

HIGH LEVEL TECHNICAL VISIT TO KINGSTON
Jamaica, 5-7 December

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Contribution to the IHO Capacity Building Work Programme (CBWP) 2023	
Task 3.3.9	Plan, administer and implement Capacity Building activities, including: Technical and advisory visits
CBWP2023 – A-13	High Level Technical Visit to Jamaica (from 2021 A-07 and 2022 A-14)

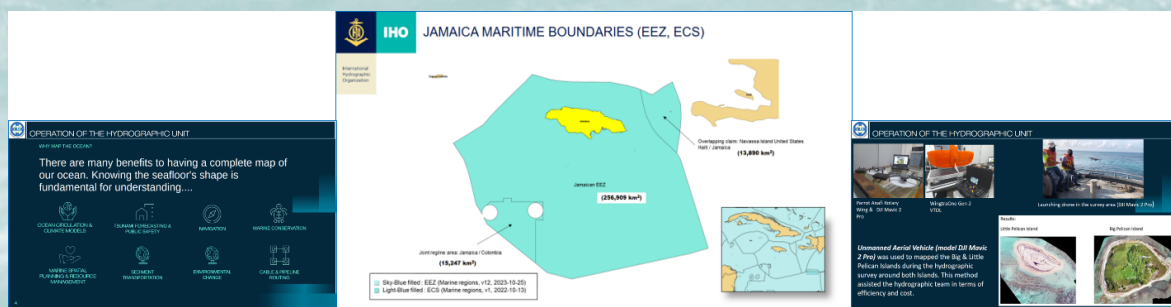
Following the planned IHO CBWP 2023 High Level Technical Visit to Jamaica, and the invitation of the *National Land Agency (NLA)*, the IHO paid a High Level Technical Visit to Jamaica from 5 to 7 December. The importance and the objectives of the IHO Capacity Building programme, the role of Hydrography in supporting sustainable development at national, regional and global level, with reference to the NLA and its Survey and Mapping Division, and the digital transformation and wider use of data with specific reference to the development of the Universal Hydrographic Data Model S-100 and the derived products and services, the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) and the importance of the implementation of the UNGGIM principles and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) at national and regional levels, were discussed. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi, accompanied by Ms Lucy Fieldhouse, Vice Chair of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC).



HLTV Agenda – IHO delegation and NLA CEO (left) and Group photo of participants (right)

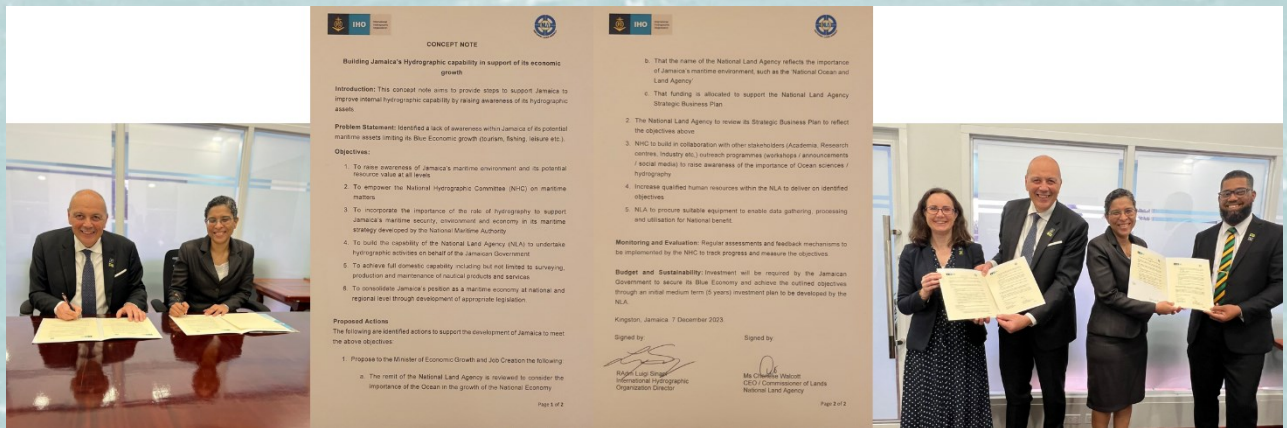
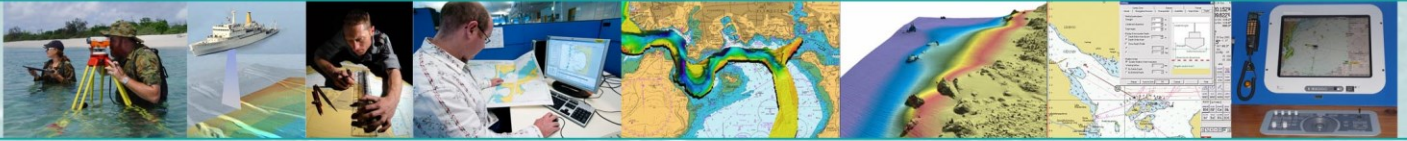


The first two days of the visit were attended by representatives of the National Land Agency (NLA) as the executive agency of the Government of Jamaica in charge of conducting hydrographic activities, the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) as a cabinet advisory council in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade acting as the national coordinator for hydrography and maritime spatial data within the Government of Jamaica, the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard, the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, which administer the registration of ships, regulate the certification of seafarers and the safety of shipping with regard to the construction of ships and navigation, the University of Technology of Jamaica as an institution committed to the development of teaching in Hydrography, and then the Advisor/Consultant of the Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation upon which the NLA depends. The day of 7 December was entirely dedicated to courtesy visits by the IHO delegation to the above-mentioned institutions, including the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.



