

**SECOND IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING MEETING  
FOR THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MARINE  
APPLICATIONS PROJECT (WIOMAP)**

Grand Bay, Mauritius, 1 November 2002

***FINAL REPORT***



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## NOTE

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariats of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO), and the World Meteorological Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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## GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE MEETING

### 1. OPENING

#### 1.1 Opening of the meeting

1.1.1 The second implementation planning meeting for the Western Indian Ocean Marine Applications Project (WIOMAP) opened at 0900 hours on Friday, 1 November 2002, in the International Conference Centre, Grand Bay, Mauritius. The Director of the Mauritius Meteorological Services and Permanent Representative of Mauritius with WMO, Mr S. N. Sok Appadu, welcomed participants and introduced the opening ceremony. He first requested the representative of the WMO and IOC Secretariats to address the meeting.

1.1.2 On behalf of the Secretary-General of WMO, Professor G.O.P. Obasi, and the Executive Secretary IOC, Dr P. Bernal, the Secretariat representative welcomed participants to the meeting. In doing so, he expressed the sincere appreciation of WMO and IOC to the Government and people of Mauritius, and in particular to the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the Mauritius Meteorological Services, for hosting the meeting and providing such excellent facilities and support. The Secretariat representative then recalled that the newly established Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) had, as primary objectives, the implementation and maintenance of a fully-integrated, global, operational ocean observing, data management and services system, in support of a large number of marine users and applications. As such, it directly supports the implementation of systems such as GOOS, GCOS and the World Weather Watch of WMO. For JCOMM to be successful in achieving these objectives, it requires the full involvement of all maritime countries, both as contributors to and beneficiaries of the operational systems. In this context, regional cooperative projects such as WIOMAP are of critical importance in supporting the necessary enhancement of the capabilities of maritime countries, both nationally and regionally, to become involved in the work of JCOMM.

1.1.3 The Secretariat representative then briefly outlined the development of the WIOMAP concept since its initialization in 1997. He emphasized that the purpose of the present meeting was to undertake a thorough review of the full draft project document, with a view to its revision and finalization, for presentation to the heads of potential participating agencies in the region for formal adoption. The Secretariat representative concluded by assuring participants of the full support of the joint Secretariat, and in once more thanking the Government of Mauritius, the MOI and the MMS for their excellent support and hospitality. He wished everyone a successful meeting and an enjoyable stay in Mauritius.

1.1.4 Speaking on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, the Secretary of Home Affairs, Prime Ministers Office, Mr S. C. Seebaluck, extended a very warm welcome to all participants in the meeting. In doing so, he expressed his personal pleasure in being associated with the WIOMAP Project, particularly as he had already been involved for most of his career with oceanographic matters in two Government ministries, and most recently as a member of the Board of the MOI. Mr Seebaluck then noted that Mauritius had agreed to host the present meeting for a number of reasons. These included in particular the importance to Mauritius of the ocean and coastal areas within its very large EEZ, as an environment for significant socio-economic activity, including substantial tourism development and the associated need for sound environmental management. In this context, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute plays a coordinating role.

1.1.5 Mr Seebaluck expressed his appreciation for the present high level of cooperation and coordination between WMO and IOC in the development of marine meteorology and oceanography at the intergovernmental level, and in particular for its manifestation in regional projects such as WIOMAP. This was especially important in view of the high cost of ocean monitoring and related activities, and the resultant need for extensive regional cooperation to achieve desired objectives in terms of enhanced ocean observations to support activities such as regional climate studies, sound environmental management, and informed response to global change. Mr Seebaluck recognized the key role being played in enhancing global and regional

cooperation among meteorologists and oceanographers by JCOMM, and noted that in Mauritius a National GOOS Coordinating Committee had been established to facilitate such coordination, including in support of both GOOS and JCOMM.

1.1.6 Mr Seebaluck concluded by noting that WIOMAP would eventually constitute a regional contribution to GOOS, and in particular to a future Indian Ocean GOOS, which was the subject of the conference to take place the following week. He noted with pleasure that a large measure of consensus had already been reached on the objectives and broad outline of the project, and expressed the full support of his office for its eventual implementation. He thanked WMO and IOC for their support for the project, and wished participants a successful meeting and enjoyable stay in Mauritius. He then formally declared the meeting open.

