



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

**SEVENTH SESSION OF IOC SUB-COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
AND THE ADJACENT ISLAND STATES**
15–17 March 2023 (Nairobi, Kenya and online)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3, the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA), as a Primary Subsidiary Body of IOC, is required to report to a governing body on its sessions.

The IOC Assembly at its 32nd session (21–30 June 2023, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France) will be invited to consider this Executive Summary.

Executive Summary

1. The Seventh session of the IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was held in hybrid format from 15-17 March 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya and attended by more than 45 participants representing 20 Member States from the region and other partners. The session was preceded by an informal meeting of the delegates to deliberate on how to strengthen the Sub Commission.

Report on IOCAFRICA Activities 2021–2023

2. The reduction in the budgets during the current biennium, had adversely impacted the implementation of the IOCAFRICA programmes adopted during the sixth session that was held online from 13-15 April 2021. This resulted in some activities not being implemented as planned.
3. There was good progress in the planning of activities in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap was prepared through an inclusive consultative process, and the “African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” was hosted by the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Cairo, Egypt from 10-12 May 2022 during which the roadmap was presented and opportunities for partnerships discussed. The Africa Ocean Decade Task Force comprising 14 experts and representatives of 6 organizations was established and commenced its assignment of supporting the development of regional Ocean Decade Actions.
4. Collaboration with the African Union Commission was strengthened, in particular with the GMES and Africa project, and the AUC's Division of Blue Economy. The “Workshop on collaboration between GOOS AFRICA and GMES & AFRICA” was held from 24-28 October 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda and focused on developing partnerships between GOOS AFRICA and GMES & AFRICA, including support for the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap. The AUC's Directorate for Blue Economy actively participated in the development of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap and is represented on the Africa Ocean Decade task Force. Joint events were organized with the Directorate during the Luanda Biennale (November 2021, Luanda, Angola), and the UN Ocean Conference (June 2022, Lisbon, Portugal).
5. The workshop on Ocean related hazards for the Gulf of Guinea was organized (13-14 October 2021, online) in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine research. Presentations covered a myriad of topics including: Impacts of coastal pollution in the GoG; The role of ocean literacy in preparing for ocean-related threats; Partnering for safe and sustainable oceans and; Use of high-resolution models in predicting extreme weather events. The National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) in Egypt was an active partner of IOCAFRICA during the intersessional period and co-organized the activities on Resilience and safer coasts, World Oceans Day, Algal Blooms, Tsunami Awareness, Ocean Acidification, Ocean Decade etc.
6. A comprehensive survey of the status of the ocean observations platforms in Africa and the Adjacent Island States was undertaken and a webinar organized to review the report on 23 March 2022. The participants agreed on the publication of the report on the African Ocean Observations Network, taking into account the proposed changes discussed during the session.
7. The workshop on the reactivation of the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) was held on 24 March 2022. Participants agreed on the reactivation of ODINAFRICA to contribute to the Ocean Information Hub (OIH) as a regional and multi-thematic

node that will improve online access to and synthesis of existing regional and national data, information and knowledge resources, including existing clearinghouse mechanisms.

