

**SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES PROGRAMME
(SWIOFP)**

NEWSFLASH 10:September 2004

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

The strategic workshop dealing with the science plan was held in Durban from 8 – 10 September 2004. The highly successful meeting significantly advanced the activities of SWIOFP.

Administration

- The SWIOFP secretariat has been involved in finalising the second Project B grant as well as making travel and financial arrangements for the science workshop in Durban.

Project activities

- KMFRI has completed the questionnaire-based template to develop an approach to data management and is now urgently requesting submissions from participants to reflect the status and nature of their data holdings.
- There has been very welcome collaboration with the Madagascar delegation which has re-affirmed its desire to participate in SWIOFP. Accordingly, they have already made a start with the project management aspects of SWIOFP, for presentation at the next Plenary in Maputo.
- France has also participated more actively, not only in their excellent scientific contribution but also in regard to their role relating to legal issues. This aspect will also be presented at the next Plenary.

2nd Science Workshop

The South Africa focal point, under guidance of Dr Johan Groeneveld, hosted an excellent science plan workshop. The event was co-hosted by the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) in Durban at their new uShaka Marine World complex. A total of 21 scientists from ten countries participated, contributing to the overall excellent scientific progress made. The workshop programme was based on submissions received by MCM which had been collated into eight distinct themes. Countries had submitted specific projects under each theme, and these were reviewed at the workshop.

The meeting was addressed by Bill Lane of the World Bank who explained a number of technical and administrative aspects. He also indicated that-

- There was growing urgency in finalising the submission of a SWIOFP plan to the GEF. A final submission would have to be made by July 2005, despite the fact that a host of meetings and workshops were still required.
- He acknowledged the complex nature of SWIOFP with some ten countries participating, and emphasised the need for individual countries to develop their own plans. There was some flexibility in country proposals, as long as they met the trans-boundary criteria of SWIOFP. It was possible to “attach” purely national projects to the proposal, but these would need to be financed on a different basis – e.g. loans.

- He further stressed the need for developing a preliminary estimate of total operational and procurement costs so that implementation details could be assessed.
- Dr Lane stressed the imperative that the Somali-Agulhas LME (SALME) project and SWIOFP become closely interfaced. This was confirmed by David la Roche from UNDP and representing SALME.

The workshop was presented with a series of themes as follows:

THEME 1:	Review and evaluation of available information on fisheries and oceanographic features of the SWIO
THEME 2:	Crustacean resources and their bycatch in the SWIO: Utilization, surveys, assessment and ecological impacts
THEME 3:	Diversity, abundance, distribution, stock differentiation and biology of demersal fishes, sharks and cephalopods in the SWIO: Development of existing and new fisheries within an ecosystems framework
THEME 4:	Movement patterns of- and improved access by artisanal fishers to large pelagic fishes (tuna, swordfish and sharks) in the SWIO
THEME 5:	Status of pelagic fish resources (excluding tuna and billfish) and cephalopods in the SWIO region: Diversity, distribution, abundance, stock discrimination and biological reference points necessary for local and regional management.
THEME 6:	An ecosystems approach to the management of the SWIO resources – from plankton productivity to large marine mammals
THEME 7:	The nature and distribution of fishing effort in the SWIO
THEME 8:	Evolution of resource management structures in the WIO

Based on extensive deliberations in break-away groups, the following suggestions were made in order to rationalise the various themes:

- The oceanographic component of Theme 1 would be better located under the SALME.
- Theme 3 should be an overall demersal theme and not specifically refer to groups of species such as sharks and cephalopods.
- Themes 4 and 5 could be combined and be dedicated to pelagic resources.
- Although it was initially suggested that Themes 2 and 3 could be combined, general consensus was reached to keep them as separate themes.
- Theme 8 could become a sub-component of Theme 7

- In addition, the role of non-consumptive resources, such as dolphins, whales and turtles, was considered to be a potential theme, as was the need to focus on socio-economic and marketing aspects of WIO fisheries.
- It was proposed that SWIOFP could possibly be implemented as a 3-tiered structure:

Themes (= components)	8 Themes Management level
Regional Projects (= sub-components)	Several Regional Projects per Theme Transcends national boundaries Regional level.
Country participation (= projects/activities)	Country participation in each Regional project National but contributes to the Regional Projects. Funding level.

A detailed record of the meeting has already been produced and is available to all stakeholders. All the relevant information generated at the workshop has been made available to MCM and Johan Groeneveld will provide an update of the themes accordingly.

South West Indian Ocean Commission

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- The need for collective action and management of living marine resources in the Indian Ocean
- The sharing of data, advice and technology in the sustainable development of non-tuna resources
- The drawing up joint management plans

A range of administrative issues is being addressed, including reporting, observer, and procedural matters. Future meetings will focus on establishing country working relationships and formalising the agreements. Clearly, this is of great relevance to SWIOFP, which in time is sure to develop a synergistic relationship with the proposed Commission.

Nairobi Convention – COP4 meeting in Madagascar

The Nairobi Convention is a Regional Seas programme implemented by UNEP in Nairobi. Its main objective is to promote international collaboration in the protection of shared marine and coastal resources. This is one of 17 such programmes worldwide and was launched in 1985. It recently made considerable progress when it held its ministerial conference of parties (COP4), held in Antananarivo. This event provided SWIOFP with considerable exposure and it was acknowledged that SWIOFP closely related to the objectives of the Convention, which is endorsed by all countries of the WIO region.

Updated Table of Activities reflecting approximate time schedules

INTERIM PROGRESS & PLANS			
Task / Theme	Action	Status	Deadline
<i>Secretariat</i> (IIP-Mozambique)	Finalise pdf-B extension (Pre-appraisal)	Completed	-
	Plan for 4 th plenary (Pre-appraisal)	Underway	Mid-January 2005
	Plan for 5 th plenary (final appraisal)	Preliminary stage only	March 2005
	Maintain SWIOFP website; initiate “FishChat”	Ongoing	
	Final version of project submitted	Basic framework conceived	Mid 2005
	Interface with other WIO projects; establish links	Ongoing	Ongoing
<i>Science Plan</i> (MCM-S.Afr)	Project Launch	-	Late 2005
	Final plan Science plan/ workshop.	Completed	
	Incorporate workshop – develop science plan with cost estimates	Underway	End 2004
<i>Data Management</i> (KMFRI-Kenya)			
	Questionnaire circulated and submitted by institutions	Underway, countries need to reply urgently	30 Sept.
	Final data & IT plan + Workshop	Pending questionnaire submissions	Mid October 04, Mombasa
<i>Operations & Procurement</i> (TAFIRI- Tanzania)	Harmonise procurement procedures	Ongoing	
	Finalise procurement plan	Underway	End 2004
	2 nd Specialist workshop	Planned	1 st week December- Zanzibar
<i>Legal issues</i> (France)	Questionnaire to focal points	Underway	30 Sep 04
	Collate response from focal points	Underway	31 Oct 04
	Workshop	To be planned	2 nd week Nov. 04. Reunion
<i>Project management</i> (Madagascar)	Engage Madagascar	Achieved	
	Develop template for management needs & costs	Underway	30 Sep 04
	Questionnaire circulated and collated	To be planned	15 Oct. 04
	Specialist workshop	Planned	At Plenary in Jan 05
National Focal Points	Appoint team of specialists	Achieved	Sustain
	Workshop to develop country needs and expectations; document prepared	Achieved	
	Submit contribution to Science Plan	Completed	

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