

SC-06-INFO-06

6th Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC6)

22-25 March 2021

(online)

EU Grant actions description

Relates to agenda item: 12.1

Working paper ☐ Info paper ☒

SIOFA Secretariat

Abstract

Description of the main actions to be undertaken by the SIOFA Scientific Committee under the EU Grant provided to SIOFA.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries

Annex I

Description of the Action

III. INFORMATION ON THE ACTION FOR WHICH THE GRANT IS REQUESTED

1 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Title: 2020-2022 Support to SIOFA Scientific Work on key stocks, ecosystems, and data"

Reference:

a) Describe the general and specific objectives that the action aims to achieve:

The applicant should explain how the general and specific objectives of the action will contribute to the objectives of the Union grant programme concerned. Where possible, specify related indicators, milestones to assess the project's achievements and expected impacts.

The SIOFA relies on a strong scientific basis for decision-making, and therefore the grant requested focuses on 5 General Objectives of scientific basis:

General Objective 1 (GO1): Support the assessment of the key target stocks (alfonsino, toothfish and orange roughy);

- Specific Objective 1: Working towards improving the stock assessment of alfonsino. According to the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) future stock assessments for alfonsino should consider: potentially using tow-by-tow data, developing data catalogues to understand variables for effective standardisation work, improving future abundance estimation by applying acoustic data, conducting research towards better estimating M, clarifying time-area coverage, the complex behaviour of alfonsino, etc. A feasibility study of the cost-benefit of collecting acoustic data could be conducted.

Data Poor Stock management approaches should be also explored.

- Specific Objective 2: Supporting toothfish related research.
- Specific Objective 3: Addressing the main tasks related to orange roughy in the work plan concerning the stock structure, age frequency, target strength and data collection protocol.
- Specific Objective 4: Saya de Malha bank fisheries.

General Objective 2 (GO2): Management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs);

- Specific Objective 5: the definition and implementation of robust methodologies for the mapping and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and
- Specific Objective 6: the mitigation of possible impacts on associated and dependent species.
- Specific Objective 7: Investigate possible habitat suitability modelling.

General Objective 3 (GO3): Management of others ecosystem components.

- **Specific Objective 8: Defining interactions with seabirds, mammals, bycatch species, etc.**

General Objective 4 (GO4): Reinforcing the data collection, SIOFA data/base systems, and coding and data processes.

General Objective 5 (GO5): Making operational the Scientific Working Groups and Scientific Committee (SC) supporting and facilitating the external expertise needed for advancing on the SC multiannual WorkPlan.

b) Describe the action (on the basis of the main activities planned) and where it will be implemented

The five General Objectives will be implemented in the Headquarters of the SIOFA Secretariat:

(GO1): Support the assessment of the key target stocks (alfonsino, toothfish and orange roughy).

- Stock structure studies (orange roughy, alfonsino, toothfish)
- Additional otolith collection and ageing - growth equation for all species ages
- Better stock assessment and usage of acoustic survey data
- Biologically appropriate catch limits for Patagonian Toothfish in Del Cano Rise and Williams Ridge
- Saya de Malha bank fisheries

(GO2): Management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs);

- Investigation of a holistic framework for assessing and preventing SAIs on VMEs
- Support work on benthic bioregionalization (underway) and (future) investigate possible habitat suitability modelling
- Investigation of representative protected areas (relevant to the bioregionalization work)
- Updates to the ERA work - update the teleosts ERAs with better and more recent input data

(GO3): Management of other ecosystem components;

- Updates to the ERA work - Considering seabirds, mammals, by catch species, etc.

(GO4): Reinforcing the data collection, SIOFA data/base systems, and coding and data processes.

(GO5): Making operational the Scientific Working Groups and Scientific Committee (SC) supporting and facilitating the external expertise needed for advancing on the SC multiannual WorkPlan.

- External expert(s) in support of the activities of the PAEWG
- External expert(s) in support of the activities of the SERAWG
- External expert(s) in support of the activities of the SC

SIOFA Secretariat Project Management (50 000 EUR – in-kind contribution):

The SIOFA Secretariat will invest time in the supervision of the studies and close scrutiny of their advancement and quality. The Secretariat staff will work on the perfect coordination between different studies.

Before and after these studies are carried out, the Secretariat is responsible for the selection process of consultants, their retribution and the supervision of reports provided after their conclusion. This contribution will be provided in-kind through the daily work of the Secretariat.

c) Methodology to be followed/project implementation

The applicant should explain the methodology, both theoretical and practical, that will be followed in order to meet the general and specific objectives of the action described above. This might include support to third parties.

In case of financial support to third parties the applicant should specify the different types of activity, the definition of the persons or categories of persons which may receive such financial support and the criteria to give it and the maximum amount. If the financial support takes the form of a prize the applicant should specify the conditions for participation in the contest, the award criteria, the amount of the prize and the payment arrangements.

