

Climate Change, Water Resources and Coastal zones Management in Africa:

3rd Meeting of Sub Sahara IHP National Committees &

2nd Regional Workshop of the GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP)

15-17 February 2010, Cotonou, Benin

1. Background

IHP has, since 2006, inaugurated a series of biennial meeting of the Sub-Sahara IHP National Committees jointly with a technical seminar or conference on water-related issues. The first meeting was held in 2006 jointly with a conference on hydrological extremes in Abuja with the support of the government of Nigeria. In 2008, the second meeting, held jointly with a conference on IWRM, was held in Cape Town with the support of the government of South Africa, the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). During that meeting, the IHP National Committee of Benin offered to host the third meeting in Cotonou.

After discussions and exchanges between the Benin IHP National Committee and the UNESCO Division of Water Sciences, hosting the Secretariat of IHP, and in consultation with IOC, the third meeting of the Sub Sahara IHP National Committees will be organized jointly with an IOC workshop from 15 to 17 February 2010 in Cotonou, Benin. This meeting will be organized with the support of the Government of Benin, UNESCO and Global Water Partnership-West Africa (GWP-AO).

The meeting aims to promote better understanding of climate change impacts on water resources and coastal zones in order to assist countries in better managing water resources towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Overall theme of the joint event is ***Climate Change and Water Resources and Coastal Zones Management in Africa***. Joint Opening and Closing Ceremonies will link the two events along with four keynote presentations. For the remainder of the time, the two events will be run in parallel focusing on two sub-themes:

- 1. Climate change and water resources management in Africa;***
- 2. Strengthening observing systems capacity for managing the impacts of human activities and coastal inundation in the African regions.***

The IPCC 4th AR clearly demonstrated that the world is facing significant changes. Therefore the challenges facing hydrologists is now to correctly assess how water in its many manifestations and as the principal concern to most economic sectors across the world will be affected and how this will feed back to the climate system; how should management policies be set to better adapt to climate change and which social,

economic and scientific opportunities can emerge in the process of adaptation. Within the hydrological cycle, water acts as the essential “**blood stream**” for all terrestrial and coastal systems. It is also widely accepted that water provides environmental services in addition to being. Although significant differences may be perceived in the issues to be addressed by the sub-themes, the overall goal of the workshop is to identify data and capacity building needs common to both sub-themes.

The Third Regional meeting of the IHP National Committees of Sub-Saharan Africa that will take place as a parallel session, will identify the main priorities for the different sub-regions and the programs to be strengthened or initiated, in order to discuss and agree on an action plan for IHP-VII in accordance with the overall goal of AMCOW and GWP. The overall goal will be to produce policy-oriented results that can be translated into tangible benefits at country level.

The meeting will be organized closely with the UNESCO cluster offices and more than thirty countries (IHP focal points) are expected to attend.

2. Specific Objectives of the IHP Parallel Session

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- present IHP, cross-cutting and other associated IHP programs and activities conducted in Africa;
- identify the main priorities for the different sub-regions and the programs to be strengthened or initiated in Africa;
- discuss how to revitalize the IHP National Committees and to have more impact at national and regional levels (what link between AMCOW TAC, GWP TAC and IHP National Committees and Focal Points);
- discuss and agree on an Action Plan for IHP Africa for the next four years until the end of IHP-VII;
- brainstorm a possible focus for Africa for IHP-VIII and how could the results of the consultation appear in the document

3. Outputs

IHP National Focal Points are more aware of the IHP program, cross-cutting, associated programs and activities implemented and planned in Africa;

- priority programs to be strengthened and new programs to be initiated, identified by sub-region;
- elements for an Action Plan for IHP in Africa for the next four years to be identified and discussed;
- strategy and elements on how to revitalize IHP National Committees for greater impact of the IHP program at national and regional levels, to be identified and discussed;
- Africa priorities for IHP-VIII to be identified and discussed.

4. Draft program

The three-day meeting will be divided into four components:

- Opening ceremony, followed by three keynote speeches on climate change in general;

- Technical seminar composed of eight presentations on climate change and water resources management and related issues;
- IHP National Committee Focal Points meeting
- Closing ceremony

A provisional program for the IHP session is as follow:

➤ **Sunday 14 February 2010**

- Arrival & Registration
- Local Organizing Committee & International Committee informal meeting

➤ **Monday 15 February 2010**

08.00- 09.00 Arrival & Registration

09.00 -10.00 Opening Session

- Welcome address & introduction: Chair Local Organizing Committee
- Workshop Goals, Organization & Deliverables: Co-Chairs Intern. Organizing Committee
- Address by GEO Secretariat Representative
- Address by UNESCO Secretariat Representative
- Welcome address by the Minister in Charge of Water Resources
- Welcome & opening address by the Minister in Charge of Environment

10.00-10.15: Coffee Break

10.15-12.00: Joint Plenary Session (Chair & rapporteur: tbd)

