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Options to facilitate and address the capacity needs of CCP developing states

SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract	

This paper provides an overview of the different options selected by the CCP developing states to facilitate and address their capacity needs.

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Recommendations

- R1 : Note the different options selected by the CCPs
- R2 : Review this updated paper with CCPs input
- R3 : Recommend guidance to the MoP on the actions that must be done by the Secretariat

Options to facilitate and address the capacity needs of CCP developing states

1. Introduction

Developing States and Small Island Developing States may sometimes encounter difficulties in implementing the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and its control and surveillance measures.

Capacity building involves improving the capabilities of these States by providing them with the technical skills and resources necessary to fulfil their commitments under the Agreement.

At the request of the MoP11, the Secretariat provided for the MoP12 an overview of the existing mechanisms to provide support to Developing States, (MoP12-24 Rev1) and the options for facilitating and addressing the capacity-building needs of CCP developing states (MoP12-25 Rev2)

The MoP12 discussed the potential options provided by the Secretariat and the CCPs concerned, to address the challenges and needs raised by them.

In order to efficiently implement the options and address the needs for capacity building, the MoP tasked the Secretariat to correspond with the relevant CCPs to seek their input on their preferences among the proposed options in MoP-12-25-Rev2 and to submit an updated paper, with CCPs' input, for review to SC11, CC10, and MoP13.

This working paper presents the outcome of this process.

2. Correspondence with CCP developing states

Taking into consideration the request from the MoP above (para 368 – MoP12 report), a second consultation was initiated on 22nd of July 2025.

Seven CCPs were consulted (China, Cook Islands, Comoros, India, Mauritius, Seychelles, Thailand). Each of them prioritized their needs, agreed on options to address them and suggested a way to implement the latter.

From that consultation, the Secretariat has been able to build the following tables (Results) gathering needs for capacity-building by priority and themes.

3. Implementation of the options

To work on the different practical options, it could be useful to put in place a Capacity-Building action plan, which should focus on the needs shared by more than one CCPs.

This Capacity-Building action plan could be required to a consultant funding by the budget line 9.3 (Consultant-Expert-Service Outsourced) in order to :

1. Define criteria of vulnerability indices to gauge the eligibility for assistance

2. Establish a calendar of the priority actions to be done starting from January 2027

3. Determine the budget necessary   for the In-Person workshops

4. Consult stakeholder to organise trainings and workshop virtually or in-person

4. Results - needs for capacity-building by priority and themes

Table 1 – Options for capacity building in the Science and straddling themes for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs.

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority
SYC	18	Training on CPUE standardization processes	(**Option 1**) Provide training on different CPUE calculation methods and how to standardize them across regions and fleets, including addressing biases and ensuring consistency in data. (**Option 2**) Offer hands-on workshops on using statistical software (e.g., R, SAS) to standardize CPUE data and analyse catch trends across different fleet types and fishing locations.	In-person workshop in Seychelles, delivered by external CPUE/data experts; follow-up virtual peer review sessions	High
IND	18		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Virtual R-software training followed by collaborative data-cleaning exercises		Medium
SYC	19	Development & implementation of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)	(**Option 1**) Offer workshops focused on the theory and application of HCRs and MSE, emphasizing their role in ensuring sustainable fishery management and adapting to uncertainty. (**Option 2**) Facilitate hands-on simulation exercises where	In-person regional workshop with hands-on simulation exercises, complemented by virtual follow-up	High

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority
			participants develop HCRs and evaluate them through MSE models, helping them understand trade-offs and best management practices.		
IND	19		**(Option proposed by the CNCP)** Simulation-based workshops (India/Norway model) + remote mentoring from experts.		Low
MUS	9	Undertaking stock assessment studies for deepwater demersal species	(**Option 1**) Provide training on stock assessment methodologies, focusing on deep-water demersal species, including surplus production models, biomass estimation, and age-based assessments. SC10 noted that other institutions (e.g. SPC, ICES) are providing stock assessment training that SIOFA developing CCPs might be able to participate in. (**Option 2**) Organize workshops on the use of stock assessment software (e.g., Stock Synthesis, VPA, CASAL, JABBA, or biomass models) tailored to deep-water species.	In-person workshops dispensed by expert and organized by bodies or institutions where Mauritius and other participants could attend.	High (2)
IND	9		**(Option proposed by the CNCP)** In-person modelling workshops using Indian datasets + follow-up online clinics.		High

