



# Newsbrief

## *“WIO-COMPAS held First Level 2 Certification Assessment Event”*



**Group photo of participants in the First WIO-COMPAS Event**

The first Level 2 certification event of the Western Indian Ocean Certification of Marine Protected Area Professionals (WIO-COMPAS) program was held in Malindi, Kenya from 14 to 21 August 2008 and attended by eleven professionals from Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania.

The main objectives of the assessment event were to assess and document competences of candidates in relation to certification criteria as well as strengths and weakness of candidates and identify areas for improvement. The event also provided the candidates with opportunity to present their case studies and defend their

analysis, performance and understanding of the issues in front of other candidates and network with their peers as well as assessors from across the region, as well.

The certification process included case studies presentations, written assessment, field visits and interviews with the assessors. Much of these activities took place during an eight-day assessment and professional development event in Malindi. Three prominent guest speakers were invited to lecture on topics of current global interest related to MPAs. These were: Tim McClanahan (MPAs and Climate Change); Sue Wells (MPA Management Effectiveness) and Rosie Trevelyan (Project Proposal on Fund Raising).

WIO-COMPAS is unique in that candidates must have already proven their ability to perform on the job as opposed to training courses which teach a skill but do not assess on the job application. It is also important to note that WIO-COMPAS certifies only the professionals and not the MPA site overall. WIO-COMPAS works with those who already meet a certain level of knowledge, skills, and performance standards within six core competency areas - policy and compliance; MPA establishment; communication and stakeholder engagement; financing; operations; and the biophysical and social environments - to provide them with professional development interventions that promote the very kind of critical thinking that is necessary for MPA management in today's world and regional context. It also networks them with other MPA and coastal/marine experts in the region, and commits them to abiding by a code of ethics that guides how they conduct their work.

According to the candidates evaluation, the assessment event was worthwhile of their time. It provided them with an opportunity to recognize their standard of knowledge and skills. In addition to that, it also helped them to identify where their strengths and weaknesses are. One participant summarized it very appropriately: "Taking things I do for granted hence forth, I will keep a good record of my work and gauge my contribution to the 6 areas of competences".

The WIO-COMPAS programme is the brainchild of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and the Coastal Resources Center at the

University of Rhode Island (USA), both institutions are leaders in the international field of coastal management. The initiative is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Swedish International Development Agency and the European Union.

WIO-COMPAS awards certification at three different skills levels. Level 1

is for professionals with responsibilities similar to field rangers. Level 2 is targeted at those with supervisory and administrative roles and responsibilities similar to those of a site warden, manager or deputy warden. Level 3 is for professionals working on policy and planning at either a single site or multiple sites across the country. WIO-

COMPAS secretariat is in the process of planning for its next assessment event. Refer to the WIO-COMPAS website for when these certifications will be offered in 2009. For more information on the WIO-COMPAS Programme visit its website at <http://www.wio-compas.org> or contact the WIOMSA Secretariat at [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org).

## Monitoring the South West Indian Ocean marine environment: the AMESD program takes off

The African Union and the European Union have launched a four year "African Monitoring of the Environment for

a Sustainable Development" (AMESD) programme in response to the urgent need for timely access to accurate and

reliable satellite based information. This 21 M€ continental-wide project, financed by the European Development Fund, has been allocated to the Regional Economic Communities, namely ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC, CEMAC and SADC. The programme is being implemented by the African Union through a Project Management Unit with technical assistance provided by a consortium of 4 companies: Thales-Alenia Space, IRD and BRLI all based in France, and ITA from Italy.

Surveillance de l'Environnement en Afrique pour un Développement Durable

African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development

AMESD

CEMAC Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale Gestion des Ressources en Eau Water Resource Management Organisation Fleuviale River Navigation C.I.C.O.S. Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Kôrdôkô  
 IOC CEDEAO Communauté Economique Des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest ECOWAS Economic Community Of West African States Gestion de l'eau pour les Terres Agricoles et Pastorales Water Management for Copland and Rangeland Centre Regional AGRHYMET Niamey Niger IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development Land Degradation Mitigation and Natural Habitat Conservation Réduction de la Dégénération des Sols et Conservation de l'Habitat Naturel ICPAIC IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre Nairobi Kenya COI Commission de l'Océan Indien IOC Indian Ocean Commission Gestion de l'environnement maritime et côtier Marine and Coastal Management MOI Mauritius Oceanography Institute Quatre-Bornes Maurice SADC Southern African Development Community Agricultural and Environmental Resource Management Gestion des Ressources Agricoles et Environnementales BMS Botswana Wet Services Gaborone Botswana

ThalesAlenia Space

BRLI

IRD

ITA

### Project Results

AMESD is expected to produce a number of results including improved access to existing Earth Observation Data by African users. It will also develop regional information services that will improve decision making processes by African institutions through the development and operation of tools and methods to serve specific thematic areas. It will strengthen political and policy development frameworks, such as the Global Earth Observation (GEO) or the Global Monitoring Environment and Security (GMES) - Africa. It will also lead to the development of human resources via training sessions, staff exchange and fellowship programmes.