1.1.7 The list of participants in the meeting is given in *Annex I*.

## **1.2 Election of the chairman**

1.2.1 The meeting elected Mr S. N. Sok Appadu, as its chairman for the duration of the session.

## **1.3 Adoption of the agenda**

1.3.1 The meeting adopted its agenda, which is given in *Annex II*.

## **1.4 Working arrangements**

1.4.1 The meeting agreed its hours of work and other practical arrangements. The documentation was be introduced by the Secretariat.

## **2. REVIEW OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

### **2.1 Results of first Implementation Planning Meeting**

2.1.1 The first Implementation Planning Meeting for WIOMAP took place in Mauritius in May 1997. Based on a presentation from the Secretariat, the meeting briefly reviewed the lead up to and conclusions of this first meeting, to provide a background for the present meeting. It noted in particular:

- (i) The initial survey, undertaken prior to the first meeting, of national and regional user requirements for marine data and services, as well as of the existing status of relevant national facilities and capabilities;
- (ii) The strong support provided to the project concept;
- (iii) The agreement reached on project outline and development timetable.

### **2.2 Development of project proposal**

2.2.1 The meeting noted that, following the first project meeting, the following actions had been undertaken to further develop the project:

- (i) An expert mission to potential participating agencies in western Indian Ocean countries was undertaken in late 1999 by Mr Sachooda Ragoonaden, WMO consultant, to further review requirements, existing capabilities and development potential;
- (ii) A first draft project document was prepared in early 2000 by Mr Ragoonaden;
- (iii) This document was then circulated to a number of experts in WMO and IOC for review;
- (iv) A second revised draft project document was developed, based on this input, by Mr Ragoonaden in early 2002.
- (v) This second draft was distributed to potential participating agencies in mid-2002, together with the invitation to participate in the second Implementation Planning Meeting for WIOMAP;

- (vi) Based on some comments received, a further revision to the draft was prepared and distributed for discussion and review at WIOMAP-II.

### **3. REVIEW OF DRAFT PROJECT DOCUMENT**

3.1 The meeting then undertook a thorough review of this latest version of the project document. This review was structured in two parts: a general review of project concept and structure, as well as broad cross-cutting themes; and a more detailed review of the contents of the proposal, based on the four component sub-projects.

3.2 With regard to the general review, the following major points or general themes were noted in particular:

- (i) Care must be taken in the project to avoid duplication and therefore enhance coordination with existing national and regional projects and programmes on related themes, including ocean data management, climate monitoring and prediction, communications (such as the PUMA project) and coastal area management. The project document must therefore explicitly emphasize this aspect, both to reassure donor agencies and also to make the best use of available resources;
- (ii) At the same time, duplication in training and related human capacity building is a good thing, and a range of such capacity building should be implemented in relevant institutions throughout the region. Any such training should focus directly on problem solving in relation to the objectives of WIOMAP. In addition, in-service training should be included as an integral component of the work plan of all the proposed specialized centres. Training should also focus on enhancing capabilities to make use of specialized marine data and products as they become available;
- (iii) Explicit recognition should be included in the document of existing technology and communication developments in the region which can contribute to the project;
- (iv) Initial emphasis in the project should be on requirements and services in coastal areas, since these are of primary concern to countries in the region. This may eventually lead to a phased approach to implementation, with the first phase based very much on strengthening existing capabilities, largely within National Meteorological Services, and a later phase moving to the deep ocean through ocean agencies;
- (v) While the primary initial focus of the project is on marine meteorology and physical oceanography, there are potential longer-term requirements and benefits related to non-physical oceanography. The project document should therefore clearly recognize this long-term link;
- (vi) A range of new satellite data and products for the marine environment, based on new technological capabilities, is becoming available in the region. This should form a part of the project strategy and be formally recognized in the document;
- (vii) The project must make optimum use of existing national capabilities and programmes, including those related to maritime safety, tropical cyclone forecasting, etc., and such activities must be shown explicitly in the project document as counterpart national commitments;
- (viii) The overall project objectives need to be very explicit regarding real user requirements and the specific end point values for national development.
- (ix) It is important to maintain the present modular structure, to allow for a potential diversity of funding mechanisms. This will thus necessitate some duplication in wording within the project document. At the same time, it is also important to show clearly that all components are linked, and to develop an integrated strategy for a group of potential donors.

