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Information Exchange (IODE, Lisbon, Portugal, 30 October – 9 November 2000)

**Report of the Regional Co-ordinator for the IOC Regional
Committee for the Cooperative Investigation in the North
and Central Western Indian Ocean**

Mr Harrison Ong'anda, Head KeNODC, Mombasa, Kenya

1. Name of the Region

IOC Regional Committee for the Cooperative Investigation in the North and Central Western
Indian Ocean

2. Regional IODE Coordinator

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4. IOCINCWIO regional URL: planned

ODINAFRICA project website (with a domain name www.odinafrica.org) has been registered.

RECOSCIX-WIO project web site is: <http://www.recoscix.org>

5. IODE Data Center Designation Date:

IOCINCWIO Regional Co-ordinators appointed through Resolution IODE-XV.4

6. Data Center Description

See 8

7. Brief History

The IOCINCWIO regional data and information activities during the inter-sessional period has been largely characterized by activities of the ODINEA and RECOSCIX-WIO project.

The RECOSCIX-WIO project was started in 1989 with the objectives to (i) provide scientists in the Western Indian Ocean region with bibliographic information (abstracts of publications, hard copies of documents etc); (ii) prepare and distribute various data products relevant to marine sciences of the WIO region (directory of marine scientists, bibliography database etc); (iii) promote communication between WIO marine scientists and marine scientists of other parts of the world; (iv) publicize marine science of the WIO region and in other parts of the world; and (v) provide information equipment, software and training.

The role of RECOSCIX project second phase for 1996-1999 recognized the need develop data products and avail them through the web and CD-ROM. The VLIR funding came to an end in 1999. Presently IOC funds the project.

The existing mechanisms of RECOSCIX have been instrumental in the establishment and operations of ODINEA project. The Ocean Data and Information Network for Eastern Africa proposal was endorsed during the IODE-XV in 1996. The objective of the project is to strengthen data management capabilities of national institutions and develop regional data and information network. The project began in January 1997 and is due to end in December 2000. Following the expansion of the network to cover the whole of Africa, the ODINEA is transformed to ODINAFRICA-I, so the new network becomes ODINAFRICA-II.

8. Roles and Responsibilities of the Data Center

The regional coordination of the IODE activities involves the following:

- Provide a regional co-operative structure linking national oceanographic data centers (NODC)
- Ensure involvement of national institutions in the IODE Programme
- Adhere to the IODE data management procedures and ensure the use of standard methods for data collection and storage in the region;
- Ensure access of scientists in the region to data sets not located in the region including satellite data sets
- Develop and disseminate data products for the benefit of scientists and policy makers in the region;
- Establish exchange of data and information with the WDCs Oceanography

9. Projects and Activities during the Intersessional Period

NODCs

Out of the 9 IOCINCWIO Member States in the region (Comores, France (La Réunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, South Africa) 7 countries have a Designated National Agency (DNA) or National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) as listed below. Establishment of DNA or NODC in Madagascar is underway. Establishment of data centre in Comores is planned under the ODINAFRICA-II project.

France: NODC established in 1971

Kenya:	NODC Established in 1996
Tanzania	DNA established in 1996
Mozambique	NODC established in 1998
Seychelles	DNA established in 1997
South Africa	NODC established in 1997
Mauritius	NODC established in 1999

RECOSCIX

The basis of the RECOSCIX-WIO project is to provide information services to marine scientists in the Western Indian Ocean. The information services consist of literature searches and provision of scientific documents to marine scientists. The information concerning the region consists of databases of available literature (WIOLib), and a database of marine scientists and marine sciences in the region (WIODir). WIOLib is a union catalogue of marine science libraries in the region. The database is implemented in a customized version of CDS/ISIS, ASFISIS, similar to that of ASFA. This activity is only complete for KMFRI/Mombasa. The records number 5,900.

Information on RECOSCIX, and news on marine sciences in the region are published in the Newsletter 'Window'. Scientists are kept updated about recent literature through 'WIOCurrent', information on contents of 10 journals to which the project subscribes, enriched with a list of reprints received at the RDC. Pages of contents of journal issues arriving at the RDC are sent to institutions in the region twice a month.

WIOBASE: WIOBASE CD-ROM has information on RECOSCIX-WIO, IOC, and other organizations active in marine sciences in the region. It also contains the various products developed by RECOSCIX-WIO like WIODir, WIOLib, and WINDOW. Data collected from the Western Indian Ocean have also been extracted from various databases and included. The second issue of WIOBASE CD-ROM (version 1.1) was out in November 1998.

