

**15th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC15
Tokyo, 12-14 June 2023**

Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

Report to IRCC15

1. Chair

Chair: Rear Admiral (Retd.) Peter Sparkes, United Kingdom from June 2020

Vice-Chair: Mr Mohummad Shamad Ayoob Saab, Mauritius from March 2023

2. Membership

Members: Angola, France, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, Republic of South Africa, Seychelles, United Kingdom.

Associate member(s): Comoros, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Portugal, Tanzania.

3. Meetings

There have been no meetings since IRCC14

Next meeting: 19th SAIHC will take place 29th- 31st August in Mauritius, preceded by a Hydrographic Awareness Seminar on 28th August.

4. Current SAIHC Working Groups

- a) Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
- b) Integrated Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG)
- c) Sub working group - African Great Lakes & Rivers Working Group (AGL&RWG)

5. Status of IRCC actions and recommendations to RHCs

a) Status of actions (relevant for the SAIHC)

No.	Action	Status
1	IRCC invited RHCs and Subordinate bodies to provide comments and inputs on the governance document on Dual Fuel Concept for S-100 ECDIS, intersessionally.	Ongoing. S-100 is a topic of focus for the SAIHC region and further discussion on the implementation of S-100 will be had at SAIHC19 meeting in Aug 23.

Note: Action list is available from:
www.iho.int/ircc > IRCC14

b) Status of Recommendations to RHCs

No.	Recommendation	Status
13	RHC to encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities.	South Africa are reps for CSB and Seabed 2030 and are working with SAIHC to progress this.
14	Encourage RHCs to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO.	Ongoing

6. Agenda Items

This report covers the period from IRCC14 to IRCC15.

Whilst there has not been a SAIHC plenary in the intervening period, there has been significant activity including a meeting of the African Great Lakes & Rivers sub working group (AGL&RsWG).

The SAIHC Conferences operate a standing agenda with modifications for new issues of regional importance as they arise. The principal agenda items are:

Feedback from other IHO Bodies affecting SAIHC

- o 6th Meeting of the IHO Council
- o IRCC14 Report
- o HSSC14 Report
- o CBSC
- o IHO Secretariat Report

SAIHC Activities supporting the IHO Work Programme

- o GEBCO and Seabed 2030
- o Crowdsourced Bathymetry
- o Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG)
- o ICCWG - INT chart scheme for Region H including the African Great Lakes and Rivers Sub Working Group (AGL&RsWG)
- o Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
- o Capacity Building CBSC Technical Visits and Regional Projects
- o Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Agreements, Projects, and Regional Capacity Building Management Plan.
- o Presentation of National Reports: Hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, nautical publications, and information status.
- o Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting (C-55)
- o Procedures in response to Marine Disasters
- o International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- o Southern and East African and Islands Regional Group for Safety of Navigation and Marine Environment Protection (SEAIGNEP)
- o MSI - NAVAREA VII Self-Assessment.

7. SAIHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.)

There has been a very successful collaboration between industry, Member States and other organisations within the African Great Lakes and Rivers sub Working Group. An initial meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi was followed by a practical demonstration of data collection at Monkey Bay, sponsored by Kongsberg Maritime AS, Sensors & Robotics division, and delivered by GeoSystems.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

Data collection in remote locations and the lack of data coverage to meet the Seabed 2030 goals remain a huge challenge for the SAIHC region. Many members find it challenging to unlock scarce resources to invest in hydrography.

The SAIHC community is at a varying level of technical maturity within the digital and S-100 space. The region will seek to address through collaborative initiatives and through the support of the IHO CB work the Hydrographic Awareness Seminar at SAIHC19 is aiming to present on S100.

9. Achievements and lessons learned

Since IRCC14 the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub Working Group (AGL&RsWG) has achieved significant success, culminating with a hosted meeting and practical demonstration in Malawi, in December 2022. This meeting achieved representation from across the region and brought together government departments, port authorities and cross regional bodies. The working group activities continues 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.

The ICCWG continues to coordinate the INT charting coverage and work to reduce ENC overlaps and gaps. The establishment of the CSB and Seabed 2030 coordinator provides a concentrated focus in conjunction with wider activity. This has included the presentation of the work of Seabed 2030 to the SAIHC.

Participants from the region have benefited from the support of the IHO Capacity Building Fund and the generous support of the donor organisations – Ms Steffi NIBOURETTE of Seychelles attended the IHO – Nippon Foundation GEOMAC Project, successfully completing the course in December 2022. Looking forward, under the IHO CB Programme - Mr Hunish Kumar MATTAROOA of Mauritius has been selected to attend the 2023-2024 Cat A Master programme sponsored by Republic of Korea, Mr Anthony WAIYEGO of Kenya has been selected to attend the 2023 Cat B GEOMAC Course sponsored by the Nippon Foundation and Ms Victoria OBURA of Kenya has been selected for the Canada-IHO Project Empowering Women in Hydrography NOAA (USA) At Sea Experience 2023 Internship.

The COVID pandemic has impacted the delivery of several planned face-to-face Capacity Building activities, but the improved global situation has enabled two Technical Assessment Visits to be completed in 2022 to the Comoros and the United Republic of Tanzania. These visits will support the development of hydrographic capability and have raised awareness at a policy level of the value of hydrography and its role in supporting

a country's economy.

10. Conclusions

SAIHC, in collaboration with other international, regional, and bi-lateral partners, is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartography, MSDI and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals. This incorporates the digital transition to S100 which will be of key focus for the next SAIHC19.

11. Actions required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to take note of this Report.

Peter Sparkes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Sparkes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

SAIHC Chair