



African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub Working Group Meeting

8 September 2021 Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendance: Interim Chair: James Timmins, SAIHC Secretary: Ashley Parker, Malawi: Gift Chigona, South Africa: Capt. Theo Stokes, Alfons Van Craeynest UK: Tim Lewis, Lucy Fieldhouse, Nicholas Swadling, Mozambique: Jose Simbine.

Apologies: Kenya: Lucy Mburu, Mozambique: Celia Magaia, Ricardo Machave, Tanzania: Edwin Nkinzo, Uganda: Henry Ategeka, Tanzania: Charles Mazula Manyasa, Lake Victoria Basin Commission Amos Christopher Ndoto, PMAESA: Col. Andre Ciseau.

Time	Item No.	Agenda item
09:00	1	Welcome from Chair and introductions to any new members
	2	Approval of minutes from last meeting
	3	Status of Actions
09:10	4	Acceptance of draft Terms of Reference (TOR)
09:15	5	Start of audit – status of bathymetric survey data, water level gauges, aids to navigation (AtoN), chart products, survey equipment, trained personnel.
09:30	6	Storage and display of documents for AGL&R subWG
09:40	7	Maritime Safety Information (MSI) - Radio warnings and Notices to Mariners – what is the current status?
09:50	8	Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) for Lakes
10:05	9	Any reports from members and other business (AOB)
10:15		Meeting Closed

1. The Interim Chair James Timmins welcomed the members to the second meeting. Jose Simbine was welcomed as a new member. We have invited PMAESA and Amos Christopher Ndoto Maritime Safety Officer from the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and look forward to them joining future meetings.
2. Minutes from the first African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub Working Group 12 May 2021 were approved with no comments received.
3. The Interim Chair summarised the two actions as complete.

Action Table

Number	Action	Due Date	Lead	Update/comments	Status
1	UK to draft ToR to incorporate item 4 and share by email for comment.	June 30	UK	UKHO drafted ToR and sent to members for comment via email May 20.	Complete
2	Tanzania and Kenya to investigate a contact person for the Lake Victoria basin commission to invite to the meeting August 2021 TBC	July 31	Tanzania & Kenya	Kenya passed contact details to the Secretary who has reached out and invited LVBC to be part of the group.	Complete

4. The Interim Chair thanked Malawi for their comments to the draft Terms of Reference (TOR), of which were incorporated into the final version. He summarised the main points from the ToR



and with no further comments these were accepted as final. The final ToR will be circulated to the group and will be stored on the IHO AGL&RSWG webpage. The interim Chair stated the ToRs can be reviewed and tabled as an agenda item for amendment.

5. The Interim Chair gave an overview of the IHO C-55 capacity building document as an example of an audit of surveys, charts and MSI status to inform decision making for IHO/IMO and understand hydrographic capability of each country.

He stated the group could do something similar for the lakes to get some more detailed information on:

- Survey coverage and status, dates and types of survey multi beam or single beam
- Listing of existing charted products
- Listing of aids to navigation – lights, buoys, positions and characteristics that can go onto a chart. It will aid IALA technical visits in the region for inspection and advising development needs
- Details of water level gauges -rises/changes in different seasons
- Listing of survey and cartography equipment and skills of personnel

All information will identify gaps in the region and enable further collaboration and understanding the needs of the group.

The Interim Chair asked if this will be useful, if the data was already to hand or will it be a challenge to gain this information from different departments/organisations.

Malawi stated it is vital to gain the information required but said unfortunately he does not have the information at present and suggests this is recorded as an action.

UK proposed a template be created to also include a blank entry for members of the group to add further information that would add value.

Action 1 – UK to prepare and circulate template for the African Great Lakes & Rivers audit

Action 2 – Members to complete African Great Lakes & Rivers audit including MSI

6. The Interim Chair stated that a section had been added to the [IHO SAIHC webpage for the AGL&RSWG](#) and the finalised ToR's, meeting reports and any other documents would be stored here. He posed the question is the data we are collecting for the lakes and audit sensitive as this is an open public site and said he could speak to the IHO regarding the possibility of having a password protected webpage. He stated it would be useful for us to have visual graphics for limits of surveys e.g. graphic in a pdf document or layers over interactive map (something similar to the current IHO INTOGIS catalogue of ENCs and paper charts). He welcomed member views on the idea of a central repository. Data entry for the audit and other documents would be collated and organised by the Secretary and then passed on to the IHO to publish on the webpage.

Action 3 - Interim Chair to contact IHO to see if an interactive layer system would be possible for the lakes and rivers similar to INTOGIS and also ask what resource is available regarding a data portal

7. The Interim Chair led a discussion regarding the status of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) - Radio warnings and Notices to Mariners. He displayed examples of the cautionary notes included on the aged charts of Lake Victoria produced by UKHO, these notes provided a warning that these products are no longer maintained for updated information. He was keen to learn from members what their current MSI status and facilities are. As an example of possible opportunities to consider further, he made reference to a local text messaging service for fisherman on Lake Victoria to warn them of storms. This may perhaps be an opportunity for the group to do something similar to assist with safety measures on lakes and rivers.

Malawi summarised they issue notice to mariners through the marine department who issue radio warnings. They advise users via new products and bathymetric information sheet for corrections to charts and new wrecks. Bathymetry surveys discover new dangerous areas. Not issuing many updates per year and not currently following IHO guidance on notices to mariners (changes to buoyage, depth criteria etc.) but are looking to do this.

