

Project structure

WP 0. Project management

WP 1. Observation and modelling of ocean physics supporting the ecosystem approach to marine management

WP 2. Variability of pelagic productivity in West-African waters

WP 3. Physical-biogeochemical coupling: processes and control of small pelagic fish

WP 4. Economics integrated into the ecosystem approach to marine management

WP 5. Education, Training and Capacity-building. Capacity Development in physical oceanography and marine ecology in West Africa



FUNDERS



Joint proposals by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF/Germany) and the IRD (France) under the patronage of the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research (MESR) and the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE).



Locally implemented by the SRFC Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (Dakar, Senegal)

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Trilateral German-French-African research initiative in Sub-Sahara Africa



AWA

Ecosystem Approach to the
management of fisheries and
the marine environment in
West African waters



BENIN CABO VERDE IVORY COAST GAMBIA GUINEA GUINEA BISSAU MAURITANIA SENEGAL

AWA Context

Coastal countries in West Africa are heavily dependent on the Atlantic ocean. Consequently, social development, fisheries, and tourism all face major changes associated with the impact of climate variability and of global warming on the upwelling système. Overexploitation combined with rapid climate change puts marine ecosystems under severe pressure. Local climate variability is one of the causes of coastal erosion and modulates the upper ocean temperature, which determines the suitability of a marine area for fish. Many fish stocks in the species-rich and highly productive West African waters are being depleted.

Toward a West African observatory of marine environment using a modeling and observation platform

The ecological models which reproduce biological interactions of marine organisms in their habitat need coordinated efforts in several disciplines to characterise effectively global change introduced on the continental shelf of West Africa. Though, currently such a tool is nearly the only approach to major investigations for the dilemmas which decision-makers are faced in the context of climate change and overexploitation. Best practices will be to work on observational methods which allow validation of Key ecological processes for efficient assessment and scenario simulation purposes.

Objectives

The main processes which drive ecosystem dynamics are identified and their knowledge improved;

- Disentangling the effects of fishing and climate change ;
- The knowledge of the interplay between ocean physics, biogeochemistry, marine life and human impact is strengthened;
- The EAMME tools are developed;
- A more rational and sustainable use of living marine resources is achieved;
- Build the foundation of a West African observatory;
- Create a sub-regional task force on the ecosystem approach to the management of fisheries and the marine environment in West African waters under the effect of climate change.

