



NEWS Letter

Quarterly of the West African
Coast Observation Mission (WACOM).

1st Issue – June–July–August 2013

Message from Dr. Assize TOURE, Managing Director of the Centre
for Ecological Monitoring:

Welcome to the first issue of the MOLOA quarterly newsletter

The newsletter of the West African Coast Observation Mission (WACOM) is issued to facilitate dissemination of information on the state of the West African Coastline in order to better address the needs of the different stakeholders, policy-makers, technical actors, local communities and population.



This information will focus on hydrodynamic and climate processes of the coastline of the eleven involved countries namely Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

These processes are strongly linked to changes in natural factors but also to various pressures by human being on marine and coastal ecosystems. Hence, the urgency and necessity to produce, process and make available all relevant related information for helping in the right decision-making in real time for a synergy of action. It is important to note that the dynamism of the newsletter and its usefulness will depend on your individual and collective contributions to an endogenous and sustainable development.

Happy Reading!

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Presentation of the West African Coast Observation Mission (WACOM)

THE REASONS FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE WACOM

During the 2009-2011 period, IUCN¹, at the request of the WAEMU² led the study on the coastline monitoring and elaborated a **Master plan for the West African Coastline (SDLAO)**. This study covered 11 West African countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) and with the active participation of more than 130 specialists from research institutions and universities of the involved countries and from various international scientific networks.

The SDLAO outcomes were presented at the conference of the ministers of environment from the eleven involved countries, which was held in Dakar on May 18th, 2011. One of the main recommendations of the conference was the setting up of an **West African Coast Observation Mission (WACOM)**.

The WACOM is a regional cooperation mechanism for the monitoring of the coastline and for the reduction of coastal risks in West Africa. This Observation Mission will enable disseminating quality information to existing consultative and decision-making bodies (Territories and Local authorities, Governments, WAEMU and ECOWAS Commission, Convention of Abidjan, Development Partners, Secretariats of Guinea and Canary Current).

OBJECTIVES OF THE WACOM

The WACOM is, above all, a flexible and sensitive instrument to the needs of the countries. The evolution of its network, its organization, and its products and services is driven by country demand and the identification of their needs. Some missions, however, are pre-defined by the **Conference** of ministers in May 2011:

Production of quality information ...

- ▶ **Preparation, management, maintenance and updating of the Geographic reference system of West African Coastline** of which the main initial elements are the regional mapping of the Master Plan for West African Coastal (SDLAO) and the mapping of case studies that characterize baselines on a fifteen of high risk sites of West African coastline.
- ▶ **Pooling and integration of data and knowledge**

collected on the West African Coastline.

- ▶ **Contribution to the strengthening of regional and international coordination of research activities** on the coast for ensuring them heightened usefulness, visibility, reliability and recognition.

... Translated and interpreted ...

- ▶ **Contribution to the translation of information for sensitizing decision-makers** about natural and anthropogenic events that affect the evolution and situation of the coastline.
- ▶ **Production of a future-oriented thinking** that analyzes and anticipates changes and evolutions of coastal systems for decision support for local, national and regional policy makers.

... made available to all the coastal stakeholders

- ▶ **Reproduction of available information and knowledge** to West African coastal decision-makers, stakeholders and users in appropriate frequencies and formats to their level of use.
- ▶ **Supply of products and services towards action** for instructing the decisions and arbitrations of public policy regarding the protection, development and management of the coastal zone.
- ▶ **Setting up a network of coastal stakeholders** in particular to promote the emergence of a common vision of the coastal zone and the sharing of experiences and practices, including internationally.
- ▶ **Information dissemination and reproduction and available updated knowledge on the coast** to the various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders of its management, particularly through the biennial publication of a regional state of the West African coastline.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WACOM

The coordination and facilitation of the WACOM were assigned to the Centre for Ecological Monitoring of Dakar (<http://svr-web.cse.sn/spip.php?article96>) supported by the Marine and Coastal Program of IUCN for Central and West Africa (IUCN-MACO).

