



GMES and Africa Safety at Sea Service



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5th Symposium | Accra, Ghana | 24 – 28 October 2022

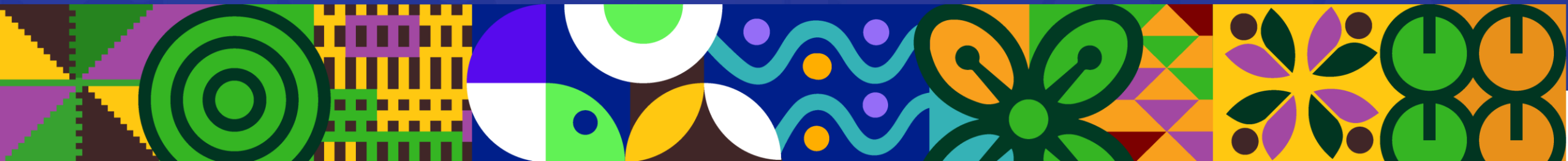


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GMES and Africa Marine Weather Early-warning Services in West Africa in Support of Africa's Blue Economy Agenda

Mr. Bennet Atsu Foli
(EO Officer, UG-GMES)



Introduction

- Marine artisanal fishing is a major contributor to GDP in West Africa
 - Mainly rely on traditional knowledge to
 - Navigate
 - Locate fish
 - Detect the weather at sea
 - No communication equipment at sea



Introduction

- Inability to access accurate and timely information on ocean condition prior to their fishing expeditions.
 - Weather highly variable in recent days (climate change)
 - Need scientific and reliable source of information (timely)
 - The need for early warning



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www.news.cn
新华网
XINHUANET
Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Fourteen killed, 15 injured in Guinea boat accident: gov't

Source: Xinhua | 2021-03-30 19:43:21 | Editor: huaxia

CONAKRY, March 30 (Xinhua) -- An unlicensed fishing pirogue sank off Guinean coasts early Monday morning, leading to 14 deaths, one person missing and 15 persons injured, an official press release said on Monday.

According to the Guinean government, the tragedy occurred around 7 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) in the administrative region

GHANALINK.COM 1 Ghana / 8 Missing After Fishing Boat Sinks In Elmina

8 Missing After Fishing Boat Sinks In Elmina

Posted by: admin in News in Ghana 0 501 Views



Eight members of a fishing crew are reported missing after their boat sunk within the Elmina-Cape Coast waters at dawn on Tuesday.

The eight were part of a twenty-member team travelling from Sekondi to Tema for maintenance of the fishing boat when violent waves tossed the vessel around and sunk it.

All twenty were knocked off the boat by the violent waves, but twelve were rescued subsequently.

The Ghana Navy has dispatched fast rescue boats to search for the missing eight fishermen.

GMES & Africa Ocean Weather Service

Provision of Ocean State Early-Warning Information to Artisanal Fishers

- Ocean state early-warning services introduced under MESA programme in 2014
 - 14 coastal West African countries
- Service consolidated into GMES phase-1
 - 12 coastal West African countries
- Migrated to GMES phase-2
 - 18 coastal countries in West and North Africa
- Early-warning alerts generated from data obtained from the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS)

Purpose of the Service

Objectives

- **Support the safety of fishermen** and other marine operators at sea by providing accurate and timely information on ocean conditions.

Regional priorities

- Maritime Security and Safety at Sea
 - Article 4, section b and Article 29 of the LOMÉ CHARTER (AFRICAN CHARTER on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa)
 - UN SDGs
 - African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS)
 - ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS)
 - The Abidjan Convention
 - Sendai Framework
 - UNCLOS
 - International convention for the safety of life at sea (SOLAS)

Regional Coverage

Marine & Coastal Areas Management in North and West Africa (MarCNoWA) Consortium

6 Countries from North Africa

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Libya
- Morocco
- Tunisia
- Mauritania

