

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

This first newsflash of 2006 brings with it best wishes for 2006 from the SWIOFP secretariat.

The SWIOFP Project Appraisal Document was finalised at the 5th Plenary and a range of associated actions were implemented to guide SWIOFP to its implementation phase. This newsflash reports on the latest developments

ADMINISTRATION

The secretariat in Maputo has continued to provide administrative and logistic support to SWIOFP, including the organization of the 5th Plenary and various follow-on activities. As SWIOFP management will move to Kenya through its hosting of the Regional Coordinating Unit, so the administration at IIP will be scaled down accordingly during the course of 2006.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Final (5th Plenary meeting)

Maputo- 14-16 September 2005

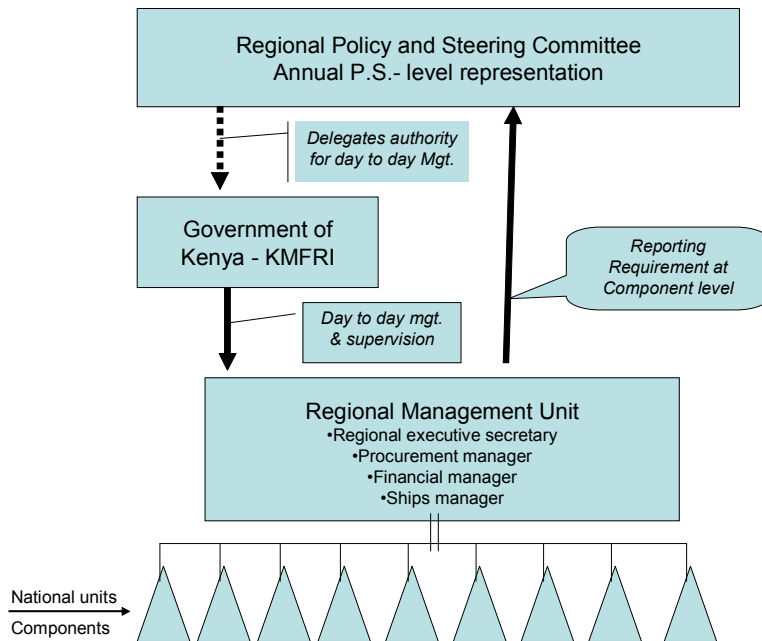
This well attended and comprehensive meeting saw the finalization of the PAD and endorsement by senior participating governmental representatives. The meeting was hosted by the Instituto Investigaçao Pesquisa (IIP) in Mozambique and opened by Vice Minister of Fisheries, the honourable Mr Victor Borges. The minister stressed the need for collaboration and congratulated all the participants on their outstanding achievement in developing the SWIOFP plan.

Specific highlights included:

- Finalization of the basic management structure of SWIOFP and the interface between the various components.
- Detailed deliberations on the final version of the MOU that will establish the working protocols between partner nations and the Regional Management Unit (RMU) in Kenya.
- Based on a comprehensive financial assessment it was noted that there existed a considerable finance gap if all of the SWIOFP objectives and components are to be undertaken. It was agreed that a separate initiative be launched to address this issue.
- Acknowledgement that more of the documentation needed to be translated into French and/or Portuguese to engender wider involvement
- Discussions on the practical interface between the other GEF projects (ASLME & WIO-LaB) and specifically the need to develop a joint TDA and SAP.
- The need for developing “*Science Component Working Groups*” early in 2006 to ensure that planning, budgeting and scientific products of SWIOFP were given due attention.
- A number of important potential partner organizations contributed, including the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (COI).
- The critical interface between SWIOFP and the FAO – SWIO Fisheries Commission was strengthened and various strategies for closer collaboration were identified, especially in terms of the long-term regional management of fishery resources.

- The level of participation by the different countries in each of the science components was slightly modified following more detailed deliberations.
- Details of the various RMU posts were debated and preliminary job descriptions and recruiting procedures were finalised. These include Regional Executive Secretary, Financial Manager and a Procurement Specialist.

Operational relationships of SWIOFP



MOU- finalization

Following on from the 5th Plenary, a number of individuals were tasked to finalise the Legal Protocol Document (MOU) relating to SWIOFP implementation. This was led by Marius Diemont (MCM-South Africa) and Alberto Ninio (World Bank) and involved a series of telephonic and email interactions between the partners. After several iterations a final MOU was developed and will be signed by the respective governments.

Finances

The PAD was subjected to considerable peer review and comment in several quarters. As a result of this process many useful comments and ideas were incorporated into the PAD before final submission to the GEF Council. Here it was formally approved and fund allocation confirmed. However, it also became clear that the full scope of SWIOFP activities required more funding than was available at this stage. A review undertaken by the SWIOFP team revealed that an additional sum of ~10 million US\$ was needed. Accordingly, a team was established to resolve this finance gap by targeting specific donors that have a commitment to the region. This activity is to be led by Kenya and will involve a series of donor meetings in February 2006. Once this has been successfully concluded the full amount of funding will be released.

Assistance with donor meetings

The donor meetings are scheduled for the second week of February and to be held in Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Maputo. Documents have been prepared and potential donors identified. A special request is extended to SWIOFP country partners to enlist short memos of support from their relevant ministries or host organizations in that country. If these can be emailed to the team at KMFRI, this will assist in demonstrating the wide international support for the project. It would also be useful to familiarise “favourite” donors with the SWIOFP objectives and so encourage their support. Details can be mailed to kruwa@kmfri.co.ke.

Updated Table of Activities reflecting approximate time schedules

| INTERIM PROGRESS & PLANS | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Task / Theme</i> | <i>Action</i> | <i>Status</i> | <i>Deadline</i> |
| | 5 th Plenary minutes circulated | Done | |
| | Maintain SWIOFP website & newflash. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Donor meeting to secure finance gap | Planned | Feb 2006 |
| | Interface with other WIO projects; establish links | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Project admin transfer to Kenya | Underway | Progressive to mid-2006 |
| Science Plan (MCM-S.Afr) | Create Science working groups | Planned | Mid-2006 |
| | Develop Legal protocol (MOU) | Complete | - |
| Data Management (KMFRI-Kenya) | Advertise posts | Underway | February 2006- |
| | Lead donor meeting activities | Underway | April 2006 |
| | Finalise data management structures | Underway | Mid 2006 |
| Operations & Procurement (TAFIRI- Tanzania) | Finalise and update procurement plan | Complete | - |
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| Legal issues (France) | | | |
| | | | |
| Project management (Madagascar) | | | |
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| National Focal Points (countries) | Ensure verification of support for project. | Achieved- except for South Africa | Sustain |
| | Implement national SWIOFP working groups to develop activities. | Urgent | March 06 |



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