



SIOFA | APSOI

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

SC-08-INFO-03

**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC8)**

*Tenerife, Spain, 22-31 March 2023*

SC-08-INFO-03

# The 2023 Scientific Committee workplan and budget

SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair, Scientific Committee Vice-Chair, and the SIOFA Secretariat

<b>Document type</b>	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Distribution</b>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>At its annual meetings, the Scientific Committee develops and then recommends its future workplan to the MoP. Additionally, the MoP has requested that this year, the Scientific Committee develops a 3–5 year workplan with an associated budget (MoP8 2022 Report, para. 194).</p> <p>This document summarises the recent scientific projects, workshops, and activities of the Scientific Committee and the SIOFA Secretariat; and lists the planned projects and activities for future years to assist the Scientific Committee develop its workplan for the years from 2023 to 2027.</p> <p>Further, potential approaches to the management of external consultancies by the Scientific Committee are discussed.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

<sup>2</sup> Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.



## 1. Introduction

The SIOFA Scientific Committee workplan lists the scientific projects, workshops, and activities of the Scientific Committee and the SIOFA Secretariat that will allow the Scientific Committee to provide advice to the MoP. At its annual meetings, the Scientific Committee develops and then recommends its future workplan to the MoP. Additionally, the MoP has requested that the Scientific Committee develops a 3–5 year workplan with an associated budget (MoP8 2022 Report, para. 194).

The workplan adopted at SC7 and agreed by the MoP is listed in the SC8 2022 Report and was updated following MoP8 in SC Circular No. 2022/18.

This report summarises the recent scientific projects, workshops, and activities of the Scientific Committee and the SIOFA Secretariat, and lists the currently planned projects and activities to assist the Scientific Committee develop its workplan for the years from 2023 to 2027. It also provides the key elements for discussion in the workplan at SC8 and suggests potential guidelines for the organisation of this work. In addition, we propose some approaches for managing workshops and projects to streamline the work of the SIOFA Secretariat and the Scientific Committee.

## 2. Development of the SIOFA SC workplan

The recent SC workplan has been ambitious, with short timeframes and a number of specific requests from the MoP to undertake its work. However, the resources within Secretariat are limited and the recent necessity to hold virtual meetings has not permitted the Scientific Committee to fully plan, consider, and resolve all of the scientific issues on its agenda. This has resulted in a greater reliance on Secretariat staff, contracted consultants, and scientific workshops to address the workplan of the Scientific Committee.

To aid the development of the work under the workplan, the Scientific Committee Chairs propose that the Scientific Committee:

1. Develop the workplan with an associated timetable for specific project for that identify, for each project:
  - a. The specific project objectives (e.g., paragraph(s) describing the objectives and required outcomes for each project).
  - b. The project lead (e.g., SC Chairs, specific members, or SIOFA Secretariat).
  - c. The timetable for implementation.
  - d. The funding source and amount of funds required (where appropriate) for undertaking of the project.
2. Prioritise the projects to allow efforts to be directed towards those with the highest priority.
3. Ensure that Project Advisory Panels are identified and are required for each project where SIOFA employs external consultants.
4. Ensure that workshop conveners, workshop terms of reference, timetable for the workshop, and any required papers for the workshop are identified when workshops are agreed by the Scientific Committee

Further, the Scientific Committee consider:

1. Taking account of potential delays when planning related and sequential projects.
2. Develop project plans that are a minimum of 2 years between the time of proposal and the expected time of delivery (to allow the consideration of such proposals by MoP, subsequent development of ToRs and contracting of consultants, and the undertaking of the scientific work to meet the project objectives)
3. Request that the MoP take these requirements into account when requesting the Scientific Committee undertake specific tasks.

### 3. Project Advisory Panel

For projects where external consultants are employed by SIOFA to undertake work for the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Committee Chairs suggest that the Scientific Committee consider the following process for Project Advisory Panels.

1. Once a project has been approved (i.e., by the MoP or otherwise as appropriate), a Project Advisory Panel will be established for any Scientific Committee projects that require external consultants, with a Project Lead as designated when the project was proposed (or, if none was designated at the time of the proposal, then by the Scientific Committee Chair).
2. The Project Lead will request nominations from Scientific Committee to be on the Project Advisory Panel. Ideally, the Project Advisory Panel should consist of the Project Lead and at least two representatives nominated by the SC HoDs.
3. The tasks of the Project Advisory Panel will be to:
  - a. Prepare, in consultation with the SIOFA Science Officer and the SC Chair and vice-Chair(s),
    - (i) the project ToRs, outputs, and reporting requirements and timetable for the project.
    - (ii) the timeline for project contracting process (i.e., the timetable for publication of ToRs, consideration of applicants, and subsequent contracting of the consultants).
  - b. Prepare a list of relevant data and report references so that the Secretariat can prepare (and obtain necessary permissions) a data/information package for the consultants that will be available once the consultants have been contracted
  - c. Review applications received and recommend to the SIOFA Executive Secretary the candidates that should be contracted to undertake the project.
  - d. Provide guidance to the consultants when undertaking the project as appropriate, e.g., through periodic meetings, correspondence, or other appropriate approach that may assist the consultants to meet the project requirements.
  - e. Provide a review and evaluation of project outputs to the SIOFA Executive Secretary and Scientific Committee Chair prior to the work being submitted to the Scientific Committee for its consideration
  - f. Provide recommendations to the SIOFA Executive Secretary on the acceptance of the project outputs described in the contract with the consultants.

