

Capacity Building and Adaptation of Coastal Communities to Climate and Marine Environmental Conditions in South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique

Regional Capacity Building & Coastal Adaptation Seminar & Public Education Expo
July 5-9, 2004

NOAA/OGP co-sponsored the *Regional Capacity Building and Coastal Adaptation Seminar and Public Education Expo*, held at the University of Port Elizabeth/Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in July 2004.

The Seminar was held as an activity of a broader partnership initiative sponsored by USAID, the *University of Port Elizabeth and University of Washington, Seattle Partnership Project on Interdisciplinary Marine Studies and Outreach Program*.

This partnership represents a component of the US/SA Climate Change bilateral initiative aimed at capacity building for users of climate change data. The Seminar and Expo aimed to strengthen capacity for improved responses to climate and environmental change impacts in coastal-related domains as fisheries, mariculture, marine tourism, coastal geomorphology, and coastal biodiversity.



Forty high level presentations were made during the Seminar by a variety of specialists from both SA and the US on a broad range of topics relating to the interaction of oceans, climate and coastal ecosystems and communities. One hundred and forty participants attended the 5-day series of presentation and discussion meetings.

The presentations generated significant levels of interest and awareness of the issues and potential related to marine ecosystem and coastal resources for sustainable development for communities in coastal zones.

Certificates were presented to SA students and another 100 participants upon completion of participation in this program that is unique to Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

In addition to financial support for the Seminar, OGP coordinated a public education and outreach Expo during the seminar, showcasing numerous displays and materials related to climate, oceans and coastal areas. Educational materials for teachers and schools were disseminated at the Expo and donated to schools in the region.

Among a large number of local stakeholders, the Seminar was attended by five NOAA/OGP representatives and five University of Washington (UW), Seattle specialists. Local and national media (including SABC News), reported on the events to the general public.

Some of the outcomes of the Seminar and Expo that align most closely with two of NOAA's cross-cutting priorities, i) Environmental Literacy, Outreach and Education and ii) International Cooperation and Collaboration include:

- Establishment of two Sub-Saharan Africa Coastal Initiative Groups: i) at the UW that comprises UW professors participating in the Regional Seminar and ii) at UPE with participation of academics from the University of Namibia and University of Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique. This initiative is to make a follow up on the Seminar recommendations that will be published within 3 months from July 2004.
- Establishment of links with educators from the region for further collaboration and with the Delta Foundation and a SA ocean education network branch of the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme for the NOAA/OGP Teacher At Sea Program.



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