Action 4 – UK to circulate guidance on Notice to Mariner criteria (IHO S-4 publication)

8. Tim Lewis - SAIHC MSDIWG Chair gave a presentation on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) for the group. He mentioned the wider resource available to the SAIHC community via IHO MSDI. He gave a brief recap of MSDI and stated UKHO are on the MSDI journey implementing the UN-GGIM 9 pathways (Governance and Institutions, legal and policy, financial, data, innovation, standards, partnerships, capacity and education, communication and engagement). He listed the MSDI professional services that UKHO support from training, consultancy, data collection, data services and Subject Matter Expertise (SME) representation, such as the 5-day workshop UK held in February 2020 on hydrographic data governance to members in the SAIHC region.

He detailed a case study for a partnership between UK and Anguilla with the objective “to deliver a data management solution to make geospatial data, particularly maritime data, more discoverable, accessible and manageable in support of disaster resilience, blue economic growth, government and infrastructure.” This was part of the Overseas Territory Seabed Mapping Programme funded by UK government. The Anguilla Marine Data Portal was developed as an initial proof of concept to demonstrate capabilities of data types and data sets available. Further development resulted in a rename to the Anguilla Data Hub to demonstrate Anguilla aspirations for this to represent more than just the amine domain. This is an example of multi-agency collaboration as UK partnered with the Joint Nature Conservative Committee to make additional data available (a storm surge viewer to help with seasonal weather and hurricanes) for the Hub. Data examples include bathymetric viewer and wrecks viewer which can all be viewed on the marine data portal. He summarised MSDI professional services facilitate engagement and support in disaster resilience, blue economy multi agency collaboration and working with government and having good governance in place.

He concluded from the case study that:

- MSDI is more than just technology, it is an ecosystem of policy topics and socioeconomic aspects, making the best use of technology exploitable for a nation – irrespective of economic size of sophistication
- Solution is largely technology focused but national MSDI objectives drive the use of technology
- Utilise UKHO umbrella governance to bridge the divide, and enable local governance development
- Provides clear opportunity for enhanced data management and accessibility
- Multiple use cases ... in variety of sectors, including disaster resilience, blue economic growth, and government.

The SAIHC MSDIWG will request feedback for MSDI requirements from the AGL&RSWG before SAIHC18 plenary.

UK stated UKHO are working closely with INAHNA Mozambique to establish SAIHC18 plenary and dates being either 13th December or next March 2022 hoping for a face-to-face meeting, subject to the pandemic easing.

South Africa supported a face-to-face meeting in March 2022.

The Interim Chair proposed the Lakes would benefit from MSDI and the multi agencies collaboration for those bordering the lakes.

Malawi suggested a portal would be beneficial for the group and South Africa supported this meta data on the lake's environment.

SAIHC MSDIWG Chair said he would ask IHO about resource and stated things to consider were data ownership, management, IP rights and whether it could be a bolt on to INTOGIS.

Action 5 - SAIHC MSDIWG Chair to write a letter to members to better understand data portal requirements

9. AOB

The Interim Chair reiterated that the UK feel it is important that a member state with one of the lakes take on the role as Chair to steer the group and this would be tabled as an agenda item at SAIHC18 to seek a permanent Chair. Participants were invited to consult within their organisation about position of Chair. UK will remain active and support the group but feel that the role would be better suited for a SAIHC member with a lake/river coastline.

Malawi reiterated the main objective of the group to promote hydrography in the African great lakes and rivers for the sustainable development and use of navigable inland waters in the SAIHC region. He asked what the procedure was for those that may be interested in the African Great Lakes & Rivers group but not in the SAIHC region and suggested the Songwe River Basin Commission (HQ in Tanzania) would be beneficial to invite.

The UK welcomed other groups joining to observe and participate in the AGL&RSWG to make it more inclusive.

South Africa also stated support for additional members to join the group as observers.

The Interim Chair summarised the process of inviting new members and asked for members to send contact details to the SAIHC secretary to make introductions or for them to directly invite other stakeholders/organisations to the group and cc the secretary.

Action 6 - Malawi to liaise with the Secretary to invite new members to the AGL&RSWG

Post meeting action: Action 7 - Members, through their respective organisations, to consider taking on the role as Chair of this African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub Working Group. Provide submission to Secretary.

Action Table

No.	Action	Due Date	Lead
1	UK to prepare and circulate template for the African Great Lakes & Rivers audit	31 October 2021	UK
2	Members to complete African Great Lakes & Rivers audit including MSI	6 December 2021	Members
3	Interim Chair to contact IHO to see if an interactive layer system would be possible for the lakes and rivers similar to INTOGIS and also ask what resource is available regarding a data portal	31 October 2021	Interim Chair - UK
4	UK to circulate guidance on Notice to Mariner criteria (IHO S-4 publication)	30 September 2021	UK

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5	SAIHC MSDIWG Chair to write a letter to members to better understand data portal requirements	31 October 2021	SAIHC MSDIWG Chair
6	Malawi to liaise with the Secretary to invite new members to the AGL&RSWG	31 October 2021	Malawi
7	Members, through their respective organisations, to consider taking on the role as Chair of this African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub Working Group. Provide submission to Secretary	6 December 2021	All members