

An occasional newsletter to update members of SWIOFP on current developments.

During the few past months the SWIOFP secretariat forged ties with a number of other initiatives and institutions that will interface with the project in years to come. A highlight was the successful hosting of the final Theme Working Groups

Administration

The secretariat has been exceptionally busy with arrangements surrounding the final theme workshops held in Maputo during May. During this time the secretariat also supported the further development of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) which will be presented to the World Bank and the GEF Council.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1st Meeting of the South West Indian Ocean Commission (SWIOFC): Mombasa 18 – 19 April 05

This was the first formal meeting of the SWIOFC, after the initial formation meeting held in Seychelles. The meeting was attended by all riparian countries of the WIO and a number of observer interest groups, including the (UNEP) Nairobi Convention, FAO, IUCN, WIOMEF, SADC, IOC and SWIOFP. Much of the meeting was devoted to reaching agreement on the various procedures and protocols that will ensure smooth functioning of the Commission. This first Session was chaired by Kenya and the chair for the next phase was then allocated to Mozambique.

Activities of the Commission fall under the umbrella of FAO and are confined to EEZ waters of the riparian WIO countries. Clearly, the commission is of great relevance to SWIOFP, especially considering SWIOFP Component 7, which aims to strengthen regional and national Fisheries Management activities. Close collaboration with the Commission is thus highly desirable, and this opportunity was presented to the delegates by the SWIOFP secretariat. The proceedings of this first meeting will be formally published by FAO.

5th Intergovernmental consultation on the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement: - SIOFA – Mombasa: 22 April 05

The rationale for this agreement stems from global concern about uncontrolled exploitation of High Seas Fisheries Resources – ie those regions beyond EEZs in international waters. The meeting was attended by WIO countries as well as the EU, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The EU chaired the meeting, much of which was devoted to “fine tuning” the text of the Agreement. Membership is open to all countries that fish in the high seas areas of the South Indian Ocean and the eventual goal is to set sustainable quotas, ensure proper reporting and compliance, develop duties and responsibilities for contracting parties, port and flag states. The SIOFA places a considerable responsibility on WIO countries in that annual meetings and scientific committees need to be sustained. The meeting also heard that none of the riparian countries in fact had the capacity to harvest high seas resources, such as orange roughy. While SIOFA activities fall outside of the SWIOFP study area, it is considered prudent to develop close ties with this multi-national agreement and to collaborate in the long term.

Planning workshop of the West Indian Ocean Land Based impacts on the sea (WIOLaB)

Dar es Salaam: 21 April 2005

WIOLaB is one of the three linked projects that fall under the ASLME programme, the other two being SWIOFP and WIOMEF. This meeting was devoted to refining the work programme of WIOLaB. It was noted that there are specific areas of interface with SWIOFP and that collectively the three projects will develop a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a Strategic Action Plan (SAP). WIOLaB has already been approved and funded, so that projects are currently being developed in terms of a wide range of components and objectives.

Final SWIOFP Theme Workshops – Maputo: 9 – 12 May 05

As the PAD had evolved to an advanced stage, it was necessary for each of the Theme Groups to meet once more in order to finalise their component of the PAD. It was decided to co-host all the Theme Groups at one time in Maputo, organised by IIP. While a full set of minutes is available from the secretariat, several key issues are highlighted here:-

It was recognised that finalization of the software and IT support for SWIOFP was urgent and pivotal to its success. It was agreed that three levels of IT support would be required: (i) a metadata system such as Medi3 for an overall inventory of data, (ii) a fisheries data base, such as StatBase, which can integrate nomenclature and other standards between countries and (iii) a scientific database, such as Trawlbase or the South African system, which is designed to process and analyse biological and survey information. Details relating to Procurement were finalised, including aspects of the financial arrangements in terms of World Bank rules. Specific attention was devoted to the development of Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Regional Executive Secretary, as well as the Regional IT consultant, both of which would have to be appointed at the very start of SWIOFP. A draft Memorandum of Agreement to facilitate the collaboration between member states was also compiled.

Considerable attention was given to developing a research ship cruise plan, and a tentative draft was approved. This would include both commercial and research vessels from several of the partner countries.

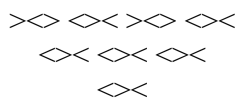
Attention was also given to the Science Plan by expanding on Component 6, dealing with non-consumptive resources. This was led by Mauritius and will be incorporated into the PAD. Similarly, Component 7 was elaborated, dealing with Monitoring of catch and effort.

The four day meeting was attended by all countries except Comoros. The Transitional government of Somalia was also represented by the Vice minister and given observer status. It was noted that support for Somali initiatives were to be developed. The workshop concluded with the selection of the country to host the Regional Office – namely Kenya.

Updated Table of Activities reflecting approximate time schedules

INTERIM PROGRESS & PLANS			
<i>Task / Theme</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>	Last Theme workshops	Minutes circulated	Complete
	Plan for 5 th plenary (final appraisal)	Preliminary stage only	1 st week August 2005
	Maintain SWIOFP website & newflash.	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Final version of project appraisal document PAD	Only minor adjustments needed	Mid 2005
	Incremental cost analysis	Complete	
	Donor meeting to secure finance gap	Planned	Mid 2005

	Interface with other WIO projects; establish links	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Facilitate participation by Comoros-visit to engage ministry	Planned	Pending response from Comoros
	Circulate draft WB-country contract for comment and future guidance.	Underway	End June 2005
	Project Launch	-	Early 2006
Science Plan (MCM-S.Afr)	Integrate new information into Version 3 of the Draft Science Plan.	Complete	
	Incorporate other workshop recommendations– revise activities cost estimates	Underway	End June 2005
Data Management (KMFRI-Kenya)			-
	Draw up TORs for Component 1 activities and staffing (2006)	Partially complete	June 2005
	Facilitate evaluation of StatBase and alternatives	Underway	June 2005
Operations & Procurement (TAFIRI- Tanzania)	Harmonise procurement procedures	Ongoing	-
	Finalise and update procurement plan	Underway	June 2005
Legal issues (France)	Focal point questionnaire analysed	Complete	
	Assist with demonstration of StatBase fisheries software	Complete	
Project management (Madagascar)			
National Focal Points (countries)	Consider and verify country-level participation in Components and Regional Unit.	Achieved	Sustain
	Submit letter of project endorsement to World Bank country office – copied to Secretariat.	Urgent	??
	Workshop to develop country needs and expectations; document prepared	Achieved, need for confirmation.	
	Review and confirm draft budget. Draft MOU, Draft TORs for appointments	Underway	June 05



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