

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

The workshop to advance the scientific component of the Somali-Agulhas LME project was held on 18 & 19 May in the Cape. This provided excellent opportunities to forge a closer interface between this and the SWIOFP project.

Administration

- The SWIOFP secretariat has been finalising the project extension with the World Bank.

Project activities.

- The questionnaire-based template to develop an approach to data management, facilitated by KMFRI in Kenya was finalised after input from the various regional nodes.
- The template for submission of national science proposals was finalised and circulated by MCM in South Africa. The initial submission date was extended to the end of June 2004, after which the various proposals will be collated into one draft regional plan.
- Contact has been established with the authorities in Madagascar, who have expressed renewed interest in meeting their commitment to SWIOFP and especially in the facilitation of the Project Management theme, possibly in collaboration with Seychelles.

LME Workshop

The Somali-Agulhas LME workshop, held at Paarl in the Western Cape was hosted by UNDP and chaired by David laRoche. The workshop was attended by 22 experts from 11 countries. A number of presentations were made about related WIO initiatives that are expected to have scientific and oceanographic needs.

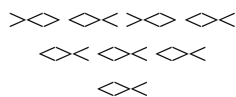
- Dixon Waruinge outlined the UNEP-implemented project on land-based activities, called WIO-lab. This GEF project has secured funding for the following objectives:
 1. Reduce stress on the ecosystems by improving water and sediment quality
 2. Strengthen regional basis for preventing land-based pollution
 3. Develop capacity for more sustainable and less polluting development.

Implementation had been somewhat delayed following changes to the project, which included the removal of the coastal fisheries component. This was of potential concern and interest to SWIOFP. A preliminary Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for this project was made available.

- David LaRoche presented an overview of the LME project. A PDF-B grant had been allocated to assist in finalising the 18 month development phase of the project proposal, which would be implemented by UNOPS. Several points were debated during discussion including the relationship between the Somali and Agulhas systems. Clearly this project was synergistic to the SWIOFP initiative.
- The African Coelacanth project was presented by Tony Ribbink, who described the formation of Coelacanth interest groups in several of the WIO countries. Following several research cruises, this project clearly presented many opportunities to interface with the GEF projects.
- Details of progress in the SWIOFP project were presented by Rudy van der Elst and Ana Paula Baloi. The project had reached a stage where the details of the scientific programme were being developed by each participating country.
- The workshop benefited from the experiences of Mick O'Toole who reviewed progress and lessons learnt with the Benguela LME. His guidance was considered a valuable contribution, including the screening and evaluating of science proposals.
- Brad Brown, formerly of NOAA, provided his insightful opinion on the operational aspects of a large LME project, including the importance of initial needs and TDA assessments.
- A most interesting presentation was that made by Johan Lutjeharms, who reviewed the latest state of knowledge concerning ocean dynamics in the WIO and especially the greater Agulhas circulation system. He revealed that several past theories had been modified – such as the non-existence of a permanent Mozambique Current. It was clear that his work held great relevance to the LME and SWIOFP projects.
- The workshop had been scientifically stimulating and the proceedings were being prepared into a background document.

Updated Table of Activities

INTERIM PROGRESS & PLANS			
<i>Task / Theme</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>Secretariat</i> (IIP-Mozambique)	Finalise pdf-B extension (Pre-appraisal)	Completed	-
	Plan for 4 th plenary (Pre-appraisal)	Underway	November/December 2004
	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
	Project Launch	-	Late 2005
<i>Science Plan</i> (MCM-S.Afr)	Finalise generic template	Completed	
	Draft science plans submitted by national focal points	Initiated	30 June 2004
	Collate submissions	To be initiated	31 July 2004
	Final plan Science plan/ workshop.	To be initiated	30 Sept. 2004
<i>Data Management</i> (KMFRI-Kenya)	Finalise data questionnaire	Complete	
	Questionnaire circulated and submitted by institutions	Underway	31 July 04
	Final data & IT plan + Workshop	Pending questionnaire submissions	15 Sept. 04
<i>Operations & Procurement</i> (TAFIRI- Tanzania)	Harmonise procurement procedures	Underway	30 June 04
	Finalise procurement plan	Underway	30 Sept. 04
	Specialist workshop	To be planned	30 Oct. 04
<i>Legal issues</i> (France)	Questionnaire to focal points	Underway	31 May 04
	Collate response from focal points	Underway	30 June 04
	Workshop	To be planned	31 August 04
<i>Project management</i> (Madagascar)	Mission to Madagascar for collaboration	Planned	30 June 04
	Develop template for management needs & costs	To be planned	15 July 04
	Questionnaire circulated and collated	To be planned	15 August 04
	Specialist workshop	Planned	30 September 04
National Focal Points	Appoint team of specialists	Underway	30 April 04
	Workshop to develop country needs and expectations; document prepared	Planned	30 June 04
	Submit contribution to Science Plan	Underway	30 June 04



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