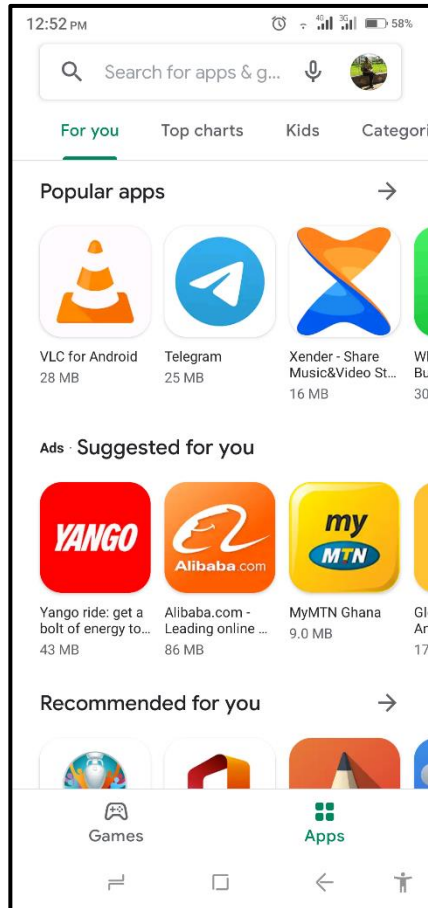
12 Countries from West Africa

- Benin
- Cape Verde
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

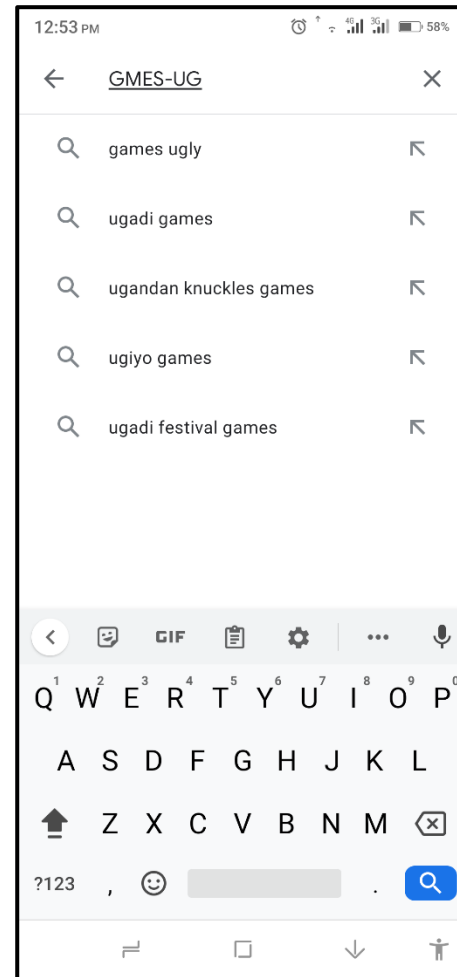


Accessing the Early-Warning Alerts

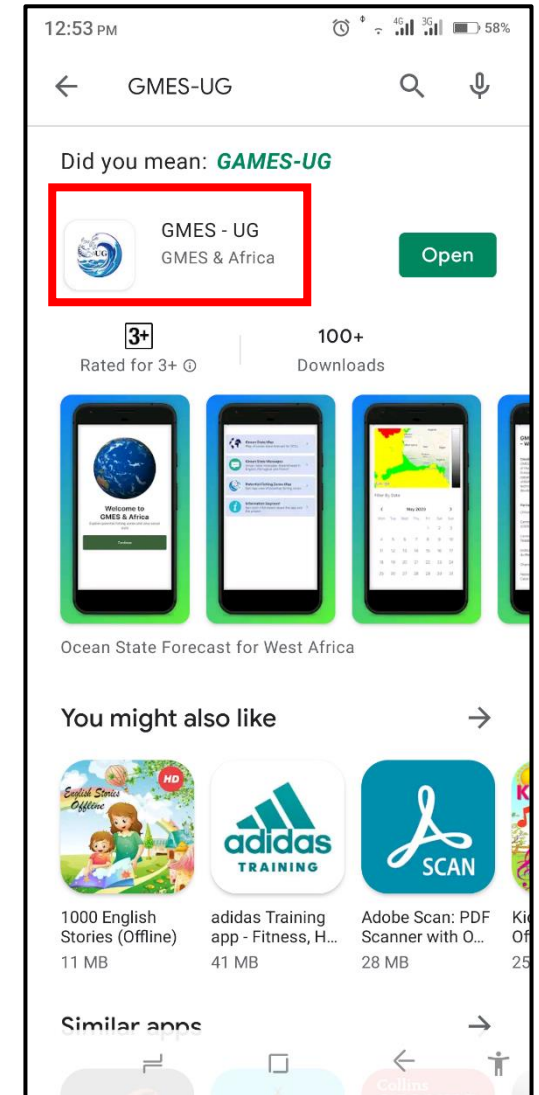
- Download the GMES-UG mobile app from Play Store on android phone
 - or UG-GMES on IOS.



