TITLE
PEACC project - A synthesis of new Knowledge, Key achievements and Reflections for future interdisciplinary research in the WIO region

CONVENORS

1. Dr. Issufo Halo* (Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South-Africa)
2. Dr. Shigalla Mahongo (Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, Jinja, Uganda)
3. Dr. Marisol García-Reyes (Farallon Institute, Petaluma, California, USA)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Issufo Halo
He holds a PhD degree in Physical Oceanography from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is currently a lecturer at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, in the Department of Conservation and Marine Sciences, Cape Town campus. He is a Board member and research associate of the Nansen-Tutu Centre for Environmental Marine Research, based in Cape Town. He is also member of the Editorial Board of the “Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Sciences”. He has a working experience of more than 10 years in the western Indian Ocean, and his main research interest is on numerical ocean circulation modelling across different ranges of spatial and temporal scales. He has a strong track record of peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals and books. He is the PI for the long-term monitoring of hydrographic parameters within the Integrated Ecosystems Program in the southern Benguela, designated by the South African Department of Environmental Affairs. He has served as co-PI in many regional research projects, including the recently WIOMSA funded titled “Responses of Biological Productivity and Fisheries to Changes in Atmospheric and Oceanographic Conditions Associated with the East African Coastal Current” (PEACC), which motivated the present submission to host the WIOMSA mini-symposia.

DESCRIPTION AND MOTIVATION OF THE TOPIC

The Productivity of the East African Coastal Current (PEACC) project, was a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary scientific research venture involving Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and international research institutions/universities based in Tanzania, Kenya, South-Africa, USA and the UK. The PEACC’s main goal was to investigate the responses of biological productivity and fisheries to changes in atmospheric and oceanographic conditions in the upwelling region associated with the East African Coastal Current (EACC). To achieve its goals, PEACC compiled and analyzed a suit of datasets retrieved by different platforms including in-situ oceanographic instruments, satellite remote sensing, numerical models, and regional small pelagic fisheries biology and catch assessment, primary production and socio-economic surveys. The wealth of new scientific and societal information and knowledge the PEACC project has generated is underway to be published in a special issue of a journal, and we expect it to be of interest for the WIO community and the public at large. Furthermore, the project has established legacy in the form of virtual networking able to efficiently link highly qualified professionals in the field with high interest in the WIO region. Here we propose to convene a PEACC focused symposium to present a synthesis of novel results and to facilitate further discussion of results across-disciplines within the PEACC team and with other research-
ers working the region. Additionally, this symposium will serve as a platform to assess the project achievements, how to address the remaining questions, and chart the road map for future research collaboration in the WIO region. The PEACC project was funded by WIOMSA, through the MASMA competitive grant framework, running for the period between July 2016 and June 2018. The PEACC project has been endorsed by the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2). The endorsement is a recognition of the project’s alignment with the mission and objectives of IIOE-2, its potential for contributing to an increased multi-disciplinary understanding of the dynamics of the Indian Ocean, and of its contribution to the achievement of societal objectives within the realm of the Indian Ocean region.

MINI-SYMPOSIA STRUCTURE

TUESDAY – 02 JULY 2019 (DAY 1: ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANOGRAPHIC TEAM)

TIME: 16h00

Chairman for the session: Dr. Shigalla Mahongo

Rapporteur of the session: Drs. Fridah Munyi

Presenters (Presentation 10 mins + 5 for questions) Time
1. Dr. Philip Sagero 16:05 – 16:20
2. Dr. Majuto Manyilizu 16:20 – 16:35
3. Dr. Issufo Halo 16:35 – 16:50
4. Dr. Marisol García-Reyes 16:50 – 17:05

Team’s synthesis discussion 17:05 – 17:35
- Current Status of Knowledge
- Open research questions
- Future research
- Overall recommendation and way forward (pressing needs in research and application)

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Publication of manuscript(s) based on important results not submitted for publication in the PEACC special issue of the Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science.