MASDEA: MASDEA is the Marine Species Database for Eastern Africa. To date more than 12000 species and 26000 distribution records in 21 major phyla have been entered. Data entry is continuous as more information is received. Quality control of the database is done regularly and a search for validation authorities will be carried out for the taxa that are considered complete.

WINDOW: WINDOW Newsletter is published 3 times a year and is widely distributed free of charge to 1000 readers around the world (200 in the WIO region). The RECOSCIX-WIO Newsletter was started in 1989.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY: The provision of documents continues to be one of the core services of the project. Through a network of Co-operating Libraries world wide, the project provides articles from journals, magazines, newsletters, proceedings to marine scientists from the region. More and more of the requests are now satisfied from the holdings of the RDC.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The following journals are being subscribed to at the RDC:

- Nature
- Science
- Bulletin of Marine Science
- Journal of Marine. Biological. Association. (UK)
- African Journal of Ecology

- Limnology and oceanography
- Indian Journal of Fisheries
- Current contents
- Marine ecology
- Mangroves and salt marshes

WIODIR: An updated version of WIODIR was submitted to IOC for inclusion in GLODIR in October 1998.

RECOSCIX-WIO is also preparing a directory of Aquaculture and Fisheries Information Sources for Africa.

ODINAFRICA-I

ODINAFRICA-I project activities during the period 1997-2000 can be summarized as follows

- Infrastructure support to data centers: All the data centers listed above received computing equipment for use in data management activities;
- Operational expenses support
The operational expenditure includes purchase of computer consumables and small equipment required at the respective centers;
- Facilitation of internet access
Funds have been provided for full Internet access to centers where this is possible, and to e-mail connectivity. Centers have been encouraged to set up homepages to facilitate information sharing;
- Provision of ASFA to NODCs
Most RECOSCIX-WIO cooperating institutions receive free subscriptions to the ASFA CD-ROM.
- Support for internships
2 months internships have been provided by the US-NODC and the Australian AODC in 1997 and 1999 respectively for staff of the KeNODC
- Support for a regional coordinator
In accordance with the request made by ODINEA Group during the ODINEA '98 Workshop, Mr Mika Odido was hired as a consultant as from March 1999 to take the function of ODINEA regional coordinator;
- Data management training workshops
The following regional data management training workshops have been held for staff of the data centers
 - Training Course on Management of Marine Data and Information for the IOCINCWIO Region; Mombasa, Kenya, 1-11 December 1997
 - IOC-Sida-Flanders-SFRI Workshop on Ocean Data Management in the IOCINCWIO Region (ODINEA project), Cape Town, South Africa, 30 November - 11 December 1998
 - IOC-LUC-KMFRI Workshop on RECOSCIX-WIO in the year 2000 and beyond (and training course for librarians). Organized with support from the Government of Flanders and SAREC of Sida, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Mombasa, Kenya, 12-17 April 1999.
 - IOC-Sida-Flanders-MCM Third Workshop on Ocean Data Management in the IOCINCWIO Region (ODINEA project, Cape Town, South Africa, 29 November–11 December 1999

- ODINEA Review Workshop, 2000, Lisbon, Portugal

10. Products and Services Developed and/or Made Available during the Intersessional Period:

ASFA

During the ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts - an indexing and abstracting service covering the world's literature on science, technology and management of marine and freshwater environments Advisory Board meeting in Tianjin China (October 1994), KMFRI was accepted as an ASFA input center, the only one in Africa. A total of 300 abstracts were submitted to ASFA between 1996 and 1999.

Subscription to the ASFA database on CD-ROM have been continued for the following institutions:

- Seychelles Fishing Authority, Seychelles
- University of Dar Es Salaam, Department of Zoology and Marine Biology, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- Institute Halietique et des Sciences Marines (IHSM), Tulear, Madagascar
- Center National de Recherches Oceanographiques (NNRO), Nosy-Be, Madagascar
- Institute of Marine Sciences, Zanzibar, Tanzania
- University of Mauritius, Mauritius

DEVELOPMENT OF ODINEA RESOURCE KIT

The ODINEA CD-ROM was developed during the Regional Training Course on Ocean Data Management, Mombasa, Kenya, 1-11 December 1997. Its purpose is to enable students of the training courses to re-visit the topics covered during the course and to utilize the software tools on local data sets. The first version was demonstrated during the IODE Officers Meeting (Goa, India, 10-13 February 1998).

IAMSLIC

Various institutions in the region have continued to take part in IAMSLIC annual conference.

11. Comments

During the inter-sessional period majority of the member countries have now established a data center. Increased funding support is required so that these Data Centers take on fully the planned activities of the IODE during the next session.

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