### IOC Component

Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) was mandated to implement the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) component of this project. This component has an overall objective to help IOC countries (Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Reunion) and the riparian countries of the Mozambique Channel (Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique) to better take into account satellite Earth and Ocean Observation data for the definition and monitoring of their marine and coastal policies. MOI will undertake to develop opera-

tional products and services using ocean observation data with free access to all data transmitted via EUMETCast. Three kinds of services will be developed in this area.

- i) Support for the management of fishery resources in the South West Indian Ocean.
- ii) Monitoring and control of fishing activities in the South West Indian Ocean.
- iii) Physical oceanography and support for the management of maritime risks.

MOI will also seek to improve the regional access to satellite Earth and Ocean Observation data through the installation of satellite receiving stations (EUMET-Cast) and the dissemination of products and services. The final activity involves the strengthening of the capacities of MOI

and regional technical partners in the processing and analysis of spatial observation data for the management of fishery resources and maritime risks.

To implement these activities MOI will collaborate with several regional partners including Fisheries Ministries and Fisheries Monitoring Centre of Madagascar, Mauritius and Comoros, Seychelles Fishing Authority; Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Institut Haieuthique des Sciences Marines (IHSM) de Tuléar and other partners for Kenya, Tanzania centres and Mozambique that are to be identified. These partners will contribute to the development of products, particularly the management of fishery resources and the analysis of fish capture versus oceanic parameters in their respective countries. They will

also do in-situ measurements for satellite data calibration. The partners will benefit from equipment and training sessions which will be organized on spatial oceanography; analysis and processing of Earth and Ocean Observation data (ocean color, altimetry); oceanic parameters /marines resources links and use of remote sensing for coastal issues.

“Everything (the crew - MOI and partners - and the machine - 9th EDF) is almost set for takeoff for the “South West Indian Ocean” component of AMESD that will be launched with a regional workshop in Mauritius in December 2008” says François Carnus, the contact person at AMESD who can be contacted at the following e-mail address:

[françois.carnus@amesd.org](mailto:françois.carnus@amesd.org)

## New Master Degree Program initiated in Mozambique

The Faculty of Sciences at the Department of Biological Sciences of Eduardo Mondlane University has initiated a new Masters degree course in Aquatic Biology and Coastal Ecosystems (BAEC). The program was launched by the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Amália Uamusse on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008. Speaking during the launch, the Dean emphasised the importance of higher education in aquatic sciences for a sound sustainable development that will ensure the rational exploration of natural resources, preserving the habitat, flora and wildlife species.

### Marketable graduates

The BAEC course was developed out of the need to turn out Biology graduates who can compete well in the job market as well as making them responsive to national demands and to new realities and opportunities at the global level. It also aims at improving the knowledge about the coastal and marine ecosystems resources, through the acquisition of a deep understanding about principles that guide the structures and functions of the aquatic ecosystems. It will equip the students with the capacity to think and act in a preventive perspective in decision making situations and in the usage and protection of marine, aquatic and coastal resources.

### Course structure

The 2 year BAEC program is a 4 semester course, the first 2 of which are devoted to lecturing while the last 2 are

entirely dedicated to undertaking research project, culminating in a Master's thesis. There are 8 specialized subjects taught in 8 modules. Each module takes 5 weeks (4 lecturing weeks and 1 week for the final evaluation of the subject). The modules are taught in Portuguese

or English depending on the language of the lecturers. Proficiency in English for nationals and Portuguese for foreigners is required for admission. Applicants must have a BSc degree in Biology or equivalent in Biological Sciences.