8. IOCAFRICA continued to work with the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES) in enhancing integration of ocean-based adaptation and mitigation actions in addressing climate change. The implementation of the project on building capacity for ocean acidification research and observation, as well as detection and early warning for HAB is ongoing with the institutions in Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, Nigeria, Madagascar and Morocco already participating.
9. The implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) continued with case studies on gender and poverty perspectives in Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania implemented in collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM). The results of the comparative Analysis of Gender and Poverty Perspectives in MSP in Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania has also been finalized. A National MSP workshop was organized for Comoros and a report on MSP and the Blue Economy in Kenya published. Many IOCAFRICA Member States participated in MSP Global activities, including the 3rd International Conference on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning (22-23 November 2022, Barcelona, Spain). The Regional Marine Spatial Planning forum for Africa and the adjacent Island states was established and held its first meeting in December 2022.
10. Capacity development for marine science and technology continues to be a key area of focus for IOC in Africa. The development of the portal on training facilities and opportunities in the region is completed (<https://africa.marinetraining.org>) with continuous updates ongoing. Training workshops were held on a wide range of topics, including: Earth Observation data and techniques for fisheries management (24 January - 4 February 2022 hosted online by the University of Ghana); Oceanographic data collection techniques and access to free online data (9 May - 31 October 2022, Mozambique, hosted online by the Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique); Vessel-based ocean monitoring with applications to R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen surveys (30 May - 17 June 2022, jointly organized with the FAO/EAFNANSEN programme and hosted by the National Marine Information Centre in Swakopmund, Namibia); Remote sensing applied to oceanography (21-25 November 2022, hosted by the Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, in Côte d'Ivoire)
11. The Sub-Commission congratulated the IOCAFRICA Officers and the Secretariat on the good progress that has been made in the implementation of the planned activities.
12. The Sub Commission expressed its gratitude to partners that have provided support for implementation of IOCAFRICA programmes, especially the Governments of Flanders (Belgium), China, Norway, Sweden, the African Union Commission, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, and invited other Member States and organizations to partner with IOCAFRICA.

ELECTION OF IOCAFRICA OFFICERS

13. The Sub-Commission unanimously re-elected the following members of the Bureau for the Sub Commission to serve for the next inter-sessional period and the Eighth session of the IOCAFRICA:

Chair : Prof Kouadio Affian (Côte d'Ivoire)

Vice Chair Group A: Dr Ir. Zacharie Sohou (Benin)

Vice Chair Group B: Cândida Inês Sete (Mozambique)

Vice Chair Group C: Dr Suzan M. El-Gharabawy (Egypt)

DATES AND PLACE OF THE 8TH SESSION OF THE IOC'S SUB COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE ADJACENT ISLAND STATES

14. The Sub-Commission decided to hold its next (eighth) session in the first quarter of 2025 (preferably in February 2025) and welcomed the offer of Egypt to explore the possibility of hosting the session. The Sub-Commission requested the Secretariat to ensure that the dates of the eighth session do not overlap with those of the UNESCO governing bodies and other relevant meetings.

ADOPTION OF THE IOCAFRICA WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2023-2025

15. The Sub-Commission adopted a work plan and budget for the activities identified to provide a guide for resource mobilization as the funds available from the regular budget are limited. The Sub Commission requested the Secretariat and the IOCAFRICA Officers to focus on building partnerships and resource mobilization as the funds available from the Regular Programme budget will be limited.

ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND MODALITIES FOR FINALIZING THE SUMMARY REPORT

16. The Sub-Commission adopted the following four Recommendations of the session:

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.1: REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.2: GOOS – AFRICA.

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.3: PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.4: WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2023-2025

17. The Sub-Commission requested the Chair to present the executive summary report and recommendations to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session (21–30 June 2023, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France).

ANNEX II

RECOMMENDATIONSRecommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.1**REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

Notes that the Secretariat, working together with the IOCAFRICA Officers had developed detailed terms of reference and initiated a process for identification and selection of experts and agencies/organizations to join the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force.

Congratulates the members of the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force on their appointment and requested them to provide advice and guidance to the Sub Commission on the implementation of the Decade in the region.

Adopts the report of the Scoping Study developed jointly by the Decade Coordination Unit and the IOCAFRICA Secretariat for strengthening the IOCAFRICA secretariat to act as a regional Decade Coordination Office.

Urges IOC Member States and other organizations/agencies to provide support to ensure the development and implementation of regional programmes and projects in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Encourages Member States from the region to establish broad based National Decade Coordination mechanisms, incorporating institutions working in ocean related fields;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to support:

- (i) the mobilization of resources to enable the establishment and running of the regional Decade Coordination Office to provide logistic and technical support for the implementation of the Ocean Decade activities in the region.
- (ii) the organization of a special session on Africa at the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain, in April 2024.
- (iii) the organization of the African Ocean Decade Conference in 2025 to mark the mid-point of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the end of the African Decade of Oceans and Seas

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.2

GOOS – AFRICA

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

Noting the progress that had been made in the reactivation of GOOS AFRICA.

