

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

As SWIOFP approaches the final stages of its development phase before implementation, so the secretariat, the task team leader and others have put finishing touches to Project Appraisal Document for final approval and funding support.

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#### ADMINISTRATION

The secretariat continued its support in coordinating the various activities relating to the final Project Appraisal Document (PAD). In finalising the PAD, it was found that additional work was required before final evaluation and endorsement by the authorities from each participating country. Consequently, the next, and final, Plenary and Appraisal meeting is now scheduled for 14, 15 and 16 September 2005 in Maputo. It is essential that senior representatives from each country are present at this time.

Various administrative issues remain to be resolved. In several cases the national focal points have not yet seen to the submission of the letter of endorsement from their GEF focal points. This is an essential requirement for the project to be implemented and funds to be made available.

The revised PAD has now been made ready for circulation and focal points should now be receiving their copy for comment and review. Any changes and comments need to be submitted to the secretariat with some urgency so that they may be considered for incorporation before the final plenary in September.

#### PROJECT ACTIVITIES

##### **Quality Enhancement Review (QER)**

###### **Tele-conference: 20 June 2005**

The World Bank has certain pre-requisites for evaluating funding request, one of which is the QER. This process involves the structured review of the draft proposal by a group of experts, both from within the Bank and external consultants. This process was undertaken via a multi-national tele-conference with the main objective being to ensure “quality of entry” before the project is considered for implementation. Bank experts and a number of SWIOFP Focal Points (Johan Groeneveld, Kaitira Katonda, Ana Paula Baloi and Rudy van der Elst). A number of issues were debated including the underlying rationale of the Project, the need to strengthen the biodiversity component, the risk profile of the Project, and the need to draw stronger linkages between SWIOFP and eventual improved governance over use of resources. The comments proved most valuable and resulted in considerable further strengthening of the PAD.

###### **WIO-LaB Workshop- Durban – 4-5 August**

This was the inception meeting of the WIO-LaB components dealing with water and sediment quality standards and monitoring. It brought together partners from all the participating countries, as well as the Nairobi Convention and other stakeholders. While the workshop was dedicated to pollution issues, the presence of SWIOFP was important as all three GEF projects are obliged to collaborate in developing a final Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) as well as a strategic Action Plan (SAP). Accordingly, opportunities were identified for points of contact between SWIOFP and the WIO-LaB project.

### Draft Procurement Plan and Terms of Reference for key appointments

The Tanzanian focal point continued to develop issues relating to procurement and produced not only a draft Procurement Plan but also a the TOR's for the appointment of a regional finance manager and procurement specialist. These drafts are being reviewed by the various focal points for adoption at the final plenary.

### Legal protocol document

At the last Plenary it was confirmed that a Legal Protocol was needed to ensure smooth implementation of SWIOFP and its diverse multinational operations. South Africa offered to produce a first draft. This document is nearing completion and will be circulated to the nodes for comment and input shortly.

### Processing Update

The draft Project Brief was submitted to the GEF Secretariat on June 20, as promised. However, for a variety of reasons, Bill Lane had to reorient the Project Brief to accommodate the need to seek funding from two GEF Focal Areas. We are now requesting \$9 million from the GEF International Waters Focal area and \$3 million from the Biodiversity Focal Area (total of \$12 million). The SWIOFP Project Brief was also modified to reflect a new name and a slightly different "programme" role for our sister project implemented by the UNDP. This is now called the Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystems Project (ASCLMEs). This revision was presented to the GEF Secretariat on July 20 and has now been officially posted on the GEF website for review by the full GEF Council (this is the Intercessional Meeting we have been talking about for the last year). The Intercessional Meeting of the GEF is an electronic rather than physical meeting and the members of the Council have until August 23 to make a decision or the projects presented are approved by default.

### Updated Table of Activities reflecting approximate time schedules

INTERIM PROGRESS & PLANS			
<i>Task / Theme</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
	Plan for 5 <sup>th</sup> plenary (final appraisal)	Preliminary stage only	3 <sup>rd</sup> week September 2005
	Maintain SWIOFP website & newflash.	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Final version of project appraisal document PAD	Only minor adjustments needed	Mid 2005
	Donor meeting to secure finance gap	Planned	Mid 2005
	Interface with other WIO projects; establish links	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Facilitate participation by Comoros-visit to engage ministry	Planned	Pending response from Comoros
	Circulate draft WB-country contract for comment and future guidance.	Underway	End August 2005
	Project Launch	-	Early 2006
<i>Science Plan (MCM-S.Afr)</i>	Cruise plan	Draft completed	
	Develop Legal protocol	Underway	August 05
<i>Data Management (KMFRI-Kenya)</i>			-
	Draw up TORs for Component 1 activities and staffing (2006)	Partially complete	September 2005
	Facilitate evaluation of StatBase and alternatives	Underway	
<i>Operations &amp; Procurement (TAFIRI- Tanzania)</i>	Harmonise procurement procedures	Draft completed	-
	Finalise and update procurement plan	Draft completed	

<b>Legal issues</b> <i>(France)</i>			
<b>Project management</b> <i>(Madagascar)</i>			
<b>National Focal Points</b> <i>(countries)</i>	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	August 05
	Workshop to develop country needs and expectations; document prepared	Achieved, need for confirmation.	
	Review and confirm draft budget. Draft MOU, Draft TORs for appointments	Underway	June 05



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