**Table 1. Subjects of the Master's course**

Year	First semester	Second semester
First year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Researching Methodologies on Ecology</li> <li>· Coastal Biodiversity and Conservation</li> <li>· General Oceanography</li> <li>· Advanced Marine Ecology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fishery Biology and Fishing Resources</li> <li>· Aquatic Ecology and Conservation</li> <li>· Sustainable Aquaculture</li> <li>· Ecology, Planning and Governance</li> </ul>
Second year	Culmination course project	

The initial preparation and implementation of the course is financially sponsored by SIDA/SAREC. Please contact Prof Adriano Macia on [adriano@zebra.uem.mz](mailto:adriano@zebra.uem.mz) or [BAEC@uem.mz](mailto:BAEC@uem.mz) for further information on the BAEC program.



*A cross section of the participants of the inaugural BAEC course*

## Inventory of ACEP Data sets now ready

The African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP) data inventory is now complete. All the data sets were collected during the ACEP field activities which included ten ship-based cruises and three shore-based expeditions. The ACEP data inventory contains 258 records compiled by scientists, technicians and data managers, each of which describes a unique data set. The purpose of the data inventory was to document the primary products of the numerous multidisciplinary research activities that were funded by the first phase of ACEP and generated data sets that are of value to the countries of the Western Indian Ocean region. The inventory has been used to ensure that proper archives are kept, that data collected within the EEZs of each country are made available to those countries, and that specimens and samples are tracked.



Metadata, specimens, spatial data, remotely sensed data and expedition data collected by ACEP-funded scientists may be found at the locations described below.

For more details about the ACEP datasets, please contact [L.Scott@ru.ac.za](mailto:L.Scott@ru.ac.za)

Type of Data	Description of Data	Data Location
Metadata	ACEP data inventory available at Nairobi Convention clearing house as a UNEP and ASCLME joint project.	<a href="http://gridnairobi.unep.org/CHMPortal/ptk">http://gridnairobi.unep.org/CHMPortal/ptk</a>
Specimens	Electronic records of fish specimen data.	<a href="http://www.gbif.org">http://www.gbif.org</a>
Spatial Data	Available online on The African Marine Atlas; a map server demonstration site that's is a project of ODINAFRICA (IODE of the IOC/UNESCO)	<a href="http://iodeweb2.vliz.be/omap/OMAP/index.htm">http://iodeweb2.vliz.be/omap/OMAP/index.htm</a> <a href="http://www.africanmarineatlas.net">http://www.africanmarineatlas.net</a>
Remotely sensed data	Sea surface temperature and ocean colour data. The Remote Sensing Server for Marine Sciences	<a href="http://www.rmarinesa.org.za">http://www.rmarinesa.org.za</a>
Expedition Data South Africa	Marine and Coastal Management DEAT, Cape Town, South Africa. Southern Africa Data Centre for Oceanography (SADCO)	Tammy Morris- <a href="mailto:tammy@oceanafrika.com">tammy@oceanafrika.com</a> Marcel van den Berg- <a href="mailto:marcel@oceanafrika.com">marcel@oceanafrika.com</a> Dr. Marten Grundlingh- <a href="mailto:mgrundli@csir.co.za">mgrundli@csir.co.za</a> <a href="http://sadco.csir.co.za">http://sadco.csir.co.za</a>
Expedition Data Mozambique	Centro Nacional de Dados Oceanograficos (CENADO)	Clousa Maueua- <a href="mailto:clousam@yahoo.com.br">clousam@yahoo.com.br</a> <a href="http://www.nodc-mozambique.org/">http://www.nodc-mozambique.org/</a>
Expedition Data Tanzania	The Tanzania National Oceanographic Data Centre (TzNODC), Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS)	Director, IMS- <a href="mailto:director@ims.udsm.ac.tz">director@ims.udsm.ac.tz</a> <a href="http://www.nodc-tanzania.org/">http://www.nodc-tanzania.org/</a>
Expedition Data from Kenyan Scientists	The Kenya National Oceanographic Data Centre (KeNODC), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)	Harrison Ong'anda- <a href="mailto:honganda@kmfri.co.ke">honganda@kmfri.co.ke</a> <a href="http://www.nodc-kenya.org/">http://www.nodc-kenya.org/</a>
Expedition Data Comoros	Centre National de Données Océanographiques des Comores. (CNDRS)	Ahmed Abdoukarim- <a href="mailto:A_abdoukarim@yahoo.fr">A_abdoukarim@yahoo.fr</a> <a href="http://www.nodc-comoros.org">http://www.nodc-comoros.org</a> <a href="mailto:convention-nairobi@comorestelecom.km">convention-nairobi@comorestelecom.km</a> Said Ahamada- <a href="mailto:aide@comorestelecom.km">aide@comorestelecom.km</a>
Expedition Data Madagascar	Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Pêche de l'Environnement (MAPE) Association of Intervention for Development and the Environment (AIDE)	John Bemiasa- <a href="mailto:j.bemiasa@odinafrica.net">j.bemiasa@odinafrica.net</a>
Secure Archive	Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (IH.SM) DVD Copies of all ACEP cruise data are archived at the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) in their row form	Tommy Bornman at <a href="mailto:ACEP-t.bornman@ru.ac.za">ACEP-t.bornman@ru.ac.za</a>

