

13th Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plan



Main challenges experienced during the year 2011 and opportunities ahead

(Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and
Coastal Environment of the West, Central and Southern African Region)

Busan, Korea, 3-5 Oct 2011



What is the Abidjan Convention?



- 22 coastal countries of the Atlantic from Mauritania to South Africa (3 islands)
- Came into force on 5th Aug. 1984
- Two protocols (Emergency and LBSA)
- Overarching legal framework for all marine related programmes in West, Central and Southern Africa
- 14,000 km
- 3 LMEs (Canary, Guinea and Benguela)
- Highly productive and diverse ecosystems supporting various socio-economic activities in the region (GCLME only yields annual benefit of 17.5B\$...without oil)
- « One-man » show Secretariat



Challenges

Marine and coastal environmental (emerging) issues

1. Coastal retreat
2. Oil exploration and exploitation
3. Marine litter/Waste water management
4. Unsustainable fishing practices
5. Destruction of habitats (e.g: mangroves)
6. Land reclamation
7. Sea surface temperature
8. Maritime boundaries



Challenges



Marine and coastal governance issues

1. Relocation of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat from Abidjan to Accra
2. Establishing a regional framework to deal with marine and coastal environmental governance issues
3. Domestication of the ABC and protocols provisions in national legislations
4. Funding (CPs v/s projects)
5. Lack of technical and institutional capacities at national level
6. The role of NGOs, CBOs, private sector and other stakeholders
7. LMEs v/s RSCAPs



Opportunities



governance issues

ional and financial support from the host and CPs
the ABC as THE intergovernmental regional
dress marine and coastal issues

Ps covered by the ABC for actions at the national

financial base of the ABC

f CPs' technical and institutional capacities

ership with NGOs, CBOs, private sector and other
ctive in the region in the field of marine and
ement.

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