



# NAIROBI CONVENTION CLEARINGHOUSE AND INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM E-NEWSLETTER

## ENHANCING SHARING, EXCHANGE AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

April 2009 Vol.3 Issue 1

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### NAIROBI CONVENTION CLEARINGHOUSE MECHANISM RECEIVES THE GSDI SMALL GRANT

**T**he Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism was awarded, in 2009, a capacity building grant by the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association. The US\$ 17,500 will be used to train seven countries in the Western Indian Ocean Region in the development of national coastal and marine clearinghouses and portals. The countries include Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania.

The training will be held in each country mid 2009 and will focus on data quality review, metadata development and uploading into the clearinghouses. The hands-on-training will provide detailed data management, analytical capability, effective and rapid information transfer to support decision-making. Besides, the national training will foster partnerships, develop in-country technical capacity in spatial

development of National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) in eight coastal countries of Eastern and Southern African region. Seven countries have been provided with a high performance data server and training in the architectural development of the NSDIs, often referred to as the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM). UNEP will provide a trainer and travel costs to support the scheduled national trainings.

Currently, seven Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse national portals are online and available at:

- <http://www.kmfri.co.ke/portal/>
- <http://mauritiussgpt.dyndns.org/>
- <http://seychellesgpt.sc/Portal/>
- [http://tanzaniagpt.ims.udsm.ac.tz/Portal,](http://tanzaniagpt.ims.udsm.ac.tz/Portal/)
- <http://www.madagascarportal.org>
- <http://geoportal.inahina.gov.mz>
- <http://41.194.33.19/Portal>

[Contribution by Mwangi Theuri, Esther Maina and National CHM Coordinators] ◀

#### ONLINE PORTALS

##### Kenya

<http://www.kmfri.co.ke/portal>

##### Tanzania

<http://tanzaniagpt.ims.udsm.ac.tz/Portal/>

##### Mauritius

<http://Mauritiussgpt.dyndns.org>

##### Seychelles

<http://seychellesgpt.sc/Portal/>

##### Comoros

<http://41.194.33.19/Portal/>

##### Madagascar

<http://madagascarportal.org>

##### Mozambique

<http://geoportal.inahina.gov.mz>

##### Regional

<http://Gridnairobi.unep.org/CHMPortal/>

data, improve data compatibility, and access, and possibly increase political support for spatial data infrastructure development in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

The grant was realized after a training concept paper was submitted by the respective countries to GSDI Association, late 2008, through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNEP has been supporting the



*Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse mechanism national working group training session at the Institute of Marine Sciences, Zanzibar, Tanzania: 8-10 December 2008*

The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM) has continued to achieve one of its main objective of developing human resources capacities on data sharing at the national level. During the period between November 2008 and February 2009, a series of national training workshops targeting the CHM national working groups were conducted in Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles, Tanzania, Mozambique and Comoros. The training focused on portal customization, use of standard protocols and data uploading exercises. The trainings were facilitated by the CHM coordinators in each country assisted by staff from UNEP. The CHM project team has put together summaries of the training in each country.

#### KENYA



The Kenya national CHM working group training was conducted between 17-19 November 2008 at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Mombasa. The training was facilitated by the CHM national coordinator, Mr. Harisson Ong'anda. The twelve participants were drawn from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Coast Development Authority (CDA), National Museums of Kenya (NMK), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Department of Remote Sensing and Resource Survey (DRSRS) and Fisheries Department (FiD).

The workshop revolved around the development and customization of the Kenya national portal and building capacity on data uploading among the members of the national working group. 108 metadata records were uploaded to their portal available at <http://www.kmfri.co.ke/portal/>

The working group held an interactive discussion where several key issues were raised including modalities of data sharing between organizations, follow-up on data collection with assigned organizations, staffing requirements for the management of the portals, and portal security measures amongst the data providers.

