

22nd MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC22
5 - 7 June 2024, Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador
Paper for the Consideration by CBSC21

EAtHC Report

Submitted by:	EAtHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at EAtHC.
Related Documents:	
Related Projects:	/

Foreword

Complementarity of "Report in word/pdf" and "Presentation in ppt/pdf"): this document does not repeat certain points detailed in the "CBSC22-05.1F_EAtHC-Report_PRESENTATION" which must also be consulted.

1. Introduction / Background

This summary report is the response of the EAtHC coordinator for capacity building to the actions and decisions of CBSC21.

The three-year plan for CB activity in the EAtHC region is reviewed annually based on the assessment of capacity development (as determined by the IHO's principally three phases of CB), needs expressed by the coastal states and the CB coordinator's own assessment to ensure it meets regional requirements.

The EAtHC region comprises 26 coastal States, including two island States. Ten States (Angola included) are IHO members. Eight countries remain EAtHC associated members and six are observers. Central & Western African coastal states within the EAtHC region are especially concerned by capacity building issues, and CB efforts remain concentrated on these coastal states to build the necessary capabilities to meet SOLAS treaty obligations.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

See Annex A (CBSC22-05.1F-Report_EAtHC-Annex_A.xlsx)

3. Activities completed since CBSC21 (all in 2024)

The following actions have been completed in 2024 [CBWP 2024]:

- A-02 TV to DR Congo [France: 24 January – 08 February 2024]
- A-08 TV to Guinea Bissau [Portugal: 19 – 23 February 2024]
- A-01 TV to Guinea [France: 18 – 22 March 2024]
- P-05 Seminar in Morocco: "20 Years of Capacity Building Actions in EAtHC Assessment and Prospect" [France with participation of: UK, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Nigeria (provision of written testimony) - 29 – 30 April 2024]

4. Activities still planned for 2024

The following action is planned for 2024 [CBWP 2024]:

- A-05 TV to Sao Tomé e Príncipe

5. Challenges faced in the region

Hydrographic challenges in the EAthC region are directly related to the considerable gap between:

- ever-growing needs due to the development of shipping, exploitation of marine resources, risk prevention in highly humanized areas exposed to increasing hazards or maritime delineation issues;
- hydrographic services (except Morocco and Nigeria) which remain globally far behind in most of the Central & Western African coastal states within the EAthC region.

A few Central & Western African coastal States have started to develop hydrographic organizations. They mainly consist in hydrographic cells under the main port authority. They may include well trained people, although in small numbers, and, in a few cases, have recent equipment. However, they are suited for limited surveys, and may be in a near future inadequate for important development of harbours planned in several areas, and for meeting the requirements induced by economic development and the increased concern for maritime safety in the sub-region¹.

At last, too few coastal States have managed to set up an organization for collecting and disseminating marine safety information.

Since 2002 (Project Hydro West Africa lead by the Western African Action Team – cf. EAthC8) a specific effort in capacity building has been undertaken. It has mainly included: technical visits in all coastal States (except Sao Tomé e Príncipe and Equatorial Guinea) since 2002 (some of them twice), awareness or technical workshops on maritime safety information (MSI), hydrography and charting and category B and A training (separately funded).

Awareness has increased, including at the highest political level, as reflected in the 2007 Abuja declaration, in which the African ministers responsible for maritime transport:

“Concerned by ... the lack of ... modern hydrographic surveys, up-to-date nautical charts and maritime safety information in a number of African countries ... undertake to ... promote and encourage appropriate structures and measures for the improvement of ... hydrographic survey, nautical cartography and maritime safety information”.

As a consequence, the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy has included in 2012 in its framework for strategic action:

“The African Union shall make an assertive call to concerned Member States to become members of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), World Meteorology Organisation (WMO) and UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanography Commission (IOC) so as to advance maritime safety, efficiency and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment. This will help create a global environment in which AU coastal Member States provide adequate and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use.”

¹ Sub-region addressed in this report, ranges from Morocco to Angola

Lately, the African Union (AU) convened in liaison with the Government of Togo an Extraordinary Summit of the AU Assembly on Maritime Security, Safety and Development which took place in Lomé, Togo from 10 to 15 October 2016. The Summit was organized under the aegis of the AU 2050 Integrated Marine Strategy adopted in 2012 and followed the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea that was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in June 2013.