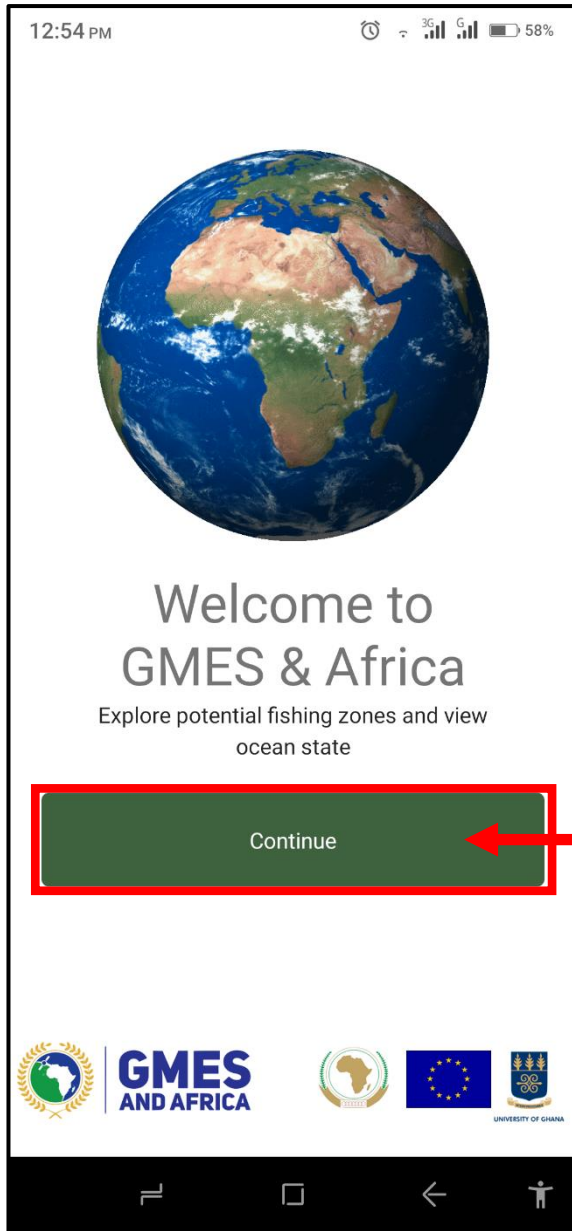
Go to Play Store and type GMES-UG in the search section.