The applicant should explain which part of the action will be subcontracted (list of main activities to be carried out)

The five General Objectives will be subcontracted:

(GO1): Support the assessment of the key target stocks (alfonsino, toothfish and orange roughy); 80,000 EUR

(GO2): Management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs); 60.000 EUR

(GO3): Management of other ecosystem components; 10,000 EUR

(GO4): Reinforcing the data collection, SIOFA data/base systems, and coding and data processes; 20,000 EUR

(GO5): Making operational the Scientific Working Groups and Scientific Committee (SC) supporting and facilitating the external expertise needed for advancing on the SC multiannual WorkPlan; 30,000 EUR

d) Expected results and their use:

The applicant should specify the benchmarks or deliverables which the applicant intends to employ to achieve the expected results and targets and how they will be used and disseminated

The project will develop the basis for a revised and more robust science in SIOFA providing scientific added value to new areas in support of the current undergoing scientific developments in the Southern Indian Ocean.

GO1: Support the assessment of the key target stocks (alfonsino, toothfish and orange roughy):

The scientific assessment of the fishery resources, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area, will provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of measures regarding the sustainable management of fishing activities. Better and more robust stocks assessment are the main expected result of this General Objective.

GO2: Management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs):

This General Objective will result in the development of the understanding of the impact of fishing on the marine environment. In particular, encouraging and promoting scientific cooperation in scientific research in order to improve knowledge on VMEs.

The outcomes will be used as a basis for the recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of conservation and management measures regarding the protection of VMEs.

GO3: Management of other ecosystem components:

The gaps in knowledge in the SIOFA Area extend to several taxa and to large parts of the shelf and deep-sea ecosystems. Concerned by the dependent species such as marine mammals, seabirds, by catch species or other species of concern, the expected result of this General Objective will be to define and diminish the interactions by analysing other ecosystem components distributions with fisheries managed by SIOFA.

The outcomes will be used as a basis for the recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of science-based Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

GO4: Reinforcing the data collection, SIOFA data/base systems, and coding and data processes.

Time series of fishing effort, catch, etc are already part of the SIOFA Database. However, the adequacy of these data can be evaluated only in the context of the purposes for which they are used and currently there are strong limitations both for the Secretariat and final users.

The expected result is to make operational and reinforce the accessibility of the database to users, the coverage or completeness, and also credibility of the data collection process and the internal management process that uses the data including the time-consuming compilation and filing of raw data.

General Objective 5 (GO5): Making operational the Scientific Working Groups and Scientific Committee (SC) supporting and facilitating the external expertise needed for advancing on the SC multiannual Work Plan.

Appropriate external knowledge undertaken by independent expert(s) will help to assure the highest quality and the scientific standards review (of any kind) as part of the SIOFA scientific process. The expected result is assuring that the best available science is available and in use in support of management measures in SIOFA.

Dissemination of results is assured as meeting reports (Scientific Committee and its Working Groups) will gather the outcomes of each specific objective. It is also expected that the broader research community will benefit from this research through publications in specialised fisheries and marine environment scientific journals showing the outcomes of these General Objectives.

e) Arrangements for monitoring/supervision of the operation and risks involved in its implementation:

The applicant should explain how the action will be supervised. The applicant should refer to any risks involved in its implementation, how they might affect the objectives and outcomes of the action and how they could be mitigated.

The action will be supervised throughout by the PAEWG, SERAWG, the SC Chairperson and SIOFA Executive Secretary who will provide any inputs as required. Close coordination with those research institutions involved in the implementation of the different actions is guaranteed.

Arrangements for Monitoring and supervision:

- a) Quarterly web-meetings will be held with member interested in the work.
- b) Progress reports to the Intersessional SC Working Groups meetings in 2021 and 2022 and
- c) Reporting at the SC meetings in 2021 and 2022.

Risks involved in its implementation:

The risk that the external expert may produce poor or untimely results is mitigated by signing of a contract between SIOFA and the expert which stipulates payments upon successful completion of the deliverables. Should the expert not complete task satisfactorily he/she will not be paid.

The risks associated with this action are therefore minimal and related mainly to the remote possibility of force majeure and natural disaster events.

f) Sustainability of the project's achievements:

The applicant should explain how sustainability will be secured once the action has been completed. This can include considerations about different dimensions of sustainability: financial, economic, institutional (structures which would allow the results of the action to continue), environmental, policy, etc. (where applicable, depending on the provisions of the basic act).

General Objectives complement each other. These objectives contribute to the ability to predict biomass of main fisheries resources, impact on VMEs and other ecosystem interactions assuring the sustainable exploitation associated to potential management measures in the short, medium and long-term. Therefore, the project achievements are part of the continuous process of managing the high seas fishery resources of the Southern Indian Ocean under the mandate of SIOFA. Consequently, the sustainability is guaranteed.

