

Abstract

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Programme – Implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Ocean Governance

By

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The BCLME Programme is a joint initiative by the governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa to manage and utilize the resources of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem in a sustainable and integrated manner. The programme is designed to improve the structures and capacities of the three riparian countries to deal with transboundary management issues in order

BCLME. This is an on-going joint project with the fisheries institutes of the three countries and FAO that is investigating the existing issues, problems and needs related to EAF and developing different options to achieve sustainable management of the fisheries resources at an ecosystem level.

Building and establishing regional and international partnerships and co-operation has been an important part of the BCLME Programme activities. These include the four other Pan-African LME's (Canary Current, Guinea Current and Aghulas-Somali Current), as well as GOOS-AFRICA, FAO, NOAA, IOC, GLOBEC, BENEFIT and UNEP-GPA Regional Seas. The results of BCLME project activities are contributing directly towards addressing the goals and targets of the WSSD, UNCED, MDG as well as New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

The main out come of the BCLME Programme will be the establishment of an Interim Benguela Current Commission (IBCC) which is expected to be formally endorsed by the countries later this year. The IBCC will operate primarily as an advisory body to the governments and will have a Secretariat, an Ecosystem Advisory Committee and various working groups to undertake the technical and scientific assessments. Once operational, the IBCC will require period of institutional strengthening and capacity building before being transformed into a permanent and sustainable Benguela Current Commission (BCC).