Install the app

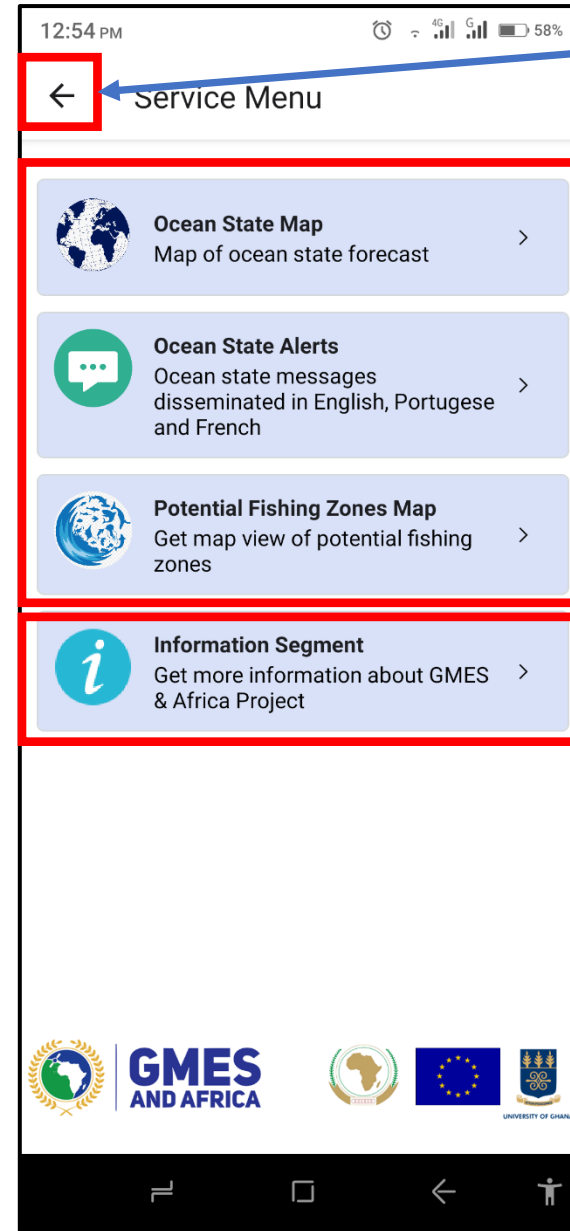


Accessing the Early-Warning Alerts



Open the App

Tap here to
continue

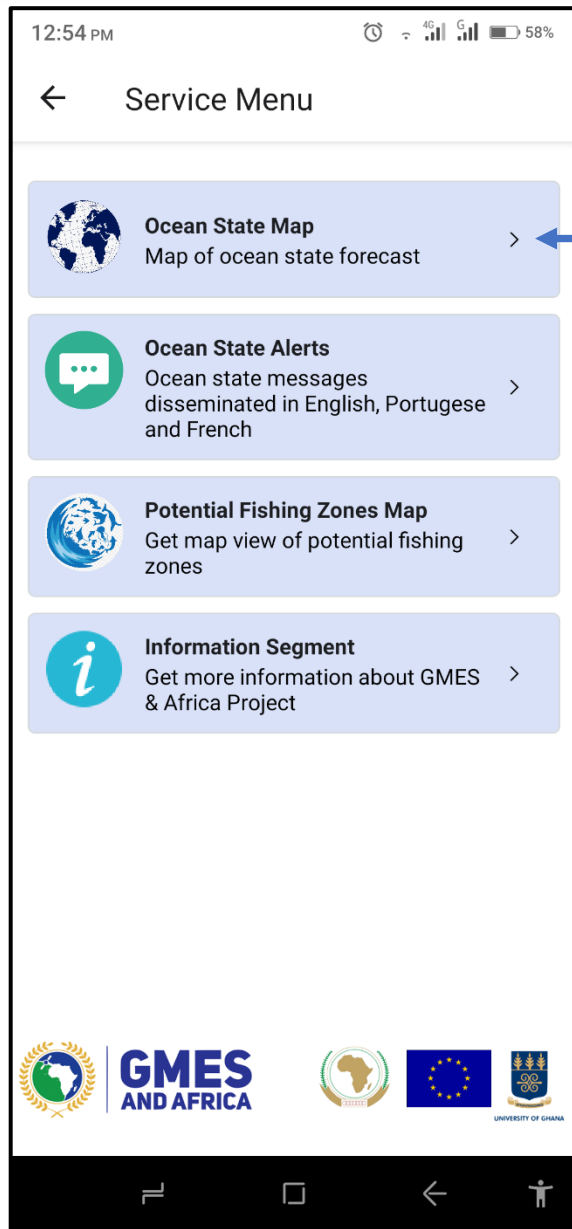


Back to Welcome
page

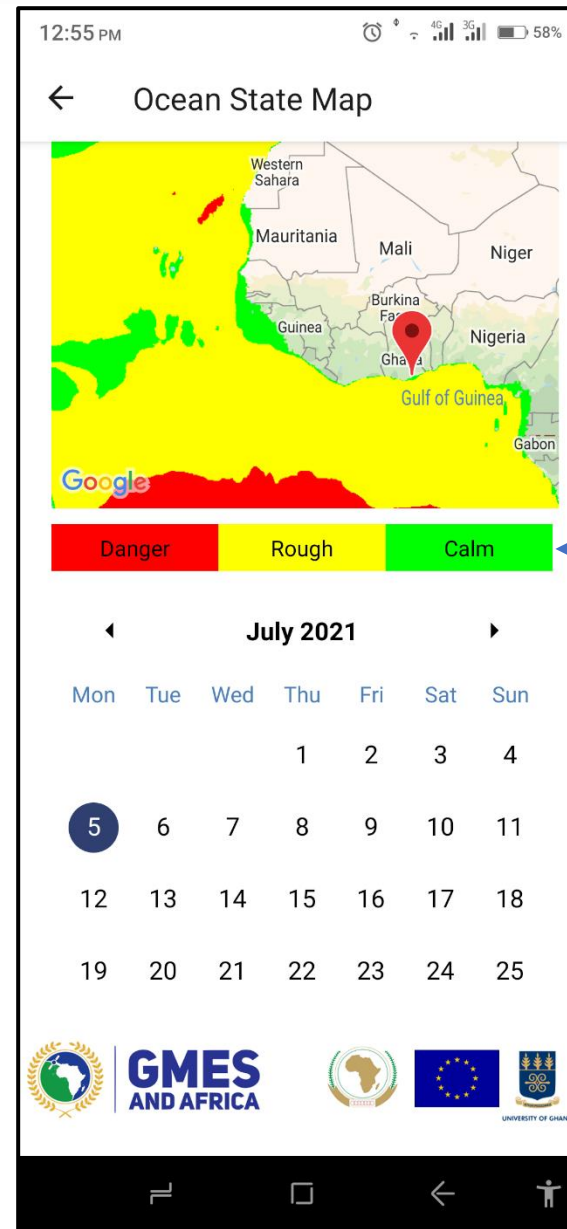
App Services

About the App and
GMES sponsors and
partners.