However, and despite these high level statements, slow progress is noted in hydrographic capacity, including nautical information.

The health crisis generated by Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need to develop E-learning in the field of capacity building. Remote distance training enables coastal States to attend courses regardless of travel restrictions and to increase the number of people trained. When only one or two people assists to a physical seminar because of travel expenses, the whole national committee for hydrography can attend the E-learning version. The impact of such training can therefore be greater. In the particular case of EAthC, this distance learning should be available in English as well as in French and Portuguese to enable all States in the area to benefit from it.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

An overall assessment of the results of CB actions in the sub-region over the past 22 years (start of the Hydro West Africa Project and the CBWP) shows limited progress:

- Only four states: Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Ghana and Angola joined IHO since 2002.
- Of 21 African countries:
 - 7 are IHO Members: those who joined IHO since 2002 (4) and: Morocco, Nigeria and DRC
 - 8 are associated members (Benin, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo)
 - Note: Angola signed the statutes during EAthC18 (Casablanca 01-03 May 2024)
 - 6 only observers (Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, São Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone) to the EAthC;
- Only 5 states seems to have created National Hydrographic Committees:
 - Morocco in 2014 (« Comité national de coordination dans les domaines de l'hydrographie, de l'océanographie et de la cartographie marine » : CNCHOC)
 - Senegal in 2004 ("Comité hydrographique national")
 - Togo in 2008 ("Comité sur l'hydrographie, l'océanographie et la sécurité de la navigation maritime")
 - Ghana in 2015 ("National hydrographic and oceanographic committee")
 - Congo in 2021 ("Commission nationale d'hydrographie et de cartographie marine")

However, the actual activity of some various committees remains unreported.

- In term of development of MSI capacity (Phase 1): very few of the coastal states in West Africa fulfils independently its national obligations in a sustainable manner. For those having a bilateral agreement with another country, information feedback remains limited. However, significant progress has been made in Ghana, Nigeria, Morocco and Cabo Verde.
- In term of surveying capacity (Phase 2): none of the coastal states in the sub-region, except Morocco and Nigeria, has developed a sustainable capacity to meet its national obligations in all its waters. Most of the existing surveying capacities are limited to the harbours and are not national in scope. With the exception of Nigeria and Morocco (which are developing rapidly), it is unlikely that the other African countries in the EAtHC region will develop hydrographic capacity on a national and sustainable scale in the near future. However, this will be verified during the next CHAtO18 meeting (01 - 03 May 2024) in Morocco and the specific seminar (29 - 30 May 2024): *20 years of capacity building actions in terms of evaluation and prospective of the CHAtO*". The results will be consulted in the report not distributed at the date of this report (May 8, 2024)

This statement is unfortunately not new and had led the Shom to propose a long-term regional approach with the definition study HydroMOWCA. Given the magnitude of the task, the human resources that member states can devote to it, and the limited involvement of the coastal states directly concerned, the development and promotion of such a regional project has not yet been possible.

The involvement of the other most capable Member States (Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain, UK and USA) alongside France, which has been the capacity building coordinator for the region for many years, is essential to support the other coastal states in the region.

7. Conclusions:

Hydrographic capacity development in the EAtHC region remains a real challenge, with most of the Central & Western African coastal states lacking hydrographic infrastructure and relying on another state to provide hydrographic services and fulfill their SOLAS obligations. The current pattern of capacity building has allowed only limited progress despite particular attention by the IHO to the EAtHC region and the involvement of some Member States (acting as Primary Charting Authority in that region).

With this in mind, efforts must therefore be continued with greater involvement of the Coastal States primarily concerned by the development of their hydrographic services in order to meet their SOLAS obligations, of the IHO and the IHO Member States. Nigeria and Morocco, which have succeeded in developing considerably their hydrographic capacities, can in particular play a key role, by sharing their experience and providing training and education opportunities to other coastal states in the sub-region.

At the same time there is a need to develop capacity building actions for the benefit of Member States, with most of the actions carried out so far in the EAtHC region benefiting non IHO Member States, in particular to support the transition to S-100. The resources, both in terms of in-kind contributions from Member States to carry out these actions and in terms of capacity-building funds, do not appear to be sufficient to achieve these two objectives at the same time.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report
- b. take any action consider appropriate.

Gabin Sogorb
EAtHC CB Coordinator

Annex (Table): Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (CBSC22-05.1F-Report_EAtHC-Annex_A.xlsx)