

DRAFT PROJECT PROPOSAL

EAtHC8-7A-E

EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (EAthC)
8th Meeting, Brest, France, 28-29 October 2004

Working Paper for the 8th EAtHC

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DEVELOPING HYDROGRAPHIC CAPABILITIES IN WEST/CENTRAL
AFRICA

AN IHO CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

Prepared by the IHB, April 2004.
(Reviewed and Updated October 2004)

References:

- a) IHO 2003/2007 Work Program
- b) IHO Capacity Building Strategy
- c) East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission,
Report of the West African Action Team
- d) IMO/IHO/IMA Co-operation Agreement

1.- DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) 2003/2007 Work Program identifies the need to develop a Study Team to assess the status of Hydrography, Aids to Navigation and Safety of Navigation in Western and Central Africa, with a view to formulating a development project. This initiative was trusted to the East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC).

The EAtHC organized, with the support of several Hydrographic Offices, a team of experts known as the West African Action Team (WAAT).

WAAT paid 4 visits to the region and the following countries were visited:

Benin, Cap Verde, DR of Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Mauritania, Nigeria, R of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Cameroon.

WAAT met in January 2004 to discuss the follow-up steps to be proposed to the next EAtHC Meeting that will take place in Brest, France, last week of October. At the mentioned meeting, it was agreed that the region was in need of support to establish and / or improve the limited capabilities to assume the responsibilities trusted to coastal States by the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention. As an initial step, it was agreed that a workshop to provide technical awareness on the first phase of development of

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Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Capabilities could be the starting point. This workshop will take place in conjunction with the EAtHC meeting in Brest.

It was also agreed at the meeting that training needs to have the highest possible priority. It was decided to take advantage of the existing experience and infrastructure at International Maritime Academy (IMA) and to also consider the existing infrastructure in Ghana, where a Maritime School exists. The Ghana Maritime School could serve as the base for a regional school of hydrography.

An additional aspect discussed was the need to prepare a “leader”, probably the person that would assume the Chairmanship of the National Hydrographic Committee in each country, who could facilitate the initialization and continuity of any project and will liaise with the proper government authorities to assure continuous support to this effort.

Clearly it was recognized that the West/Central Africa region is not prepared to take full advantage of the existing technology. International initiatives should point to provide support aiming to create national policies and build-up a minimal infrastructure to handle hydrographic matters at a national level. The provision of high tech equipment without first creating this national conscience and establishing a core group of trained people will have no effect in solving the problem.

According to the phases of development of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting capability (see Annex A), this region is generally not sufficiently prepared “to collect and circulate nautical information necessary to maintain existing charts and publications up to date”, the very first phase of development.

Due to this reality, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) decided to prepare the present draft project for further consideration by IHO, mainly the EatHC and IHOCBC. Taking advantage of the existing co-operation arrangement with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IMA, on the provision of Hydrographic and Nautical Cartography Courses offered by IMA, this initiative has also been discussed with the mentioned organizations, finding their support. In brief, it is believed that this proposal might provide a suitable solution to the existing lack of hydrographic capabilities in West/Central Africa.

2.- OBJECTIVES

2.1 General Objective

To enable all coastal states in the West/Central Africa region to achieve Phase 1 of development of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting capability (i.e. timely collection and circulation of nautical information, necessary to maintain existing charts and publications up to date). Achievement of Phase 1 recognizes the basic level of hydrographic and nautical charting services as dictated by the SOLAS Chapter V. This does not necessarily set a specific level of development it may entail anything from full survey capability to a third party maintenance system.

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2.2 Specific Objectives

Immediate Objective:

- To raise awareness at governmental level on the importance of hydrography regarding safety to navigation and its contribution to the national economic development.

Mid Range Objective:

- To establish a core group of trained people to deliver the output required in phase 1, to coordinate the production and management of a prioritized national survey plan, to oversee subsequent field-work and where appropriate, and to conduct elements of that field-work.

Long Term Objective:

- To establish an appropriate national agency with responsibilities in hydrographic matters, properly funded and with regulatory support.