Based on the working group responses at the end of the training, participants resolved to continue uploading metadata records to the portal from their respective organizations. The national coordinator made a commitment to create additional mapping services.

#### MADAGASCAR



The Madagascar working group held their national CHM training workshop from 24-26 November 2008 at the Office National Pour l'Environment (ONE), Antananarivo. The training was facilitated by the national CHM coordinator, Mr. Jean Roger Rakotoarijaona. Eight participants from Office National Pour l'Environment (ONE), Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) were trained. The national working group customized their national portal and 38 records were uploaded at <http://www.madagascarportal.org/>.

During the discussion at the end of the training, participants requested that the portal be further customized into the official national language of French for effective public awareness. The national CHM coordinator promised to increase the members of the working group during the next training session.

#### SEYCHELLES



The Seychelles national CHM working group held their training workshop from 1-3 December 2008 at the Pollution Control and Environmental Impacts, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Mahe, Seychelles.

The training was facilitated by the national CHM coordinator, Mr. Justin Prosper. At least nine members of the working group participated in the training. 21 records were made available through the CHM portal at <http://seychellesgpt.sc/Portal/>. Participants showed a keen interest in the development of their portal.

#### TANZANIA



The Tanzania CHM working group held their national data development and uploading workshop from 8-10 December 2008 at the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), Zanzibar. The training was facilitated by the national CHM coordinator Dr. Desiderius Masalu. 12 participants were trained and uploaded an additional 49 records to their portal at <http://tanzaniagpt.ims.udsm.ac.tz/Portal>

The national working group expressed the need for additional portal training, provision of manuals on metadata creation, and additional funds for publicity campaigns. The group requested their data team leaders to further customize the data categories in the portal into themes that are relevant to the national coastal and marine ecosystems of Tanzania.

#### MOZAMBIQUE



Mozambique national CHM working group held their training workshop on 15-17 December 2008 at the Instituto Nacional de Hidrografia e Navegação (INAHINA). The training was facilitated by the national CHM coordinator Ms. Ana Maria Alfredo. Five participants were trained from INAHINA, National Directorate of Water, and National Institute of Marine. During the training 24 metadata records were uploaded to their national portal available at <http://geoport.inahina.gov.mz>

## COMOROS



The Comoros CHM working group held their national training from 9-11 February 2009 at the Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Pêche et de l'Environnement. The training workshop was facilitated by national CHM coordinator, Mr. Farid Anasse. Ten participants were trained. The working group configured their data server to be visible at <http://41.194.33.19/Portal/>. The team agreed to obtain a domain name for the clearinghouse for effective outreach and awareness campaigns.

During the training the working group uploaded 24 records and requested for a regional meeting of the national CHM coordinators for a consensus on a number of issues and to also exchange ideas.

[Contribution by National coordinators and James Osumwa] ◀

## NAIROBI CONVENTION CLEARINGHOUSE LEAD AGENCY AND NODE IN SOUTH AFRICA NOMINATED

**T**he South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) was in February 2009 designated the lead agency and national node for the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM). The nomination was made by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of the Government of South Africa. Mr. Johan Pauw, the Managing Director of SAEON accepted the nomination in April 2009, setting the ball rolling for a number of ambitious activities.

SAEON came into being in 2002 to

serve as the eye on environmental change in South Africa. It exists to provide a sustained, coordinated, responsive and comprehensive network that delivers long-term reliable data for scientific research and informs decision-making for a knowledge society and improved quality of life. The facility has a national office in Pretoria and a network of six observational nodes — arid, savannah, grassland, fynbos, offshore and coastal.

Dr. Wayne Goschen of the Egagasini marine offshore node at Cape Town will act as the national CHM coordinator.

[Contribution by Johannes Akiwumi] ◀

## BRIEF UPDATES

### Mission to Seychelles

**T**he WIO-LaB Project entitled “Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean” held its 6<sup>th</sup> steering committee meeting in Seychelles from 9-11 March 2009. The meeting discussed the strategy for Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, the Strategic Action Programme and the process for the ratification of the Protocol on Land-based Sources and Activities.