3.3 The meeting next undertook a more detailed review of the document on a section-by-section basis. With regard to overall document presentation, it was agreed that the text should be considerably shortened, and specific issues, objectives and activities given in bullet form, to facilitate review and understanding by both participants and potential donors. In view of the large number of suggestions made, the meeting agreed to set up small drafting groups to revise specific parts of the document, including in particular: the introductory sections dealing with project



justification; the capacity building sub-project; overall project costing and staffing; observing system enhancements. The drafting groups were requested to provide their revised sections to the Secretariat by the end of the IOGOOS Conference, for incorporation into a consolidated revised document.

3.4 The Secretariat was requested to arrange for the finalization of the new revised document, taking into account the input from the drafting groups and the general comments noted above, if possible before the end of 2003. This complete revised draft should then be distributed once more to meeting participants for their further review, prior to a formal distribution to agency heads for approval.

#### **4. NATIONAL AND/OR AGENCY COMMITMENTS**

4.1 Agencies and institutions represented at the meeting were then requested to indicate their willingness to become partners in the project. This included some indication of potential future commitments to an agency or national contribution to the project, bearing in mind that the project document will need to carry a clear expression of such contributions when it is submitted to potential funding agencies. Statements also included indications of agency requirements for support under the project. In summary, both meteorological and oceanographic agencies in the following western Indian Ocean countries indicated a strong desire to participate in and contribute to the project: Comoros, France (La Réunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania. In addition, the meeting accepted with appreciation the offer from India to support and contribute to project implementation, most likely indirectly through wider regional cooperative groupings such as IOGOOS.

#### **5. FUTURE ACTIONS**

5.1 The meeting agreed to the following plan and timetable of future actions for the further development, finalization and formal adoption of the project document:

- (i) Individual or group contributions to the revised project document to be submitted to the Secretariat by end-December 2002;
- (ii) The consolidated revised project document to be finalized and distributed to meeting participants for a final review and revision by mid-2003;
- (iii) Final comments and individual, informal agreements to the document to be submitted to the Secretariat by end of September 2003;
- (iv) Review of the revised document by the JCOMM Task Team on Resources, for their advice on contents, structure and potential donors;
- (iv) The final revised project document to be distributed to the heads of potential participating agencies (by the Secretary-General of WMO and the Executive Secretary IOC) by the end of 2003, seeking their formal approval of the document as well as the willingness of their agency to participate in the project;
- (vi) Agreement by participating agencies should be sent to the Secretariat in early 2004;
- (vii) Submission of the agreed project document to potential funding agencies, by one country on behalf of all participants, in early 2003;
- (viii) A possible review meeting of all potential donor agencies to be convened by the Secretariat in mid-2004.

5.2 The meeting accepted with appreciation the offer of Mauritius, through the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the Mauritius Meteorological Services jointly, to act as the submitting country for the project.

#### **6. CLOSURE**

6.1 The meeting recognized that, because of time constraints, it was not possible to prepare and agree the final meeting report prior to the formal closure at the end of the one-day session. It therefore requested the Secretariat to prepare the provisional report after the meeting, and

distribute it to participants for review before the end of the IOGOOS Conference, in which all meeting participants would also take part. Comments and revisions to the report would then be passed to the Secretariat before the closure of IOGOOS on 9 November, with the agreed final report to be distributed to participants in early 2003.

6.2 In closing the meeting, the chairman, Mr Sok Appadu, noted the strong support of all participants for the project concept, as well as the very positive approach to the draft project document and the constructive comments received during the meeting. He offered his appreciation to all participants for their input, which had contributed very much to the success of the meeting, and expressed his confidence in the ultimate success of the project. Speaking on behalf of participants, the Secretariat representative offered his sincere thanks to the chairman for his informed and insightful conduct of the meeting, which had been instrumental in its successful conclusion.

6.3 The second Implementation Planning Meeting for the WIOMAP Project closed at 1730 hours on Friday, 1 November 2003.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**COMORES**

Mr Abdoukarim Ahmed  
CNDRS  
BP 266  
MORONI  
Comores  
Telephone: +269 73 09 61  
Telefax: +269 74 41 89  
E-mail: cdo.cndrs@snpt.km

Telefax: + 254 11 475 157  
E-mail: cmagori@recoscix.org  
cmagori@yahoo.com

Mr James Wahome Muhoro  
Kenya Meteorological Department  
Port Meteorological Office  
Box 98512  
MOMBASA  
Kenya  
Telephone: +254-11 433789  
Telefax: +254-2 577373; +254-11 433689  
E-mail: jw\_muhoro@yahoo.com

