

**16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE  
IHO-CBSC16  
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**Paper for Consideration by CBSC16**

**Towards a new implementation of the CB strategy in the EAtHC region and a strengthened involvement of the IHO**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	EAtHC CB Coordinator (France)
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	The assessment in terms of improvement of hydrographic services in the region over the last 15 years highlights the limits of the implementation of the CB strategy.  This paper proposes a new approach (recommendations A and B), as well as a strengthening of IHO's action (recommendations C)
<b>Related Documents:</b>	IHO CB Strategy. HydroMOWCA study
<b>Related Projects:</b>	/

## 1. Introduction / Background

Most Western and Central African coastal states within EAtHC region remain unable to provide on their own the hydrographic services necessary for safe navigation, in accordance with their international commitments, and more generally to support the protection and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environments. Some of them officially discharge their obligation through bilateral agreements with another nation.

The particular attention paid by IHO and Member States since 2002 to hydrographic capacity development within the EAtHC region, while it has increased awareness of hydrographic issues, including at a high political level, has not led to significant improvements in hydrographic services in the sub-region<sup>1</sup>, even if some hydrographic surveys may be conducted in the area by other nations.

It is therefore appropriate to question the relevance of the implementation of the CB strategy for the EAtHC region.

## 2. Analysis/Discussion

An overall assessment of the results of CB actions in the sub-region over the past 15 years shows very limited progress:

- Nigeria (1976) and Morocco (1999) were already members of the IHO. Only one state, Cameroon<sup>2</sup>, joined IHO since 2002. The other eighteen Western & Central African coastal states within the EAtHC region 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.
- The involvement of Western & Central African CHAtO members, associated members and

<sup>1</sup> Sub-region addressed in this paper, ranges from Mauritania to Angola.

<sup>2</sup> Has not, however, participated in the last two EAtHC conferences

observers within the commission and more generally within the IHO remains weak. High level decision-makers generally do not attend IHO conferences, which leaves African representatives with very limited leverage to promote hydrography in their respective country. Simply maintaining an up-to-date and relevant<sup>3</sup> list of contacts remains an arduous task, which hinders a good flow of information.

- 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 requirements of the IHO's three-stages strategy): none of the coastal states in Western & Central Africa fulfils independently its national obligations in a sustainable manner<sup>4</sup>. 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.

Capacity building over the last 15 years in the EAtHC region has mainly focused on targeted actions either on a country (technical visits, 18 coastal States have been visited since 2002, some of them twice) or on a specific theme (awareness or technical workshops and trainings).

In the meantime, the importance of a regional holistic approach has been stressed on several occasions as critical for an effective long term development of the hydrographic services amongst Western & Central Africa coastal states:

- Between 2002 and 2004, in accordance with the 2001 extraordinary Conference of the EAtHC Commission decision to form an expert team, named the Western African Action Team (WAAT, composed of representatives from all countries having charting responsibilities in the region (France, United Kingdom and Portugal) and from the United States of America), visits have been conducted in several Western & Central Africa EAtHC coastal States. These visits have led to the development of national plans of actions and milestones to meet needs and requirements of the host-nations and of the international shipping and advise on measures to improve their national hydrographic capacities. Findings of these visits also highlighted the importance of regional holistic projects as a key element of hydrographic capacity development in the region;

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<sup>3</sup> Focal points of many coastal states in the EAtHC region still remain port authorities, whose capacity to represent and carry national hydrographic issues may be questioned.

<sup>4</sup> According to the NAVAREA 2 (which comprises all EAtHC coastal states) Coordinator, more than 40% of EAtHC African States do not have official correspondent or if they have, the latter fails to provide details. Further, existing NAVAREA correspondents are not very responsive, as around 20% only have regular contacts with the NAVAREA Coordinator. These figures reflect the fact that African EAtHC coastal States neither dispose of a national infrastructure nor of an organization able to collect and disseminate nautical information so far, despite CBWP's special attention to the subject.

- In 2015, the IHO agreed to support an initiative for the benefit of Western and Central African Coastal States consisting of developing a regional approach to capacity building. This initiative led to the *HydroMAOC* definition study conducted in 2016 and 2017.

Given the magnitude of the task to promote such a global holistic approach, the limited human resources that member states and IHO can devote to it (mainly allocated to the coordination and implementation of “conventional targeted” CB actions so far), and the limited involvement of the coastal States directly concerned, the establishment of regional ambitious project has not yet been possible so far.

### **3. Conclusions**

The implementation of the capacity building strategy over the past 15 years has not resulted in significant progress in hydrographic services amongst Western and Central African coastal States within the EAtHC region. None of them dispose of sufficient infrastructures to produce their own international nautical charts or manage geospatial information and maritime safety information properly, leaving it to non-African entities lacking of long term strategy and resources for changing this situation. As a matter of fact, the lack of political leverage on that subject is obvious: the IHO only counts two Member States within its Western and Central African communities.