The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse was represented by Mr. Johannes Akiwumi of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP. He made a ‘live’ presentation on the progress of implementation of the Clearinghouse. The presentation was well received by participants.

The Comoros Coordinator of the Clearinghouse, Mr. Farid Anasse, participated in the meeting as a member of the WIO-LaB Project Steering Committee.

[Contribution by Johannes Akiwumi] ◀

### Mission to Mauritius

**M**r. Mwangi Theuri participated in the Agulhas and Somalia Currents Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) Regional meeting of Technical Coordination group in Seychelles from 2-4 October 2008. The forum raised awareness of project activities taking place in the Western Indian Ocean Region, provided a mechanism for dialogue and communication between projects, and areas of potential synergy between projects.

The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse National Coordinators from Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, and Tanzania — Messrs Farid Anasse, Harrison Ong’anda, Jean Roger Rakotoarijaona, and Dr. Desiderius Masalu respectively participated in the meeting as members of ASCLME project technical coordinators. Mr. Farid Anasse made a presentation on the progress of implementation of the Clearinghouse mechanism at the national level.

[Contribution by Mwangi Theuri] ◀

### Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse data sharing policy

**T**he Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse developed a data sharing policy to strengthen the exchange and sharing of data and information on the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean. The purpose of the policy is to expedite translation of research results into knowledge, reduce duplication on data collection and provide ready access to data that cannot be readily replicated.

The policy highlights the use of secondary data, data ownership, methods of data sharing, time frame, metadata standards and data sharing plans. The policy is available at <http://gridnairobi.unep.org/CHMPortal/jsp/informationandpublications.jsp>.

The national clearinghouses are expected to develop their own national data sharing policies.

[Contribution by Mwangi Theuri, Nancy Soi and Everline Chepkosgei] ◀

## PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NAIROBI CONVENTION NATIONAL COASTAL CLEARINGHOUSE MECHANISM (AS AT APRIL 2009)

| ACTIVITY                               | COUNTRY |       |            |           |            |            |          |          |
|--|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|
|  | Comoros | Kenya | Madagascar | Mauritius | Mozambique | Seychelles | Tanzania | S Africa |
| Nomination of lead agency              | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✓        |
| Nomination of country coordinator      | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✓        |
| Signing of Agreement                   | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| Acquisition of Server                  | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| National working group constituted     | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| Project planning meeting               | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| 1st review meeting on data collection  | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| 2nd review meeting on data quality     | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✗         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| CHM online version (URL)               | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✓         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| Training - portal customization        | ✓       | ✓     | ✓          | ✗         | ✓          | ✓          | ✓        | ✗        |
| Training - advanced portal development | ✗       | ✗     | ✗          | ✗         | ✗          | ✗          | ✗        | ✗        |
| 3rd review meeting on gap analysis     | ✗       | ✗     | ✗          | ✗         | ✗          | ✗          | ✓        | ✗        |
| Outreach and launches                  | ✗       | ✗     | ✗          | ✗         | ✗          | ✗          | ✗        | ✗        |

## IMPROVEMENTS OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION CLEARINGHOUSE

### Discussion Forum

The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse has launched a discussion forum and online collaborative space to interact and communicate. It has been established to provide a two-way flow of information between the Contracting Parties, stakeholders and the public on the sustainable development of the Western Indian Ocean coastal and marine environment. The space allows for forums, uploading and sharing current information, collaborative authoring environments where one can comment on issues posted by other users, blogs and a picture gallery.

The forum is available online at <http://gridnairobi.unep.org/CHMPortal> to promote the interoperability of the regional and national portals. The forum can also be accessed directly through <http://dewa03.unep.org/ncchm/>.

