

**GMES&AFRICA and GOOS-AFRICA Joint meeting**  
**Abidjan, May, 13-17, 2024**

**Concept note**

**1. Justification**

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) was proclaimed “to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean” (UNESCO-IOC, 2022). The Ocean Decade is especially opportune for Africa as its coastal and ocean waters are increasingly gaining importance as a potential source of economic growth and employment. Several African countries are highly dependent on the ocean and its rich resources. The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap provides a vision and plan for diverse stakeholders to convene around a common set of priorities for the implementation of the Ocean Decade in Africa.

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa) initiative is the crystallization of the longstanding cooperation between Africa and Europe in the area of space science & technology and earth observation. The contribution of space observation to satellite communication, television, radio, positioning on the earth, as well as to fields such as agriculture, transport, health, natural resource management, the environment and risk forecasting is well established. Space observations are privileged tools for better understanding of the earth as well as the entire solar system. Although very powerful, space observation which leads to the creation of models, relies on in situ data and mainly data from the oceans, which are the driving force behind global changes and which make up about 70% of the surface of the earth. The marine environment is the largest component of the Earth’s system that stabilizes climate and support life on Earth and human well-being. GMES & Africa activities are designed to enable Africa to solve and address some global environmental challenges and to promote sustainable development.

A policy on collection of in situ ocean data is therefore essential, but unfortunately, to date, a common oceanographic data collection policy has not been adopted in Africa. The data collected at the level of each country for its own needs are often not only fragmentary but discontinuous. The GOOS-AFRICA alliance was established by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO with an objective of coordinating ocean observing systems and operational oceanography across African nations. Thus, GOOS Africa could play an essential role in supporting GMES & AFRICA.

Strategically, GOOS AFRICA and GMES & AFRICA concurred to work together in a partnership in support of Ocean Decade implementation in Africa.

The strategic alliance towards a win-win collaboration between GMES & AFRICA and GOOS AFRICA on in-situ ocean observation in Africa was set in Kigali (24 - 28 October 2022). This strategic alliance aimed to:

- i. Strengthen partnerships to improve the delivery of observations to end-users through scientific forecasts, services and assessments;
- ii. Strengthen knowledge and exchange around the creation of value from ocean observations, enabling the dissemination of end-user applications at the local level;
- iii. Maintain, strengthen and expand the coordination of observations through the GOOS AFRICA network;
- iv. Promote standards and best practices ;
- v. Ensure that ocean observing data and information in Africa are accessible, interoperable and reusable with quality assurance ;
- vi. Support innovation in observation technologies and networks ;
- vii. Develop capacity to ensure that a wider range of stakeholders participate and use the data for their benefit ;
- viii. Expand systematic observations to understand human impacts on the ocean; and
- ix. Play a leading role in establishing effective governance for in situ and satellite observations in Africa, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

To achieve the above objectives, the high-level experts from Africa, at the Kigali meeting, listed a number of activities of common interest between GMES&AFRICA and GOOS-AFRICA, the implementation of which should promote a qualitative leap in oceanography in Africa.

Based on budget line which is being allocated to GOOS-AFRICA at the COI Assembly held in June 2023 in Paris and the the support of GMES & Africa to achieve common goals, it is important that a strategic reflection be conducted to firstly select the activities to be carried out immediately, and to project in the medium term an action plan to be submitted to give visibility to the actions of GOOS-AFRICA and GMES&AFRICA. This strategic plan is even more urgent because ocean observation has become more crucial than ever, as our understanding of this complex ecosystem plays a fundamental role in preserving life on Earth. The current issues related to ocean observation are numerous and require a strategic response to ensure the sustainability of this environment.

## **2- Overall Objective**

The objective of this workshop is to select action to be implemented immediatly and draft the three-year strategic plan for ocean obervation in Africa and to complement the activities of the GMES & Africa coastal observation component. This three-year strategic plan aims to strengthen the capacity of GOOS-AFRICA to provide crucial data and useful information to end-users.

