

Abidjan Convention

13th Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plan



Main challenges experienced during the year 2011 and opportunities ahead

(Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and
Coastal Environment of the West, Central and Southern African Region)

Busan, Korea, 3-5 Oct 2011



What is the Abidjan Convention?



- 22 coastal countries of the Atlantic from Mauritania to South Africa (3 islands)
- Came into force on 5th Aug. 1984
- Two protocols (Emergency and LBSA)
- Overarching legal framework for all marine related programmes in West, Central and Southern Africa
- 14,000 km
- 3 LMEs (Canary, Guinea and Benguela)
- Highly productive and diverse ecosystems supporting various socio-economic activities in the region (GCLME only yields annual benefit of 17.5B\$...without oil)
- « One-man » show Secretariat



Challenges



Marine and coastal environmental (emerging) issues

1. Coastal retreat
2. Oil exploration and exploitation
3. Marine litter/Waste water management
4. Unsustainable fishing practices
5. Destruction of habitats (e.g: mangroves)
6. Land reclamation
7. Sea surface temperature
8. Maritime boundaries



Challenges



Marine and coastal governance issues

1. Relocation of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat from Abidjan to Accra
2. Establishing a regional framework to deal with marine and coastal environmental governance issues
3. Domestication of the ABC and protocols provisions in national legislations
4. Funding (CPs v/s projects)
5. Lack of technical and institutional capacities at national level
6. The role of NGOs, CBOs, private sector and other stakeholders
7. LMEs v/s RSCAPs



Opportunities



Marine and coastal governance issues

- 1. Strong institutional and financial support from the host and CPs**
- 2. Strengthening the ABC as THE intergovernmental regional platform to address marine and coastal issues**
- 3. Engage with CPs covered by the ABC for actions at the national level**
- 4. Sustaining the financial base of the ABC**
- 5. Assessment of CPs' technical and institutional capacities**
- 6. Initiating partnership with NGOs, CBOs, private sector and other stakeholders active in the region in the field of marine and coastal management.**



Opportunities



Marine and coastal governance issues/partnerships

1. **IMO/London Protocol/IPIECA (Emergency Protocol)**
2. **IUCN/ WWF (implementing the MPAs article of the Convention)**
3. **FAO (CCLME and data collection)**
4. **SIDA (UNEP Africa Marine Program)**
5. **Ramsar Convention on wetlands (Marine and coastal wetlands)**
6. **UNESCO-IOC (Convention CST)**
7. **OSPAR Commission (Technical Assistance on Oil and Gas)**
8. **Benguela Commission/LME SAP (Accession of Angola and Nam)**
9. **World Ocean Commission (Hawai, USA)**
10. **PANAf and 11. Grid-Arendal (Sustainable Seas Program)**





- THANK YOU!

