

# DRAFT ASCLME DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Working document  
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## 1. National Data and Information Coordinator

Dr Juliet Hermes of the South African Environmental Observation Network (a National Research Foundation facility) was nominated as South Africa's D&I coordinator. Dr Hermes is based at Marine and Coastal Management, the South African focal institute for the ASCLME. The SAEON Egagasini Node has also been nominated by MCM as the focal point for the Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism and works in close collaboration with the Southern African Data Centre for Oceanography (SADCO), the South African national oceanographic data centre.

### Contact details

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## 2. Specialists for the MEDA

See attached memo.

Following on from discussions with the South African Steering committee member, Dr Johan Augustyn, it has been decided that the initial input into the MEDA will come mostly from specialists in-house of MC&M. There will be broader consultation of the marine community after this. Where MC&M staff cannot give input, it will be sought from other institutions around South Africa, including HEIs, ORI, SANBI, CSIR etc. Meetings and information will be disseminated via the SANCOR (South African National Coastal and Ocean Research) mailing list. MC&M staff will contribute to the MEDA as part of South Africa's contribution to the ASCLME, extra payments will be made when the work exceeds that of their role, or in the case of a student etc. It is thought that much of the payment will be made in an honorarium format. For ease of facilitation, payments will be handled by SAEON.

## 3. Institutional sources of information for national MEDAs

SADCO – phys/chem data

MCM – marine and coastal data

ORI – biological data

CSIR – coastal and marine data

SANBI – biodiversity data

HEI – multi-disciplinary data

## 4. List of national state of the environment reports

MCM currently produces a state of the environment report for the west coast, but as such nothing exists for the east coast

## 5. List of marine and coastal projects currently underway

ACEP (list individual projects)

Algoa Bay

MCM projects – long term monitoring, fisheries surveys etc

## 6. Archiving and long-term data management of new ASCLME data in national data centres

SADCO

NCCHM/SAEON

## 7. National metadatabase

### 7.1 General description

The Southern African Data Centre for Oceanography (SADCO) metadata is stored in an oracle database. The relationship with this and the Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism needs to be fully assessed, as well as the relationship with the SAEON metadata which will use Geonetworks.

SADCO is fully web enabled, and is hosted by the South African CSIR, located in Stellenbosch. The location is well suited relative to the hub of South African oceanographic organisations in the vicinity of Cape Town.

The funding for SADCO is obtained from the following organisation

- CSIR
- South African Environmental Observation Network
- South African Navy
- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, via its branch Marine and Coastal Management
- The Namibian Ministry for Fisheries and Marine Resources

SADCO's activities are overseen by a Steering Committee on which the stakeholders and other participating organisations have membership.

Further information can be obtained at <http://sadco.csir.co.za>, through which the Inventory can also be accessed.

Both SAEON and the NCCHM are new within South Africa, so will be led by what has been achieved already through SADCO, whilst conforming to the other east African metadata descriptions as highlighted in the NCCHM. This will hold true except for data which is not normally handled by SADCO (eg biological data), here the metadata description will follow broader ASCLME guidelines.

### 7.2 Field names and access controls

The fields included in the metadatabase are: survey ID, project name, cruise name, vessel, country, institute, principal scientist, the ports the cruise started from and ended at, period of the cruise, and the area of the cruise.

The Inventory is fully searchable on the following fields:

- Project name
- Vessel
- Principal scientist
- Area
- Year
- Institute
- Survey ID

The Inventory is freely and fully accessible (see URL above).

### **7.3 Flagging system for ASCLME-specific data**

At the time of writing SADC's Inventory (= metadatabase) is not directly coupled to the raw data base.

While the access to the Inventory is open, access to the raw data base in SADC is presently password protected. In addition, data supplied to the data centre can further be flagged with an additional password, thus restricting access to such data to the provider only. Presently, this control can be requested by the data provider for a period of 2 years, renewable upon request. It is foreseen that ASCLME data can thus be flagged (if requested).

It is planned that the overall restriction of access to the raw data base will be lifted in the foreseeable future. However, the flagging system for individual data sets will not be removed.

### **7.4 Requirements for modification for ASCLME purposes**

It is believed that the present configuration of SADC's metadatabase will be able to cater for most (all?) of the ASCLME metadata requirements. Apart from the data routinely handled by SADC it will be possible to have entries in the metadatabase (e.g. echo sounding or multi-beam surveys or other collection of data/samples, although not trawl data, oblique bongo data (Afrobis), multinet data or sub-samples) where the data type itself is not stored in SADC. It is therefore not foreseen that any further modification to the metadatabase will be required.

It should nevertheless be noted that SADC is a co-funded organisation, and that work priorities are decided by the consortium of five funding organisations listed in 7.1 represented on a Steering Committee. This implies that ASCLME will not be able to insist on priority where ASCLME-specific activities are concerned. While it is uncertain whether such conflicts will arise, the only way the ASCLME can ensure priority for specific tasks (either developmental, managerial, loading specific data sets, etc) would be through separate funding of those activities.

It is anticipated that where the metadata cannot be stored within SADC and does not fall into the NCCHM, SAEON will set up new a new metadatabase.

## **8. Meeting and reporting schedule**

April 2009 – meeting held with focal point and key MCM staff to discuss way forward. Identify groups to work on different sections of the MEDA

May 2009 – draft letter given to and approved by focal point to send to key groups. External groups also approached.

June 2009 – All specialists begin work on MEDA

July 2009 – Meeting with specialists for progress report and identify problems

October 2009 – MEDA stage I complete

November 2009 – meeting to review MEDA input and identify problems

February 2010 – MEDA stage II complete

## **9. Financial arrangements**

Finances will be handled through SAEON for ease of facilitation. As described, it is anticipated that payments will be made by a standardized ‘honorarium’ format for researchers/students. SAEON will also arrange and (through funds received from the ASCLME for the MEDA process) pay for proposed national meetings in order to discuss MEDA.

## **10. Time lines and reporting**

Reports will be submitted to ASCLME in June 2009 with details of specialists, July 2009 after first meeting and November 2009.