## **3- Specific Objectives:**

During the workshop, the following specific objectives will be examined :

- Define the Long-Term Vision of GOOS-AFRICA
- develop a Strategic plan for 2023-2025 that will include proposal for development of an Ocean Development Fund for GOOS-Africa Strategy for 3 Years
- Identify necessary Infrastructure and Equipment
- Review the Organization and Coordination of GOOS-AFRICA

- Identify Partners for establishing fruitful Collaborations
- Examine the Capacity Strengthening Strategy Priority Observation Areas
- Select the essentials variables to be measured
- Propose Data Quality and Technological Innovation
- Define a Communication Strategy
- Review the Education and Awareness Strategy
- Establish a Regular Observation Evaluation Strategy
- Define the Activity Timeline
- Establish a Continuous Adjustment Procedure for the Strategic Plan

#### 4- Expected Results

- Long-Term Vision of GOOS is Defined
- Strategic plan for 2024-2028 is proposed for development of an Ocean Development Fund for GOOS-Africa Strategy for 3 Years
- Specific and measurable strategic objectives are Defined
- State of the current Ocean Observation in Africa is Assessed
- Global Strategy for 3 Years is defined
- Necessary infrastructure and equipment are Identified
- Organization and Coordination of GOOS-AFRICA are Reviewed
- Partners for establishing fruitful Collaborations are Identified
- Capacity Strengthening Strategy is examined
- Priority Observation Areas are Determined
- Essential variable to be measured are selected
- Data Quality and Technological Innovation are Proposed
- Communication Strategy is Defined
- Education and Awareness Strategy is reviewed
- Regular Observation Evaluation Strategy is established
- Activity timeline is defined
- Continuous Adjustment Procedure for the Strategic Plan is established

#### 5- AGENDA

Day 1 : Monday, May,13,224

|              |                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09 :00-9 :30 | Registration                                                                                                                                        |
| 9 :30-10 :00 | Opening ceremony                                                                                                                                    |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech: Prof. AFFIAN Kouadio, GOOS-AFRICA Chaire and President of the organizing committee</li> </ul>      |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof BALLO ZIE : Vice chancellor of Felix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY University</li> </ul>                           |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative of UNESCO</li> </ul>                                                                        |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Tidiane OUATTARA : GMES &amp; AFRICA coordinator</li> </ul>                                             |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M. Jacques ASSAHORE, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and ecological transition</li> </ul> |

|                                                            |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 :00-10 :30                                              | Coffee break and Group Photo                                                         |
| 10:30-10:50                                                | Key note speaker : Dr Joanna POST Director of GOOS Programme : GOOS strategic plan   |
| Access to the current state of Ocean Observation in Africa |                                                                                      |
| 10 :50 – 13:10                                             | Key note speaker 1 : Prof AMAN Angora : Overview on ocean observation in Africa      |
| 13:10- 13:30                                               | Key note speaker 2: Dr Enrique Alvarez: Ocean Prediction in Africa                   |
|                                                            | Report on ocean observation in countries and African sub region (10 mn)              |
| 13 :30-14 :30                                              | LUNCH                                                                                |
| 14 :30- 14 :50                                             | Dr KWAME Adu: From the ocean observations towards services to end users in Africa:   |
| 14:50 – 16: 50                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MORROCO (Dr Karim)</li> </ul>               |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tunisia (Dr Cherif )</li> </ul>             |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Côte d'Ivoire (Dr MOBIO)</li> </ul>         |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin (Dr SOHOU)</li> </ul>                 |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigeria ( Dr. Rabiou Abdulkarim)</li> </ul> |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenya (Dr Charle MAGORI)</li> </ul>         |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congo (Dr BOPE)</li> </ul>                  |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egypt (Dr Suzane)</li> </ul>                |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Africa (Christo)</li> </ul>           |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cameroun (Dr NTYAM)</li> </ul>              |
|                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mozambique (Candidat)</li> </ul>            |
| 16 :50-17H : 00                                            | Coffee break                                                                         |
| 17 :00-18H :00                                             | Synthesis of the day                                                                 |
| 18 :00                                                     | End of the day                                                                       |

Day 2 : Tuesday, May 14, 2024

|                 |                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09 :00-9 :20    | Dr Juliet:Ocean prediction DCC Africa                                                                        |
| 09 :20-9 :40    | Dr TAMMY: Presentation on coastal observations lab in a box focusing on low cost sensors for under resourced |
| 09 :40-10 :00   | Prof GUO Jingsong: Presentation on Smart buoy                                                                |
| 10 :00- 10 :30  | Coffee break                                                                                                 |
| 10:30- 11:30    | Round table : selection of short-term actions to be implemented                                              |
| 11 :30 -13 : 00 | Brain storming on the definition of specific and measurable strategic objectives for GOOS-AFRICA             |
| 13 :00-14 :00   | Lunch                                                                                                        |
| 14 :00-15 :30   | Definition of Global strategy for 3 years                                                                    |
| 15 :30-16 :00   | Coffee break                                                                                                 |
| 16 :00-18 :00   | Definition of Global strategy for 3 years                                                                    |
| 18 :00          | End of the day                                                                                               |

