

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**Sixteenth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and  
Information Exchange (IODE, Lisbon, Portugal, 30 October – 9 November 2000)**

**NODC Report : Kenya**

**1. Name of Data Center**

The Kenya National Oceanographic Data Center

**2. National IODE Co-ordinator**

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**3. Data Center Address**

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**4. Data Center URL: planned**

**5. IODE Data Center Designation Date:**

The Kenya National Oceanographic Data Center was designated an IODE Data Center in August 1996.

**6. Data Center Description**

The Kenya National Oceanographic Data Center (KeNODC) began operating in January 1997.

The first set of activities included identification of staff members and setting up of office infrastructure. Amidst all this, the Center conducted the first planning mission in March 1997 to set out priorities for action. Foremost were the duty allocations among the four staff members designated by KMFRI. This has been followed by a familiarization of a number of IODE policy documents and manuals for operating a data center. Training and internships have been variously held for various members of staff.

The KeNODC will endeavour to create links useful for satisfying data demands of scientists, coastal managers, and policy makers. This will be done through a number of data services and data products that will be described below.

A committee chosen from key institutions determined by their individual mandates will determine operational policies of the center. This move would be initiated within the framework of the Kenya National Oceanographic Committee.

The Data Center already plays a useful role as a recipient of a number of data sets from international sea observation programs. The Center will in future play a big role in all aspects of information dissemination taking into consideration the role RECOSCIX-WIO has been playing both nationally and regionally

RECOSCIX-WIO is an information project working towards establishing a network of marine and aquatic institutes in the Western Indian Ocean region with the broad objective of promoting data exchange and providing of bibliographic information. The system is based on a network of co-operating institutions and co-operating libraries in the Western Indian Ocean Kenya also hosts the RECOSCIX-WIO project. The project is an information project working towards establishing a network of marine and aquatic institutes in the Western Indian Ocean region with the broad objective of promoting data exchange and providing of bibliographic information. The system is based on a network of co-operating institutions and co-operating libraries in the Western Indian Ocean region. The regional dispatch center is at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute region. The regional dispatch center is at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute.

## **7. Brief History**

Kenya has a National Oceanographic Committee comprising a number of governmental agencies. The Secretariat of the Committee is located at the Kenya National commission for UNESCO, in Nairobi.

The formation of the Kenya national Oceanographic Data Center was formally adopted by the Committee during its meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1996 at a meeting held at the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO. Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute was elected to be the host institution.

## **8. Roles and Responsibilities of the Data Center**

- Archive oceanographic data for future use

Data collected by individual scientists and international ocean observation programs are always at risk of being lost either due to negligence or reluctance by the individual investigators to release them for secondary use. The Data Center would play the role of keeping track of them by persuading the investigators of the need to store the data correctly.

- Carry out data exchange with other NODCs

- Provide data products

The Data Center would develop databases to enhance availability of information contained both at the center and held by other people. Such products would include web-access to databases, distribution of databases on CD-ROM, setting up meta-databases on various subjects.

In addition the Data Center would play the lead role in identifying data and information needs for coastal zone management by organising national workshops and advertising available data and information.

- Carry out data rescue

Historical oceanographic data sets stretching from a few years to several years are kept in various government departments, mostly in paper form. Once resources become available, the datasets would be decoded where necessary and digitized.

## **9. Data Center Projects and Activities during the Intersessional Period**

### **1 Survey of data sources**

#### **Objective:**

Provide comprehensive description of existing data and information on marine and coastal environment of Kenya for reference by interested parties.

#### **Outputs**

The KeNODC designed survey questionnaires to help in describing these data sets and a number of visits have been accomplished in covering National institutions and individual researchers.

**Financial support:** IOC-UNESCO/Government of Kenya

### **2 Implementation of computerised meta-data**

#### **Objective**

Avail information efficiently on existing data and information on marine and coastal environment held by local institutions and other datasets received at the KeNODC arising from the World Data Centers, RNOECs and other data management programs.

#### **Output**

The KeNODC has now developed a meta database. A review was done of the MEDI Data Directory as well as the Marine and Coastal Data Directory of Australia (Blue Pages) Ver 1.0, as a basis of this work. The directory has been widely distributed in the country

**Financial support:** IOC-UNESCO/Government of Kenya

### **iii. Training**

The Data Center has benefited from the Ocean Data Management training programs organized within the framework of ODINAFRICA-I. The regional training have been targeted to the data managers of the respective centers in the countries of the Western Indian ocean. Both training took part in Cape Town in December 1998 and 1999 and were attended by two representatives from the Data Center.

Two long-term (two months) attachments have been fulfilled in 1997 and 1999 at the US-NODC and at the Australian AODC respectively for the KeNODC scientific staff.

**Financial support:** IOC-UNESCO/Government of Kenya

**10. Data Center Products and Services Developed and/or Made Available during the Intersessional Period:**

- i. The Data Center is developing a home-page for to take advantage of the Internet technology for those who have access. This is presently still being tested but is available in KMFRI.
- ii. The Data Center produced the 1999 tide-table predictions for Mombasa, which is now available at the Data Center home page in the KMFRI Intranet. The Center plans to produce the tide table for 2001 for wider use by the public.
- iii. Data and Information requests continue being handled by the staff at the Center and replies given accordingly.

**11. Comments**

The Data Center is proposing to strengthen the role of science in planning activities for coastal zone management by developing more awareness programs for the available data products. The methods to be adopted would depend on financial resources available.

One such mechanism is a proposed national workshop to be held in October 2000.

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