3.- STEPS

Step 1

Identify key national persons (Ministerial level leaders and representatives) to participate in a special short course aimed to highlight **the strategic importance of hydrography** as a contributor to safety to navigation and other activities of national socio-economic benefit. These key persons has been considered to be the future or existing National Hydrographic Committee Chairmen, therefore ensuring the continuity of the projects at the national level

ACTION: IHB with National Authorities

Step 2

Preparation of the content of the Special Short Course, identification of length, instructors, venue, logistics needs, cost, funding. It is estimated that one week will be the time needed; instructors could be provided by volunteer IHO MS, the venue needs to be a central place with logistics resources to run the course (IMA seems to provide these elements); the cost mainly will be transportation, lodging and feeding, and the required funds should be identified and found.

ACTION: IHO/IMO/IMA

Step 3

Execution of the Special Short Course.

ACTION: IHB/IMA

NOTE: The flow to be followed for achieving Steps 1 to 3 are explained in Annex “C”, including the elements proposed to be considered in the course.

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Step 4

Preparation and submission to IHO of national projects to create a core surveying unit, identifying national contribution/component and external contribution requested.

ACTION: National Authorities with the advice of IHO (RHCs + CBC+IHB)

Step 5

Identification of funds to deliver the Port and Coastal Hydrographic Course at IMA, for a number of students to be determined.

ACTION: IHO/IMO/IMA.

Step 6

Identification by leaders of suitable nationals to participate in a formal hydrographic course (Port and Coastal Hydrographic Course) at IMA.

ACTION: National Authorities

Step 7

Execution of the Hydrographic course at IMA.

ACTION: IMA

Step 8

Facilitate the search and provision of resources to go in support of projects submitted by National Authorities. Bridge donors with recipients' countries.

ACTION: IHO (CBC)/IMO

Step 9

Put in place national hydrographic core unit capable of executing phase one and two of development. (see Annex A).

ACTION: National Authorities

Step 10

Execute a pilot project for the collection and processing of data, and production of hydrographic information suitable for chart production.

ACTION: National Hydrographic Core Units

NOTE: a very first timetable is indicated in Annex B, just as a reference.

4.- ALTERNATIVES

- Courses could be delivered in the region to facilitate displacement of attendees. This possibility should be considered as an alternative when analyzing costs.

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- Considering the number of countries involved, it might be necessary to organize two courses on hydrography. This needs to be addressed at a later stage, after knowing the interest of countries actively interested in the project.

5.- TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

The project is technically viable. IHO, IMO and IMA are capable of providing the necessary expertise needed, and the participation of the three organizations would be in line with the existing Co-operation Agreement among the organizations.

6.- CONCLUSION

It is felt that this draft project approach deserves consideration. The problem is well defined and the proposal aims to find a solution to it. As all initiatives, its execution will depend on the availability of the required funds. Funds are to be determined only if the present proposal is accepted in principle.

Annex A : “Phases of development of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting capability.”

Annex B: “ Very First Timetable”

