



(A basin-wide research program co-sponsored by IOC-UNESCO, SCOR and IOGOOS)

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To advance our understanding of interactions between geologic, oceanic and atmospheric processes that give rise to the complex physical dynamics of the Indian Ocean region, and to determine how those dynamics affect climate, extreme events, marine biogeochemical cycles, ecosystems and human populations.

Nekton Mission to the Indian Ocean 2018-2021

The Nekton Oxford Deep Ocean Research Institute (Nekton) are undertaking a major new collaborative research Mission to the Indian Ocean from 2018 to 2021. The Mission endorsed by IIOE-2 (<http://www.iioe-2.incois.gov.in/IIOE-2/EP22.jsp>) consists of six research cruises in six distinct bioregions of the Indian Ocean from West (Mozambique Channel and Seychelles), to Central (Chagos and Maldives) and East (Andaman and Sumatra). The Mission is aligned to the goals and initiatives of IIOE-2 and combines four major activities – scientific research, capacity development, advancement of ocean policy and public engagement – to deliver the greatest coordinated impact. The Mission will conclude with a State of the Indian Ocean Summit in November 2021.



"The Mission will be delivered through a range of expert local, regional and international partners with long-term legacy and ownership residing in the Indian Ocean", explains Prof. Alex Rogers, University of Oxford and the Mission's Chief Scientist.

Nekton are seeking to partner with marine research institutes and vessel operators to undertake the research cruises. As part of the partnership, Nekton will look to invest a substantial quantity of subsea research equipment including work-class ROV, manned submersibles and containerized laboratories, a core team of leading multi-disciplinary marine scientists, data analysis across a network of laboratories, along with Research and Publication Grants for participating scientists.

Please contact Oliver Steeds (oliver@nektonmission.org), Nekton Chief Executive for further details.

A Special Session on the IIOE-2 and the Western Indian Ocean Upwelling Research Initiative (WIOURI)

As a means of promoting the IIOE-2 in the SWIO region, Prof. Michael Roberts (PI WIOURI) and Dr. Jean-Francois TERNON (Co-PI WIOURI) arranged a one-day Special Session on the WIO at the 16th Southern African Marine Sciences Symposium (SAMSS) held between 4-7 July 2017, hosted by the Nelson Mandela University (NMU), in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The session entitled "Indian Ocean Ecosystems and Services - a contribution to the IIOE-2", comprised 16 presentations. The morning session focused on recently completed WIOURI cruises around southern Madagascar and nearby seamounts with topics ranging from ocean physics, ecosystem functioning, fish larvae and maritime law of the shelf seas, the continental slope and seamounts in the SWIO. The afternoon provided overviews of phytoplankton, zooplankton



and fisheries in the WIO, culminating with news by the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Program (ACEP) on new infrastructure and a funding call for research in the SWIO. ACEP has been pivotal in supporting researchers in the SWIO, funding large projects such as the French-South African MESOBIO in the Mozambique Channel (2008-10), the shelf-slope KwaZulu-Natal Bight Ecosystem Functioning project (2008-10), and the southern Mozambique Channel eddy 'Suit Case' project (2012-14). A new UK-GCRF funded project focusing on fisheries and people on the Agulhas Bank (South Africa) and the East African Coastal Current off Kenya and Tanzania was presented as the penultimate talk. The special session closed with a presentation of the South African National committee plans, followed by discussion.

[Report by Prof. Michael Roberts, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth and National Oceanography Centre, Southampton.
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Some Upcoming Events

- ☞ The first GEOTRACES Summer School will be held in Brest, France, between 20 and 26 August 2017. The School aims to teach the skills and knowledge necessary for a good understanding of the biogeochemical cycles of trace metals in the ocean. It will allow Ph.D students and early-career researchers to learn how their work fits within the international community of GEOTRACES. <https://geotraceschool.sciencesconf.org/>
- ☞ The Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) and related Oceanic and Coupled Atmospheric Research in the Indian Ocean (IAPSO, IAMAS): International Symposium, 27 August to 1 September 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. <http://www.iapso-iamas-iaga2017.com/index.php>
- ☞ The 2017 SCOR Annual Meeting will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from Monday, 4 September through Wednesday, 6 September 2017. <http://scor-int.org>
- ☞ Indian Ocean Community Workshop, being organised by the US IIOE-2 Steering Committee during 11- 13 September, 2017 in La Jolla, CA. <http://web.whoi.edu/ioworkshop2017/agenda/>

First meeting of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) Indian Ocean Sector (SOIS) Working Group

August 12-16, 2017, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan.

Dr. Nick D'Adamo, Head - Perth Programme Office of the IOC-UNESCO and the IOC Coordinator for IIOE-2 would be delivering a talk on IIOE-2 at this meeting.



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