Accessing the Early-Warning Alerts



Tap this section to access maps of ocean state forecasts

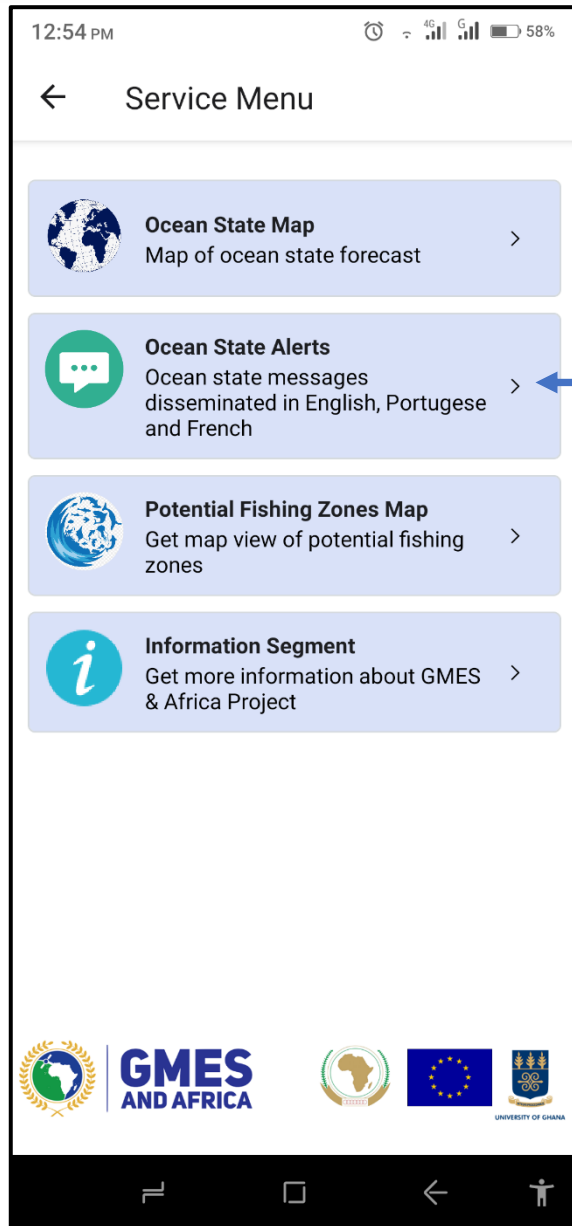


Ocean state forecast map

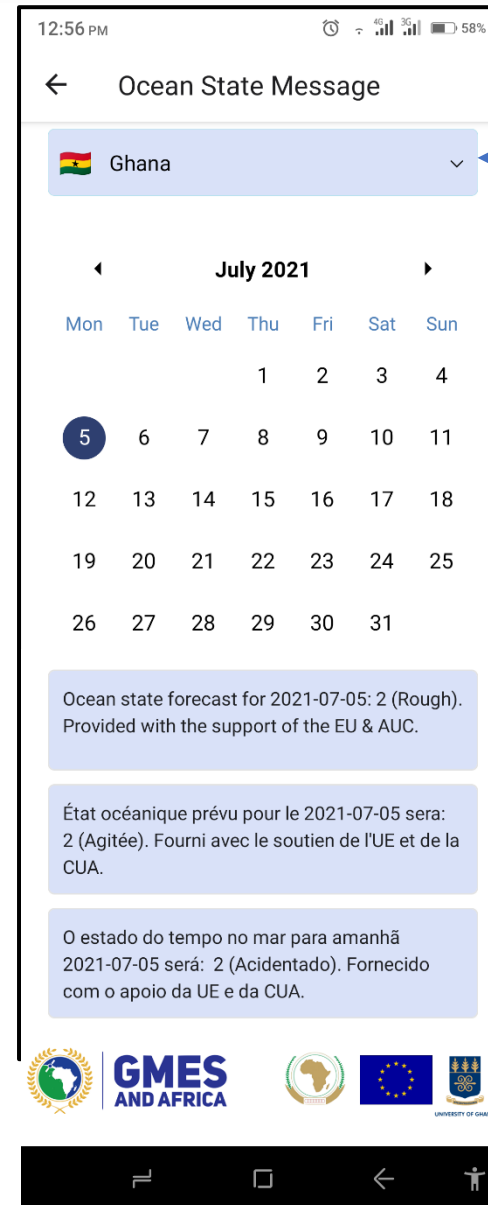
Legend

Select forecast date

Accessing the Early-Warning Alerts



Tap this section to access ocean state forecasts alert as text for specific country