## NATURE SEYCHELLES BAGS AFRICA'S COVETED DIGITAL MEDIA AWARD



*Dr Nirmal Shah displays the Award Trophy*

Dr Nirmal Jivan Shah, the Chief Executive of Nature Seychelles, has bagged the coveted SABC Highway Africa Digital Media Awards 2008. This highly prestigious digital award attracted thousands of entries from the entire African continent. Dr Shah won the award at a gala dinner ceremony held at the 1820 Settlers Monument in the historic town of Grahamstown in Eastern Cape Province, South Africa on 9th of September 2008. The ceremony, normally the main highlight of the Annual Highway Africa Conference, was attended by over 700 journalists, bloggers, internet buffs and media scholars from Africa and was televised live on Africa's leading broadcaster, South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

### **Award categories**

The annual SABC Highway Africa Digital Media Awards runs in three categories: Student/Individual, Not for profit and Corporate. Dr Shah scooped the Not for Profit category. South African blogger Khaya Dlanga and Togolese Tadergnon Kokou Noel took the Student/Individual and Corporate categories respectively.

### **Judges Citation**

The judges noted Dr Shah's relentless pursuit and over-zealous commitment to the environment through his work with Nature Seychelles. Shah was cited for "spearheading environmental conservation through the internet within the Seychelles and across the Western Indian Ocean shelf". Dr Shah's robust stewardship of Nature Seychelles cross border reach was also noted for encouraging, "other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to embrace new media technologies for environmental conservation" and using "the youths' skills and creativity to spread the message of ICT and the environment on the fragile islands ecosystems within Seychelles." The judges cited Nature Seychelles as an environmental organization that, among other initiatives, is involved in activities that are targeted at raising the level of environmental awareness and education.

### **Dr Shah's reaction**

Speaking after the award ceremony Dr Shah said "This is a moment of great pride for the entire Seychelles Archipelago, the whole community of Small Island Developing States and the Western Indian Ocean shelf. The win is not just a Nature Seychelles achievement; it is a great accomplishment for the Seychellois people. It is an honour and a morale booster for our nation that we are indeed endowed with both talent and resilience for coming out the best in the entire African continent."

### **Award a big win**

At the Nature Seychelles offices the news of the award coming to Seychelles has been received with excitement. "This is indeed a big win for Seychelles. Our work in using ICT with the youth and partners like Nortel Communications to spread the environment message has led us to receive international recognition and this is just an overwhelming thrill," said Kerstin Henri, Nature Seychelles' Projects Coordinator.

## The MASMA program Committee says karibu to a new Chair and kwaheri to the previous Chair



*Prof. Bryceson working in the intertidal zone, submerged to the waist in a muddy site*

The WIOMSA Board of Trustees appointed Prof Ian Bryceson as the new Chair of the MASMA Programme Committee in August 2008.

Ian's appointment follows the resignation of Dr Nirmal Shah, who has been the Chair from the beginning of the Programme in 2000. Dr Shah was involved in the development of the MASMA Programme. Under his leadership, MASMA grew from an unknown programme to a popular grant scheme in the Western Indian Ocean region. His enthusiasm, dedication, commitment and more importantly his hard work during

his entire tenure as Chair of the Committee contributed significantly to the achievements of the Programme. His sense of humour will be greatly missed by the Committee members and at the annual MASMA Grantees meetings.

Prof Bryceson, who has been a member of the PC since 2004, is a well known scientist in the WIO region. Despite currently being based outside the region, he is still involved in a number of research projects directly or through his MSc and PhD students. In terms of his research, although Ian is mostly a natural scientist, he

straddles the natural science/social science research agenda well. Furthermore, he has also served in several Research Councils in different parts of the world.

There is no doubt that with his long-term institutional memory in the MASMA Programme Committee as well as his research knowledge and his experience from serving different research councils, the Committee and the MASMA Programme stands to benefit enormously from Prof. Bryceson's expertise.

