PROSPECTUS FOR THE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF DEEP-SEA BENTHIC FAUNA WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON CORALS AND SPONGES

OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

The aim of the workshop is to improve the capabilities of scientists from African countries to correctly identify and sample a range of deep-sea benthic *taxa* which are considered sensitive and potentially vulnerable to deep-sea fisheries and which may contribute to forming Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. These include cold-water reef-building corals [e.g. stony corals (Scleractinia), alcyonaceans and gorgonians (Octocorallia), black corals (Antipatharia), hydrocorals (Stylasteridae)], other sessile epi-benthic invertebrates (e.g. hydroids and bryozoans) and Porifera (Sponges).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The workshop is intended for scientists that have an interest in marine species biology and taxonomy. A background in biology (graduate level) is required.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

About 15 scientists from Eastern and Western African countries

LANGUAGE

English and French

VENUE

The training workshop will be held at the University of Vigo, Spain.

ACCOMODATION

Participants will book hotels located in the city centre of Vigo as the University is located in the outskirts of the city and no hotels are present nearby. Transportation to and from the University will be arranged.

CONTENT OF TRAINING

The tentative workshop programme is shown below:

Day 1: Tuesday 13 November 2018

09:30 – 11:00

- Welcome address by the trainers
- Presentation of participants
- Overview of the workshop objectives, activities and expected outputs
- Deep-sea guidelines and FAO's work to facilitate the identification of VME indicator *taxa*

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:30

Lecture: Introduction to the main deep-sea benthic *taxa* and use of identification keys

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Practical session: laboratory work devoted to the identification of the main deep-sea benthic *taxa* with the aid of identification keys

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00

Practical session: Continued

Wrap up discussion (Questions, clarifications, review of day's work)

18:00 *Day Closure*

Day 2: Wednesday 14 November 2018

09:30 - 11:00

Lecture: Approach to the study of main invertebrate phyla of deep-sea benthic fauna: Sponges I: Porifera body plan, biology and distribution.

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:00 - 13:30

Lecture: Approach to the study of main invertebrate phyla of deep-sea benthic fauna: Sponges II: Classification. Similar groups. Sampling protocol.
Cnidaria I: Cnidarian body plan, biology and distribution.

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Practical session: Sponges: laboratory works devoted to recognize the main morphological features of sponges, identification of different specimens and comparisons with other similar groups.

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00

Practical session: Continued

Wrap up discussion (Questions, clarifications, review of day's work)

18:00 *Day Closure*

Day 3: Thursday 15 November 2018

09:30 - 11:00

*Lecture: a*pproach to the study of main invertebrate phyla of deep-sea benthic fauna: Cnidaria II: Classification. Overview of main benthic cnidarian *taxa*: hydroids, octocorals, antipatharians (black corals) and scleractinians.

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:30

Lecture: Approach to the study of main invertebrate phyla of deep-sea benthic fauna: Cnidaria II (continued). Similar groups. Sampling protocol.
Underwater videos and photographs of VMEs: recognition of the main taxa.

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Practical session: Cnidaria: laboratory works devoted to recognize the main morphological features of cnidarians, identification of main groups and comparisons with other similar *taxa*.

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00

Practical session: Continued

Wrap up discussion (Questions, clarifications, review of day's work)

18:00 *Workshop Closure*