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(SWIOFP)

NEWSFLASH 5: OCTOBER 2003

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

Good news from several fronts can be reported, including the successful completion of the second of the SWIOFP Theme Groups, dealing with data management, hosted by the Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute Mombasa.

Administration

- Much appreciated good news was received from the World Bank when they announced the appointment of Mr Tijan Sallah as the Bank's Task Team Leader for the SWIOFP programme. Tijan will add further impetus and capacity to SWIOFP, and he comes with experience that has involved working in both the Asia and Africa regions for the World Bank. For the past 9 years he has been working in the Middle East North Africa Region in the Agriculture and Environment Unit. Tijan has already expressed a great interest in joining the SWIOFP programme and we sincerely welcome him to SWIOFP family!
- SWIOFP is a complex programme with considerable unavoidable hurdles and impediments as a result of dealing with so many countries. Although there has been excellent participation, several administrative and logistical problems have slowed the pace of progress during this PDF-B phase. As a result, the secretariat is requesting an extension of the PDF-B phase until end 2004. This is currently being considered.

Programme development

The second of three Theme Working Groups was held at the Reef Hotel in Mombasa on 8 and 9 October 2003. Hosted by KMFRI and chaired by Dr. Renison Ruwa, the meeting was attended by expert delegates from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa and Comoros. Unfortunately, the other countries were not able to attend. Although Somalia is not at this stage a formal member, some attention was devoted to this region by several of the participants with a knowledge of, and interest in Somali fisheries.

The workshop defined the following primary objectives:
- To list primary information needs based on the Science Plan.
- To identify potential sources of existing data.
- To develop approaches to data sharing and management.
- To identify capacity requirements in support of data processing.

Dr. Maloto, head of Kenya's Coastal Zone Planning programme, opened the proceedings. He emphasised the great opportunities being created by SWIOFP,

NEPAD and other regional programmes to achieve a regional vision and a shared responsibility for regional marine resource management and development. This was followed by a number of pertinent presentations, including one from Mika Odido who reported on the IOC-UNESCO experience in setting up regional data centres in the WIO. Melckzedeck Osore also reported on challenges and progress with the ODINAFRICA programme.

After the opening presentations, focus was directed to the Science Plan, which had been drafted at the Cape Town meeting and had earlier been circulated. There was considerable discussion and the following points emerged:

- The Science Plan was in fact a Science Framework that set out a programme of activities.
- It had become increasingly clear that the original plan to collect extensive new data was premature and that the wealth of existing data needed to be identified and interpreted as an initial basis for SWIOFP's development and progress.
- In view of this, the meeting proposed some 10 separate "projects" that would result in the development of a comprehensive catalogue and associated meta-database of information and data sources relevant to SWIOFP.
- These projects could be executed by partner institutions, which would not only result in a cohesive regional approach but also assist in developing appropriate capacity and networking in those institutions and hence for the benefit of SWIOFP in the long-term.
- As a start, the meeting developed a first set of draft project proposals to deal with each country's own records and historic data that will be relevant to SWIOFP.
- It was agreed that a full set of proceedings emanating from the workshop would be made available as soon as possible. Included would be several of the supporting documents presented at the meeting.
- The meeting expressed its appreciation to KMFRI and its staff for having excelled at the arrangements, even to the point of "forfeiting" their public holiday on the 10th, to ensure that all the delegates were safely despatched back to their home countries.

Programme Progress

The two recent workshops have considerable advanced the programme and have also assisted in refining the approach. The website is still under construction but nearing completion. Several administrative tasks need to be undertaken, especially those associated with the PDF-B extension.

Updated table of Activities

INTERIM PROGRESS			
Task	*Action*	*Status*	*Deadline*
Secretarial support.	Appoint	Achieved	Completed
Science Plan workshop	Workshop in Cape Town- MCM	Achieved	Completed
Data Management workshop	KMFRI- Mombasa	Achieved.	Completed
Data Management procedures	KMFRI- Circulate minutes- feedback	Underway	End October 2003

	from partners		
Procurement Workshop	TAFIRI- Dar es Salaam	Final plan to be confirmed	1st week November
Plenary SWIOFP meeting	Arrange and prepare	Underway	8-9 Dec. Maputo
Create basic SWIOFP Website	Design and host, Compile content- send out for review	Underway	Delayed to end Oct. 2003
Interface with other WIO programmes, including LME	Document other programmes; circulate- establish links.	Ongoing: contact with IOTC.	Ongoing
Negotiate PDF-B extension to end 2004	Secretariat to expedite	Underway	End October 2003
Final project vision document submitted to GEF	Compile draft; circulate	Basic framework being designed	End December 2004

Events and activities
During the recent World Parks Congress in Durban, SWIOFP was noted in several sessions and the subject of considerable positive discussion.

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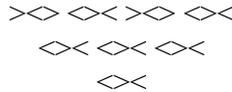
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