



SIOFA | APSOI

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

Project title: Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework

Project Code: PAM-2024-01

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (SIOFA-PAM) programme will further enhance the scientific advice of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) for the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties (MoP), in particular towards ensuring the sustainable management of fish stocks and the environmental impacts associated with fishing.

The SIOFA-PAM programme has three main projects that focus on development of a framework to ensure the sustainable management of fish stocks and managing the environmental impacts associated with fishing activities within the SIOFA Area. These aim to guide, inform, and enhance resource protection and to improve sustainable resource management measures, especially in the context of the information-limited fisheries. A fourth project provides for expert review and advice across the three main projects.

The specific projects of SIOFA-PAM will be to:

PAM-2024-01: Develop the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework. This project involves establishing a framework for high, medium, and lower information stocks to apply the precautionary approach within the SIOFA Area. This framework will provide guidelines and principles to help ensure that fisheries management decisions are made in a precautionary manner using the best scientific evidence available, consistent with the Objectives (Article 2) and General Principles (Article 4) of the SIOFA Agreement (SIOFA, 2006).

PAM-2024-02: Determine Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for key SIOFA fish stocks. This project focuses on developing and scientifically evaluating BRPs for the key fish stocks within the SIOFA Area, based on the best available scientific data and methods.

PAM-2024-03: Develop harvest strategies for key SIOFA fish stocks. Building upon previous workshops and ongoing efforts by the SC and MoP, this project aims to develop formal harvest strategies for key fish stocks.

PAM-2024-04: Expert Review Panel for the Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management. Provide external expert review and advice to the project teams and SIOFA for the work and outcomes of the three main projects.

Collectively, these projects will provide the SC with the information required for it to advise the MoP on management approaches and actions to achieve sustainable exploitation rates while considering socio-economic factors and ecosystem impacts.

This project (PAM-2024-01) will develop a Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) that will enable SIOFA to meet the objectives of Articles 2 (Objectives) and 4 (General principles) of the SIOFA Agreement.

The PAF will be approached in a structured way by first developing a conceptual framework, and second, developing the operational guidelines used to implement the conceptual framework. The PAF will ultimately provide a fisheries precautionary approach framework that is designed to help ensure sustainably managed fisheries within the SIOFA Area.

This project will directly address the recommendations of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel (Recommendations 1 and 10) regarding the adoption of harvest strategies and the development of a decision-making framework for the provision of scientific advice.

2. Methods

The framework will describe the overarching principles and concepts that the PAF will aim to achieve, informed by international best practice. The framework will also include the operational guidelines to guide the implementation of the framework. The PAF will need to be consistent with the other projects within the SIOFA-PAM programme, other processes being developed by SIOFA (such as bottom fishing footprint, exploratory fisheries, etc), and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and its Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

The PAF will consider and evaluate different frameworks and approaches that may be applied in the SIOFA Area and describe the principles and operational guidelines for low, medium, or higher information stocks. The PAF should describe the roles of CCPs to the Agreement, the Scientific Committee, the Meeting of the Parties, and the SIOFA Secretariat as a part of the PAF operational guidelines.

The PAF will take into consideration other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) Precautionary Approach Frameworks, as well as any SC and MoP requirements.

As a part of this project, the consultants will present preliminary methods, draft reports and results developed during the project to an Expert Panel (see Project PAM-2024-04) and a project Advisory Panel for review, as well engage in project workshops when developing the outputs. Interim and final results will be submitted and presented to SC in 2025 and 2026 respectively.

3. Project objectives

1. Provide a fisheries precautionary approach framework (PAF) designed to help ensure sustainable fisheries within the SIOFA Area, including examining different Precautionary Approach frameworks and summarizing these findings identifying the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches.
2. Provide the operational guidelines for the implementation of the PAF, including considering stock-specific situations and data-limited approaches.

3. Revise and update any reports and outputs based on the reviews from the Expert Panel, the Advisory Panel, the feedback from project Workshops, and the SIOFA Scientific Committee.

