

Capacity and collaboration building in southeast Africa towards the implementation of sustained ocean and climate observations

Support from IUGG will allow scientists from developing African nations which are influenced by conditions in the southwest Indian Ocean (South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, and Mauritius) to learn from, exchange knowledge among, and build networks with their junior and senior colleagues from top ranked universities around the world. This will lead to enhancement of regional capacity and international collaboration, essential ingredients towards implementing sustained observations in the region.

Our project is directed towards bringing together scientists from developing African countries and those from developed countries around the world, who have a shared interest and expertise in oceanic and atmospheric conditions of the southwest Indian Ocean, a region which impacts weather, climate, and resources in southern and eastern parts of Africa. The objectives are to increase the capacity of regional scientists to participate in, conduct, and benefit from sustained observations of the southwest Indian Ocean and the greater Agulhas system. Most African countries have few scientists or institutions understanding or working within this field, yet they should be stakeholders and beneficiaries of regional observing systems under GOOS. This project will facilitate the formation of networks and collaborations among scientists, institutions, and countries, as required for the implementation of long-term climate observations.

Our objectives will be achieved by funding the participation of scientists from developing African nations, as well as talented young and minority scientists from developed nations, (beneficiaries of immediate relevance to IUGG Grant criteria) at a Chapman Conference on “the Agulhas system and its role in changing ocean circulation, climate and marine ecosystems”, which will be held in South Africa in October 2012. Their attendance will be supported through travel, accommodation, and/or registration costs, dependent on applicant’s needs.