

**P-I-8**

**Marine data rescue, archival and management project**

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The aim of this project is to rescue marine data especially meteorological and oceanographic data which are scattered in various raw forms in certain institutions in the countries bordering the Western Indian Ocean. These include Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Somalia, Mauritius, La Reunion and Seychelles. Such data are those collected through the Voluntary Observation Ships (VOS) of WMO and Ships of Opportunity Programme (SOOP) of former Intergovernmental Global Ocean Observing System (IGOSS) over many years. This data is stored in logbooks and some of them have become too old and there is danger that all or some of that valuable data can be lost if quick action to rescue them is not taken.

It is hoped that funding will be found for the project. If successful it will run as follows:

STEP ONE will identifying where the data is and in which form.

STEP TWO will be decoding those messages which are in WMO code forms.

STEP THREE will be entering the data into the computer in the format of the logbooks.

STEP FOUR will be quality control.

STEP FIVE will be transferring the data to more permanent media such as CD-ROMS.

If funding and time will allow, further analysis will be done to obtain products useful for climate studies and other scientific research.

It is a fact that once National Meteorological Services have used maritime data for realtime weather forecasts the data is never retained in permanent form. This project therefore will try and rescue from original records the data which would otherwise be lost forever.