4. Relevant SIOFA information

1. SIOFA data (provided by the SIOFA Secretariat upon request)
2. SIOFA spatial data layers. Available at:
https://github.com/SIOFASecretariat/SIOFA_SC_Spatial_layers
3. SIOFA reporting templates. Available at:
https://github.com/SIOFASecretariat/SIOFA_Reporting_templates
4. SIOFA reports:
 - a. SIOFA SC, SC Working Group, and National Reports. Scientific Committee Meeting | SIOFA (<https://siofa.org/>)
 - b. SIOFA MoP reports. Meeting of the Parties | SIOFA (<https://siofa.org/>)
 - c. SIOFA technical and scientific reports (public reports and abstracts of restricted reports are available from <https://siofa.org/>, and full restricted reports will be made available by the SIOFA Secretariat to the project consultant upon request and after the approval of relevant CCPs.
5. SIOFA Agreement (SIOFA, 2006). <https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/SIOFA-Agreement-Digital-ENG.pdf>

5. Key project indicators

1. Follow the project timeline as detailed in this agreement, including the submission of deliverables.
2. Collect any necessary data as early as possible, e.g. by submitting a data request to the SIOFA Secretariat.
3. Attend the project initialisation meeting with the project Expert Panel (composed by external experts) and Advisory Panel (composed by members of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and the SIOFA Secretariat) to discuss the project setup and development. Further engage, as requested, with the Advisory Panel that will assist the consultant(s) to access and interpret reports, data, and to provide advice on relevant analyses for the project.
4. Present preliminary results during the project, as required, to the project Expert Panel and the project Advisory Panel, and respond and revise any project outputs based on their review.
5. Provide regular (i.e. every 2-3 months), proactive updates to the Project Coordinator and the Advisory Panel throughout the project, in particular informing promptly of any unforeseen delay or variation to the project.
6. Submit deliverables on time and appropriately formatted, as required. Each deliverable will be going through a SIOFA review to ensure that it meets the quality targets and the project objectives as set out in the Terms of Reference.
7. Appropriately acknowledge the project funding source (i.e. EU), with appropriate corresponding logos in prominent positions, within each deliverable.
8. Take into reasonable account the outcomes of the SIOFA review or any comments made by meeting attendees, when revising the deliverables.

6. Deliverables

1. Attend (virtually) the project Advisory Panel meetings for Project PAM-2024-01. Additional attendance may be required at the project Advisory Group meetings for the closely related projects PAM-2024-02 and PAM-2024-03
2. Produce support materials and engage in discussions during 2 planned SIOFA Workshops (virtual) to be organized during the project timeline (tentatively Jan/Feb 2025 and Nov/Dec 2025).
3. Presentation of methods and results to the SIOFA SC annual meetings (March 2025 and 2026)
4. A Draft Report that addresses the project objectives and tasks as laid out in this contract. Revise and update the Draft Report based on review by the project Expert Panel, Advisory Group, and the SIOFA Scientific Committee. The report should follow the guidelines and format available at https://github.com/SIOFASecretariat/SIOFA_Reporting_templates. In particular, the report should include a concise (max 300 words) summary, and should detail the methods, the outcomes, conclusions, and concise recommendations. The Draft Report will also be submitted to the SIOFA Scientific Committee.
5. A Final Report that follows the guidelines and format available at https://github.com/SIOFASecretariat/SIOFA_Reporting_templates and includes any final review comments from the SIOFA Scientific Committee on the final Draft Report. The Final Report will also be submitted to the SIOFA Scientific Committee.
6. Provide all the information collected as a part of this project to the SIOFA Secretariat (including that sourced from the Secretariat) before the final payment of the contract. Such information includes electronic data files, analysis code, biological samples, and other relevant data where applicable.

Presentations of reports to the Scientific Committee may be given virtually and travel to the meetings is not obligatory. All project meetings will take place virtually. No additional travel costs will be paid.

7. Acceptance of Draft and Final Reports

1. Draft and Final Reports must be submitted in English to the Project Coordinator at the SIOFA Secretariat.
2. Draft and Final Reports will be reviewed using the procedures outlined in paper MOP-09-12 (Annex B), see also: https://github.com/SIOFASecretariat/SIOFA_Reporting_templates/tree/main/SC%20reports/Review%20template%20for%20consultant%20reports.
3. Payment of contract milestones will be subject to acceptance of the submitted reports by SIOFA.

8. Intellectual property clause and confidentiality

The Consultant shall submit all the information collected to the SIOFA Secretariat (including that sourced from the Secretariat) before the final payment of the contract is made to the consultant.

