

**21st MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC21
Tokyo, Japan, 7 – 9 June 2023**

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC21

**Southern African & Islands Hydrographic Commission
(SAIHC) Report**

Submitted by:	SAIHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SAIHC.
Related Documents:	SAIHC CB Plan 2023-2025 SAIHC CB Plan 2022-2024
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction / Background

A three-year plan for CB activity in the SAIHC region was approved by the membership in May 2022. This plan covers the period 2023-2025 and is reviewed annually (during SAIHC meetings) to ensure it meets regional requirements. The plan is based on assessing the phase of development of each of the coastal states within the SAIHC region (as determined by the IHO's four phases of CB) and arranging training activity to build the necessary capability to meet SOLAS treaty obligations. There is a great deal of 'SOLAS awareness' required in this region.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

Annex: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)

3. Activities completed since CBSC20

- A Technical Visit to Comoros
- A Technical Visit to Madagascar
- A Technical Visit to the United Republic of Tanzania
- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (focussing on National responsibilities and the IHO Strategic Plan)

4. Activities planned for 2023

- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography – 1 day seminar will precede this year's SAIHC19 meeting, 28 August. The Seminar will focus on Alternative Survey methods and S-100
- MSI Course - Scheduled for October and hosted by Oman. Due to the delay in the completion of important MSI Courses within the region due to the impact of COVID this will be a combined MSI Course that will be attended by participants from the neighbouring RHCs.
- ENC Training for Mozambique – Mozambique has recently undergone a change of its Hydrographic Organisation, with duties previously undertaken by INAHINA

being transferred to the Mozambique Oceanographic Institute (InOM). Dates for this activity are undetermined but discussions with Portugal and Mozambique continue around the requirement for this activity.

5. Challenges faced in the region

The SAIHC region contains 2 of the world's 64 major Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) - the Benguela current and the Agulhas current and 4 of Africa's Great Lakes. These are recognized as having distinctive bathymetry, hydrography and productivity.

The main traffic to the west of the region are the routes from ports in NW Africa to the Cape of Good Hope together with the transatlantic routes for traffic between North and South America and the ports in this area.

Of the many ports in the area, some are not large but are regionally vital. For example, Maputo a medium sized port, is the main access point to the sea for Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi and Tamatave (Toamasina) the only real full-service port in Madagascar, is economically vital, though a small/medium port in reality.

The shipping lanes along the East Africa coast carry over 30% of the world's crude oil supplies. This region contains thirteen important commercial ports serving as hubs for traffic emanating from, and destined for Europe, Asia, the Americas and the east and western coasts of Africa. In addition to the large cargo ships travelling internationally, many smaller vessels serving local needs ply the coastal waters and harbours.

Of the Great Lakes, Lake Victoria is the world's largest tropical lake and the largest lake in the African Great Lakes region. The lake supports the largest freshwater fishery in the world, producing 1 million tons of fish per year and employing 200,000 people in supporting the livelihoods of 4 million people.

The region faces a broad range of Maritime security challenges such as energy security with Oil and gas exploration programmes. However, piracy and armed robbery continue to be regarded as the main maritime threats.

One of the most significant challenges the SAIHC faces is generating engagement from the Associate Members (AM) and those land linked states that have not engaged with the work of the IHO. The SAIHC Hydrographic Awareness Seminars and the establishment of the African Great Lakes and Rivers Sub Working Groups (AGL&RsWG) have encouraged the participation of these nations within the region who have not previously engaged with the work of the RHCs enabling the building of relationships and the sharing of regional issues.

With the exceptions of Portugal and India, none of the AM states are IHO members so do not qualify for the higher-level, Phase 2 and Phase 3, training opportunities which are only available to members.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

The impact of the COVID pandemic on Capacity Building activity within the SAIHC region has been evident and saw a period of limited engagement however the situation is improving, evidenced by the completion of three technical visits and the meeting of in person SAIHC conferences. The signing of 2 new IHO Members from the SAIHC region Angola and Kenya is a significant achievement and their input on and support of SAIHC Matters should be noted.

Whilst S-100 is a topic of interest in the region the need for the development of Phase 1 capability in the region continues to be a priority and the MSI Course scheduled for delivery later in 2023 will help to address this and will aim to support the development of succession planning and underpin robust long-term capability.

In recognition of the importance of the African Great Lakes in supporting the economy of a number of nations within the region, the SAIHC has established the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub Working Group (AGL&RsWG). In December 2022 Members of the group met in Malawi to discuss common issues and took part in a practical survey demonstration. This meeting achieved representation from across the region and brought together government departments, port authorities and cross regional bodies. The working group activities continue to focus on a hydrography audit, development of a coordinated vertical datum for Lake Victoria, requirements for a data portal, and data sharing. This unique opportunity brought a greater awareness of the importance of hydrography to those communities that live on, around and connected to significant lakes and rivers. The activity provided a focus to the specific challenges faced by regional stakeholders and identified collaborative solutions to maximise limited resources and opportunities for capacity building.

The work of the Primary Charting Authorities within SAIHC in supporting capacity building and the building of hydrographic services is acknowledged and greatly appreciated in supporting the work of the IHO Capacity building efforts.

7. Conclusions:

In 2022 attendance at the SAIHC annual meeting was the largest attained, this was enabled through the IHO support to the Hydro Awareness Seminar and the ability for some Members to join the meeting virtually. To continue this momentum and encourage greater engagement the SAIHC will again hold a Hydrographic Awareness Seminar. It has been shown that funding the participation of Associate and Observer nations not only guarantees attendance but also showcases the importance of regional hydrography and how all coastal states have a part to play, irrespective of size. The hydrographic awareness seminar also enables a sharing of knowledge of regional issues building joint capability in the region.

The French, Indian, Portuguese and UK Government's contribution to regional capacity building has augmented the IHO's efforts and undoubtedly improved both the education and data gathering regionally.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report
- b. take any action consider appropriate.

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Annex: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)