Expresses its gratitude to the African Union Commission and Côte d'Ivoire for the full support provided for the re-activation of GOOS AFRICA and its Coordinating Committee, as the Pan African platform for Ocean Observations, Monitoring, Forecast and Services in Africa with a dedicated secretariat based at the Centre Universitaire de Recherche et d'Application en Télédétection (CURAT), Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Further expresses its gratitude to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the GOOS AFRICA secretariat at the Centre Universitaire de Recherche et d'Application en Télédétection (CURAT), Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Notes the excellent cooperation between GOOS AFRICA and the AUC's Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa), including the organization of the workshop on "Collaboration between GOOS AFRICA and GMES and Africa" in Kigali, Rwanda from 24-28 October 2022 where a joint work plan was agreed on.

Emphasises the importance of increasing the resources available to GOOS AFRICA to facilitate the implementation of the joint work plan.

Encourages GOOS AFRICA to reinforce cooperation and develop joint programmes with IOGOOS, MONGOOS, OceanPrediction DCC, Coastal Resilience DCC and Mercator Ocean International.

Urges the GOOS AFRICA Coordinating Committee to work with the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) towards the establishment of an African Ocean Data Centre.

Welcomes the efforts of the IOC Executive Secretary and the GOOS Project Office to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to support the implementation of GOOS AFRICA activities, including the strengthening of the secretariat hosted by CURAT.

Agrees on the importance of organizing joint regional research cruises in the context of the African Decade of Oceans and Seas and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and **welcomes** the offers of Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa to accommodate experts and trainees from the region during the surveys in their oceanographic research vessels.

Requests:

- (i) The IOCAFRICA Secretariat to work with the GOOS Africa in implementation of the GOOS Africa work plan.
- (ii) The IOCAFRICA Secretariat and the GOOS Africa Coordinating Committee to work together towards the establishment of GOOS National focal points in Africa and the Adjacent Island States.
- (iii) Member states from Africa and the Adjacent Island States to allocate sufficient resources to their national operational centres to ensure that they are fully equipped, and the ocean observing systems, including the national tide gauge networks are fully operational

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.3

PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

Noting that funding and staffing for IOCAFRICA continues to be a challenge,

Stresses the importance of partnerships as a mechanism for joint planning and implementation of programmes, transfer of technology and exchange and sharing of resources,

Welcomes the collaboration that has been established with various organizations, programmes and projects, including the African Union Commission, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Associations, the secretariat of the UNEP Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, the Benguela Current Commission, the FAO/NANSEN programme, the Second Institute of Oceanography in China and others ...

Requests the secretariat to explore the formalization of such collaboration through appropriate instruments such as memorandum of understanding or aide memoire.

Requests the IOCAFRICA Officers and secretariat to:

- (i) Follow-up on the organization of the China-Africa seminar in mid-2023 to deliberate on the establishment of the "China-Africa Marine Science and Blue Economy Cooperation Center".
- (ii) Follow-up with NOAA on the strengthening collaboration to improve ocean observations in Africa and the Adjacent Island States.
- (iii) Focus on developing and strengthening collaboration with other organizations/programmes as well as resources mobilization during the intersessional period and report on the progress made during the eight session of the IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States.

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.4

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET – 2023-2025

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of the IOCAFRICA-VI work plan,

Expresses its appreciation to the Member States, regional and international partners who have provided financial and technical support for implementation of activities in the region, especially the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium), China, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

Thanks the Member States from the region who have provided substantial in-kind support for the development and implementation of programmes of the Sub-Commission, including hosting and covering costs of training programmes and providing research vessels for regional training and surveys.

Taking into account the priorities identified during the regional consultations on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the regional codesign workshops,

Adopts the programme of work for the Sub-Commission for the period 2023–2025 as outlined in the Annex to this Recommendation.

Welcomes the offer of Egypt to lead the IOCAFRICA team during the budget discussions at the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly.

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to:

- (i) explore opportunities for additional regular programme budget and extra budgetary resources for the implementation of these activities, in line with the Global Priority status of Africa.
- (ii) strengthen the IOCAFRICA secretariat through the provision of additional staff.