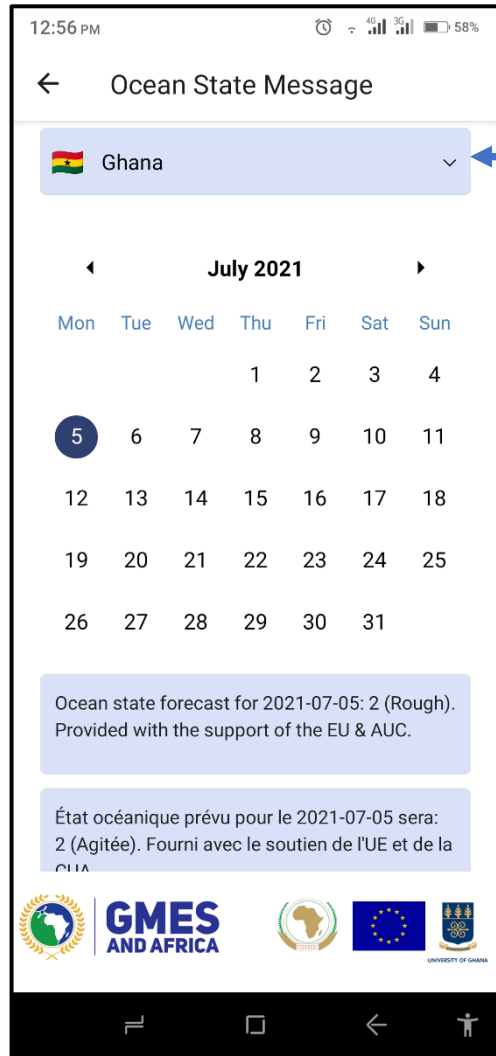


Tap to select your country

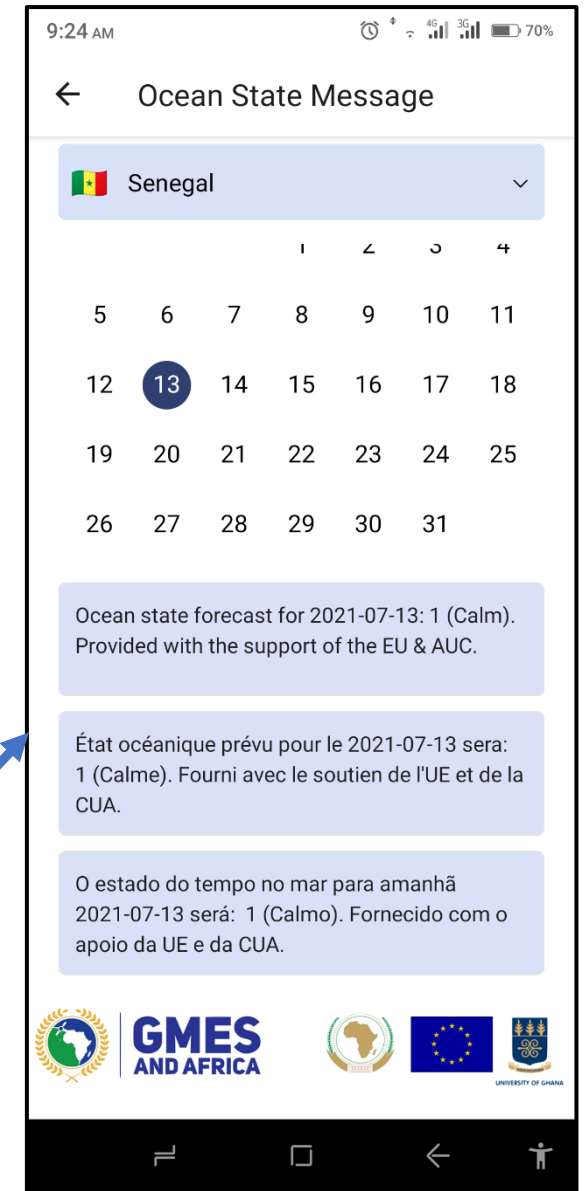
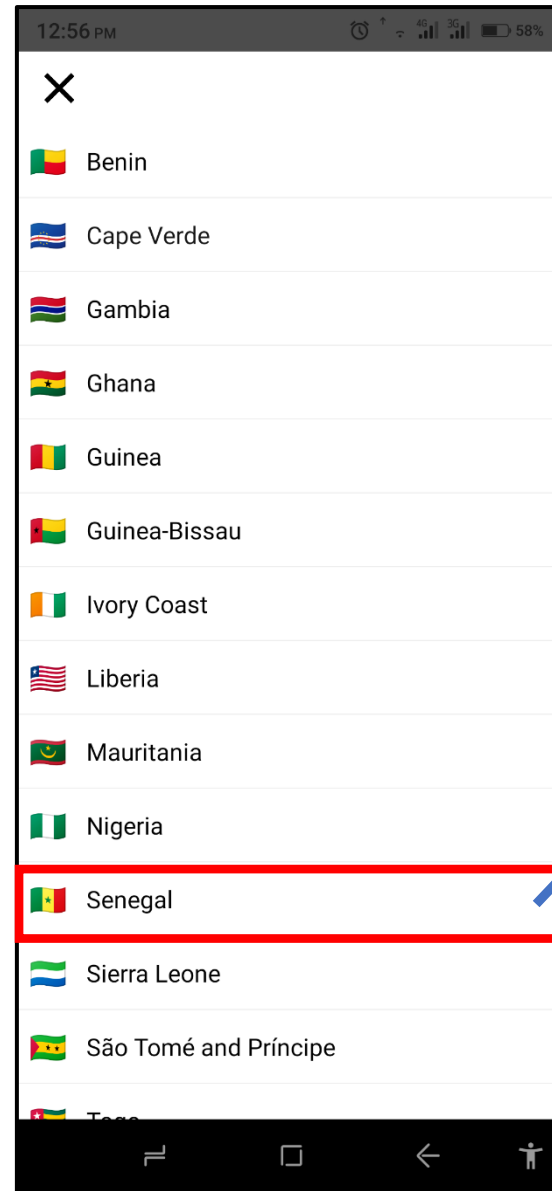
Select forecast date