## Ms. Lilian Omolo joins WIOMSA as Operations and Administration Manager



Ms Omolo will be responsible for providing operational, administrative and logistical support to all WIOMSA projects and programmes.

Lilian joins WIOMSA from the hospitality industry, having worked as an Accounts Manager at leading hotels in Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya. She has a wealth of experience in marketing and networking in the corporate sector and has demonstrated a progressive record of achievements in key operational areas in the service industry.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French and Sociology from the University of Nairobi. She has a Masters Degree in Project Planning and Management from the same University.

She sees working for WIOMSA as an exciting challenge. She would like to use her experience in management, marketing, French and knowledge in Project Planning and Management in the new working environment. "Thus far I have been involved in the social science world, however, I intend to enjoy my time at WIOMSA, learning about marine science, marine and coastal conservation and I look forward to interacting with all WIOMSA members and partners."

## WIO Journal of Marine Science, Volume 7(I) is now out

The seventh volume of WIO Journal of Marine Science is out. The list of contributing authors and titles of their papers as follows:

- i) N. Versleijen and J. Hoorweg. From Farming to Fishing: Marine Resource Conservation and a New Generation of Fishermen
- ii) R. Lowry, D. T. Pugh, E. M. S. Wijeratne. Observations of Seiching and Tides Around the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues
- iii) E.M.S. Wijeratne, P.L. Woodworth and V. N. Stepanov. The Seasonal Cycle of Sea Level in Sri Lanka and Southern India
- iv) T.J. Lyimo and M.I. Hamisi. Cyanobacteria Occurrence and Nitrogen Fixation Rates in the Seagrass Meadows of the East Coast of Zanzibar: Comparisons of Sites With and Without Seaweed Farms
- v) M. Huxham, E. Kimani and J. Augley. The Fish Community of an East African Mangrove: Effects of Turbidity and Distance from the Sea
- vi) J.O. Bosire, J.G. Kairo, J. Kazungu, N. Koedam, F. Dahdouh-Guebas. Spatial and Temporal Regeneration Dynamics in *Ceriops tagal* (Perr.) C.B. Rob. (Rhizophoraceae) Mangrove Forests in Kenya
- vii) E.N. Kimani, K.M. Mavuti, T.K. Mukiama and N. Wambiji. Macrofauna Settlement on Pearl Oyster Collectors in Kenya: Seasonality and Abundance
- viii) M. de la Torre-Castro, J.S. Eklöf, P. Rönnbäck and M. Björk. Seagrass Importance in Food Provisioning Services: Fish Stomach Content as a Link between Seagrass Meadows and Local Fisheries
- ix) P.M. Oduor-Odote and J.M. Kazungu. The Body Composition of Low Value Fish and their Preparation into a Higher Value Snack Food

## Reunion Symposium; First announcement and call for abstracts is out

The forthcoming Sixth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium is organized jointly by WIOMSA, l'Université de La Réunion, l'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and l'Institut Français pour la Recherche et l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER) and will be held in Saint Denis , La Réunion from 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

The 6 days event is divided into the following activities:

- Scientific Symposium - 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009. This component will include: keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations as well as special sessions and roundtable discussions. The special sessions and roundtable discussions are scheduled for the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009.
- The Fourth WIOMSA General Assembly - 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009
- Excursions and tours to different places of interest – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2009

The deadline for submission of abstract is 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and they should be submitted to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org). Please visit WIOMSA website [www.wiomsa.org](http://www.wiomsa.org) for more information about the Symposium.

## IMS and Nature Seychelles set the record!

Since WIOMSA started membership fee paying system late last year a number of members from within and outside the region have started paying their fees either through their Country Coordinators or directly to the Secretariat. Records show that the number of members paying their fees is on the increase.

Recently, the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) of Tanzania and Nature Seychelles have set precedence as the first institutions to pay membership fees for their staff who are members of the Association.

Another record has been set by Dr Alfonse Dubi, the Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences, who has paid his membership fee for the next five years!

Please join us in congratulating these institutions and Dr Dubi for showing the way. It is our sincere hope and belief that others will follow this example!



The Executive Secretary  
Western Indian Ocean  
Marine Science Association  
(WIOMSA)

Mizingani Street,  
House No. 13644/10  
P. O. Box 3298, Zanzibar,  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Phone: +255 24 2233472  
Fax: +255 24 2233852  
E-mail: [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)  
Web: [www.wiomsa.org](http://www.wiomsa.org)