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Western Indian Ocean Regional Science to Policy Workshop

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Tanzanian-German “New Digital Technologies for Marine Biodiversity Data Handling in East Africa – Data Linking People” (28 May 2019)

This is a GIZ-funded project based at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research in Bremen, Germany. It supports the use of new and innovative digital technologies for policy-making in marine resource management in Eastern Africa. The overall objective is to contribute to improved handling of biodiversity data in East Africa, which includes providing and assessing data as well as communicating data. A focus of the project is on integrating data and raising the awareness and capacities for exchange of data building on the existing experiences. Thereby the project will gather stakeholders involved in marine biodiversity data handling to a networking group, compile the most relevant databases and assess the experience in sustainable data handling and sharing.

We had our first project workshop on our "New Digital Technologies for Marine Biodiversity Data Handling in East Africa" project in Dar es Salaam in the beginning of May. During that workshop we were approached by the Vice President Office and National Biodiversity Focal Point representative concerning the "Western Indian Ocean Regional Science to Policy Workshop" on Mauritius in the end of May. We see a great opportunity to share expertise, combine resources and work on the common goal of an improved data handling and science-based policy decisions.

"For the purpose of this workshop we will focus on three aspects in our presentation.

In the first part we will focus about initiatives and activities related to oceanographic and biodiversity data of the Leibniz Institute for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT). This will include our new "Digital ZMT" project which deals with the handling of biological and environmental data (das müssen wir noch präziser schreiben, ggf. nach Rücksprache mit Nils/Nicolas).

In the second part we will introduce the "New Digital Technologies for Marine Biodiversity Data Handling in East Africa – Data Linking People" (NeDiT) project, especially the aims, objectives and our approach. As our envisioned community of practitioners is one of the cornerstones of our project we will also dedicate some time to explain that idea. A community of practice is a dedicated (in our case mostly online) space where people can exchange ideas, tools, etc. on policies, best practices and experiences. This might also be a great way for collaborative work between the project/ZMT and the Nairobi Convention."

Bio Details

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By training Dr. Hauke Kegler is a marine microbiologist and biogeochemist who is currently coordinating a project focusing on new digital tools and methods for marine biodiversity data handling and sharing in the working group on Spatial Ecology and Interactions (SPECI) of Dr. Hauke Reuter in the Department of Theoretical Ecology and Modelling at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen, Germany. Prior to that he focused on the shifts within microbial communities due to changes in environmental conditions in Indonesian coral

reefs. Dr. Hauke Kegler holds a Master of Science in Marine Biology from the University of Bremen and the Ocean University of China, as well as a Ph.D. in Biology (Dr. rer. nat.) from the University of Bremen.