

2ND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MSC GRANTS

EXTENDED DEADLINE – 3rd May 2010

The South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP) invites prospective Masters Students in the fields of marine and fisheries science to apply for grants for full-time research projects in the following areas: data management, crustacean-, pelagic- and demersal fish resources, and biodiversity in the Western Indian Ocean region. A total of 10 grants are available per country, each for a 2-year period (first university registration in 2010, or in 2011). All the research must be completed by end of 2012.

It is the intention of the SWIOFP project to promote capacity building and support fisheries science training and development in the WIO region. The main task of research students will be to undertake research of a specific topic that meets the objectives of SWIOFP. These objectives are identified in a regional data gap analysis, which is posted on the SWIOFP website (www.swiofp.net).

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, taking into consideration the requirements stated below, the academic merits of the applicants, and the relevance of project proposals to the needs of SWIOFP. Applications that do not fulfil the requirements, or are not supported by the documents listed below, will not be considered.

The Regional Management Unit (RMU) of SWIOFP will undertake the processing and evaluation of applications through a scientific panel made up of the National Management Units (NMU), the Regional Component Coordinators (RCCs) and independent experts. The decisions made by the panel are final.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications on or before the 15 of July 2010.

Requirements are as follows:

- An Application Form, available at <http://www.swiofp.net/MSc%20Programme.html>, must be downloaded and completed by the applicant. The completed application form must include a 2-page project proposal, outlining how the applicant will address any one of the projects listed below, and how this would assist SWIOFP in achieving its line objectives. The project proposal must include: Background, Aims of project, Material and Methods; and Expected output. Additional information on the Components of SWIOFP, and their objectives, are available on www.swiofp.net.
- Applications and supporting documents must be either in English, French or Portuguese
- Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of one of the SWIOFP countries (South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros or France)
- A BSc (Honours) or equivalent 4-year degree in biological / environmental sciences is a minimum requirement, and the applicant must supply a certified full academic record.
- A letter from an appropriate academic supervisor at the University where the student wishes to register, stating that the applicant fulfils University entry requirements and that the student will receive appropriate academic supervision and logistic support for the period of the grant. Preference will be given to students who register at their domestic universities unless where such an option does not exist.
- If the applicant is employed, a letter is required from his/her employer, approving of the candidate's further studies, and stating its support.
- A CV showing personal and contact details, academic progress, work experience and research interests.
- Students who receive grants, and the university / institution where they will be based will be required to sign an agreement with SWIOFP and its national institution, with clauses on conduct, access to project data, intellectual property rights, expected academic performance and project outputs (i.e. a thesis and publications in the primary literature).
- The funds for support will be managed by the RMU in close consultation with the respective NMUs. Grants are up to USD 10 000 per year for 2 years to cover living expenses and tuition fees. Operational costs (i.e. sampling trips, consumables, costs incurred through sample or data analysis, equipment, travel) are additional – to provided by the SWIOFP Component supporting the MSc project.

Instructions for applicants

Only **one** application per student will be accepted, with a copies e-mailed to:

- a) Your own country's National Focal Point (See Table 1)
- b) The Regional Component Coordinator responsible for the component in which the research topic falls (See Table 2)

Please e-mail your application to your country focal point (i.e. one of the addresses in Table 1).

Table 1: SWIOFP National Focal Points

South Africa	Dr Andy Cockcroft	cockcrof@deat.gov.za
Mozambique	Ms Nilza Dias	nmdias30@hotmail.com
Tanzania	Ms Joyce Kulekana	kulekana3@yahoo.com
Kenya	Dr Renison Ruwa	kruwa@kmfri.co.ke
Madagascar	Mr Simon Rabearintsoa	rabeartsoasim@yahoo.fr
Mauritius	Mr S Soondron	ssoondron@mail.gov.mau
Seychelles	Mr Vincent Lucas	vlucas@sfa.sc and mrkp20100@hotmail.com ;
Comoros	Mr Rachid Ben-Massoundi	ben-massound59@yahoo.fr
France	Dr Francis Marsac	francis.marsac@ird.fr

