

Functions of the ODINAFRICA Information Services Centre in Mombasa Kenya

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The Information Services Centre of the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) is located at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Mombasa, Kenya. Its general objectives are to provide marine scientists in Africa with scientific literature and promote communication and information exchange.

To achieve its objectives, the Centre provides the following services and products: document handling and delivery, Internet connectivity, and a quarterly newsletter on marine activities in Africa. It maintains various databases including: directories of marine institutions and marine scientists in Africa as well as library holdings of marine science information in Africa. These products are also accessible through the project website.

In the past year the centre has continued to subscribe to some 33 international journals. It has delivered on average 250 documents each month to marine scientists and information centres in Africa. The newsletter has a wide readership of more than 1,500. More than 900 contacts of marine scientists in Africa and a total of 287 marine institutions and information centres have been entered in the respective directories. The centre collaborates and exchanges documents with 13 libraries and information centres worldwide. On average, 80 new records are added monthly in the database of library holdings.

This presentation highlights the current status of the Centre in terms of the rate of growth of the databases and other products – services that are available to the developing African marine community – and the proposed way forward.