



**Chibo,  
we will miss you but we will not forget you.  
A few remembrances by friends and  
colleagues**

**RGNO memorial seminar on June 28, 2021**

Already at the beginning of the RGNO in 2014, before Chibo was officially employed at UNAM, Edosa Omoregie, at the time the director of SANUMARC, involved her right away in this postgraduate program. Edosa always liked to promote young scientists by assigning challenges to them. Chibo accepted and became and remained a loyal partner for RGNO until her end. She also quickly became RGNO's marine biology specialist. She enjoyed successes in enriching and selecting algae to almost axenic cultures and she gave lectures on phytoplankton and phycotoxic algae for which her PhD training had qualified her excellently. And, even more, she enjoyed working with students and being part of an international science and education network.

She quickly became a stronghold of the local RGNO organising team, managed the accommodations, the transport, and the well-being of the course participants. She ordered supplies in time and kept our finances balanced and the RGNO inventory in order. She knew how much we could spend each year and made sure that we would not live beyond what the course budget would allow. She made us choose between a second drink or a dessert, but not for a drink and a dessert. And she wanted to make sure that our course participants could see also the inland beauties of Namibia besides the coast between Sandwich harbor and Cape Cross.

Chibo made RGNO more than a simple self-serving training opportunity; its success lies in bringing students and instructors together for a joint research experience. This can happen on the RV MIRABILIS at sea between 26°S and 19°S or around the dinner table.

In RGNO, everybody contributes knowledge from a different scientific field and they all come from various cultural backgrounds. But over the few weeks in RGNO, we form a research network for learning, experiencing, exploring, and understanding an interesting marine site, The Benguela Upwelling Ecosystem. We address aspects as diverse as chemical and biological cycling, the consequences of high productivity on the conditions in marine habitats, effects of temperature increases on marine currents and safe exploration and sustainable uses of ocean resources. Chibo had a broad enough training to quickly grasp connections between fields as different as physics of ocean bottom currents and possibly causes of habitat acidification. This, and her experience with one of the world's most vulnerable ocean ecosystem attracted students to ask for explanations and advice.

Chibo was a stronghold of the Namibian RGNO collaboration and of the local organizing team. Every year, she worked hard to invite us and to receive us with joy. She loved making sure that everything would work out smoothly.

In an international course where diversity meets and expectations differ, it is not surprising that things do not always run as smoothly as one would like. Because Chibo cared for others, it was easy for her to connect. She quickly realised what someone might need even if they themselves didn't precisely know yet. We learned from her how to overcome differences and channel efforts towards common goals. Chibo was the one who solved the tricky problems with immigration, harbor and ministerial authorities, food suppliers, and cafeteria overcharges. She was able to accept stress but never made a big thing of it; important was that the problems got solved.

As an imaginative researcher and active participant on MIRABILIS cruises and other expeditions in the Benguela, Chibo quickly established connections to people all over the continent and internationally. Through RGNO students and their advisors from California to China and from the UK to South Africa and Chile she became one of the anchor points for numerous international projects that had focussed their research on the Benguela and other ocean upwelling systems. She was a Namibian representative in the international GEOTRACES project and became instrumental in developing the "African Network for Ocean Acidification Research". To this topic, she delivered an excellent lecture as a contribution to this year's seminar series. It should become one of her last ones.

It is the readiness to always collaborate honestly and pass on to others what she had learned herself and experienced all over that made her so special.

Chibo also made me do things that I had already refused to do when our daughter wanted me to not miss out, e.g. write SMSs, which I considered a technology with no future. I was right, wasn't I? Chibo was one of the first to abandon it and switch to a smartphone with a more convenient keyboard while I kept my SMS-capable one, not to write SMSs, but as a device to make phone calls, just to kid her. We tolerated, even complemented, each other well, she was the multi-tasker, I still prefer to stick with and finish one job after the other. While I am still writing full sentences in e-mails, she preferred using the modern FGL ("fragment guess language") that forces one to guess a full sentence from word fragments and modern abbreviations. I must admit quite often I could guess her fragment comments between the paragraphs in mails quite well.

The latter are things that Chibo knew well because we argued and teased each other about them. But there are so many things I should have said to her when she was still alive. It is too late to do that now but it is never too late to remember and be thankful.

Chibo: we will miss you, but we will not forget you.