[Contribution by Esther Maina] ◀

### Data Categorization and Metadata Harvesting Tool

As a step towards development of tools for coastal and marine policy implementation, the Clearinghouse Mechanism has categorized its data content into five broad policy relevant thematic areas. This include climate change and mitigation; coastal and marine ecosystem management; environmental disasters and conflict; harmful substances and hazardous waste and; policies, agreements, Acts and legislation.

During the first quarter of 2009, an additional 648 new records were uploaded to the portal as spatial data, reports, photos, and mapping services. Users can access information in three different ways:

The **map viewer** gives users easy access to maps organized by environmental themes. Users can further refine each map by selecting and applying additional layers of information. User can also build their own custom map views by drawing on specific map services

Simple **keyword searches** enable users to

quickly find data. Advanced searches are available by selecting more specific geographic information and other data categories.

**Data category searches** enable users to access detailed lists of data sets and predefined maps according to environmental themes.

The purpose of the metadata harvesting tool is to increase interoperability of the regional and national portals. Through the harvesting tool, the Clearinghouse Mechanism has integrated tens of thousands of data and metadata in the national and regional portals into a coherent whole that is structured to support information exchange and facilitate incorporation of innovative, value adding services.

Currently, there are seven online national clearinghouses (see page 1) for Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania and Mozambique respectively. For more information please visit our portal at <http://gridnairobi.unep.org/CHMPortal/>

[Contribution by Nancy Soi, Esther Maina, Everline Chepkosgei, James Osundwa] ◀

# SCREEN SHOTS OF NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE PORTALS ONLINE



<http://seychellespt.sc/Portal/>



<http://tanzaniagpt.ims.udsm.ac.tz/Portal>



<http://geoportal.inahina.gov.mz>



<http://www.madagascarportal.org>



<http://mauritiusppt.dyndns.org/Portal/index.jsp>



<http://www.kmfri.co.ke/portal/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SECOND AND THIRD QUARTER 2009

1. National Clearinghouse trainings on data quality review, metadata development and uploading into the clearinghouses
2. Awareness raising campaigns of the National Clearinghouses at the national and regional level

#### National CHM Coordinators

- Comoros: Mr. Farid Anasse, MAPE  
 Kenya: Mr. Harrison Ong'anda, KMFRI  
 Madagascar: Mr. Jean Roger Rakotoarijaona, ONE  
 Mauritius: Mr. Mohamadally Beebeejaun, MMS  
 Mozambique: Ms. Ana Maria Alfredo, INAHINA  
 Seychelles: Mr. Justin Prosper, Policy Planning and Services Division, Ministry of Environment  
 South Africa: Dr. Wayne Goschen, SAEON Egagasini  
 Tanzania: Dr. Desiderius Masalu, IMS

#### Advisory & Management Team at UNEP/ Nairobi Convention Secretariat

- Mr. Dixon Waruinge  
 Mr. Peter Scheren  
 Johnson Kitheka  
 Doris Mutta

#### Technical Team at UNEP/DEWA

- Technical Advisor: Mr. Johannes Akiwumi  
 Coordinator: Mr. Mwangi Theuri  
 GIS Server Administrator: Mr. James Osundwa  
 GIS Specialist: Ms. Nancy Soi  
 ICT Specialist: Ms. Esther Maina

The entire staff of the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse and information sharing system at UNEP would like to thank the Directors of the national lead collaborating agencies, the national Coordinators and their working groups, partners and all well wishers for the continued success of the Clearinghouse. Your proactive nature, commitment and support ensures that the Western Indian Ocean region will realize the objectives of the clearinghouses and facilitate practical experience in data sharing and exchange for the sustainable development of our region.

*The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse and Information Sharing system e-newsletter aims at informing stakeholders, national working groups, partners and all interested persons on the status of the clearinghouse activities. Readers are encouraged to give comments on the newsletter and its effectiveness as a vehicle for information exchange.*

*The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UNEP.*

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