Please e-mail your application to the Regional Component Coordinator responsible for the Component to which your project will contribute (i.e. one of the addresses in Table 2)

Table 2: SWIOFP Regional Component Coordinators (RCC)

RCC 1 – Data management	Harrison Ong'anda	honganda@kmfri.co.ke
RRC 2- Crustaceans	Johan Groeneveld	jgroeneveld@ori.org.za
RCC 3– Demersal resources	Ms Joyce Kulekana (Interim)	kulekana3@yahoo.com
RRC 4– Pelagic fishes	Vincent Lucas	vlucas@sfa.sc , and mrkp20100@hotmail.com
RCC 5- Biodiversity	Mira Hurbungs	mhurbungs@mail.gov.mu

The SWIOFP project holds the right not to make grant awards and applications that do not fulfil the requirements will not be considered.

Closing date

The closing date for applications is **Thursday, 3rd May 2010.**

Component 2 – Crustaceans: Proposed Research Projects

Further information on the projects listed below are available in the *“Regional data gap-analysis for Component 2 (Crustaceans) for SWIOFP”*. The document is posted on <http://www.swiofp.net>.

Enquiries to Dr. Johan Groeneveld: jgroeneveld@ori.org.za

1. Genetic population studies of shallow-water lobsters *Panulirus homarus* and *P. ornatus* over a wide geographical range in the South West Indian Ocean – are they a single stock or structured into separate populations?
2. Genetic population studies of deep-water lobster (*Palinurus* spp.) populations in the South West Indian Ocean: use of micro-satellites to resolve relationships among species / populations from South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar and Walters Shoals.
3. Genetic population studies of langoustines important to deep-water trawl fisheries in the SWIOFP region - do they consist of a single regional population or more than one subpopulation?
4. Genetic population studies of deep-water prawns *Haliporoides triarthrus*, *Aristaeomorpha foliacea* and *Aristeus antennatus* to assess stock identity relative to international boundaries: are stocks shared and should they be managed regionally?
5. Genetic population studies of shallow-water prawns *Penaeus indicus*, *P. monodon*, and *Metapenaeus monoceros* to assess stock identity relative to approximate nursery areas (i.e. estuaries) and international boundaries.
6. Fisheries biology (i.e. distribution, exploitation, abundance, biology, stock status, management) of
 - a. deep-water lobsters and crabs;
 - b. langoustines;
 - c. deep-water prawn stocks;with the aim of providing information for the development of regional or sub-regional fisheries management strategies. Any species or group of species relevant to the SWIOFP objectives can be selected. Also, any site(s) within the SWIOFP region can be selected. Prioritized species are: *Haliporoides triarthrus*, *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, *Aristeus antennatus*, *Nephropsis stewarti*, *Metanephrops mozambicus*, *Metanephrops andamanicus*, *Palinurus delagoae/barbarae*, *Penaeus indicus*, *Metapenaeus monoceros*, *Penaeus monodon*, *Panulirus homarus*, *Panulirus ornatus*, *Chaceon macphersoni*, and *Scylla serata*.
7. Estimation of targeted catch and bycatch catch rates in prawn trawl fisheries, and testing the efficiency of various Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs), Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and combinations thereof. The logistics of this project are complex and the sampling at sea will likely only take place late in 2010 or 2011 – thus a first registration of 2011 is suggested.
8. A retrospective analysis of historical information on Crustacean Fisheries in the SWIOFP region: identification, validation and calibration of usable long-term datasets as base-line abundance indices.

Component 3 –Demersal: Proposed Research Projects

Further information on the projects listed below are available in the “*Regional data gap-analysis for Component 3 (Demersal Fishes) for SWIOFP*”. The document is posted on <http://www.swiofp.net>.

Enquiries to Dr. Sean Fennessy: seanf@ori.org.za or to Joyce Kulekana: kulekana3@yahoo.com.