The initial work program of the WACOM spreads over a period of 3 years. This work program includes the establishment of rules and procedures for monitoring and evaluation that comply with the best practices for ensuring to the WACOM a high level of accountability.

¹ International Union for the Conservation of the Nature

² West African Economic and Monetary Union



Major activities for the launching of the MOLOA

Signature of the CSE / WAEMU agreement

(Mr. Racine KANE, Head of IUCN mission in Senegal: From "Le Soleil" newspaper on November 6th, 2012)

The financing agreement of the West African Coast Observation Mission (WACOM) was signed on November 5th, 2012 by Mr. Amadou KANE, Minister of Economy and Finance of Senegal, and Mr. Cheikh Hadjibou SOUMARE, President of the WAEMU Commission, in the presence of Mr. Haidar El ALI, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Dr Assize TOURE, the Managing Director of the CSE and Mr. Racine KANE, the Head of the IUCN mission in Dakar.

By signing this agreement of CFA F 450 million for the start-up phase, Amadou KANE, the Minister of Economy and Finance, declares that this initiative of an operational period of 36 months aims «to develop an instrument of regional cooperation for preventing coastal hazards.» This project will enable West African countries

to meet the future challenges of coastal development and preservation.

According to the President of the WAEMU Commission, Mr. Cheikh Hadjibou SOUMARE, the highest priority of this program is "fighting durably against coastal erosion". Mr. Haidar El ALI, for his part, promises to ensure its achievement: «We will commit ourselves to give substance to this initiative to achieving the objectives stated for the benefit of the people».

For IUCN, which coordinated the implementation of the Master Plan for the West African Coastline, it is highly successful to see the implementation of the key recommendations of the conference of the ministers of environment and to support one of its members, the Centre for Ecological Monitoring in this regional initiative.

Establishment Act of the Coordination Unit of the WACOM

According to the CSE/WAEMU agreement (<http://svr-web.cse.sn/spip.php?article96>), the coordination unit of the WACOM is created within the Centre for Ecological Monitoring. Under the responsibility of the Managing Director and the Technical Director of the CSE, it includes:

- A coordinator;
- A Monitoring & Evaluation Officer;
- A Communication Manager;
- A Responsible for research;
- An assistant.

The coordination unit is the executive body of the WACOM. It watches over the execution of the decisions and regularly shall report on the implementation and on all the initiative that is required to take as part of its mission.

Launching workshop of the WACOM

The launching workshop of the WACOM was held on April 18th and 19th, 2013 in Dakar, in the presence of members from the regional scientific and policy committees of the Regional Program for the Fight against Coastal Erosion (PRLEC) of the WAEMU, resource persons, experts in the field of the coastline and several partner organizations (Convention of Abidjan, PRCM, IRD, CCLME, RAMPAAO WWF, etc.).



The main objectives of the workshop were: i) sharing the achievements and prospects of the WACOM for stimulating a strong backing of all the stakeholders (countries, scientific, technical and financial partners), ii) preparing the groundwork for the SDLAO findings and establishing contact with institutions and resource persons who will be the focal points of the WACOM in the eleven countries

For more information on this workshop, please visit: <http://svr-web.cse.sn/spip.php?article96>

Focus: the message from the WACOM coordinator (Dr Moussa Sall)

By setting up the Coastal Observation Mission, WAEMU and the coastal countries of West Africa have fully grasped the importance of the following key issues:

- The need to act in a concerted and coordinated way in terms of the preservation and management of coastal risks.
- The networking of researchers and stakeholders of the sub-region for harmonizing the methodologies of data collecting and data processing for providing reliable information; and the development of a fruitful and balanced partnership with specialized institutions of the Northern countries;
- Finally, the building capacity of the national focal points and regional observers for a better efficiency of the monitoring system in place in the data management and the information dissemination.