Such information includes electronic data files, analysis codes, biological samples, and other relevant data if applicable. Any arrangements for ownership, storage, or disposal of physical samples shall be agreed by SIOFA as a part of the contract. All Intellectual Property generated as a part of this contract

shall become the property of SIOFA unless otherwise excluded in the proposal and agreed by SIOFA in the contract.

The Consultant shall not release confidential data provided for conducting this study to any persons nor any organizations, other than SIOFA Secretariat.

The Consultant shall delete all the confidential data upon the completion of the contract.

9. Work timeline and payment schedule

The funds for this project, budgeted under the SIOFA-PAM EU Grant (<https://siofa.org/eu-grants>), allow for a maximum total budget of 50,000 Euro (including all costs and any travel related expenses).

The consultant shall follow the timeline described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Timeline for payments, milestones, and report submission

Milestone	Date	Activities
Initiation of contract	30 September 2024	First instalment payment (30% of the total contract sum)
Presentation of preliminary results	18–27 March 2025	Presentation of preliminary methods and results to the SC10 meeting (virtual)
Delivery of draft report	31 December 2025	Second instalment payment (30% of the total contract sum) upon satisfactory submission of draft report, in a format suitable for submission to SC, to the Project Coordinator.
Presentation of final results	March 2026	Presentation of final results to the SC11 meeting (virtual)
Delivery of final report	1 April 2026	Submission of final report in a format suitable for submission to SC and submission of all project information to the project coordinator. Final instalment payment (40% of the total contract sum) on acceptance of the final report by the advisory panel and the final submission of project information

10. Submission of applications

1. A current CV that summarises the applicant(s) relevant educational background and professional experience.
2. A brief proposal (indicatively 3-4 pages) outlining the proposed methods and analyses, including a description of how the objectives of the ToR will be achieved.
3. Any proposed exclusions to the intellectual property clause or variations to the work timeline and payment schedule.
4. The proposed consultancy price (including all consultant expenses and project related costs), noting that the available budget for this work indicated in Section 7.
5. Identification of any project risks and associated mitigation and management required to successfully complete the project.
6. A statement that identifies any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest of the applicant(s), including those described in paragraph 4 of the SIOFA recruitment procedure (see Section 12), and
7. Any additional relevant information the applicant(s) wish to submit.

The applicants must have appropriate experience and knowledge of similar work in their portfolio.

Applications must be submitted to the SIOFA Science Officer Marco Milardi (marco.milardi@siofa.org, CC secretariat@siofa.org). Only those applications received before 12:00 PM (9:00 AM UTC) on Sunday the 8th of September 2024, Reunion Island time, will be considered.

11. Evaluation criteria for the selection of candidates

An evaluation panel, the SIOFA Secretariat, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SIOFA Scientific Committee will select one successful applicant for this contract. The selection criteria will include the following:

1. Adequate submission of information to allow the panel to evaluate the candidate
2. Evaluation of the proposal from the candidate, including the proposed contract price
3. Ability to undertake and complete the analyses or work required in this ToR
4. The candidate's agreement with confidentiality provisions required for the project
5. Acceptable conflict of interest statement
6. Agreement with the data submission and intellectual property terms required in this ToR, and
7. Financial and resourcing considerations.

12. Conflicts of interest. Paragraph 4 of SIOFA's Recruitment Procedure

To ensure that situations relating to potential and actual conflict of interests are avoided, persons falling into the following categories may not normally be considered for SIOFA consultancy: (i). any person designated as a designated representative or alternate representative of a CCP to the Meeting of Parties (MOP) as per Rule 3.1 of the Rules of Procedure, and to the SC and any other subsidiary bodies of the MOP, as per Rule 21.3 of the Rules of Procedure; (ii). Any person fulfilling the function of Chair or Vice-Chair of the MOP or Chair or Vice-Chair of a SIOFA subsidiary body or working group; (iii). Any person acting as a member of a delegation involved in the SIOFA decision-making process resulting in recommendations and/or approval for the SIOFA work requiring the engagement of a consultant; and (iv). Individuals who were SIOFA Secretariat staff members at the time when the

recommendations and/or approval for the SIOFA works were adopted or who are members of immediate family (e.g., spouse or partner, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister) of any Secretariat staff member or of the persons identified in 4 (i), (ii), and (iii).

13. Contacts

Project Coordinator – SIOFA Science Officer (Marco Milardi, marco.milardi@siofa.org)

Administration – SIOFA Executive Secretary (Thierry Clot, thierry.clot@siofa.org)