Day 3 Wednesday, may 15, 2024

|                 |                                                                   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09 :00-10 :30   | Determination of priority areas                                   |
| 10 :30- 11 :00  | Coffee break                                                      |
| 11 :00 -13 : 00 | Inventory of infrastructures (available equipment and facilities) |
| 13 :00-14 :00   | Lunch                                                             |
| 14 :00-15 :30   | Select of the essential variables to be measured                  |
| 15 :30-16 :00   | Coffee break                                                      |
| 16 :00-18 :00   | Propose Data quality and Technological Innovation                 |
| 18 :00          | End of the day                                                    |

Day 4 Thursday May, 16 , 2024

|                 |                                                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09 :00-10 :30   | Establishment of a regular Observation Evaluation strategy |
| 10 :30- 11 :00  | Coffee beak                                                |
| 11 :00 -13 : 00 | Adoption of the capacity strengthening Strategy            |
| 13 :00-14 :00   | LUNCH                                                      |
| 14 :00-15 :30   | Define specific and measurable strategic objectives        |
| 15 :30-16 :00   | Coffee break                                               |
| 16 :00-17 :00   | Identify partners for establishing fruitful collaborations |
| 17 :00-18 :00   | Define a communication strategy                            |
| 18 :00          | End of the day                                             |

Day 5 Friday May, 17 , 2024

|                 |                                                                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09 :00-10 :00   | Establishment of a continious adjustment procedure for the strategic plan |
| 10 :30- 11 :00  | Coffee beak                                                               |
| 11 :00 -12 : 00 | Review of the organization and coordination committee of GOOS-AFRICA      |
| 12 :00-13 :00   | Closing ceremony                                                          |

List of participants

|   | Noms et Prénoms          | e-mail              | Institution                                  | Pays         |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Dr Christo WHITTLE       | cwhittle@csir.co.za | Univ Cape town                               | South Africa |
| 2 | Charles MAOGORI          | cmagori24@gmail.com | Centre Recherche Monbassa                    | Kenya        |
| 3 | Dr Suzan M. El-Gharabawy | suzymo00@yahoo.com  | email: suzymo00@yahoo.com,                   | Egypt        |
| 4 | Dr SOUHOU Zacchari       | zsohou@yahoo.fr     | Cntre recherche Halieutique et océanologique | Bénin        |

|    |                                        |                                                                                                                                |                                                                    |                           |
|----|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
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| 6  | DR CHERIF Samari                       | c.sammari@yahoo.fr                                                                                                             | Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer           | Tunisie                   |
| 7  | Justin AHANHANZO                       | j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org                                                                                                         | IOC Secretariat                                                    | France                    |
| 8  | DR KARIM Hilmi                         | karimhilmi15@gmail.com                                                                                                         | Institut National de Recherche Halieutique                         | Maroc                     |
| 9  | Professor Jimmy O. Adegoke             | jimmyadegoke2015@gmail.com                                                                                                     | University of Missouri – Kansas City                               | USA                       |
| 10 | Dr. Rabiul Abdulkarim                  | abpero1@yahoo.com                                                                                                              | Nigeria Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research,            | Nigeria                   |
| 11 | David N.G. KIRUGARA                    | kirugara@gmail.com                                                                                                             | ENSAFO Consulting Group Ltd                                        | Kenya                     |
| 12 | Dr KWAME adu Agyekun                   | <a href="mailto:kaagyekum@ug.edu.gh">kaagyekum@ug.edu.gh</a><br><a href="mailto:kaagyekuim@gmail.com">kaagyekuim@gmail.com</a> | Regional Marine Center, University of Ghana                        | University of Ghana       |
| 13 | Dr Juliet Hermes                       | jc.hermes@saeon.nrf.ac.za                                                                                                      | Researcher in modelling                                            | South Africa              |
| 14 | Dr BOPE Bope                           | bopebl@yahoo.fr                                                                                                                | Centre de Controle et Surveillance de la Pollution Marine Kinshasa | Democratic Republic CONGO |
| 15 | Prof Zakaria Hamouda                   | amr@niof-eg.com                                                                                                                | President of NIOF                                                  | Egypt                     |
| 16 | Dr NTYAM Sylvie Carole Epse ONDO (Mme) | <a href="mailto:sylondocarlo@yahoo.fr">sylondocarlo@yahoo.fr</a>                                                               | Centre de Recherches pour les Ecosystèmes Marins                   | Cameroun                  |