**FRANCE**

Mr Laurent Perron  
Directeur interregional ajoint à la Reunion  
Météo-France  
B.P. 4  
97491 SAINTE CLOTILDE Cédex  
La Reunion  
France  
Telephone: +262 92 11 02  
Telefax: +262 92 11 47  
E-mail: laurent.perron@meteo.fr

**MADAGASCAR**

Mr Jean Gervais Rafamantanantsoa  
Coordinateur General de la Recherche  
Ministère de la Recherche Scientific  
pour le Developpement  
Rue Fernand Kasanga  
Tsimbazaza, P.O. Box 694  
101 ANTANANARIVO  
Madagascar  
Telefax: +261-20 2256633  
E-mail: dgrmrs@dts.mg

**INDIA**

Dr G. Narayana Swamy  
National Institute of Oceanography  
Dona Paula 403004  
GOA  
India  
Telephone: + 91-832 456 700 X 4271  
Telefax: + 91-832 456 703  
Email: narayana@darya.nio.org

Mr Alain Solo Razafimahazo  
Direction Générale de la Météorologie  
B.P. 1254  
ANTANANARIVO 101  
Madagascar  
Telephone: +261-20 22 405 35/40575  
Telefax: +261-20 22 405 81/408 23  
E-mail: meteo@dts.mg  
meteo@simicro.mg

**KENYA**

Dr Johnson M. Kazungu  
Director  
Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research  
Institute  
P.O. Box 81651  
MOMBASA  
Kenya  
E-mail: jkazungu@recoscix.org

**MAURITIUS**

Mr S.N. Sok Appadu  
Permanent Representative of Mauritius  
with WMO  
Meteorological Services  
St. Paul Road  
VACOAS  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 68 610 31/32  
Telefax: +230 68 610 33  
E-mail: meteo@intnet.mu  
luxmi70@hotmail.mu

Mr Charles Magori  
Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
P.O. Box 81651  
MOMBASA  
Kenya  
Telephone: + 254 11 475 153/4

Mr Aslam MONIARUCH  
Senior Meteorological Technician  
Mauritius Meteorological Services  
St. Paul Road  
Vacoas  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 6861031  
Telefax: +230 686 1033

Dr Ranadhir MUKHOPADHAY  
Director  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: ranadir@intnet.mu

Mr Sachooda RAGOONADEN  
Board Member  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: rajouma@yahoo.com

Mr Mohamudally BEEBEEJAUN  
Meteorologist  
Mauritius Meteorological Services  
St. Paul Road  
Vacoas  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 686 1031  
Telefax: +230 686 1033  
E-mail: m.bbjohn@odinafrica.net

Mr Vishnu SOONDRON  
Assistant Director  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
France Centre  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: vishnu9@moi.intnet.mu

Mr Sharveen PERSAND  
Project Officer  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
Email: sharveen@moi.intnet.mu

Mr. Baboo Dooshyant RATHACHAREN  
Divisional Fisheries Officer

Ministry of Fisheries  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 211 2470  
E-mail: fish@intnet.mu

Mr Navinchandra LUCHOO  
Senior Surveyor  
Ministry of Housing & Lands  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 212 3585; 210 0938  
Telefax: +230 208 3623  
E-mail: subashluchoo@hotmail.com

Dr James H. LEVEN  
Project Manager  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: jim12@intnet.mu

Mr Balraj DUNPUTH  
Meteorologist  
Meteorological Services  
Vacoas  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 686 1031  
Telefax: +230 686 1033  
E-mail: meteo@intnet.mu

Dr Beenay PATHACK  
Deputy Director  
Meteorological Services  
Vacoas  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 686 1031  
Telefax: +230 686 1033  
E-mail: bpathack@mail.gov.mu

Mr Sylvio HO MAN CHEONG  
Adviser, Prime Minister's Office  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 201 3604  
Telefax: +230 212 9393

Mr P. E. Daniel MARIE  
Project Officer  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: danielme@moi.intnet.mu

Miss Reena GOPAL NURSIMHULU  
Project Officer  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute

Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: rgnursimulu@moi.intenet.mu

Mrs Kamla Ruby MOOTHYEN PILLAY  
Project Officer  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: rubykm@moi.intnet.mu

Captain Premananda PONAMBALUM  
Port-Master  
Mauritius Port Authority  
Mer Rouge  
Port Louis  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 216 3504  
Telefax: +230 242 8314  
E-mail: mauport@intnet.mu