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority
MUS	10, 23	Preparation of a BFIA report, impact and risk assessment methods to incorporate in BFIA	(**Option 2)** Conduct workshops on the preparation of BFIA reports, with a focus on data collection, impact pathways, and the relationship between fishing practices and ecosystem health	In-person regional workshop by expert in the field.	High (1)
COM	10,23			Complementary training in an English-speaking State	High
THA	10,23		(**Option 1)** Offer training on various risk assessment frameworks (e.g., qualitative and quantitative risk models) and tools, with a focus on identifying the potential risks associated with bottom fishing on benthic habitats.		
IND	10,23		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Virtual introductory courses + case-study workshops in Kochi or Chennai with SIOFA/ICES experts.		High
MUS	11	Collection and analysis of biological samples, such as gonads and otoliths, of deep-water demersal species	(**Option 1**) Organize laboratory training sessions on the extraction and analysis of gonads and otoliths from deep-water species, including aging techniques and reproductive analysis	In-person workshop in Mauritius	Medium (3)

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority
IND	11		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Onboard hands-on training with Indian research vessels, supplemented with virtual microscopy sessions.		Medium
THA	8,22	Identification of VMEs	(**Option 3)** Collaboration with Marine Taxonomists		
MUS	8, 22	Identification of VMEs [indicator taxa]	(**Option 1)** Offer targeted training on recognizing VME indicator species, such as certain corals, sponges, and other benthic organisms. Provide visual aids and interactive sessions with specimen samples, photos, and video footage of these taxa in situ.	Virtual workshop for identification methodologies, updating identification guides, translation of the SIOFA VMEs identification guide to local languages	Medium (4)
IND	8,22		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Field-based training on Indian research vessels with virtual refresher sessions		
MUS	7	Identification of deep-water sharks	(**Option 3)** Organize workshops focusing on the morphological characteristics and identification of	Species Identification virtual workshops	Low (6)

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority
			deep-water sharks using field guides and expert-led sessions		
IND	7		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) theoretical modules on DNA barcoding and lab workshops in India with FAO or SIOFA experts.	Hybrid approach: online and in-person	High
CHN	4	Strengthening its capacity in drafting and submitting BFIA documents, to ensure timely and accurate reporting in line with SIOFA requirements.	(**Option proposed by the CCP**) Conduct a step-by-step training session under the Science Committee framework for developing States, covering the entire process of preparing a BFIA.	Conduct a step-by-step training session under the Science Committee framework	High
THA	24	Improve onboard data collection in trawl fishery	(**Option 3**) Data Quality Control and Analysis Workshops	Conduct workshops focused on quality control procedures for onboard data, including strategies for minimizing errors in data entry and how to flag outliers or anomalies during data collection.	
IND	24		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Combination of onboard practical training in Indian waters and online QA/QC sessions.		Low

Table 2 – Options for capacity building in the Compliance and straddling themes for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs.

CCP	ID#	Need	Option	Implementation	Priority
SYC	13	Advanced surveillance operations, data collection & analysis	(**Option 2**) Facilitate **workshops** by a key expert on advanced surveillance operations, data collection, and analysis, including risk assessment in fisheries surveillance.	In-person workshop by key expert using real case studies	High
SYC	15	Support for acquiring/maintaining satellite & electronic monitoring systems	(**Option 1**) Facilitate **workshops** by a key expert in the various satellite technologies used to monitor fisheries activities, including data analysis techniques for fisheries monitoring. (**Option 2**) Facilitate engagement with potential service providers of such systems.	In-person workshop by key expert followed by virtual sessions with suppliers	High
SYC	14	Specialized training for enforcement officers	(**Option 1**) Undertake in-country missions to conduct training in the SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme. (**Option 2**) Facilitate **workshops** by a key expert on species identification of key SIOFA Species ~~Option 3 could be considered if there are demands from many Members~~[3]	In-person training in Seychelles with port-side practical sessions and facilitated workshop by Species ID expert	High
IND	14		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Develop and distribute India-specific illustrated guides + hybrid training.		Medium
IND	27	Advanced surveillance and monitoring systems	(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) In-person regional workshops on satellite/VMS/EMS use, plus online modules for continuous learning.		High

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[3] This option has been deleted has no other CCP raised this need.

