

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

The first of the Theme Working Groups is the *Science Plan* Group, which held its workshop in Cape Town recently. Plans for the others themes are being finalised. SWIOFP continues to attract attention and is developing linkages with numerous other initiatives in the region.

Administration

- Project administration has further improved with the appointment of Ms Paula Boane. In addition to providing support with day-to-day activities of SWIOFP, she also assist with logistic and travel arrangements for the various meetings and workshops.

Programme development

Good news is that the first of three Theme Working Groups was held in Cape Town from 26 to 28 August 2003. Hosted by South Africa's Marine and Coastal Management (MCM), this workshop was designed to develop an overall *Science Plan* for SWIOFP. Although this was never considered to be an easy task, a Science Plan Framework was indeed developed.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Monde Mayekiso, the Chief Director of MCM. He confirmed South Africa's support for SWIOFP, especially in the light of NEPAD, the Nairobi Convention and other regional initiatives.

Dr Johan Groeneveld (who is the SA focal point), supported by Christina Cicognani, ensured the excellent and smooth running of the workshop. This was despite considerable problems experienced by several delegates in obtaining South African visas. In the end, there was country representation from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa. Unfortunately, the Madagascar delegation was not able to secure visas, nor did the French delegation participate. There were also a number of other experts, including a team from the UNDP Large Marine Ecosystem programme, the FAO, the coelacanth project and the Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (BCLME).

Although a full record of the meeting will soon be made available, a few select highlights can be noted.

1. Each country presented their approach to the Science Plan, including their specific needs and expectations from SWIOFP. These needs were tentatively scored in terms of priority.

2. There was considerable discussion around the final definition of the study area and the overall Vision. Some amendments will be presented to the Plenary SWIOFP meeting in Maputo during December 2003.
3. While tuna had initially been excluded from SWIOFP because of the good progress with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), it was agreed that this matter could be reviewed, based on the ecological role of tuna and the opinion of IOTC.
4. It was noted that GEF support is normally quite specifically directed at regional and trans-boundary issues and not at solving individual countries' problems.
5. There is a priority task of defining areas of data needs based on regional requirements and country priorities. This should focus the understanding of fisheries with a view to their sustainable management.
6. Existing information and data will need to be identified and evaluated.
7. This should be followed by a strategic gap analysis.
8. Accordingly, a data-collecting programme will need to be developed.

It was clear that many of the countries had similar needs, largely centred on the desire to define fishery opportunities in their EEZ without the necessary capacity to do so or to manage possible future resource use. In particular, there was a lack of understanding of the dynamics of EEZ waters, which would impede any management approach. For this reason there was strong support for the UNDP led initiative in the LME programme. It was agreed that the two programmes should collaborate very closely, and in so doing develop a synergistic approach to protecting the ecosystems of the WIO.

The following steps are to follow the *Science Plan* Workshop.

| Activity | Responsibility | Date |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Minutes of Science Plan workshop | MCM | 10 Sept. |
| Minutes circulated | MCM | 12 Sept |
| Draft Science Plan Framework (SPF)-circulated | MCM | 1 Oct. |
| Comments on SFP | All | 15 Oct |
| 2 nd Draft of SFP circulated | MCM | 25 Oct. |
| Present SPF to plenary | MCM/secretariat | 10-12 Dec: Maputo |

Programme Progress

The overall programme has been considerably advanced. Following discussion on the next two themes, it was agreed that there would have to be some changes in timing, with the Kenyan *Data Management* group preceding the Tanzanian *Operations and Procurement*, group, as reflected in the table of activities.

Table of Activities

| INTERIM PROGRESS | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Task | Action | Status | Deadline |
| Secretarial support. | Appoint | Achieved | - |
| <i>Science Plan</i> workshop | Workshop in Cape Town- MCM | Achieved | - |
| <i>Data Management</i> workshop | KMFRI- Mombasa | Needs final plan | 8-9 October |
| <i>Procurement Workshop</i> | TAFIRI- Dar es | Needs final plan | 1st week |

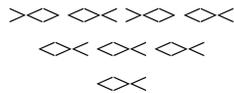
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|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Salaam | | November |
| Plenary SWIOFP meeting | Arrange and prepare | Underway | 8-9 Dec. Maputo |
| Create basic SWIOFP Website | Design and host, Compile content- send out for review | Underway | Delayed to end Sept. 2003 |
| Interface with other WIO programmes, including LME | Document other programmes; circulate- establish links. | Ongoing: contact with IOTC. | Ongoing |
| Final project vision document submitted to GEF | Compile draft; circulate | Basic framework being designed | End December 2003 |

Events and activities

The third biophysical research cruise by the South African research ship the RV Algoa, has been completed. A number of the SWIOFP countries participated and valuable information was collected. Much of this will be of potential value to SWIOFP.

Who is on the list?

We are eager to engage widespread collaboration between SWIOFP and others. If you know of any person or institution that would welcome receiving this newsflash please let the secretariat have their details.



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