

SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES PROGRAMME (SWIOFP)

NEWSFLASH: MAY 2003

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

Following on from the two plenary planning meetings held in December 2000 and September 2002, there has been a period of consolidation and planning in the SWIOFP programme. Certain administrative arrangements, between the World Bank and the SWIOFP secretariat, required finalization before significant further progress could be made. These have now been finalised and the following progress can be reported.

Administration

- The position of executive secretary to SWIOFP is presently being advertised.
- A technical advisor has been appointed on a consulting basis. He is Rudy van der Elst from the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) in Durban.
- Bill Lane, who was instrumental in pioneering this programme from the GEF-World Bank perspective, has moved to other programmes. He has been followed on a temporary basis by Robert Clement Jones, who over the past few months has made great progress in forging SWIOFP ahead. We are grateful to both gentlemen for their concerted efforts.
- It is expected that a new and more permanent link with the GEF-World Bank will soon be established and several promising individuals have been identified as possible candidates. There is of course Rod de Vletter, the World Bank Rep in Maputo who continues to provide guidance and support to this programme, almost on a daily basis.

Programme development

During the September workshop a number of distinct themes were identified, each of which would be allocated to a working group to be hosted by a specific country. These working groups have now been allocated to specific countries, following a nomination and voting process:

Scientific programme development	South Africa	1
Information and data management	Kenya	2
Operations and procurement	Tanzania	3
Project management	Madagascar	4
Legal implications and instruments	Mozambique	5

It is important to fast-track several of these activities, especially so as to ensure that the final proposal to GEF can be completed by the end of 2003. Consequently, the first three of the above tasks have been given priority. It is particularly important to have the scientific programme better conceptualised before some of the other activities can commence.

An interim action plan has been drafted accordingly and the main points of this programme are:

INTERIM PROGRAMME		
<i>Task</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>
Confirm appointments to secretariat.	Finalise TORs; advertise; appoint	By end June2003
Initiate the 3 main working groups in respective host countries	Liaison with countries; set up working groups;	Completed by end September 2003
Create basic SWIOFP Website	Design and host	By July 2003
Interface with other WIO programmes, including LME	Document other programmes; circulate- establish links.	By July 2003
Final project vision document submitted to GEF	Compile draft ; circulate	By November 2003

A number of other important tasks need to be tackled soon. One of these is the identification of possible useful sources of data relating to the SWIOFP programme. Such data and records may be located in any of a number of countries and hence this will be a significant task. However, failure to track down such records could result in duplication of some activities, which can not be justified.

Planned meetings

Each member country will be requested to send up to two experts to the three working groups that are to be implemented shortly. Funds for their attendance are available and will be sourced via the host country. The observer countries are welcome to participate, but no funding is currently available to cover their travel costs.

Member countries	Observer counties
Comoros	Seychelles
Madagascar	Mauritius
Kenya	France
Tanzania	
Mozambique	
South Africa	

Please do contact us at the SWIOFP secretariat with ideas, advice and comment. This programme remains one of the finest opportunities our collective countries will have to ensure long-term sustainable development of the West Indian Ocean. As such it deserves the support of all.

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