



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP)

GEFID#: 1082, GEF Agency Project ID#: P072202, Project Status: Active



Fish tagging in Comoros

- 1. Generation of scientific knowledge:** regional data gaps analysis and regional research plans prepared; vessel-times procured for stock assessments; regional fisheries databases operational and populated with new and historic data.
- 2. Development of institutional and human capacity:** various regional training organized; regional fisheries observers trained to international standards; MSc addressing SWIOFP's thematic supported.
- 3. Development of a regional fisheries management structure:** the SWIO riparian countries regularly meet during the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and its Scientific Committee sessions to debate fisheries information and management; riparian States now coordinates their participation to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) sessions.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project global objective is to promote the environmentally sustainable use of fish resources through adoption by countries riparian to the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) of a Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the Agulhas and Somali LMEs that recognizes the importance of preserving biodiversity.

RESULTS: PROCESS

The main results to date have been to promote the role of the South West Indian Ocean Commission as the platform for regional discussion concerning fisheries research and management, support informed participation of the SWIO riparian States to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and to reinforce the capacity in fisheries research and Ecosystem Approach in Fisheries (EAF) management.

INDICATOR 1. Development of institutional and human capacity through training and career building to undertake and sustain an ecosystem approach to natural resource management consistent with WSSD marine targets: 5 regional trainings organized (e.g., information systems; Rapid Bycatch Assessment; Turtle tagging and monitoring; EAF; stock assessment); 40 fisheries observers from all the participating countries trained according to international and regionally-harmonized standard; 19 MSc Students financially supported to undertake SWIOFP's thematic related research.

INDICATOR 2. Development of a regional fisheries management structure fostered for implementing the LME-based approach to ecosystem based management through strengthening the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and other relevant regional bodies: SWIOFC acts as the Project Steering Committee and is the depository of Project databases (4). The Project supports the works of the Plenary Session (at least once a year), Scientific Committee and Working Groups of the Commission (2 meetings per year).

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

N/A

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

The project supports the production of scientific knowledge and the development of the core capacity needed to develop a TDA and SAP and implement the action plan in order to manage regional fisheries according to EAF principles.

INDICATOR 1. Identification and study of exploitable offshore fish stocks within the SWIO, and differentiation between environmental (LME-related) and anthropogenic impacts on shared fisheries: data gap analysis (3) and regional research plans (3) were developed for crustaceans, demersal, pelagic species; regional fisheries databases are fully operational (Statbase, Nansis, Geonetwork and Wiofish) and include new and historic data; retrospective analysis of the fisheries initiated.

INDICATOR 2. Mainstreaming biodiversity in national fisheries management policy and legislation, and through national participation in regional organizations that promote sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources: data gap analysis (1) and regional research plans (1) were developed for non-consumptive species; observers are deployed on research and fishing vessels to assess presence of and impact on non-consumptive species.