



*NEWSFLASH 19: November 2006*

*An occasional newsletter to update participants in SWIOFP on current developments.*

While the project appraisal document was being finalised, the grant agreements were being actively negotiated, a project implementation manual was being developed and activities of some SWIOFP Components were being planned in greater detail. Although the negotiations have taken considerably longer than planned, the Project is still on track to commence with Component 1 starting early in 2007. This newsflash details some of these developments.

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### **ADMINISTRATION**

The administration of the SWIOFP development phase managed by Instituto Nacional de Investigação Pesqueira in Mozambique has come to an end. The secretariat in Maputo delivered a highly credible and professional service that played a significant part in the successful development of the project plan. The administration has now transferred to the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Mombasa, which will host the Regional Management Unit (RMU). As the various obstacles in grant agreement negotiations have delayed the release of funds, the RMU has not yet been formally established. However, communications can be directed to KMFRI as reflected at the end of this Newsflash.

In order to sustain momentum and to ensure that the Project commences on time, it has been proposed that one of the participating countries could second a senior staff member to KMFRI to initiate the various RMU activities. This would be a temporary arrangement and would further assist in the selection and appointment of the Executive Secretary and other staff planned to run the RMU. Accordingly, a request has gone out for such a secondment and several good candidates have made themselves available and will now pass through a selection process.

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

#### **WEB SITE**

The website of SWIOFP has been completely revised to reflect the change from project development to implementation. ORI, in collaboration with IIP and the Durban based Blue-Box company were instrumental in this revision. Please visit [www.swiofp.org](http://www.swiofp.org) and give some feedback. In time this site will be an important mechanism for communication.

#### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL - PIM**

A prerequisite of any GEF-World Bank project is the development of a project implementation manual. This PIM provides guidance to the RMU and project managers in the implementation of SWIOFP and is designed to strengthen financial management, monitoring and evaluation. Development of the PIM was largely undertaken by Dave Japp (Capfish) in collaboration with KMFRI. Johan Groeneveld, Rudy van der Elst (ORI) and Melissa Brown (FAO) contributed substantially to this process.

## GRANT AND PROJECT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

It is not surprising that the various negotiations have taken much longer than planned. The large number of countries involved and the many new concepts and agreements to be negotiated at high political level, pose substantial challenges. In effect, there is more to these negotiations than simple agreement to support the Project, it calls for a longer-term commitment to shared management of WIO marine resources. However, there has been good progress and the following table reflects the current status of these negotiations.

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>
1	Grant Agreement Negotiation with Kenya	Completed	
2	Minutes of Grant Agreement Signed by Government of Kenya and Bank.	Completed	
3	Approval of the GEF Grant by the GEF Council.	Completed	
4	Final Approval of the GEF Grant by the GEF Chief Exec. Officer.	Pending	Package completed and has been submitted
5	Project Agreement Negotiations and MOU approval with countries.		
	<i>Seychelles</i>	Comments received, minutes prepared, package to Government	Government to sign Minutes of Project Agreement and Negotiations
	<i>Comoros</i>	Comments received, minutes prepared, package to Government	Government to sign Minutes of Project Agreement and Negotiations
	<i>Madagascar</i>	Comments received minutes prepared, package to Government	Government to sign Minutes of Project Agreement and Negotiations
	<i>South Africa</i>	Package to Government legal opinion needed; awaiting response	Form negotiation team, send comments, sign agreements and minutes of negotiations.
	<i>Tanzania</i>	Packaged reviewed by Zanzibar & mainland, comments received	P.S. to send package to Government for review, sign minutes
	<i>Kenya</i>	MOU to Attorney Generals Office for review	Government to comment &/or sign MOU-same for all countries
	<i>Mauritius</i>	Negotiation team met & sent comments, more comments to come	Negotiation finalised and documents submitted; Government to sign in 1 week.
	<i>Mozambique</i>	Negotiation team formed, awaiting comments on package	Finalize negotiation, draft minutes and Government to sign
6	Submission to Bank Board of Directors for Approval	Awaiting all project agreements, negotiations and minutes to be signed.	Must get all documents to Board at least 1 month before decision
7	Submit Project Brief to CEO of the GEF for final authorization	Achieved this week and awaiting approval	
8	Declaration of Project "EFFECTIVENESS"		Set up; Regional/National Units operational; Project Accounts opened, Full implementation.

## **SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION (SWIOFC)**

The second session of this FAO Regional Fisheries Body was held under the chairmanship of Mozambique in Maputo from 22 to 25 August 2006. This proved to be an important meeting for SWIOFP and was well attended by SWIOFP members. The proceedings and associated documents can be accessed as follows. The pre-meeting documents are submissions to the meeting and thus intended for information only while the record of the meeting is in final draft until it is published formally by FAO. These documents will be made available on the SWIOFP website ([www.swiofp.org/swiofc.htm](http://www.swiofp.org/swiofc.htm)). The Commission secretariat also provided an extensive set of records and data from the earlier South West Indian Ocean Project (SWIOP), reflecting results from WIO research cruises. These data represent an important early contribution to Component 1.

Of considerable significance to SWIOFP was the final set of recommendations which strongly endorsed the development of SWIOFP and called on member countries to support several of its Component activities. These are positive developments that will ultimately strengthen collaboration between SWIOFP and the Commission, leading to improved prospects of transboundary collaboration in fishery resource management of the WIO.

### **SWIOFP – Products**

It is envisaged that SWIOFP will become known as a project that generates good products in the form of publications, information, advice and students. Several of the SWIOFP members have already collaborated to compile scientific papers documenting the development of SWIOFP. Aspects of these were presented at the recent IOTC meeting and others have already been submitted to international journals.

The WIOFish database, reflecting details of 163 different fisheries in the WIO has been further upgraded and annotated by ORI and the various participating focal points. The system is now fully web-based and allows for report generation and browsing of individual records. ORI undertook a formal training exercise in the region to ensure that focal points could themselves sustain some of the WIOFish operations. Visit [www.wiofish.org](http://www.wiofish.org)

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