



Abidjan Convention
Convention d'Abidjan

REGIONAL CONTEXT OF THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT DECISION MAKING INFORMED BY OCEAN OBSERVATION

GEO BLUE PLANET CONFERENCE

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JAMBO

Bonjour

Karibu

Morning

Welcome

« INTRODUCTION »

Convention on Cooperation for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern African Region (also called Abidjan Convention) covers an area going from Mauritania to South Africa. The Abidjan Convention is:



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- **A UN Environment Regional Seas Programme**
- **Adopted by governments on March 23, 1981 and entered into force on 5 May 1984**
- **3 LMEs (Canaries, Guinea and Benguela)**
- **Côte d'Ivoire is the depository of the Convention and its additional protocols**
- **UNEP (UN Environment) administers the Secretariat**
- **Meeting of Plenipotentiaries, Bureau Meetings, COPs**

Ocean Observation and marine ecosystems monitoring

Coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, numerous species of fish, marine mammals, and other organisms.



Critical services: Fisheries habitat, shoreline protection, and carbon sequestration.
O. O. helps in monitoring and assessing the health of these ecosystems, identifying critical habitats, and understanding the impacts of human activities.

Ocean Observation and Climate Change Resilience



Vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and ocean acidification.

Ocean observation provides essential data for studying and predicting these changes, enabling policymakers to develop adaptation strategies and resilient coastal infrastructure.

Ocean Observation and Fisheries Management



Local communities benefit hugely from fishing.

Data, including sea surface temperature, ocean currents, and plankton distribution, helps in fisheries management by informing decisions related to fishing quotas, seasonal closures, and the establishment of marine protected areas.

Coastal Pollution and Marine Debris



Pollution due to rapid urbanization, industrialization, and population growth.

Ocean observation helps in monitoring water quality, tracking pollution sources, and assessing the extent of marine debris accumulation.

This information guides efforts to mitigate pollution through wastewater treatment, solid waste management, and regulatory measures.

Coastal Erosion and Habitat Loss



Coastal erosion and habitat loss are pressing challenges in the Abidjan Convention area, exacerbated by factors such as deforestation, sea-level rise, unsustainable coastal development, and natural resource exploitation. Ocean observation data supports coastal zone management by providing insights into shoreline dynamics, sediment transport patterns, and the effectiveness of coastal protection measures like beach nourishment and mangrove restoration.

Maritime Safety and Security



Piracy, illegal fishing, and smuggling...

The Abidjan Convention region, is also known for maritime security concerns.

Ocean observation contributes to maritime safety and security by monitoring vessel movements, detecting illegal activities, and supporting search and rescue operations.

Transboundary Issues



Many coastal management challenges in West Africa are transboundary in nature, requiring collaboration and coordination among neighboring countries.

This includes issues such as shared fisheries management, pollution control, and disaster risk reduction.

CONCLUSION



- Ocean observation provides real-time data on oceanographic conditions, coastal erosion rates, marine biodiversity, and ecosystem health.
- Enables stakeholders to assess the impacts of human activities and natural processes, identify trends and patterns, and develop evidence-based strategies.
- Integrated ocean observation networks, including satellite remote sensing, buoy systems, and coastal monitoring stations, are essential.



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Merci

Thank you

Asante sana

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