Ocean state forecast message in 3 languages (English, Portuguese and French)

Accessing the Early-Warning Alerts



Tap to select
your country

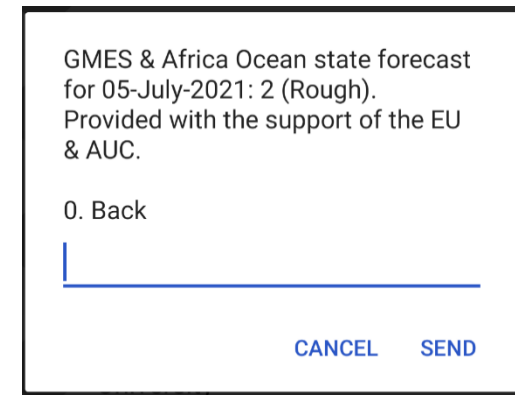
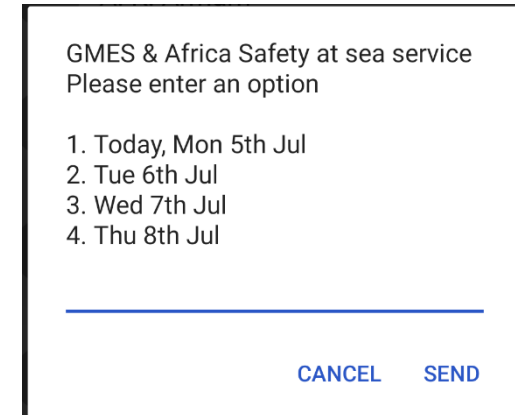
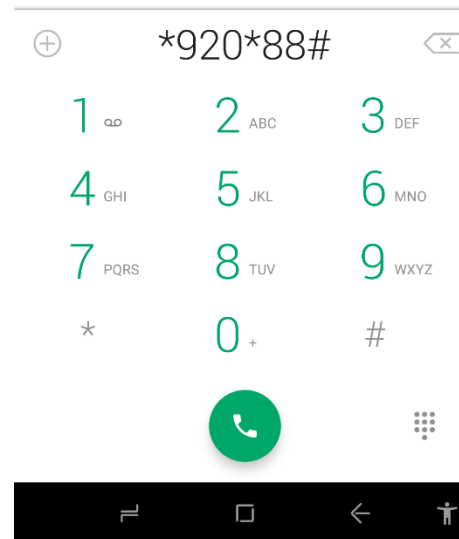


Mobile USSD Service

- Dial a short code to access forecast.