The promotion of holistic regional projects as a key element of hydrographic services development was identified at the beginning of the 2000s, but could not be implemented due to a lack of sufficient resources, as it was concentrated on specific targeted actions whose effects remained limited.

### **4. Recommendations**

France, as EAtHC CB Coordinator would like to recommend a new implementation of the CB strategy:

#### **A. Limit “conventional targeted” CB actions**

These “conventional targeted” actions (technical visits, seminars and workshops...), as implemented over the last five years, have achieved only limited results and yet consume significant resources from IHO and Member States. They should therefore be limited to actions requiring minimal investment (human and financial) and making it possible to reach a maximum number of countries and/or with high chances of concrete results in term of capacity developments.

#### **B. Concentrate on the consideration of a hydrographic component in more global maritime projects**

Regional capacity building project focused only on hydrography is very unlikely to be funded as a full project. The risk associated is that, like previous dedicated regional hydrographic projects dedicated to the EAtHC region, remain without any further action.

Therefore, to reduce that risk, the main option would be to integrate the project into a larger maritime/environmental/climate development programme (transversal angles for considering the development of hydrographic capabilities and marine knowledge). This requires establishing a relationship with International funding organizations to get an overview of their projects pipes and then, try to blend the hydrographic awareness into a broader perspective.

The resources saved by limiting “conventional targeted” CB actions would make it possible to monitor these programmes more actively and to develop relations with donors in order to seize opportunities to include some of the hydrographic concepts and solutions.

C. Strengthen IHO's involvement in the implementation of CB in EAtHC region

CB implementation on the region relies mainly on the commitment of few European Hydrographic Services assuming officially or de-facto charting responsibilities in Western and Central Africa.

These few European states already devote significant resources to maintaining up-to-date nautical documentation and sometimes even carrying out hydrographic work, while facing a significant lack of nautical information and data. These actions, which are essential for the safety of navigation in the region, do not, however, contribute to hydrographic capacity development and limit the resources that could otherwise be devoted to it.

The human resources that Member States can allocate to the coordination and conduct of CB activities are insufficient in relation to the global projects to be implemented, all the more so as the necessary regional integration<sup>5</sup> is particularly difficult to implement within the EAtHC region.

There is, of course, no question of going back on the primary contribution of the Member States in the conduct of CB actions, but an increased involvement of the IHO in coordination and implementation strategy, through the creation of a post within the Secretariat dedicated to CB for the EAtHC region, would provide the necessary resources to meet the specific challenges of this region.

## 5. Justification and Impacts

Recommendations A and B should be seen as a transfer of resources for a new implementation of the CB strategy to promote hydrography through more global marine projects.

This “new”<sup>6</sup> approach is particularly consistent with the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy that identifies four building blocks in capacity building, one of which includes hydrographic infrastructures and facilities. In this perspective, the 2050 AIM Strategy advocates for sub-regional co-operation, capacity-building and co-operation between stakeholders to improve the safety of navigation.

Focusing on taking into account a hydrographic dimension of global maritime projects, supported by donors (such as the WACA project supported by the World Bank) should make it possible to maximise the effects, both in terms of better awareness of the importance of hydrography as a key element of maritime safety and sustainable economic development, and also to directly or indirectly develop hydrographic capacities in the region. When it comes to the aid to development for the African Continent, the financial leverage<sup>7</sup> is substantial: the inclusion of hydrographic solutions in these more global projects would make it possible to

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<sup>5</sup> Four different integrated maritime strategies in Western and Central African coastal States: African Union, the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC).

Two regional coordination centers for maritime safety and security governance: Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC) and Information and Communication Centre (CINFOCOM).

<sup>6</sup> Not really new, but never implemented due to the lack of resources dedicated to “conventional targeted” CB actions

<sup>7</sup> European Development Fund (EDF), World Bank, African Development Bank (ADB)...

mobilize financing commensurate with the stakes and to increase the interest of coastal States concerned by failing hydrographic services.

Recommendation C should be considered as a force multiplier to address the considerable challenges in the region, which could only be partially addressed in the last 15 years

The creation of a dedicated post within the Secretariat of the IHO to lead capacity development in the region, in accordance with the three-year plan for CB activity approved by the EAthC, would enable:

- more resources, which cannot be provided exclusively by member states;
- in-depth long term relations<sup>8</sup> with Western & Central Africa coastal states;
- greater visibility of IHO's involvement in capacity development (which could convince more states to become members);
- better coordination with other International bodies such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) or the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).

The financial resources needed to create such a position could be partly obtained by limiting “conventional targeted” CB actions (Recommendation A).

## **6. Action Required of CBSC**

The CBSC is invited to

- a. endorse the findings set out in Chapter 2
- b. advise on the recommendations A and B made in Chapter 4 for possible adoption by EAthC at its next conference
- c. take into consideration the request for the creation of a dedicated post within the Secretariat of the IHO for capacity building in the EAthC

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<sup>8</sup> The difficulty in maintaining a contact list underscores this need for closer relationships.