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

**Report of the 4th Meeting of
the Working Group to
Support the Establishment of the
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Vessel Monitoring System
(VMSWG-04)**

Virtual

22 November 2024

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Agenda item 1 – Opening of Session

1. The Chair, Ms Fiona Harford (European Union (EU)), opened the 4th Meeting of the Working Group (WG) to Support the Establishment of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Vessel Monitoring System (SIOFA VMS; VMSWG-04) and welcomed the participants.
2. The list of meeting participants is included in Annex A.

Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements

a. Adoption of Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted (Annex B).

b. Meeting Documents

4. The Compliance Officer, Mr. Johnny Louys, outlined the list of meeting documents as presented in VMSWG-04-ADM-02 (Annex C).

c. Appointment of rapporteurs

5. The VMS WG agreed to appoint Mr Alexander Meyer (Urban Connections, Tokyo) as rapporteur.

Agenda item 3 – Hosting Options for the SIOFA VMS

6. The Compliance Officer presented [WG-04-01](#), which outlined options for the hosting of the SIOFA VMS. Based on an examination of the VMS implemented by other regional fisheries management organizations/bodies and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, and engagement with some service providers, the Secretariat suggested two possible hosting options, an onsite option (Software as a Product (SaaS)) and a remote/cloud-hosted option (Software as a Service (SaaS)), and provided information on the general attributes, including resource and cost implications, of each option. The analysis presented in WG-04-01 noted that either option would be able to provide a SIOFA VMS that adequately fulfils the functions required by Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 16 (2023) while being compliant with other SIOFA CMMs and the SIOFA VMS Standard, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs). A SaaS option would offer a better value proposition than a SaaS one, albeit with some negligible limitations in terms of security and control for the end user (criteria on which a SaaS option performs better) that could be mitigated or completely eliminated depending on the service provider. It would also be less demanding in terms of Secretariat staffing requirements. Moreover, a SaaS option would be more flexible in terms of scalability, upgrades, and futureproofing, especially if the scope of the SIOFA VMS were to be broadened in the future to include for example catch data reporting.
7. The VMS WG reviewed the paper and asked some questions for clarification. Having considered the hosting options and the implications of each, the VMS WG expressed general support for a SaaS option over a SaaS option.
8. The VMS WG requested that the Secretariat prepare a rev1 of the WG-04-01 with the addition of the following:
 - a. Indication of the VMS WG's preference for a SaaS option;
 - b. The number of active vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and the number of active hours by those vessels in the SIOFA Area; and
 - c. Reference to the need for the MoP to consider how some potential costs would be covered, including any increase in utility costs arising from the implementation of a SaaS, considering potential implications for the SIOFA budget and the Headquarters Agreement
9. The VMS WG also requested that the Secretariat begin drafting terms of reference for a SaaS hosting option, while noting that this does not prejudice any decision that the Compliance Committee or the MoP will make on the implementation of VMS.
10. The Chair suggested holding another meeting of the VMS WG, tentatively in March, to review the draft terms of reference, as well as to revisit other open issues, such as the potential need to revise some SIOFA CMMs and policies to cater for the implementation of the SIOFA VMS.

Agenda item 4 – Other Business

11. There was no other business.

Agenda item 5 – Close of Meeting

12. The meeting was closed at 08:40 a.m. UTC, 22 November 2024.

13. The report was adopted via correspondence on 12 December 2024.

Annex A – List of meeting participants

Delegation	First name	Last name	Title	Position (e.g. Designated Representative , Alternate, etc.)	Organisation	Email
VMS WG Chairperson	Harford	Fiona	Ms	VMS WG Chairperson	SIOFA	fiona.harford@ec.europa.eu
Australia	Patrick	Sachs	Mr	Head of Delegation	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Patrick.Sachs@aff.gov.au
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European Union	Laura	Marot	Ms	Head of Delegation	European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B2 Regional Fisheries Management Organisations	laura.marot@ec.europa.eu

Delegation	First name	Last name	Title	Position (e.g. Designated Representative , Alternate, etc.)	Organisation	Email
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European Union	Norma	GARCIA NUNEZ	Ms	Advisor	European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B2 Regional Fisheries Management Organisations	Norma-Erendira.GARCIA-NUNEZ@ec.europa.eu
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Japan	Hideki	MORONUKI	Mr	Advisor	Japan overseas fishing association	hideki.moronuki@jdsta.or.jp

Delegation	First name	Last name	Title	Position (e.g. Designated Representative , Alternate, etc.)	Organisation	Email
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Delegation	First name	Last name	Title	Position (e.g. Designated Representative , Alternate, etc.)	Organisation	Email
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SIOFA Secretariat	Alexander	Meyer	Mr	Rapporteur	Urban Connections	meyer@urbanconnections.jp

Annex B – Agenda of the 4th Meeting of the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System Working Group - SIOFA VMSWG04

- 1) Opening of Session
- 2) Administrative Arrangements
 - a) Adoption of Agenda
 - b) Meeting Documents
 - c) Appointment of rapporteurs
- 3) Hosting Options for the SIOFA VMS
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Close of Meeting

Annex C – List of meeting documents

Code	Document Title	Agenda Item
<i>Administration and Meeting organisation</i>		
VMSWG-04-ADM-01	Provisional Agenda	2. i.
VMSWG-04-ADM-02	List of Meeting Documents (This)	2. ii.
VMSWG-04-ADM-03	Registration Template - VMSWG-04	N/A
VMSWG-04-ADM-04	List of Registered Participants - VMSWG-04	N/A
<i>Working Papers</i>		
VMSWG-04-01	Options Paper for the Hosting of the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System	3