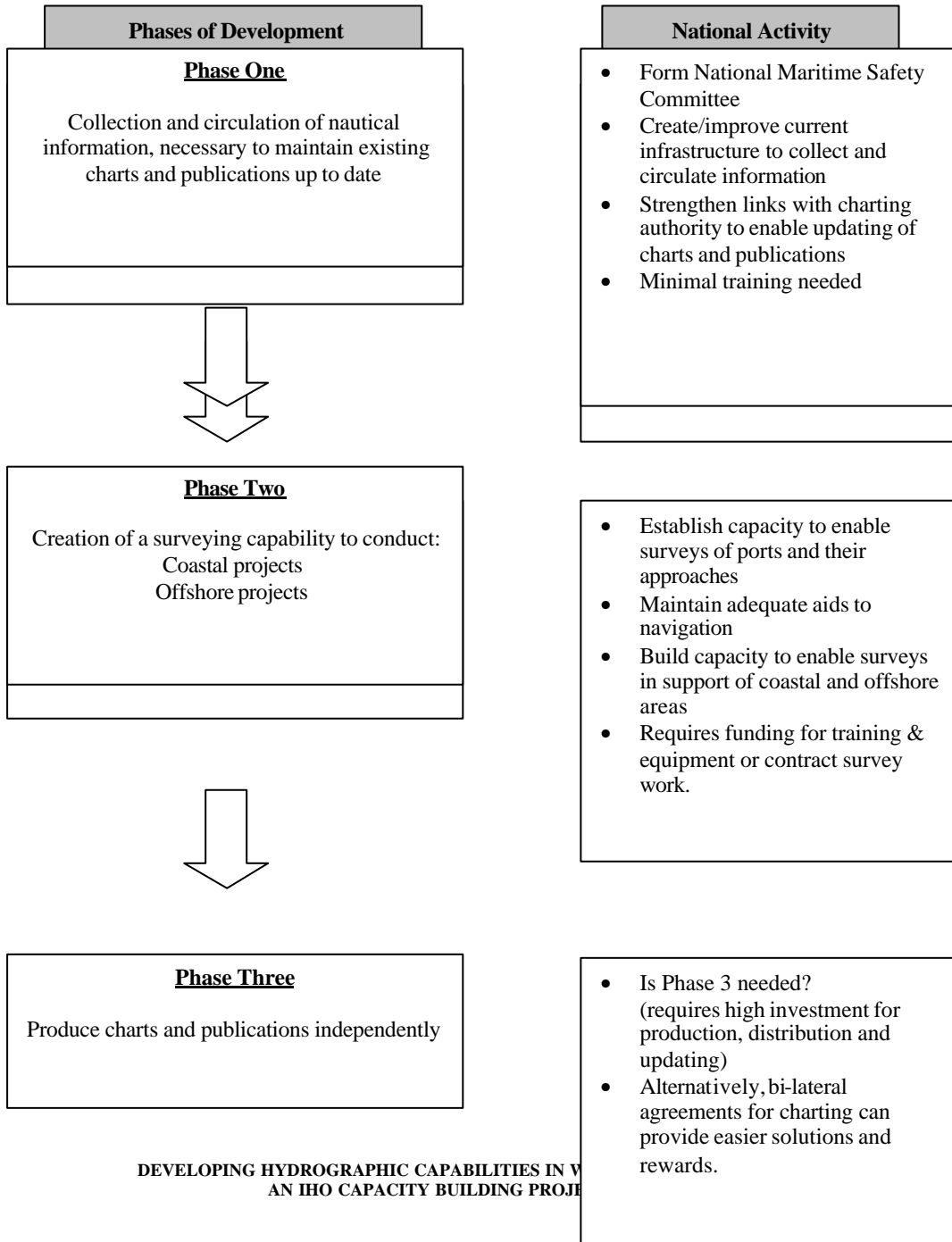
Annex C: “Flow to be followed for achieving Steps 1 to 3”

Monaco, October 2004 (updated 07OCT04)

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ANNEX A
PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING AND NAUTICAL CHARTING CAPABILITY



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ANNEX B

Very First Timetable

Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Steps																									
1	x	x																							
2	x	x	x	x																					
3					x																				
4					x	x	x	x	x	x															
5					x	x	x	x	x	x															
6								x	x	x	x														
7												x	x	x	x	x	x								
8										x	x	x	x	x	x										
9																x	x	x	x	x					
10																					x	x	x	x	

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ANNEX “C”

Flow to be followed for achieving Steps 1 to 3

- a) Identify the profile of the National Hydrographic Committee Chairmen.
- b) Identify content of the Course.
 - a. Technology
 - b. Economy
 - c. Infrastructure
 - d. Defense
 - e. Statecrafts
 - f. Regional opportunities
 - g. International environment
 - h. Legal aspects
- c) Resources needed
 - a. Establish Human resources needed (Instructors)
 - b. Establish Financial resources needed (location, support attendees)
 - c. Identify availability and sources of both resources
 - d. Arrange provision of resources with donors
 - e. Define final conditions to be advertised (full or partial funding)
- d) Letter of Invitation indicating:
 - a. Objective and Content of the course
 - b. Profile of students
 - c. Financial conditions
 - d. Date and Place when the Course is to be offered
- e) Organize the Course
- f) Run the Course