

Coastal Monitoring Network and Variability in the Lüderitz Upwelling Cell – Orange River Cone (LUCORC) Area (OCM/09/03&05)

Co-PIs: Anja van der Plas (NatMIRC, Namibia), Pedro Tchivalanga (INIP, Angola), Mthuthuzeli Gulekana (DEA, South Africa).

Co-authors: Oceanographic monitoring teams of Angola, Namibia and South Africa

Abstract

The Coastal Monitoring Network and Variability in the Lüderitz Upwelling Cell – Orange River Cone (LUCORC) Area (OCM/09/03&05) project (OCM0903&5) aims to update, standardise and expand (where necessary) the existing coastal monitoring programmes in Angola, Namibia and South Africa so as to develop a cost-effective regional coastal monitoring system for the entire BCLME region (including the LUCORC region). This will be achieved through improvement of infrastructure, human technical capacity and monitoring methodologies. One of the intended outputs of this regional monitoring is to derive environmental indices from the collected physical, chemical and biological parameters that may be used as State of the Environment (SOE) indicators in the State of Environment and Information System (SEIS). The collected data can also provide ground-truthing (*in situ*) data for the validation of satellite remote sensing algorithms and oceanographic models. It is envisaged that the meteorological and oceanographic monitoring data collected through this project can contribute to ecosystem and fisheries management by improving the general understanding and availability of information on important oceanographic processes related to the BCLME as well as the marine resources that occur in this ecosystem. Progress on the coastal monitoring network project will be presented.