly), it is unlikely that the other African countries in the EAtHC region will develop hydrographic capacity on a national and sustainable scale in the near future.

This statement is unfortunately not new and had led the Shom to propose a long term regional approach with the definition study HydroMOWCA. Given the magnitude of the task, the human resources that member states can devote to it, and the limited involvement of the coastal states directly concerned, the development and promotion of such a regional project has not yet been possible.

7. Conclusions:

Hydrographic capacity development in the EAtHC region remains a real challenge, with most of the Central & Western African coastal states lacking hydrographic infrastructure and relying on another state to provide hydrographic services and fulfill their SOLAS obligations. The current pattern of capacity building has allowed only limited progress despite particular attention by the IHO to the EAtHC region and the involvement of some Member States (acting as Primary Charting Authority in that region).

With this in mind, new approaches must be considered which will require even greater investment by the IHO, the Member States and greater involvement of the coastal States primarily concerned by the development of their hydrographic services in order to meet their SOLAS obligations – See [CBSC16-06F].

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report
- b. take any action consider appropriate.

Vincent Lamarre
EAtHC CB Coordinator

Annex A: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)

Annex B: 3 years plan for CB activity (Excel file)