

17th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC17
Genoa, Italia, 29 – 31 May 2019
Paper for the Consideration by CBSC17

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 2019-2021
Related Projects:	/

1. Introduction / Background

This summary report is the response of the EAtHC coordinator for capacity building to the actions and decisions of CBSC16.

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 and the CB coordinator's own assessment to ensure it meets regional requirements.

The EAtHC region comprises 26 coastal States, including two island States. Only six are IHO members, nine are EAtHC associated members and eleven are observers. 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 CBSC16

- Regional Awareness Seminar on Maritime Geospatial Knowledge “The provision of hydrographic services” & “New IT technologies: MSI & MSDI” (15-16 October 2018, back-to-back with the 15th EAtHC, Lagos Nigeria, Shom) - [CBWP2018: Action P-04].
The organization of this type of seminar, with the support provided by the CB funds to help a large number of EAtHC African countries to participate, allowed a broad attendance at the 15th EAtHC conference. It is certain that African countries would have been much underrepresented at the EAtHC conference without the organization of the sponsored seminar. The organisation of a seminar/workshop before the plenary conference should be renewed, in particular for this region where many coastal states are facing budgetary difficulties to participate in the conference;
- Training Centre Visit and Technical Visit (10-13 February 2019, Libreville, Gabon, Shom) [CBWP2019: Action A-10 balancer former CBWP2018: Action A-01];
- Training Centre Visit and Technical Visit (13-16 February 2019, Douala, Cameroon, Shom) [CBWP2019: Action A-10 balancer former CBWP2018: Action A-01];

- Training Centre Visit (24-28 March 2019, Accra, Ghana, University of Southern Mississippi) [CBWP2019: Action A-10 balancer former CBWP2018: Action A-01].

4. Activities planned for 2019

- Joint IALA-IHO workshop for capacity-building in hydrography and marine aids to navigation: Risk Assessment / Survey Specifications / AtoN Maintenance. Rabat, Morocco - 21-24 October 2019 [CBWP2019: Action P-11].
- Technical Visit (End 2019, Lomé, Togo, Shom) [CBWP2019: Action A-04].
- Activities postponed in 2020 due to lack of resources at Shom to lead all the activities planned:
 - Technical Visit to Congo [CBWP2019: Action A-06].
 - MSI E-learning guided session [CBWP2019: Action P-05 former CBWP2018: Action P-13]

Regarding e-learning, contact has been established with the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to bring the MSI e-learning module to the Ocean Teacher platform to ensure greater visibility and availability.
- Activities to be confirmed
 - Technical Visit to Gambia according to UKHO's ability to conduct this visit in 2019 [CBWP2019: Action A-05].
- Activities cancelled:
 - Survey specification e-learning guided session [CBWP2019: Action P-06 former CBWP2018: Action P-15]. This topic of Survey specification will be addressed quickly at the next EAHC seminar in October 2019.

5. Challenges faced in the region

Hydrographic challenges in the EAHC 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 EAHC 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

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

disseminating marine safety information.

Since 2002 (Project Hydro West Africa lead by the Western African Action Team – cf. EAAtHC8) 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.

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 16 years (start of the Hydro West Africa Project and the CBWP) shows very limited progress:

- Only one state, Cameroon 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 EAAtHC;
- 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. Significant progress has been made in Ghana (MSI published in a geospatial format on the

internet at the following website: <https://niord.ghananautical.info/#/>).

- 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, efforts must therefore be continued with greater involvement of the Coastal States primarily concerned by the development of their hydrographic services in order to meet their SOLAS obligations, of the IHO and the IHO Member States. Nigeria and Morocco, which have succeeded in developing considerably their hydrographic capacities, can in particular play a key role, by sharing their experience and providing training and education opportunities to other coastal states in the sub-region.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

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

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

International Hydrographic Organization
Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

N.	Coastal State/Territory	NHC/NHCC	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Last TV	IMSAS
5	Angola	0	2	3	3	2008	2022
19	Benin	0	3	3	3	2003	2020
29	Cabo Verde	0	2	3	3	2003, 2017	May 2017
31	Cameroon	0	2	3	3	2011 2019 (training center visit)	2020
39	Congo	0	3	3	3	2003	2018
42	Côte d'Ivoire	0	2	3	3		Feb 2016
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0	2	3	3	2003	May 2017
56	Equatorial Guinea	0	2	1	3	2003	2018
62	France	2	4	4	4	N/R	2021
63	Gabon	0	1	1	3	2003, 2012 2019 (training center visit)	Apr 2017
64	Gambia	0	2	2	3	2017	Feb 2017
67	Ghana	2	3	1	3	2003 2019 (training center visit)	Jan 2017
71	Guinea	1	2	3	3	2003	Jul 2016
72	Guinea-Bissau	0	2	1	3	2003, 2012	NA (C113)
98	Liberia	0	2	1	3	2016	2020
110	Mauritania	0	2	3	3	2003	Apr 2016
117	Morocco	2	3	4	3		2022
127	Nigeria	1	2	4	3	2003 2018 (training centers visit)	Jun 2016
139	Portugal	2	4	4	4	N/R	Apr 2016
151	Sao Tome and Principe	0	3	3	3		2018
153	Senegal	2	3	3	3	2003	Jul 2016
156	Sierra Leone	0	2	1	3	2003	2018
164	Spain	2	4	4	4	N/R	2020
177	Togo	2	3	3	3	2003	Feb 2016
187	United Kingdom	2	4	4	4	N/R	2020

189	United States of America	2	4	4	4	N/R	2021
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