Mr Roshan T. RAMESSUR  
Senior Lecturer  
University of Mauritius  
Reduit  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 454 1041  
Telefax: +230 465 6929  
E-mail: ramessur@uom.ac.mu

Mr Feeizal JEEROBUKHAN  
MIE  
Reduit  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 454 7667

Mr Didier SLACHMUYLDERS  
Technical Advisor  
Indian Ocean Commission  
Sir Guy Forget Avenue  
Quatre Bornes  
E-mail: didierslach.omi.intet.mu

Dr H. TERASHIMA  
JICA Expert  
Japan International Cooperation Agency  
c/o Albion Fisheries Centre  
Petite Rivière  
Telephone: +230 238 4131  
E-mail: afcjica@intnet.mu

Mr A.H. SOOBRAATTEE  
Deputy Chief Surveyor  
Ministry of Housing and Lands

Edith Cavell Street  
Port Louis  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 212 7487  
E-mail: soobashluchoo@hotmail.com

Mr Prakash SEEBURRUN  
National Coast Guard  
Port Louis  
Mauritius

Mr Patrick RANDAMY  
National Coast Guard  
Port Louis  
Mauritius

Mr Mahadeo RAMCHURN

Mr Yadowsun BOODHOO  
Divisional Meteorologist  
Meteorological Services  
Vacoas  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 686 1031  
Telefax: +230 686 1033  
E-mail: meteo@intnet.mu

Mr Diwakar GANGAPERSAD  
Research Officer  
Mauritius Research Council  
Maison de Carne  
Rose Hill  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 465 1235  
Telefax: +230 465 1239  
Email: mrc@intnet.mu

Mr Belal D. HANSROD  
Geologist  
14 Ave. Labourdonnais  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 425 2162

Mr M.I. Yousouf ATCHIA  
Scientific Officer  
Department of Environment  
Corner Line Barracks  
St. George Street  
Port Louis  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 466 1080  
Telefax: +230 4661382  
E-mail: ieres@intnet.mu

Mr Rajaram LUXIMON  
Technical Officer  
Ministry of Environment

Ken Lee Tower  
Barracks Street  
Port Louis  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 2126975  
Telefax: +230 211 9903  
E-mail: rluximon@intnet.mu

Mr Toshio NAGUI  
JICA Expert  
c/o Ministry of Housing & Lands  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rainbow House  
Edith Cavell Street  
Port Louis  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 211 6308  
Telefax: +230 211 6308  
E-mail: tnagai@intnet.mu

Mrs Neera Satishchandra KOONJUL  
Scientific Officer  
Albion Fisheries Research Centre  
Albion  
Petite Rivière  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 238 4829  
Telefax: +230 238 4184

Mr A. SUDDHOO  
Executive Director  
Mauritius Research Council  
La Maison de Carne  
Rose Hill  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 465 1235

Prof. Indur FAGOONEE  
Pro Vice Chancellor  
University of Mauritius  
Reduit  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 454 1041  
Telefax: +230 466 7900

Prof. Sunil RUGOOPUTH  
University of Mauritius  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 454 1041

Dr Asha Devi POONYTH  
Biological Oceanographer  
Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Quatre Bornes  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 427 4434  
Telefax: +230 427 4433  
E-mail: moi@intnet.mu

Atnanun VENKATASAMI  
Divisional Scientific Officer  
AFRC  
Albion  
Petite Rivière  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 238 4100  
Telefax: +230 2384184  
E-mail: fish@intnet.mu

Mr Parves Aly MOHAMUDALLY  
Senior Economist  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Port Louis  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 201 3642  
Telefax: +230 201 1337  
E-mail: m.forc@intnet.mu

Jean Thomas GENAVE  
Rodrigues Regional Assembly  
Rodrigues  
Mauritius  
Telephone: +230 831 2032  
Telefax: +230 831 2185

Mr Jean Rex PIERRE LOUIS  
Rodrigues  
Mauritius

Mr Thomas HOOPER  
Director  
Shoals Rodrigues  
Pointe Monier  
Mauritius

#### MOZAMBIQUE

Mr David Chemane  
Instituto Nacional de Hidrografia e  
Navegação (INAHINA)  
Av. Karl Marx 153-5/12  
C. Postal 2089  
MAPUTO  
Mozambique  
Telephone: +258-1 43 01 86 / 8  
Telefax: +258-1 43 01 85 / 42 86 70  
E-mail: [albanogove@teledata.mz](mailto:albanogove@teledata.mz)  
[david@inahina.uem.mz](mailto:david@inahina.uem.mz)