Key note presentations

10.15-10.45: Climate change and its impacts in Africa: IPCC Africa Chapter 2007 by Prof. Michel BOKO, lead coordinator IPCC Africa chapter 2007;

10.45-11.15: Climate change and coastal zones in Africa, by (to be confirmed by IOC), Prof. Isabelle NIANG, UCAD

11.15-11.45: AMMA program and other initiatives on climate change in Africa, Arona, Dhiediyou (to be confirmed);

11.45- 12.15: AMCOW social and economic issues in water management (AMCOW TAC, to be confirmed by E. Naah & A. Amani)

12.15-13.30: Lunch break

13.30-14.30: Poster session

14.30-18.00: Technical seminar on climate change and water resources management and related issues;

(Chair & rapporteur: tbd; suggested presentations for 20 mn each)

14.30-14.50: Water resources management in the context of climate change in Africa : new issues and approaches, WWDR3 (Oclay Unver or representative or Abou Amani);

14.50-15.10: Climate change and groundwater in Africa: challenges and actions needed, by Richard Taylor or Callist Tindimugaya

15.10-15.30: Climate change and IWRM, by German new IHP center or USA new IHP center?

15.30-13.50: Hydro-disasters (floods) management, by ICHARM (Ali), Japan

15.50-16.10: Drought monitor tool for Africa, Eric Wood or Siegfried

16.10-16.30: Climate change and hydraulic infrastructure design and management in Africa, by Gil Mahe and Abou AMANI

16.30-16.45: Coffee break

15.45-17.05: Water education in Africa: Moodle software system virtual learning environment by UNESCO-IHE by Raquel Do Santos, UNESCO-IHE

17.05-17.45: General discussions and recommendations

17.45-18.00: Poster session

➤ **Tuesday 16 February**

08.00-10.00: IHP National Committees meeting, **(Chair & rapporteur: tbd)**

- Establishment of the bureau (Chair and rapporteurs)
- Adoption of the agenda
- Adoption of the Cape Town report and matters arising
- Presentations on IHP, cross-cutting and associated programs with focused on activities implemented and planned in Africa

10.00-10.15: Coffee Break

- A maximum of 5mn interventions for each IHP National Committee representative

12.15-13.30: Lunch break

13.30-14.30: Poster session

14.30-16.30

- Presentation of the results of the questionnaires and general discussion
- Identification of priorities and programs to be strengthened and initiated

16.30-16.45: Coffee break

16.45-18.00

- How to revitalize IHP national committee and impacts of IHP at national and regional levels (what kind of partnership with AMCOW TAC , GWP TAC , ECOWAS Unit and SADC water unit TAC and IHP Focal Points)
- Africa priorities for IHP-VIII

19.00: DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

➤ **Wednesday 17 February 2010**

08.00- 10.00:

IHP meeting (continued)

10.00-10.15: Coffee Break

Discussions and adoption of the report and recommendations

12.15-13.30: Lunch break

13.30-14.30: Poster session

14.30- 16.30

- Joint Plenary session with high level officials from governments, agencies and international institutions; (Chair & rapporteur: tbd)
- Presentation of the main outputs of the parallel sessions on days 1-3 and discussions

16.30-16.45: Coffee Break

16.45.18.00

Closing ceremony

4. Participation:

The workshop targets different level actors such as:

- ❖ IHP National Committees;
- ❖ research-hydrologists and scientists
- ❖ practitioners from across Africa willing to contribute to the development of new partnerships for sustainable management of water resources and adaptation to the impacts of global climate change on river basins and coastal zones and
- ❖ national and international NGO's involved in the management of natural resources environment and water.

5. Local organization:

Coordination:

Chairman: Worou Theophile, (Head of Cabinet /MEPN)

Vice Chair: Afouda Abel, (National IHP Committee and GWP/PNE-Benin)

Organization managers:

Soclo Henri (DGE/MEPN)

Ibila Djibril (DGE/MEPN)

Houanye Armand (GWP/PNE-Benin)

Secretariat:

Bagan Thomas (DGE/MEPN)

Lawin Emmanuel (UAC/CIPMA)

Alamou Eric (UAC/CIPMA)

Zannou Arnaud (DGEau/MME)

Adjagodo Arnaud (GWP/PNE-Bénin)

6. Venue:

The workshop will take place at the **Palais des Congrès** in Cotonou (Bénin); Cotonou is the economic capital of the Republic of Benin, a West Africa country located in the north of the Golf of Guinea. The city stands near the sea and its sandy beach is slowly struck by the waves. The climate of the country is hot and humid. February in Cotonou belongs to the dry season and is characterized by temperature between 28° C and 32°C.

More detailed information is available on various web sites about Benin:

http://www.beninembassy.us/about_benin.php

<http://www.africaguide.com/country/benin/>

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/tavel/destinations/benin.aspx>.

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Benin>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cotonou>

7. Potential partners of the event:

The potential partners of the event are the following:

Government of Benin,
UNESCO-IHP,
UNESCO-IOC,
GWP-AO,
UNEP,
GOOS,
GTOS,
ASCLME
GCLME