Urges Member States to continue and increase their support to IOCAFRICA and its secretariat through financial and in-kind contributions, including the secondment of staff.

Stressed the importance of member states from the region providing support in cash and in-kind for implementation of regional activities.

Annex to Recommendation IOCAFRICA VII.4

ACTIVITY	BUDGET ESTIMATE	TOTALS
Ocean Observations and Data and Information Management		USD 380,000
Activity 1.1: Oceanography survey (travel support for participants to join oceanographic expeditions on South Africa and Nigeria research vessels)	USD20,000	
Activity 1.2: Installing more tide gauges and maintenance the old ones	USD50,000	
Activity 1.3: Strengthen and update the ocean data and information network for Africa	USD10,000	
Activity 1.4.: Install more marine technology (gliders, Argo floats etc) for surveying (5 floats @40,000)	USD200,000	
Activity 1.5: Establish an African natural hazard Warning System, building on existing networks and with linkage to the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System for DRR	USD100,000	
Activity 1.6 Strengthening of the GOOS Africa coordination office at CURAT, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire		
Ocean Sciences and Application to Management		USD 640,000
Activity 2.1: Assessment of the vulnerability and adaptation of Africa's marine and coastal ecosystems to climate change taking into account regional ecosystems threats including coastal flooding and erosion, review of availability of long time series ocean and climate data, and identification of data gaps that need to be addressed.	USD20,000	
Activity 2.2: Implementation of IOCAFRICA project on building capacity for ocean acidification research, observation and detection, and early warning for Harmful Algal Blooms.	USD100,000	
Activity 2.3. Survey and assessment of marine pollution and related parameters (such as micro and macroplastics, oxygen depletion etc.) including the development of technologies and/or processes for waste reduction and ecosystem recovery.	USD200,000	
Activity 2.4. Support Member States in use of Marine Spatial Planning in balancing the requirements of different industries and sectors such as shipping, marine tourism, fisheries and aquaculture production etc.	USD300,000	
Activity 2.5. Preparation of policy briefs and advocacy on relevant goals of Africa Agenda 2063, Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050, Africa Blue Economy Strategy, UN Agenda 2030 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), working with regional institutions and networks (e.g. FARI, RAFISMER & COMHAFAT, UNEP Regional Seas Convention programmes in some of the countries).	USD20,000	
Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology		USD 800,000
Activity 3.1: Building capacity workshops for training African researchers on-board the research vessels of Egypt (NIOF Decade Implementation Partner).	USD400,000.	

Activity 3.2: Training workshop on remote sensing marine applications (2 Trainings @ USD 50,000)	USD100,000	
Activity 3.3: Training workshop on Modelling, Observations and forecasting (2 trainings @ USD 50,000)	USD100,000	
Activity 3.4: Training workshop on data acquisition, data processing, interpretation and data archiving (2 trainings @ USD 50,000)	USD100,000	
Activity 3.5: Training workshop on eDNA for marine biology (2 trainings @ USD 50,000)	USD100,000	
Activity 3.6: Training courses and workshops, using regional and national training centres (Ocean Teacher Global Academy RTCs, UNESCO Chairs and Centres of Excellence) on priority topics identified by IOCAFRICA and the respective Member states		
Ocean literacy, Public Awareness and Advocacy		USD 140,000
Activity 4.1: Organize and support outreach programs, to increase ocean knowledge within the general populace (fishers, coastal community inhabitants, learners and students, media practitioners and local and national authorities.	USD20,000.	
Activity 4.2: Organise a special session on Africa at 2nd UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain	USD50,000	
Activity 4.3: Organise the African Conference in 2025 to mark mid-point of UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the end of the African Decade of Oceans and Seas	USD100,000	
Activity 4.4: Organize activities to improve ocean literacy/awareness during the World Ocean Day, African Day of Seas and Oceans and national marine related days, World Environment Day, World Fisheries Day, World Water Day, World Hydrographic Day, etc e.g. The National Marine Week in South Africa	USD20,000	
5. Organization of the Eight session of IOCAFRICA	USD100,000	USD100,000
<u>Total</u>		<u>USD 2,060,000</u>