#### SEYCHELLES

Mr Denis Chang-seng  
Seychelles National Meteorological Services  
Policy, Planning and Services Division  
Ministry of Environment  
P.O. Box 1145

Victoria  
MAHE  
Seychelles  
Telephone: +248 384067  
Telefax: +248 384078  
E-mail: d.chang-seng@pps.gov.sc  
nms@pps.gov.sc

Mr Evariste Michel  
Policy, Planning and Services Division  
Ministry of Environment and Transport  
P.O. Box 1145  
Victoria  
MAHE  
Seychelles  
Telephone: +248 384066  
Telefax: +248 384078  
E-mail: e.michel@pps.gov.sc  
scmet@seychelles.net

#### SOUTH AFRICA

Mr Geoff W. Bailey  
Head  
Physical and Chemical Oceanography  
Marine and Coastal Management  
Department of Environmental Affairs and  
Tourism  
Private Bag X2  
ROGGE BAY 8012  
South Africa  
Telephone: +27-21 402 3306  
Telefax: +27-21 425 6976  
E-mail: gwbailey@mcm.wcape.gov.za

Prof. Mark Jury  
Environmental Science Department  
University of Zululand  
Kwa Dlangezwa 3886  
South Africa  
Telephone: + 27-35 902 6326  
E-mail: mjury@uzulu.ac.za

Mr Mark Majodina  
South African Weather Service  
Department of Environment Affairs  
Private Bag X097  
PRETORIA 0001  
South Africa  
Telefax: +27-12 309 3127  
E-mail: majodina@weathersa.co.za

#### TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF

Mr Abidan Jesse Mlaki  
Tanzania Meteorological Agency  
P.O. Box 3056  
DAR ES SALAAM

United Republic of Tanzania  
Telephone: +255-22 211 0231/0227  
Telefax: +255-22 211 0231/213 7665  
E-mail: amlaki@hotmail.com

(Dr Alfred Muzuka  
University of Dar es Salaam  
Institute of Marine Sciences  
P.O. Box 668  
ZANZIBAR  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Telephone: +255-24 2232128 / 230741  
Telefax: +255-24 233050  
E-mail: [director@zims.udsm.ac.tz](mailto:director@zims.udsm.ac.tz))

#### JCOMM

Mr Johannes Guddal  
Co-president of JCOMM  
Norwegian Meteorological Institute  
Allegt. 70  
5007 BERGEN  
Norway  
Telephone: +47-55 236 626  
Telefax: +47-55 236 703  
Email: j.guddal@dnmi.no

#### SECRETARIAT

Dr Peter E. Dexter  
Oceans Affairs Division  
World Weather Watch-Applications  
Department  
World Meteorological Organization  
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix  
Case postale No 2300  
CH-1211 GENEVE 2  
Switzerland  
Telephone: +41-22 730 82 37  
Telefax: +41-22 730 80 21  
E-mail: dexter@www.wmo.ch

Mr Bill Erb  
Head Perth Regional Office  
IOC  
P.O. Box 1370  
WEST PERTH WA 6872  
Australia  
Telephone: +61-3 9226 2899  
Telefax: +61-3 9226 0599  
E-mail: w.erb@bom.gov.au

Dr Mika Odido  
IOCINCWIO Project Office  
P.O. Box 05832  
MOMBASA 80106  
Kenya  
Telephone: +254-11 472527

Telefax: +254-11 475 157  
E-mail: [m.odido@unesco.org](mailto:m.odido@unesco.org)

Mr Victor A. Simango  
Technical Cooperation Department  
World Meteorological Organization  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix  
Case postale No 2300  
CH-1211 GENEVE 2  
Switzerland  
Telephone: +41-22 730 8303  
Telefax: +41-22 730 8047  
E-mail: [simango\\_v@gateway.wmo.ch](mailto:simango_v@gateway.wmo.ch)



## **AGENDA**

### **1. OPENING**

- 1.1 Opening of the meeting
- 1.2 Election of the chairman
- 1.3 Adoption of the agenda
- 1.4 Working arrangements

### **2. REVIEW OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

- 2.1 Results of first Implementation Planning Meeting
- 2.2 Development of project proposal

### **3. REVIEW OF DRAFT PROJECT DOCUMENT**

### **4. NATIONAL AND/OR AGENCY COMMITMENTS**

### **5. FUTURE ACTIONS**

### **6. CLOSURE**