The smooth functioning of this system will allow the WACOM to correctly meet the countries expectations.

Partnership between the CSE and IUCN

In the framework of coordinating the activities of the WACOM, the Centre for Ecological Monitoring (CSE) uses the expertise of the IUCN through a contract based on the following main areas:

- Support for the review of the results and the definition of a roadmap for the running of the project;
- Installation of the SDLAO results in countries;
- Identification of the WACOM correspondents in countries;
- Contribution to the facilitation of the regular meetings and regional trainings;
- Mobilization of an appropriate technical expertise and of high level;
- Support for the establishment of databases and procedures for updating the Geographic Information System and the mapping of the WACOM;
- Support for the design and production of information and decision support tools from the work of the WACOM;
- Assistance to the main control of the project for work planning and reporting and for the governance of the WACOM;
- Support for the partnership-building networks;
- Support for the identification of additional funding.

It should be noted that the CSE is a member of IUCN, and that both institutions have a longstanding close cooperation, including during the implementation of the SDLAO.

In addition, the mobilization by IUCN-MACO of the Coastal Expert Group of the Ecosystem Management Commission and technical partners such as EOS.D2C and EAM-GEOME, firms of engineering specializing in coastal risk management, will allow the CSE to enhance its internal expertise in order to ensure the mission entrusted to it in the framework of the WACOM.

Selected Reading

- Synthesis of the SDLAO: https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/doc_communicant_sdlao_pr.pdf
- IUCN: http://www.iucn.org/fr/propos/union/secretariat/bureaux/paco/programmes/programme_marin_et_cotier_maco/projets/thematique_aménagement_integré_du_littoral_/érosion_cotiere_et_schema_damenagement_du_littoral_ouest_africain/
- Facebook CSE : <https://www.facebook.com/Csesenegal>
- Twitter CSE : <https://twitter.com/Csesenegal>

Articles from correspondents

This section of the Newsletter is open for receiving your contributions for future issues. Articles must relate to the concerns of the WACOM, i.e. on coastal risks in West Africa (coastal erosion, extreme marine weather events, flooding and coastal submersion, biodiversity and coastal and natural habitats, anthropogenic pressure, adaptation responses and strategies, etc.).

Articles must be concise, accurate and well illustrated with maps, figures and photographs. They should not exceed 500 words. Terms of submission: send the article not later than one month before the next newsletter to: moloa@cse.sn

Opportunities

- The WACOM will have premises equipped at the International Centre for Research and Teaching in Mbour (CIREM) in collaboration with the IRD and the presence of other partners such as the Cheikh Anta DIOP University of Dakar. These offices, dedicated to the implementation of an observation system and training will be utilized to hold technical meetings and training related to the WACOM.
- As part of the WACOM activities, IRD will establish a system for monitoring the coastline and the marine hydrodynamics in Senegal (in Saly Portudal or in the coastal town of Rufisque) and in the Gulf of Guinea, by means of stereoscopic cameras.
- IUCN is currently developing projects supporting the strengthening of coastal governance in several countries in the sub-region (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Senegal) that may help in the capacity building and the co-financing of the WACOM.

AGENDA

June–August: SDLAO findings in countries
<http://svr-web.cse.sn/spip.php?article96>

ÉVÉNEMENTS

- **May 30th, June 1st and 2nd, 2013:** Eco-citizenship Days organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal;
- **From June 25th to 27th, 2013:** General Assembly of the RAMPAO in Conakry (Republic of Guinea) <http://www.rampao.org/view/fra/accueil.php>
- **July 2nd to 4th, 2013:** Workshop of Senegal IUCN members for a joint initiative on the coastline;
- **July 9th and 10th, 2013:** Days of the Protected Areas of the network of Central African Protected Areas with a special focus on Central African Protected marine areas: <http://www.rapac.org/>
- **November 2013:** PRCM Forum in Dakar <http://www.prcmarine.org>