Analyzing observations and results – Praia, Cape Verde

Building capacity in Ocean Science in Member States for the sustainable management of the Ocean and Coasts

Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):	Global
Duration (in months):	48 months
Name and unit of project officer	Mitrasen BHIKAJEE, SC/IOC/CBS
Partner(s) institutions:	
Total estimated budget inclusive of Programme Support costs	1 million US$

Rationale and background

What is the project aiming to achieve?
The aim of this project is to build local capacity in all of IOC's Member States so that they are able to sustainably manage their ocean and coasts. At the same time, it addresses the issue of ocean literacy, gender equality in capacity development and the motivation of young scientists.

All the oceans of the planet are interconnected and any event in one of the oceans inexorably impacts on the others as ocean currents carry materials from one place to another. It is therefore essential for all Member States to have the capacity to manage the part of the ocean which is under their jurisdiction.

The project aims at providing the means to Member States, especially LDCs, to have a core of highly qualified (at Ph.D. level) marine science professionals to advise their governments and to supervise upcoming young scientists in order to ensure a constant availability of qualified marine scientists.

Why is this project needed?

Anthropogenic impacts on the ocean are increasing day by day in spite of the availability of highly qualified marine scientists in developed countries. Unless the developing world is able to manage its ocean and coast and minimise its impacts on the global ecosystem, no progress will be made. This project is necessary to ensure that all countries have the capacity to manage their surrounding waters and thus maintain the planet's integrity.

Why UNESCO ?

The IOC has a recognized and unique role in the UN system in relation to ocean science and the science base for ocean management. It is recognized, through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as the competent international organization in the fields of Marine Scientific Research (Part XIII) and Transfer of Marine Technology (Part XIV). Its status as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO has been carefully designed to provide an efficient platform for coordination, information and sharing of knowledge to contribute to sustainable and peaceful development.

Enabling MS to participate and benefit from its Programs and Actions has been a major goal of IOC's activities since its existence. A number of Resolutions and Documents call for action to building capacity in MS to this end. They included the development of a UNESCO IOC Comprehensive Plan for a major assistance programme to enhance the marine science capabilities for developing countries (IOC/INF-612, 1985), the development of TEMA strategy (TEMA-V/7, 1991) and TEMA Action Plan (TEMA V/9, 1991-1995) as well as observations and experiences of TEMA implementation (IOC XVIII/Inf. 2, 1995). A CD strategy (IOC INF 1211) and the Criteria and Guidelines for the Transfer of Marine Technology were prepared during 2005-2009.

Overall Goal/Objective

The objectives of the project are to:
- encourage improvement of formal academic and technical qualifications in Member States;
- support Member States in accessing data for policy development and implementation;
- encourage local infrastructure development in Member States; and
- further expand and enhance IOC's technical training curricula.

Main expected results

What are the key activities to be carried out in order to produce the expected results?
1. A coordination mechanism will be set up for matching demands and offers of scholarships in marine science. In addition IOC will negotiate with developed countries for offering scholarships to LDCs.
2. A system will be set up to allow exchange of post graduate students between developing and developed States.
3. A network of retired marine science professors will be created and opportunities for them to serve on a voluntary basis (or on a local salary) in developing States will be set up.
4. Member States will be assisted in having access to data in order to enable them to develop a national policy for the ocean under their jurisdiction.
5. IOC will look for opportunities for LDC to benefit from bilateral aid in the setting up of marine scientific infrastructure

Expected Result 1

Empower Member States to sustainably manage their ocean and coasts

Activities and outputs/deliverables relating to the achievement of expected results

Activity 1 – expected result 1
Output/deliverable 1.1 Setting up of a programme of scholarships in Marine Science for LDCs
Output/deliverable 1.2 A system of professional exchanges among marine scientists set up
Output/deliverable 1.3 Development of a network of retired marine scientists who will assist LDCs in building local capacity
Output/deliverable 1.4 Assistance to Member States in order to obtain data for developing their Ocean Policy
Output/deliverable 1.5 Act as broker for Member States to develop Infrastructure through bilateral donors

Beneficiaries and stakeholders

- Member States

- The scientific community

Implementation strategy

A strategic plan for the development of capacity in marine science in Member States has been formulated at the request of the IOC Assembly. This plan will be presented at the July 2014 session of the IOC Executive Council. All of the above elements are considered in the strategy. A draft copy is available on: http://www.ioc-cd.org/index.php/activities/ioc-cd-strategic-plan.

Sustainability and exit strategy

Activities in support of the above strategy will be decided periodically in relation to the amount of extra-budgetary resources that will be secured though various donors.

The ultimate aim of this project is the creation of a core group of qualified marine scientists in each Member State. Once this target is reached, it is expected that each member State will be able self–perpetuate its core staff by local supervision of Ph.D. students