2 PLANNED DURATION OF THE ACTION] (in months):

Planned starting date: 1 December 2020

Update: November 2015

TIMETABLE FOR EACH STAGE OF THE ACTION SHOWING MAIN DATES AND EXPECTED RESULTS FOR EACH STAGE (table to be repeated as many times as necessary)														
Activity	2021							2022						
	Month							Month						
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12		1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	1-2
GO 1: Stock assessment for key target stocks														
SpO 1.1: Better stock assessment - Acoustic survey data			Orange Roughy							Alfonsino				
SpO 1.2: Stock structure studies (orange roughy, alfonsino, toothfish)			Orange Roughy							Alfonsino				
SpO 1.3: Additional otolith ageing - growth equation for all ages			Orange Roughy							Alfonsino				
SpO 1.4: Patagonian Toothfish catch level (Del Canon, Williams Ridge)														
SpO 1.4: Saya de Malha bank fisheries														

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GO 2: Management of VMEs														
	2021						2022						2023	
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	1-2	3-4
SpO 2.1 : Investigation of a holistic framework for assessing and preventing SAIs on VMEs		■	■	■		■								
SpO 2.2 : Support work on benthic bioregionalization (underway) and (future) investigate possible habitat suitability modelling	■	■	■	■	■	■			■					
SpO 2.3 : Investigation of representative protected areas (relevant to the bioregionalization work)									■	■	■	■		■
SpO 2.4 : Updates to the ERA work - update the teleosts ERAs with better and more recent input data					■	■	■		■					

GO 3: Management of other ecosystem aspects (seabirds, mammals, bycatch species, etc)															
2021								2022						2023	
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12		1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	1-2	3-4
SpO 3.1 : Updates to the ERA work - Considering seabirds & mammals															
GO 4: Data collection, data/base systems and processes															
SpO 4.1 Develop the database system and analyses.															
GO 5: Making operational the Scientific Working Groups and Scientific Committee (SC) supporting and facilitating the external expertise needed for advancing on the SC multiannual Work Plan.															
SpO 5.1:															
** December 2020 is not included in this Timetable. Administrative activities carried out by the Secretariat will be covering the first month of this grant.															

Redaction of the Terms of Reference

Draft report

Researches and Studies work

Final Report

GO : General Objective

SpO : Specific Objective

LEGAL NOTICE

Applicants are informed that, under the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union, no grants may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed. In those exceptional cases accepted by the Commission where applicants demonstrate the need to start the action before the agreement is signed or the decision notified, expenditure eligible for financing may not have been incurred before the grant application was submitted.

3 BUDGET

Estimated Budget - Annex 4

Applications must include a detailed estimated budget in balance in which all costs and contributions are given in euros. Applicants from countries outside the euro zone may use the conversion rates published in the Official Journal of the European Union, series C, during the month in which they are submitting the application the monthly rate published on the Commission's website at www.ec.europa.eu/budget/infoeuro/.

Annex: distribution of the EU grant budget

Direct eligible costs									
1. Stock assessment for key target stocks									
<i>1.1 Better alfonsino stock assessment - Acoustic survey data</i>	25,000						25,000.00	100%	25,000
<i>1.2 Stock structure studies (ORY, alfonsino, toothfish)</i>	25,000						25,000.00	100%	25,000
<i>1.3 Additional otolith ageing - growth equation for all ages</i>	15,000						15,000.00	100%	15,000
<i>1.4 Saya de Malha bank fisheries</i>	15,000						15,000.00	100%	15,000
Sub-total for cost category 1	80,000						80,000.00		80,000
2. Management of VMEs									
2.1 Investigation of a holistic framework for assessing and preventing SAs on VMEs	15,000						15,000	100%	15,000
2.2 Support work on benthic bioregionalization (underway) and (future) investigate possible habitat suitability modelling	15,000						15,000	100%	15,000
2.3 Investigation of representative protected areas (relevant to the bioregionalization work)	15,000						15,000	100%	15,000
2.4 Updates to the ERA work - update the teleosts ERAs with better and more recent input data	15,000						15,000	100%	15,000
Sub-total for cost category 2	60,000						60,000		60,000
3. Management of other ecosystem aspects (seabirds, mammals, bycatch species, etc)									
3.1 Updates to the ERA work - Considering seabirds & mammals	10,000						10,000	100%	10,000
Sub-total for cost category 3	10,000						10,000		10,000
4. Data collection, data/base systems and processes									
4.1 Develop the database system and analyses.	20,000						20,000	100%	20,000
Sub-total for cost category 4	20,000						20,000		20,000
5. Working Groups and SC Experts support									
5.1 External expert(s) in support of the activities of the PAEWG	7,500						7,500	100%	7,500
5.2 External expert(s) in support of the activities of the SERAWG	7,500						7,500	100%	7,500
5.3 expert(s) in support of the activities of the SC	15,000						15,000	100%	15,000
Sub-total for cost category 5	30,000						30,000		30,000

TOTAL 200,000.00