Jamaican's EEZ – Hydrography and Blue Economy

The main topics discussed during the first two days of the Visit were the sustainable use of the Ocean, the safety of navigation, and the need to improve the capabilities of the NLA Survey and Mapping Division which serves as the National Hydrographic Office. Particular attention was paid to the organization of Jamaica's hydrographic activities, with reference to the capacities present at the national level against the potential resources and the extension of the waters under national jurisdiction up to the outer limit of the EEZ declared by Jamaica, equivalent to twenty-five times its land area, and to the benefits that a developed Hydrographic Office with the necessary human, technical and financial resources can ensure for the economic development and Blue Growth of the country. In this regard, the overview of the national hydrographic capacity and organizational structure was completed by the presentations of the NLA and NHC representatives. It was deemed essential to improve the national hydrographic capability through a specific strategy that invests financial and human resources in consolidating and strengthening the National Hydrographic Office, making it increasingly autonomous in its capacity to carry out and improve hydrographic surveys and produce nautical documentation (nautical cartography and aids to navigation). This will have a positive impact on all productive activities related to the sea and maritime services that are critical to the sustainable economic development of the country.



IHO Director and NLA CEO sign the “Concept Note - Building Jamaica’s Hydrographic capability in support of its economic growth”

At the proposal of the IHO Director, a “*Concept Note - Building Jamaica’s Hydrographic capability in support of its economic growth*” was prepared and signed by the IHO Director Luigi Sinapi and the NLA CEO Ms Cherieise Walcott to the attention of the relevant Ministries of the “Economic Growth and Job Creation” and “Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade”.

The Concept Note aims to provide steps to support Jamaica for the improvement of internal hydrographic capability by raising awareness of its hydrographic assets, through the achievement in the medium term (five years) of specific objectives such as: to raise awareness of Jamaica’s maritime environment and its potential resource value at all levels, to empower the National Hydrographic Committee on maritime matters, to incorporate the importance of the role of hydrography to support Jamaica’s maritime security, environment and economy in its maritime strategy developed by the National Maritime Authority, to build capability of the NLA to undertake hydrographic activities on behalf of the Jamaican Government, to achieve full domestic capability including but not limited to surveying, production and maintenance of nautical products and services, and then to consolidate Jamaica’s position as a maritime economy at national and regional level through development of appropriate legislation. To reach the mentioned objectives, the Note proposes to review the remit of the NLA in order to consider the importance of the Ocean in the growth of the National Economy, to re-name the NLA to reflect the importance of Jamaica’s maritime environment, such as the “*National Ocean and Land Agency – NOLA*”, to allocate funds to support the NLA Strategic Business Plan and review it in order to reflect the objectives, to raise awareness of the importance of Ocean sciences / hydrography via outreach programmes, and then to increase qualified human resources within the NLA to deliver on identified objectives and to procure suitable equipment to enable data gathering, processing and utilisation for national benefit.



1



IHO Director and Minister of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (left) and the Permanent Secretary of the Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation (right)

During the courtesy visits of 7 December, the IHO delegation was received by Mrs Arlene Williams, Permanent Secretary of the Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation, to whom the Concept Note was handed over. She appreciated the work done during the two-day meeting with key stakeholders in Jamaica's marine and maritime fields, recognising the need to invest in the country's hydrographic sector, and mandating the Ministry's staff to put in place the roadmap set out in the Concept Note and present the first results at the meeting with the Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation scheduled for January 2024. Hon. Alando Terralonge, State Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade welcomed the IHO delegation, commending the work of the International Hydrographic Organization for assuring a more healthy and protected ocean, as the main source of life and wellbeing for the planet. He also appreciated the efforts made by the IHO delegation and NLA, as a clear example of fruitful cooperation at international and national level, recognizing the tangible link between a well-developed and autonomous national hydrographic capability and the sustainable and economic growth of the Country.

Courtesy visits to the Defence Force Coast Guard, Maritime Authority of Jamaica and then Port Authority of Jamaica concluded the HLTV, with the common hope that the Hydrographic Office of Jamaica can continue on the path it has embarked upon, and increase its active participation at the regional level within the MACHC and at the international level within the framework of ongoing initiatives in the fields of ocean mapping, digital transformation and wider use of data.