

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2ND ASCLME STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Successful 2008 ASCLME-EAF Nansen Research Cruises

ToRs established for Coastal Livelihoods Assessment activities


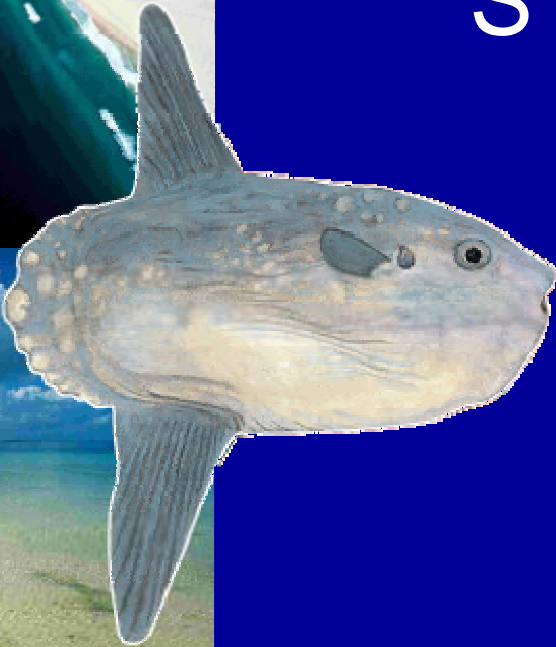

Coastal Habitat Mapping Strategy developed and negotiated with partners

1st Regional COG Meeting - Mauritius

1st Regional Project Coordination Forum Meeting - Mauritius

1st Regional Meeting of National Data and Information Coordinators – South Africa

- Template and work-plan for the production of the MEDAs and the overall TDA(s)
- Development of the Regional D&I Management Plan
- Development of a Policy and Governance Activity (with a Coordinator)
- Ecosystem Assessment Training Programme followed by on-board research experience
- DLIST Specialists contracted and in the field
- Film Crews contracted and in the field
- A number of valuable and lucrative partnerships established



REVIEW OF DECISIONS ARISING FROM 1ST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Discussion:

PSC stressed critical importance of LME governance module and need for specific actions to brief and sensitise policy makers

Decision:

PCU to develop ToR for a person to undertake specific role and functions, and to hire new Coordinator

Action by Project:

P&G Coordinator hired

Discussion:

Meetings of an ASCLME Programme Policy Committee and engagement of Policy Makers

Decision:

- A. Formal meetings of Policy-Makers from each country
- B. Use of opportunistic side events (e.g. AMCEN)

Action by Project:

- A. P&G Coordinator liaising with countries to develop a ToR for Policy Meeting.
- B. P&G Coord. Identifying possible venues for side events

Discussion:

PSC felt ASCLME should take a central coordinating role for LME-related data and information management

Decision:

PCU to structure a data and information management mechanism at national and regional level

Action by Project:

A regional Data and Information Plan for the ASCLME has been developed with input from every country as well as regional partners. Each ASCLME country is now working with the PCU to develop National Data and Information Management Plans.

Discussion:

PCU requested clear support to national institutions and working groups for data and Information management and collection

Decision:

PCU agreed to provide details on support to countries as well as expected deliverables from countries

Action by Project:

Presented at 1st Regional Meeting of National COGs and further discussed and agreed at D&I Coordinators meeting in Grahamstown. NFPs now providing mechanisms

Discussion:

Agreements required for data capture and management within the Project and with appropriate partners

Decision:

PCU to draft an MoU for country review and adoption

Action by Project:

Two MOUs have been developed; ASCLME Principles and Guidelines for Data and Information Management, and an Annex to the Nansen sailing orders which binds all scientists collecting data on-board the vessel

Discussion:

Sharing of data as well as CB&T activities between ASCLME and ReCoMaP

Decision:

Two Projects to coordinate closely and develop appropriate requirements and mechanisms for shared activities and data

Action by Project:

Data Sharing Agreement developed and adopted by countries

Discussion:

Quality -assurance of all data used in TDA

Decision:

All new studies and research to be properly peer-reviewed. All cruise reports to be evolved into scientific publications

Action by Project:

Peer review of all data required in contracts of scientists. Being enforced by Principal Oceanographic Advisor. Publications list already drafted. Abstracts to be presented at 2009 WIOMSA Meeting

Discussion:

Quality Control of actual TDA

Decision:

Peer-Review Committee or mechanism to be established

Action by Project:

A mechanism has been put into place for this; national reviews of the MEDA will take place in-country, followed by a peer-review of the factual component of the MEDA. Publication of the MEDAs in peer-reviewed literature will be actively pursued and supported by the ASCLME Project

Discussion:

Nairobi Convention to contribute appropriate information to TDA process

Decision:

Secretariat to communicate with PCU on possible areas for collaboration and data sharing

Action by Project:

D&I Coordinator has discussed this with Nairobi Convention Secretariat and appropriate information will be identified and shared between ASCLME and Convention

Discussion:

Gaps in both coastal and offshore issues and activities (e.g. mariculture, marine pollution, invasive species, etc). National prioritisation needed on all LME issues. LME data gaps not fully addressed by 3 projects

Decision:

Various stakeholder institution to liaise with PCU to provide a detailed list of gaps. Development of an action plan to address these once country priorities confirmed. Countries to review deliveries to TDA/SAP and amend in light of any gaps.

Action by Project:

PCU has, in close coordination with the countries (through CoGs and NFPs), identified the priority gaps to be coastal fisheries and mariculture, tourism, invasive species and offshore pollution. PCU has developed new activities to address these at national and regional level.

