

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

The first meeting of the Project Management Theme was facilitated by Madagascar followed by the fourth plenary meeting hosted by Mozambique. Both meetings were held in Maputo from 12 to 14 January 2005.

Administration

- Regretfully Ms Paula Boane decided to resign from her SWIOFP secretarial position, although a replacement is expected shortly. This added to the secretariat's workload in their extensive and successful arrangements for the 4th plenary.
- The second tranche of PDF b funding from the World Bank was transferred to IIP.
- Considerable capacity has been added to project development with several experts from the World Bank providing support at workshops, including Ms Mercy Sabai and Mr Donald Mneney from Tanzania, Dr. Melissa Brown (WB: based with FAO in Rome) and Dr. Paulen Patil (WB: Washington).

Project activities

- Results from the 2nd Operational and Procurement workshop held in Zanzibar were circulated to participants by the TAFIRI team.
- Based on the information gathered during the Zanzibar meeting, a set of preliminary cost analyses for SWIOFP was circulated amongst members.
- Draft proposals for Project Management structures had been circulated by Madagascar for comment and in anticipation of the meeting in Maputo.
- The ASLME (Agulhas-Somali Large Marine Ecosystem) team had circulated an information questionnaire to assist with the incremental costs analysis of both the GEF projects.
- The French delegation has seen to preliminary preparations for the Legal Theme workshop to be held in La Reunion from 8 to 10 February 2005.

Fourth Plenary meeting: VIP Hotel, Maputo,

This, the pen-ultimate plenary meeting of the preparation phase, was well attended, with some 80 delegates participating. There was excellent representation from all member countries with especially Madagascar, Comoros and France attending at full strength. There was also participation from several members of the UNDP-ASLME steering committee. NORAD, FAO and other agencies attended.

The purpose of this Plenary was to present progress to date and especially to reach consensus on issues such as budgets, levels of country participation and interface with other initiatives. Based on these deliberations a final proposal would be drawn up for approval by the 5th Plenary before submission to the GEF Board for ratification and eventual implementation.

The meeting was opened by the Honourable Alfredo Massinga, Vice Minister of Fisheries, Mozambique. Minister Massinga highlighted the plight of the Tsunami victims, especially the fisher communities, and he drew attention to the shared responsibility for environmental and fisheries management in the West Indian Ocean (WIO). He stressed the potential role of SWIOFP in this regard.

The meeting received feedback from all the main themes. Although detailed minutes will be circulated, some issues are highlighted here:

- All member countries strongly endorsed the SWIOFP project and the direction being followed. There was confirmation of country participation and several countries indicated a willingness to host one of the seven main project components.
- Options for programme structure were discussed and there was strong support for creating a Regional Programme Management Unit (RPMU), to be located in one particular country that met certain selection criteria. Madagascar would facilitate selection of such a host country.
- A preliminary evaluation of costs was presented, based on World Bank guidelines and costed for each of the 50 activities per country separately. This is required as each country will enter into a separate contract with the World Bank. Tentative estimates suggest that US\$ 30 million is a likely project cost over five years.
- The French delegation indicated that France would be contributing substantially to SWIOFP.
- Notwithstanding the considerable grant funding available, delegates were reminded that each country would be expected to contribute substantially in terms of manpower and infrastructure as part of an incremental cost contribution.
- It was anticipated that each participating country would be equipped with a SWIOFP office including laboratory and IT facilities.
- There was much discussion concerning ships' time and its impact on project costs and success. It was proposed that SWIOFP should fund a substantial proportion of ships' time from its own resources and look to donors for additional top-up requirements.
- The five-modular approach of LME programmes was noted as an essential component and hence emphasis was placed on the linkages between SWIOFP and ASLME. It was felt that the management units of these projects should be located at the same place in order to save costs and improve efficiency.
- As the ultimate goal of SWIOFP includes a regional resource management framework, close collaboration with FAO and the new South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission will be fostered.
- Members were urged to contribute to ongoing developments so as to present a final version of the SWIOFP, with clear links to the ASLME, by the next Plenary in June/July 2005.
- A comprehensive list of tasks was developed which places considerable and urgent responsibility on individual country focal points. A summary of these is listed below.

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>	4 th plenary (Pre-appraisal)	Complete: minutes to be circulated	End January 2005
	Plan for 5 th plenary (final appraisal)	Preliminary stage only	June/July 2005
	Maintain SWIOFP website; initiate "FishChat"	Ongoing	
	Final version of project submitted	Basic framework conceived	Mid 2005
	Facilitate incremental cost analysis workshop	Underway	February 2005
	Additional workshop to finalise outstanding issues, including ships, gear, funding, legal	To be planned Maputo?	April/May 2005
	Interface with other WIO projects; establish links	Ongoing	Ongoing

	Facilitate visit to Comoros to engage ministry	Planned	Aril 2005
	Circulate draft WB-country contract for comment and future guidance..	Underway	End February 2005
	Project Launch	-	Early 2006
Science Plan (MCM-S.Afr)	Integrate new information into Version 3 of the Draft Science Plan.	Underway Project advisor	Mid February 2005
	Incorporate other workshop recommendations– revise activities cost estimates	Underway Project advisor	Mid February 2005
Data Management (KMFRI-Kenya)	Country questionnaire analysis	Completed	-
	Draw up TORs for Component 1 activities and staffing (2006)	Underway	June 2005
	Facilitate evaluation of StaBase and alternatives	Underway	June 2005
Operations & Procurement (TAFIRI- Tanzania)	Harmonise procurement procedures	Ongoing	-
	Finalise and update procurement plan	Underway	June 2005
	2 nd Specialist workshop	Completed	
Legal issues (France)	Focal point questionnaire analysed	Underway	Mid February 2005
	Assist with demonstration of StatBase fisheries software	Underway	June 2005
	Workshop	Planned	8-10 Feb: Reunion
Project management (Madagascar)	Draft management plan developed	Achieved	
	Circulate plan for comment.	Underway	31 Oct 04
	Specialist workshop, minutes circulated.	Completed- minutes underway	Mid February 2005
	Arrange for criteria and submissions to hosting Regional PMU.	Underway	End February 2005
National Focal Points	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	Mid February 2005
	Workshop to develop country needs and expectations; document prepared	Achieved, need for confirmation.	
	Review and confirm draft budget	Underway	31 December 2004



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