DECLARATION OF INTENT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA’S DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON MARINE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CO-OPERATION

The South African Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the European Commission (hereafter referred to as 'Sides'):

- Acknowledging the close scientific collaboration, established under the Agreement on science and technological cooperation between the Republic of South Africa and the European Community signed on 5 December 1996 and entered into force on 11 November 1997, hereinafter referred to as the Agreement;
- Acknowledging its implementation facilitated by the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) established in accordance with Article 6(a) of the Agreement;
- Having recognized the importance of the oceans economy to both regions, the area of marine cooperation was identified as a priority at the JSTCC convened in 2014;
- Having furthered the cooperation through strategic participation in meetings on the implementation of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean cooperation as well as discussions within the emerging South Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Alliance;
- Highlighting the strategic partnerships that South Africa has with the European Union and several European partners on marine research;
- Acknowledging the key role that oceans play in developing national and regional economies, achieving sustainable development goals, and addressing climate change;
- Realising the mutual benefit that would accrue from linking research activities in the South Atlantic and Southern Ocean with those in the North Atlantic; and
- Seeking to increase operational efficiencies by maximising the use of large research infrastructures, and access to and management of data;

DECIDE to sign the following Joint Declaration of Intent to cooperate on marine science, technology and innovation in order to further develop a common understanding and deepen scientific knowledge of marine ecosystems and the link between oceans and climate, encourage and support research collaboration and development of relevant technologies, facilitate human capital development and scientific exchange, and explore regional opportunities for sustainable marine cooperation.


The Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean cooperation, launching a European Union-Canada-United States of America Research Alliance, signed on 24 May 2013 in Ireland.
Areas that have been identified broadly between the Sides include the following fields:
- Climate and ecosystems variability and monitoring processes;
- Earth systems observations and modelling;
- Living resources, biodiversity, fisheries management and food security;
- Polar research (especially interconnections between the Atlantic and Antarctica);
- Technology development;

A Working Group on marine research will be set up by the JSTCC consisting of members of the European Commission and DST, whose role is intended to implement the objectives of this Declaration.

The Working Group is intended to:
- Share information on emerging issues;
- Set joint priorities;
- Agree detailed activities and jointly implement or facilitate them;
- Monitor and propose links to relevant initiatives, such as the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance;
- Report periodically to the JSTCC on the activities that have been undertaken.

The intention is to achieve the following:
- Institutional mechanisms for stakeholder engagements and establishment of networks embedded in existing instruments and initiatives;
- Provision of a platform and new opportunities for scientific and technical cooperation resulting in joint research initiatives;
- Sharing of research infrastructure, technical and logistic support;
- Establishment of policy dialogues;
- Cooperation in regional and international marine and polar research initiatives and programmes.

In view of their shared understanding of the need for promoting scientific research, technological development and innovation on ocean and coastal regions, by signing this Declaration, the European Commission and DST confirm their intention to step up this cooperation.

For the Department of Science and Technology
(South Africa)

Date: 3/10/2016

For the European Commission

Date: 3/9/2016