Discussion:

Timing of 3 TDA/SAP deliveries from 3 ASCLME Sister projects

Decision:

Specific discussion item for Steering Committee members

Action by Project:

Discussed at Agency level. Need PSC and country input and guidance

Discussion:

Need for coordination between all LME related projects and initiatives over training needs

Decision:

Capacity Building and Training Coordinator to liaise with various projects and initiatives for joint training activities

Action by Project:

National Needs discussed at first regional COG meeting and at Regional Project Coordination Forum. Training Plan drafted and to be presented to PSC before circulating to all projects and initiatives

Discussion:

A number of similar or overlapping activities and responsibilities exist between the 3 projects, particularly between ASCLME and WIO-LaB

Decision:

Need for closer coordination and cooperation between the Sister projects

Action by Project:

Joint meeting between Project PSCs (primarily ASCLME and WIO-LaB but with SWIOFP representation) in conjunction with PSCs to discuss areas of overlap or similarity

Discussion:

Need to incorporate Somalia in the Project

Decision:

Create Country Observer status for Somalia

Action by Project:

Somalia now officially a Country Observer and being funded to attend PSC meetings as well as ASCLME regional technical workshops (e.g. 1st Regional D&I Coordinator's Workshop - Feb 2009)

Discussion:

Countries requested guidance on national activities

Decision:

PCU to provide work-plan and budget etc.

Action by Project:

Work-plan, structure, logistics and budget provided for national activities.

Discussion:

Project and Programme Websites

Decision:

Project Websites to be evolved and maintained. Explore potential for portals between projects. Need for an IT workshop

Action by Project:

Potential structuring and objectives of such a workshop and portals discussed at Regional Project Coordination Forum in late 2008. A draft agenda to be circulated in 2009 for consideration

Discussion:

Need for continuous monitoring of activities and deliveries

Decision:

PCU to identify activity and person

Action by Project:

Original Project Development Specialist (responsible for LogFrame and Deliveries as per ProDoc) contracted as a 'progress-chaser'

Discussion:

Need for better definition of proposed new organisational structure related to revised Outcomes and Outputs

Decision:

New organigram needed as well as linkages between projects

Action by Project:

Organigram presented to Regional COGs meeting and Regional Project Coordination Forum.

Discussion:

Format of future meetings

Decision:

Format of future meetings to be adopted as agreed by PSC - open meeting initially to include all Observers but with option for focused discussions on policy issues by Permanent PSC members on final day

Action by Project:

New PSC Meeting Format in use

Discussion:

Private Sector involvement

Decision:

Too little discussion of their role in the LME process. Needs to be 2009 Agenda Item

Action by Project:

On 2009 PSC Agenda for discussion

Discussion:

Timing of next Steering Committee - to be held with WIO-LaB

Decision:

ASCLME and WIO-LaB to coordinate

Action by Project:

ASCLME PSC and WIO-LaB PSC coordinated in 2009 to allow for joint session

Discussion:

Need for quality control on training and capacity building for ecosystem monitoring skill

Decision:

Wherever possible, trainees to present peer-reviewed publications from their field experience (with suitable mentoring)

Action by Project:

All trainees now encouraged to undertake specific scientific research objective and to publish their results

Discussion:

Use of local and regional expertise for training wherever possible

Decision:

If outside expertise used there should be a contractual obligation for counterparting and training of local capacity

Action by Project:

Priority has been given to use of regional expertise (> 90% of scientists on 2008 *Nansen* cruises were from ASCLME participating countries). All non-regional experts contractual required to provide training.

Discussion:

Priorities for oceanographic / ecosystem cruises

Decision:

Priorities list to be reviewed by local experts and circulated back to countries and then a cruise coordination workshop arranged to adopt schedules for rest of project

Action by Project:

2008 cruise schedule significantly expanded due to market and economic forces. Scheduled approved by countries. 2009 schedule drafted and presented to Regional Cruise Coordinators in Mauritius (end of 2008) for approval. Now being presented to PSC.

Discussion:

Effective use of vessels

Decision:

Countries to provide list of oceanographic expertise in region as well as a list of suitable trainees

Action by Project:

List of expertise and trainees provide by countries for 2008. To be updated for 2009 for inclusion of both experts and trainees on the 2009 cruises

Discussion:

Need for national level cruise coordination

Decision:

Countries to nominate focal institute and person for national cruise coordination

Action by Project:

National Cruise Coordinators adopted. All met at Regional COGs meeting in Mauritius in 2008

Discussion:

Sea-Going Allowances

Decision:

Two levels adopted for trainees and for senior scientists

Action by Project:

Bilateral discussions between PCU and countries led to decision to have two levels. One nominal level of \$20 per day for junior scientists and trainees (to cover simple costs such as shop purchases on board) and another of \$80 per day for Senior Scientists with responsibility for the trainees, for on-board work programmes and for data analysis and write-up

Discussion:

1970's Nansen Data - where is it? Important input to TDA

Decision:

PCU to clarify available data from earlier cruises and attempt to repatriate

Action by Project:

The data are kept at the IMR, Bergen, and copies made available to research scientists. For past cruises, the ASCLME is facilitating an official data repatriation request signed by countries. For ASCLME cruises, the PCU will ensure that country data get sent to national data centres after every cruise, as per the ASCLME data management plans.

Summary:

PCU and Countries working together have addressed or have identified mechanisms to resolve all decisions and actions required by the 2008 Steering Committee meeting