- *920*88# for Ghana

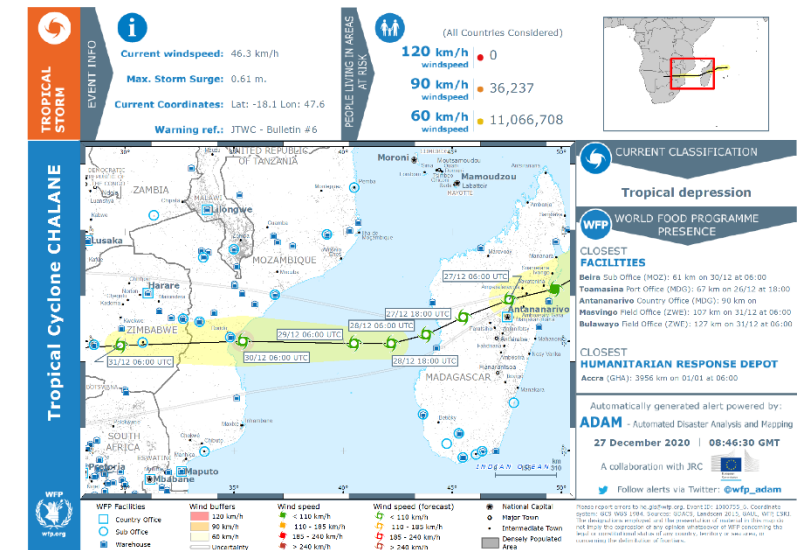
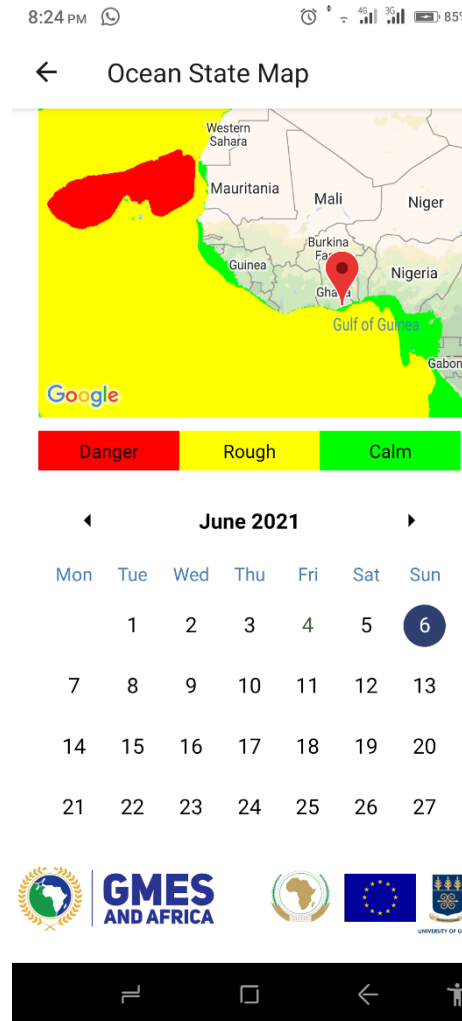
- *348*87# for Nigeria



Value Addition to the Ocean Weather Service

- Addition of rainfall information to ocean state early-warning
- Service extension from West Africa to North Africa
- Extension of USSD services to other countries
- Dial-in services with voice over in local languages for USSD service
- In-situ data collection for model validation

GMES-UG Mobile App



Dashboard example from <https://fscluster.org/mozambique/document/tropical-cyclone-chalane-2020>

Usage of the USSD Service

USSD Monitoring Dashboard

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security

 Approvals

 USSD Statistics

 Settings

USSD Sessions

6,173

Total Sessions

410

Today Sessions

PHONE NUMBER

233257925467

DATE

Aug 26, 2022 at 01:05 AM



Field campaigns organized by GMet and the Regional Marine Centre



User Feedback



Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Ass of Gh (CaFGOAG) on Twitter

"In these times of increasing bad #weather days, @CanoeGear has stepped up education and sensitization on safety at sea. @GhanaMet provides daily #marine forecast. By just a dial, #fishers get #ocean state information by @GMESAfrica #IYAFA2022 #SafetyAtSea #GmesAndAfrica #MarCNoWA"

twitter.com

<https://twitter.com/CanoeGear/status/1562321951347154944?t=c75fO1jrO-jddxHQOLe5-g&s=09>

6:14 AM

1:46 PM

Marine Forecast
Adom, Alice, Azumah, Bashiru, E...

4:26 PM

+233 24 690 9643 ~nkweigyah

I just received a sad news from Liberia of four fishers dying due to bad weather which resulted in an accident at sea,

Whilst we mourn the lost we are encouraged to keep up with the sensitization on safety at sea.

We can only be grateful to GMet, GMES and all the partners for the information provided to us.

We look forward to supports from partners to enhance the process

In our situation where insurance is absent, we have embraced the ocean state information that we received, and making it part of our fisheries

4:37 PM

4:39 PM

J. Etonam Avornyo Kassah

Thank you too . A lot of Ghanaians have come to appreciate the forecasts from GMet and GMES and we will share as given to us



3:13 PM

nkweigyah

Azumah

So sorry. There are plans with GMET to train other Meteo agencies in a west and North Africa who need help in that field. Additional efforts are being made for Liberia to get the USSD code as well an...

Is it possible to have voice messages as it is with the customer care call lines of the mobile networks

4:45 PM

Conclusion

- To achieve the Blue Economy agenda, it is important to address issues of safety at sea, also for artisanal fishers.
- To achieve efficiency of marine weather services usage, there is:
 - The need for Meteorological Agencies to be involved
 - The need for adequate and consistent community engagement
 - The need for simplicity
 - The need for continuity ...
 - in providing **timely** forecast information
 - in creating **awareness**
 - in supporting this initiative to **protect life and property**
 - The need for feedback

Appreciations

We are grateful to ...

- European Commission
- African Union Commission
- GMES & Africa programme
- All our partners



Thank You.
Medaase.
Oyiwaladon.

