





REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## **NATIONAL REPORT TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING**

### **1. Introduction**

The Republic of Kenya covers an area of 582646 square kilometers, it borders Somalia and the Indian Ocean to the East, Ethiopia to the North, Tanzania to the South, Uganda to the West and Sudan to the North-West.

Kenya lies across the Equator on the Eastern seabed of Africa. It has about 600 kilometers of coastline, stretching from the Somalia border in the North to Tanzania in the South, marking part of the Western border of the Indian Ocean.

The country has over 143,000 square kilometers of Exclusive Economic Zone, and is also endowed with a number of lakes mainly located within the Great Rift Valley and shares 6% of Lake Victoria with other East African countries of Uganda and Tanzania, totaling to 11,230 square kilometers of inland waters. There are two main perennial rivers in Kenya the Tana and the Athi which both drain into the Indian Ocean.

Mombasa is the main port along the Kenyan coastline and a second port (**Lamu port**) will soon be established to handle business activities for the Lamu-South Sudan- Ethiopia transport corridor.

### **2. Hydrographic Survey Office**

Kenya has continued to work towards enhancement of development of this office through capacity development in both human and technology.

Today at least two new hydrographic offices have been opened in Mombasa and Kisumu to allow rolling up of hydrographic services to the coast and lake region.

KNHOC the national affiliate arm to SAIHC has been meeting regularly and has agreed to be holding four meeting per year.

### **3. Hydrographic Surveys**

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Late last year, a hydrographic survey was carried out by the Indian Navy in collaboration with Kenya counterpart in the Lamu area but due to logistics data availability has not been possible. The issue is being looked into to address this shortcoming.

There is also a proposed hydrographic surveys to be carried out in Lake Victoria by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission for charting of navigable areas

#### **4. Charts and Publications:**

Currently, Kenya relies on United Kingdom Hydrographic Office for chart production.

Kenya has been submitting hydrographic data for chart updating and likewise UKHO has been sending at least a copy of updated data and chart to the hydrographic office.

Since Kenya has opened hydrographic office in Mombasa and it is in operation we request that a possibility of disseminating and selling the charts in this office be looked into.

#### **5. Capacity Building**

Survey of Kenya has ten (10) category 'B' hydrographers, who have been trained in overseas institutions with the help of both IHO and Japan.

There is no trained marine cartographer in the department since the only one trained left the department.

There is need to develop human capacity in both marine cartography and category 'A'.

#### **6. Oceanographic Activities**

Kenya has several tide gauge stations along the coast of Mombasa operated and established by different institutions some of them producing tide tables. Unfortunately this stations are not tied to national geodetic datum and hence the need to tie them to one homogeneous datum. Tide tables produced from data acquired have different misclosures that must be addressed

Survey of Kenya is organizing the densification and maintenance of bench marks to offer solutions to this variance in datum. This is an expensive expenditure and we would appreciate if assistance on carrying out a better and efficient way of establishing geodetic vertical control is offered, most probably in the survey field work procedures.

The department also wants to establish one tide station along the coast and hence would require assistance on how to carry out successfully this activity.

In this year's work plan the department has planned for acquisition of a survey boat fully equipped with hydrographic equipments. Any advice will be appreciated.

The establishment of a new port in Lamu requires proper charting. Therefore plans would be on the way for hydrographic surveys.

#### **7. IHO membership**

The instruments of accession to IHO have been deposited with the Kenya's ministry of foreign affairs who were supposed to apply for Kenya accession to IHO.

The department is following the issue which is in progress.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Kenya Government is committed to the promotion of international cooperation and that Kenya will continuously need valuable assistance and support of the SAIHC and IHO in developing her national hydrographic capability in order to achieve her marine resource exploitation goals and objectives.

We also need your support in training our personnel and attachment of our hydrographers to gain practical experience on board survey vessel in home waters and to provide exposure to our hydrographers to international workshops and conferences.