CCP	ID#	Need	Option	Implementation	Priority
SYC	16	Strengthening regional cooperation for information sharing & joint surveillance	(**Option 1**) Proactively support ongoing regional initiatives aimed at sharing information regionally and undertaking joint surveillance (HSBI) in our capacity as an RFMO.	Regional in-person coordination meetings + virtual HSBI planning	Medium
SYC	17	Developing/participating in region al MCS networks	(**Option 1**) Proactively support ongoing regional initiatives aimed at sharing information regionally and undertaking joint surveillance (HSBI) in our capacity as an RFMO.	In-person at regional MCS meetings	Medium
IND	26	Regional cooperation & joint surveillance for regional MCS Networks	(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Table-top exercises virtually + one physical joint patrol planning meeting.		Medium
MUS	12	Strengthening of port state measures in connection with the implementation of SIOFA CMMs	(**Option 1**) Undertake in-country missions to conduct training in the SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme. (**Option 3**) Support integration of SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme into domestic port inspection procedures	In-person training sessions in Mauritius	Low
IND	12		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Onsite port inspector training at major Indian ports (e.g., Kochi, Chennai).		High
CHN	2	Improve compliance knowledge and language skills to effectively fulfill SIOFA obligations.	(**Option proposed by the CP** during the 2nd consultation) Compliance training and language skills improvement	Online workshop	Medium
COM	25	Improve inspection techniques in ports and vessels			

Table 3 – Options for capacity building in the Data theme for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs.

CCP	ID #	Need	Selected Option(s)	Implementation Method	Priority
SYC	21	Data management & processing to meet SIOFA reporting obligations	(**Option 1**) Gap analysis and in-country support workshop in the CCP Fisheries data collection and management centre. Identification of CMM requirements and relevant data available in CCP systems. (**Option 3**) Support to establish or enhance CCP fisheries information database, and assistance in building standardized queries or reports that would generate appropriate datasets ready for submission according to SIOFA CMM and templates.	In-person technical workshop in Seychelles; remote data management support	High
IND	21		(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Onsite gap analysis workshop in Mumbai, Kochi or Chennai, followed by virtual dashboard-based reporting training.		High
COK	21.a	Training on MS Access database	Proposed option by the CCP	Requesting Data Officer, to train our data Manager how to develop and use a Microsoft Access database. Training may also include how to: - Input e-logs into the database - Input observer data - Extract data and create reports - Smart PDF links (more details when starting) - Create rules for data quality checks - …Etc Host Data Officer in COK or send COK data manager to RUN.	Only need for COK

Table 4 – Options for capacity building in the General Capacity theme for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs.

CCP	ID	Need	Selected Option(s)	Implementation – Practical method	Priority
IND	28	Strengthening exchanges & cooperation	(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Virtual experience-sharing meetings + study visits.		Low
IND	29	Resource conservation	(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Policy workshops in India with international case studies.		Medium
IND	30	Identifying needs & addressing mandatory requirements	(**Option proposed by the CNCP**) Annual review meetings (virtual) + targeted physical workshops.		Medium

5. Conclusions

The consultations have confirmed that developing CCPs continue to face technical and operational challenges in implementing their obligations under the Agreement, and CMMs established thereunder. The prioritisation exercise has identified areas where regional or multi-stakeholder approaches could enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Key cross-cutting needs include practical, hands-on training, in-person workshops to strengthen scientific, compliance, data management and general capacity.

To ensure coherent and structured implementation, the development of a Capacity-Building Action Plan is recommended. Such a plan could define transparent eligibility criteria, establish a sequenced calendar of priority actions from January 2027, identify necessary budgetary allocations, and facilitate coordination with relevant partners and experts.

The Scientific Committee is therefore invited to:

- R1: Note the different options selected by the CCPs;
- R2: Review this updated paper, including CCP inputs;
- R3: Provide guidance to the MoP on the actions to be undertaken by the Secretariat, including the possible development and implementation of a structured Capacity-Building Action Plan.