



Original: English

Distr.: General

07 May 2019

**Western Indian Ocean Regional Science to
Policy Workshop**

27-29 May 2019

Port Louis, Mauritius

**Assessment of oceanographic data and scientific research in the
Western Indian Ocean region
(28 May 2019)**

The project documents of the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects that the Nairobi Convention is implementing prescribe the establishment of a Science to Policy Platform (SPP) as an interface between the knowledge generated through scientific activities and policy formulation and implementation related to the management of coastal and marine resources in the WIO region. The SPP is in line with decisions taken at various Conference of the Parties to the Nairobi Convention.

This working document for the Science to Policy workshop is intended to guide the member States in developing a roadmap for reviving the national data centres developed during the ASCLME project. Its focus is on oceanographic data collection and management and has been prepared from a rapid assessment of the current status of oceanographic data and scientific research in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. The paper presents the basic framework and elements of an inventory of initiatives (projects, programmes, etc.) and institutions that generate oceanographic data, the available relevant global, regional and national datasets and management of the same as well as assessment of access to and sharing of the oceanographic data. Capacity development for data management and data centre managers is also considered.

The document provides elements for the discussion in the workshop on a framework to guide the countries to revive the national data centres for improved ocean governance and sustainable use of resource in the WIO region in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. The participants of the workshop will be encouraged to add to the inventory. The results of the discussions will be included in the outputs of the Science to Policy workshop.

Bio Details For DR KWAME KORANTENG and BERNADINE EVERETT

DR KWAME KORANTENG, *A fisheries scientist, statistician and marine ecosystems analyst and former staff of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (2008 – 2017). I joined FAO from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) where I was the Eastern Africa Regional Representative (2004 – 2008); and before that I was staff and later Director of the Marine Fisheries Research Division, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Ghana) (1979 – 2004).*

I have nearly forty years working experience in aquatic biodiversity assessment, management and conservation extending scientific advice to local communities, government and non-governmental organizations. I have been a consultant to local institutions, governments and international organizations in various aspects of aquatic resources and environmental issues.

I served as Chairman of the Global Ocean Observing System for Africa (GOOS-Africa) Coordinating Committee, Co-Chairman of the Global Marine Assessment Group of Experts, Vice-Chairman of the FAO Advisory Committee on Fishery Research. Currently, I am a member of the Board of the Ghana

Fisheries Commission and a member of the Editorial Board of the IOC of UNESCO's Global Ocean Science Report.

by the countries within the ASCLME region (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania) in the framework of a transboundary diagnostic analysis of the region. This served to develop a strategic action programme for the nine countries to deal with the transboundary threats and to manage the living marine resources more sustainably. Clousa compiled the diagnostic made by 5 specialists (Biophysical environment; human environment; coastal livelihoods; police and governance; cost-benefit analysis) for submission to the Project manager.

BERNADINE EVERETT *is a fisheries scientist based in Durban, South Africa, working for the Oceanographic Research Institute. Her background is in small-scale and trawl fisheries of the Western Indian Ocean and she has had a lot of experience in data collection and management over the past 21 years.*

Bernadine has been working with the EAF-Nansen Programme since 2009, participating in biodiversity surveys off both the east and west coasts of Africa as well as undertaking the validation of all the Western Indian Ocean survey data from 1975 to 2016. As the regional coordinator of the WIOFish Project that collates fisheries information for the WIO, Bernadine has had the opportunity to engage and work with many people in the WIO.