

The Guinea Current region comprises of 16 coastal nations of West and Central Africa adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean from Guinea Bissau to Angola. A Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) is the portion of the marine and coastal areas that share common oceanographic characteristics, including the river basins that empty into it. The common characteristic in this case is the Guinea Current. The countries of this region came together under a loose arrangement to address the deterioration in the coastal environment of the region due to pollution from industries, increased human population and mineral exploration and exploitation. There is a currently an effort to progress to a Guinea Current Commission.

Geoinformation training and education in the Region takes place mainly in the universities, polytechnics and monotechnics. These institutions award Bachelor of Science degrees, Higher National Diploma and postgraduate degrees in Geoinformation. Training is offered in the departments of Geography and Surveying & Geoinformatics (Geomatics). They are, however, a few short term programs that provide hands on training in GIS, remote sensing and data acquisition systems at centers such the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys, Ile Ife - Nigeria. In the English speaking countries of the region, these programmes are offered locally while in the French, Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries, the training and education take place mainly in Europe and in the Unites States of America (USA).

In this paper, we review the state of training and education in Geoinformation in the region. We also look at how the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project has impacted on Geoinformation training and education. We also offer some thoughts on future trends and developments, including the impact of new partnership agreements with universities based in the USA that are opening up new opportunities for faculty and students to gain access to advanced instruments, new funding sources, and to collaborate on joint research project. The University of Lagos, for example, has ongoing partnerships with the University of Missouri Kansas City, the University of Rhode Island, and the Elizabeth City University, North Carolina, all in the United States of America.

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