1. Collection of species composition/abundance information, and biological/genetic studies of prioritized species in the surveys. The prioritized species are: *Pagellus bellottii natalensis*, *Cheimeirus nufar*, *Argyrosomus japonicus*, *Johnius fuscolineatus* and *Pomadasys kaakan* for South Africa, *Chrysoblephus puniceus*, *Polysteganus coeruleopunctatus*, *Argyrops spinifer* and *Lutjanus sanguineus* for Mozambique. Other species include, *Nemipterus bipunctatus*, *Trichiurus lepturus*, *Lutjanus fulviflamma* and *Pomadasys maculatum* for Tanzania and *Lutjanus bohar*, *Pristipomoides fulviflamma*, *Pristipomoides multidens* and *Pristipomoides zonatus* of Kenya. *Polysteganus baisacci*, *Variola albimarginata*, *Lethrinus mahsena* and *Lethrinus nebulosus* for Mauritius and *Otolithes rubber*, *Johnius dorsalis*, *Johnius belengeri*, *Aprion virescens* and *Gymnocranius grandolis* of Madagascar. Species of Seychelles are *Epinephelus chlorostigma*, *Epinephelus morrhua*, *Lutjanus sebae*, *Apharaeus rutilans* and *Seriola rivoliana*. Other species are *Etelis carbunculus*, *Etelis coruscans* and *Lethrinus rubrioperculatus* of Comoros.
2. Genetic/ and biological studies of fish from trap surveys from all SWIO countries.
3. Genetic/ and biological studies of reef fishes using multi-gear surveys i.e. line fishing and drop-line in all SWIO countries.
4. Studies of demersal trawl surveys of Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and South Africa.
5. Fisheries biology (i.e. distribution, exploitation, abundance, biology, stock status, management) of deep-water fish species with the aim of providing information for the development of regional or sub-regional fisheries management strategies.
6. Small-scale fisheries surveys in all countries except South Africa, focused on the prioritized species, aimed at quantifying catches and at determining size structure of the populations.
7. Assessment of deep-water demersal fisheries in the WIO.
8. A retrospective analysis of historical information on demersal fishes in the SWIOFP region: identification, validation and calibration of usable long-term datasets as base-line abundance indices.

Component 4 – Pelagic: Proposed Research Projects

Further information on the projects listed below are available in the *“Regional data gap-analysis for Component 4 (Pelagic fishes) for SWIOFP”*. The document is posted on <http://www.swiofp.net>.

Enquiries to Mr. Vincent Lucas: mrkp20100@hotmail.com or vlucas@sfa.sc

1. The biology and fisheries of small epipelagic tuna / tuna-like species (i.e. *Euthynnus affinis*, *Sarda orientalis*, *Scomberomorus commerson*) with reference to future national or regional management initiatives. Projects in this category will use data from port sampling, observers at sea, instrumented long-line surveys. Project proposals can be for national waters, or cover a broader area in the SWIO.

2. Assessment of the habitat, behaviour (incl. migrations), biology and fisheries for medium / large pelagic fishes, and the efficiency of fishing gear, using data from instrumented long-line surveys, observer data, commercial records and port monitoring. Individual projects to be developed for the following species or species-groups:
 - 2.1. Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)
 - 2.2. Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)
 - 2.3. Pelagic sharks (several species; bycatches / target cates in long-line fisheries)
 - 2.4. Subsurface medium pelagic fishes (mainly bycatches of long-line fisheries, i.e., oilfish, escolar, lancetfish)

3. Gear optimization in longline fisheries, using data from instrumented long-line surveys.

4. Mitigation against predation of hooked fishes by sharks and marine mammals during fisheries operations using long-line fishing gear. Data analysis to be based on instrumented long-lines, observer data, and commercial fishing records.

5. The development and assessment of fisheries for medium / large pelagic fishes around anchored FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices). Projects dependent on the locations of FADs, and should include species composition, catch and fishing effort, movement of fishes and resident times around FADs.

Component 5 – Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Fisheries Management: Proposed Research Projects

Further information on the projects listed below are available in the *“Regional data gap-analysis for Component 5 (Biodiversity issues of fisheries) for SWIOFP”*. The document is posted on <http://www.swiofp.net>.

Enquiries to Ms. Mira Devi Hurbungs: mhurbungs@mail.gov.mu