IOC/Circular Letter 2493
(Available in English and French)

05 August 2013

To: Official Coordinating Body for liaison with IOC of IOC Member States in Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA)

cc: Officers of IOCAFRICA
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOCAFRICA Member States
National Commissions of UNESCO in IOCAFRICA Member States
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies

Subject: Nomination of Members of IOCAFRICA Regional Working Groups

The Strategic Plan for the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA) adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 27th session (IOC-XXVII/Dec.3.3) provided for the establishment of five working groups covering sub-regions to assist in developing detailed work plans and provide linkages to other organizations and programmes in the sub-regions (Article 40). The Officers of IOCAFRICA have subsequently developed the attached draft Terms of Reference for the working groups.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to nominate suitable national experts for consideration for membership of the IOCAFRICA Regional Working Groups. The detailed work plans developed by the working groups, in collaboration with the Officers and the secretariat of IOCAFRICA, will be submitted to the next session of the Sub-Commission.

In order to enable the Groups to embark on their tasks, nominations (names, addresses and detailed CV) should be sent by email to the IOCAFRICA Technical Secretary Mr Mika Odido (m.odido@unesco.org) not later than 21 September 2013.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Enclosure: Terms of reference for IOCAFRICA working groups
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IOCAFRICA WORKING GROUPS

Background

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States – IOCAFRICA, was established by the 26th session of the IOC Assembly as a framework to improve IOC visibility, to facilitate coordination among the Member States in the region, and to ensure the efficient implementation of IOC programmes in Africa. The Assembly also decided that “...specific characteristics of the regions will be addressed through targeted programmes developed by thematic groups created by the Sub-Commission”.

The 27th session of the IOC Assembly approved the IOCAFRICA Strategic Plan, which provides for the establishment of five working groups covering the following Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) regions: (1) Agulhas Somali Current, (2) Benguela Current, (3) Canary Current, (4) Guinea Current, and (5) Mediterranean and Red Sea. The working groups would assist in developing detailed work plans and provide linkages to other organizations and programmes in the regions. This would enable the Sub-Commission to address the regional priorities and specificities.

Below are outlined the proposed Terms of Reference for these working groups, membership and composition, and modalities of operation.

Terms of Reference:

(i) Identify regional problems and advise on priority issues to be addressed jointly by Member States from the region (in line with IOCAFRICA Strategic Plan);
(ii) Develop proposals for projects and interventions to address the priority issues, in consultation with institutions/organizations in the region;
(iii) Advise on the development and implementation of regional components of the Sub-Commissions programmes;
(iv) Identify capacity required for the implementation of the projects/interventions, and the capacity development needs;
(v) Identify potential partners, including regional organizations and programmes;
(vi) Report to IOCAFRICA and its Bureau on the activities identified, proposals developed and implemented.

Membership and Composition: The working groups shall each comprise a minimum of five and maximum of seven experts, who will serve for a term of 2 years, which is renewable.

Member States will submit to the IOC Executive Secretary the names of any experts, with their curricula vitae, it may wish to be considered for membership of the group (and indicate which of the five working groups he/she should be considered for). The IOCAFRICA Officers after having reviewed the nominees and/or any other suitable candidates known to them by reputation will select the members of the working groups. Subsequently they will be appointed by the Executive Secretary who will inform the Member States concerned of the final composition of the working groups.

The working group may invite additional experts to participate in their deliberations on specific issues as necessary.

Modalities of operation: The working groups shall discharge their responsibilities by electronic means as much as possible.

Amendments: These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the third session of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States.