

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 5th Meeting of the Parties
25-29 June 2018

Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket, Thailand

MoP5-Prop15

SIOFA and SWIOFC Collaboration – A Concept Note

Relates to agenda item: 11.1

Proposal Other Document Info Paper

SIOFA Secretariat

Abstract

The objective of this Arrangement is to initiate cooperation with SWIOFC in matters of mutual interest, in accordance with Article 16 of the SIOFA Agreement.

This paper expands upon the list of objectives and benefits collaboration with SWIOFC could achieve and presents potential activities for MoP consideration.

World Bank to advise on available funding sources for activities once identified and approved by both SIOFA and SWIOFC.

Recommendations *(proposals only)*

That the Meeting of the Parties consider approval for the SIOFA Secretariat to continue discussions with SWIOFC to further investigate potential activities introduced in this concept note to develop a more detailed/concrete project proposal for both SIOFA and SWIOFC consideration and potential approval.

SIOFA and SWIOFC Collaboration

A Concept Note

1. Introduction

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)¹ facilitates international cooperation for the conservation and management of non-tuna fish stocks in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction of the Southern Indian Ocean. SIOFA has regulatory powers to adopt conservation and management measures that are binding on Contracting Parties. SIOFA is mandated to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organizations in matters of mutual interest, in particular the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission(SWIOFC)² in accordance with Article 16 of the SIOFA Agreement³.

SWIOFC area of competence includes 'all the waters the South West Indian Ocean within the national jurisdiction of coastal States'. The main objective of the SWIOFC is to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the Southwest Indian Ocean region, by the proper management and development of the living marine resources, and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the Members of SWIOFC.

In accordance with SIOFA Rules of Procedure, Rule 18.1 d), SWIOFC is a registered observer of SIOFA.

This draft concept note follows initial discussion with World Bank Lead Fisheries Specialist and the representative of SWIOFC and is being developed at the request and encouragement of both.

Within the region, SWIOFC, IOC⁴ and IOTC⁵ are established beneficiaries of World Bank funded development projects. SIOFA has not previously be considered for inclusion in World Bank funded development projects as the secretariat was not yet established. Developing collaboration projects with SWIOFC, or a group of eligible SWIOFC coastal member states, would be necessary prerequisite for SIOFA to become a beneficiary to World Bank funded development projects.

2. Objectives and benefits

In general terms the objectives and benefits of engaging in a collaboration project with SWIOFC would be;

- to contribute towards the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the SIOFA Area through cooperation among the Contracting Parties;

¹ <http://www.siofa.org/>

² <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/swiofc/en>

³ <http://www.siofa.org/node/3>

⁴ <http://www.commissionoceanindien.org/accueil/>

⁵ <http://www.iotc.org/>

- to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in the Area, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the Area that are Contracting Parties to this Agreement in accordance with Article 2 of the SIOFA Agreement;
- to initiate cooperation with SWIOFC in matters of mutual interest, in accordance with Article 16 of the SIOFA Agreement; and
- to provide financial assistance, human resource development, technical assistance and transfer of technology to developing states bordering the area activities, as required by Article 13.4 of the SIOFA Agreement (Annex I).

More specifically the objectives would be;

- To promote the implementation of SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) by concerned SWIOFC developing member states and SIOFA developing member states (e.g., Thailand, Cook Islands)
- To promote effective management and inform management decisions through scientific research and data collection on transboundary SIOFA/SWIOFC demersal fishery resources of the Saya de Malha bank.
- To promote cooperation and data exchange with developing countries bordering the Area and developing countries not bordering the Area but with vessels operating in the Area, and encourage those States to become Contracting Parties to SIOFA.

3. Potential Activities

A collaboration project could be planned for a several-year period. Annual activities could be described in broad terms to facilitate progressive targeted activities in the following years. Project activities could be as follows:

3.1 Research on the transboundary demersal fishery resources of the Saya de Malha bank fisheries (SIOFA Area, Seychelles EEZ and Mauritius EEZ). The stocks fished on the Saya de Malha bank in the SIOFA zone extending from Seychelles and Mauritian EEZs could be transboundary/shared stocks shared between SIOFA and SWIOFC (Seychelles and Mauritius EEZs). Research is needed to establish the status of these stocks and determine an appropriate management strategy;

3.2 Capacity building for eligible-countries to implement SIOFA CMMs, more specifically to meet data collection and reporting requirements, flag state duties and port state duties. This may comprise of trainings on flag state responsibilities and port inspections. Owing to a lack of SIOFA secretariat capacity trainings would require the employment of consultants; and

3.3 Support for participation of eligible-countries to SIOFA process: annual meetings; working groups [etc.] and technical assistance for an informed participation as needed.

4. Budget

It is understood that activity costs would be covered by the project and that SIOFA nor SWIOFC would not be required to provide a financial contribution to these projects.

5. For MoP consideration

- MoP approve that SIOFA Secretariat continue discussions with WB and SWIOFC to further investigate potential activities introduced in this concept note in order to develop a more detailed/concrete project proposal for both SIOFA and SWIOFC consideration and potential approval.
- Does MoP suggest additional or alternative activities to those described in section 3?
- What projects would MoP prioritise?
- Any specific questions the Secretariat should seek clarification on?

SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT

ARTICLE 13 - SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

1. The Contracting Parties shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States, in relation to the conservation and management of fishery resources and the sustainable development of such resources.
2. The Contracting Parties recognize, in particular:
 - (a) the vulnerability of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States, that are dependent on the exploitation of fishery resources, including for meeting the nutritional requirements of their populations or parts thereof;
 - (b) the need to avoid adverse impacts on, and ensure access to fisheries by, subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and fishworkers; and
 - (c) the need to ensure that conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States.
3. Cooperation by the Contracting Parties under the provisions of this Agreement and through other subregional or regional organizations involved in the management of marine living resources should include action for the purposes of:
 - (a) enhancing the ability of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States, to conserve and manage fishery resources and to develop their own fisheries for such resources; and
 - (b) assisting developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States, to enable them to participate in fisheries for such resources, including facilitating access in accordance with this Agreement.
4. Cooperation with developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States, for the purposes set out in this article should include the provision of financial assistance, assistance relating to human resources development, technical assistance, transfer of technology, and activities directed specifically towards:
 - (a) improved conservation and management of the fishery resources and of straddling stocks occurring in waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area, which can include the collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information;
 - (b) improved information collection and management of the impact of fishing activities on the marine environment;
 - (c) stock assessment and scientific research;
 - (d) monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement, including training and capacity-building at the local level, development and funding of national and regional observer programmes and access to technology; and
 - (e) participation in the Meeting of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies as well as in the settlement of disputes.