

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

A further significant milestone has been reached with the successful conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting held in Maputo on 24 & 25 March 2004.

#### **Administration**

- The SWIOFP secretariat has been exceptionally active, especially in facilitating the 3rd Plenary. This not only involved organizing the meeting but also the preparation of documents well in advance.
- Good news has been the re-assignment of Dr. Bill Lane from the World Bank to SWIOFP. His original enthusiasm helped shape the project and we welcome his guidance in years to come.
- The SWIOFP structure allows for full members as well as observers. Good news is the recent announcement that Seychelles had decided to participate as a full member of SWIOFP. The meeting acknowledged that Seychelles could contribute significantly to the success of SWIOFP. Mauritius indicated too that she might request full membership in the future.
- The secretariat has appealed to all members to demonstrate greater diligence in executing tasks speedily and adhering to deadlines. There is also growing concern about some members who cancel attendance at the very last moment or fail to show up at pre-planned workshops. This compromises project funding as pre-paid travel and hotel costs are seldom fully recovered.

#### **Project activities.**

- Proceedings of the Operations and Procurement Theme Group, facilitated by Tanzania on 11 and 12 February, have been circulated. Comment from members is now urgently sought.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary proved to be well attended with six countries and five key regional institutions represented. Although detailed proceeding will soon be made available, some points are highlighted here:
- Mozambican Vice-minister of fisheries, Alfredo Massinga, not only opened the meeting but also demonstrated his personal support and interest by spending considerable time at the deliberations. He reaffirmed Mozambique's continued support and emphasised the regional need for SWIOFP.

- Bill Lane, in his opening comments, regretted the recent lapse in World Bank support but simultaneously congratulated all involved for the considerable progress that had been made. He assured the participants that he was committed to actively supporting SWIOFP. In response to queries from several members, a number of important points were discussed and confirmed.
  1. Each member country now needs to establish its national SWIOFP management team of experts so as to form a National Management structure. This group would then have to meet and develop their own SWIOFP national plan to suit their specific needs, providing such a plan broadly adhered to the SWIOFP objectives. Such national plans would need to be individually costed and this would provide the basis of an agreement between each of these governments and the World Bank. It was agreed that a Regional Management structure was also needed to assist in overall coordination and that this task could be allocated to a particular country.
  2. The next Plenary meeting would be considered a pre-appraisal workshop in which the detailed plans and associated costs are debated before a final appraisal can take place early in 2005.
  3. It was noted that collaboration with other project was imperative and that all members should actively work towards this.

A feature of the meeting was the report-back from each of the theme working groups that had been completed. This included the Science Plan, The Data Management and the Procurement groups. Considerable discussion ensued and the following broad points emerged:

1. Notwithstanding the good results, the themes remained in a conceptual stage and were now in need of more detailed finalization. Each of these groups is to continue with their development. Two of the themes had not yet made progress, namely those dealing with project management and legal issues. It was agreed that Madagascar should be encouraged to undertake the former while France agreed to instigate the latter theme as soon as possible.
2. It was agreed that large pelagics, such as tuna and billfish, would indeed be considered in the SWIOFP project in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commissions, with special focus on issues not yet being addressed by the IOTC.
3. The study area had been discussed in the past and it was agreed that the 150m depth-contour was artificial and posed a limitation. A more functional approach was proposed, including consideration of the species involved and the nature of the fishery. This would be further developed by the Science Group.

Based on considerable discussion and the urgent need to complete the final Project Proposal, a new work schedule was developed with time-specific milestones, culminating in a further plenary meeting.

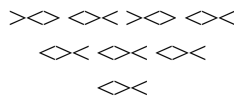
#### Updated Table of Activities

INTERIM PROGRESS			
<i>Task</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Secretarial support.	Appoint	Achieved	Completed
<i>Science Plan</i>	South Africa – MCM Final plan needed.	Concept completed.	15-20 August 04
<i>Data Management Theme</i>	Kenya-KMFRI Final plan needed	Concept completed	15 September
<i>Procurement Workshop</i>	Tanzania-TAFIRI-	Workshop review comments needed	10 April 04

<i>Procurement Theme</i>	Tanzania-TAFIRI-	Concept completed	31 October
<i>Legal issues</i>	France	To be initiated	September 04
<i>Project management</i>	Madagascar	Needs promotion & support	September 04
SWIOFP <i>Plenary 3</i>	Mozambique – IIP Arrange and prepare	Achieved	25-26 Mar. 04 Maputo
Create and manage SWIOFP Website	Design and host, Compile content- send out for review	Achieved/ ongoing	Completed
Interface with other WIO programmes, including LME	Document other programmes; circulate- establish links.	Ongoing.	Ongoing
Negotiate Pdf-B extension to end 05	Secretariat to expedite	Achieved	Completed
Project Concept Note	Secretariat	Draft completed	Completed
SWIOFP <i>Plenary 4</i> (Pre-appraisal)	Secretariat & all members.	Underway	November/December 2004
SWIOFP <i>Plenary 5</i> : (Final appraisal)	Need final planning	Preliminary stage only	March 2005
Final project vision document submitted to GEF	Compile draft; circulate	Basic framework being designed	Mid 2005
Project launched			Late 2005

### Events and related activities

The SWIOFP project continues to establish wider linkages, especially with the Somali-Agulhas LME project that has entered a Pdf-B phase. Statements by several countries indicated that SWIOFP was increasingly being considered as part of their overall national workplan. Details were also released about hits on the SWIOFP website, which indicated that more than 3500 visits from a range of countries had been made.



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