Table 1: Completed projects

Year		Project code	Summary Title	Provider	Budget	Funding source	Status
2020/21		SER2019-01	ALF ageing	Fish Ageing Services Pty Ltd (Krusic-Golub and Robertson)	16,000 €		Completed
2020/21		PAE2020-01	BFIA trawl & longline	SoFish Consulting (Mormede)	57,870 €	MoP; Australia	Completed
2020/21		SER2020-01	Harvest strategies	CT university (Butterworth)	15,000 €	MoP6	Completed
2020/21		PAE2020-02a	VME mapping (year 1)	BOREA Laboratory (2020-2021)	-	MoP	Completed
2020/21		-	VME indicator species	SIOFA Secretariat (2021)	-	MoP	Completed
2020/21		-	SIOFA Fishing Footprint	Secretariat (2021)	-	MoP	Completed
2020/21		SCM2021-01	Science Manager for EU projects	Gary Morgan	15,000 €	EU Grant (GO5)	Completed
2021/21		SER2021-01	ORY collation of additional acoustic data (ToR 1)	Aqualyd (Macaulay)	3,800 €	MoP7	Completed
2021/21		SER2021-01	ORY acoustic data quality control (ToR 2)	Aqualyd (Macaulay)	8,550 €	MoP7	Completed
2021/21		SER2021-01	ORY acoustic biomass estimation (ToR 3)	Aqualyd (Macaulay)	6,650 €	MoP7	Completed
2021/22		SER2021-02	ORY ageing + growth	NIWA (Saunders)	10,000 €	EU Grant (GO1.3)	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-10	SIOFA Science Officer Recruitment	Secretariat	-	MoP8	Completed
2021/22		SER2021-03	Saya de Maya Bank Scoping Study	MRAG (Temple)	15,000 €	EU Grant (GO1.4)	Completed
2021/22		PAE2021-02	Seabirds & mammals ERAEF (PAE202102-ToR1)	Ross Analytics (Reid)	10,000 €	EU Grant (GO3)	Completed
2021/22		PAE2021-04	SIOFA Fishing Footprint (update)	Secretariat	-	-	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-03	Joint SIOFA-CCAMLR SC meeting of toothfish data exchange	Intersessional WG	-	-	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-07	Fisheries summaries	Secretariat	-	-	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-08	Toothfish tagging programme	Secretariat	-	-	Completed
2021/22		-	Monitoring, Management and Impact Mitigation in the shark bycatch	EU delegation	-	-	Completed
2021/22		SER2021-07	ERA Teleosts	Australia	-	EU Grant (GO2.4)	Completed
2021/22		SER2021-05	Development of Harvest Strategy -Evaluation of Three Provisional Harvest Strategies (ToR1)	MARAM consultants (Brandao, Butterworth, Johnston)	7,500 €	MoP5; MoP6 (remaining budgeted funds)	Completed
2021/22		SER2021-05	Development of Harvest Strategy – Roadmap (ToR2)	CT university (Butterworth)	7,500 €	MoP5; MoP6 (remaining budgeted funds)	Completed
2021/22		PAE2021-01a	Classification of key biological, geological, and oceanographic data (ToR1)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Leroy, Ramiro-Sanchez)	15,000 €	MoP8	Completed
2021/22		PAE2020-02b	VME mapping (year 2)	BOREA Laboratory (Leroy, Ramiro-Sanchez, Martin)	96,000 €	EU Grant (2020-2022); MoP6; MoP7	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-02	SC Chair position	Consultant	37,575 €	MoP8 Item 9.2	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-05	Data & information systems	Keith Reid (Ross Analytics)	15,000 €	MoP7 (Reserve fund)	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-06	Security audit: Physical security	Orange Cyberdefense (Reunion)	20,000 €	MoP7 (Reserve fund)	Completed
2021/22		WS2022-SUM1	SIOFA Workshop on the development of fisheries and ecosystem summaries	Intersessional WG	-	-	Completed
2021/22		WS2022-VME1	SIOFA Workshop on the development of VME management	Intersessional WG	-	-	Completed
2022/23		SEC2022-SUM1	Development of fisheries and ecosystem summaries	Corvus consulting	6,000 €	EU grant GO5/Funding comes from SEC2022-EXP1	Completed
2021/22		SER2021-04	ORY Acoustic Stock Assessment	R. Ureta et al.	25,000 €	MoP7	Completed
2021/22		SEC2022-DBS1	Develop Data Base system and analyses		20,000 €	EU grant GO1.1	Completed

## SC-08-INFO-03 - SC Workplan and budget

2022/23			Monaco Exploration of the Saya de Malha Bank	Monaco Exploration			Completed
2021/22			Fisheries overview	Intersessional workshop; Secretariat			Completed
2021/22			Ecosystem summary	Intersessional workshop; Secretariat			Completed
2021/22			Fisheries footprint (including coherence with CCPs footprints)	Secretariat			Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-09	Review of CMM [2021/02] Data standards	Secretariat	-	-	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-12	Annual report of VME encounters	SC7			Completed
2021/22		PAE2022-01	Annual review of VME encounters	SC7	-	-	Completed
2021/22		SEC2021-11	Development of 3-5 yr. Scientific Committee budget	SC8			SC8 (SC-08-INFO-03)
2021/22		SEC2022-SC81	SC8 meeting organization	SC8	118,000 €	EU SIOFA-SC8	Completed
2021/22		SEC2022-EXP1	External experts to support SC & Workshops	SC8	12,800 €	EU grant GO5	Completed
2022/23		WS2023-DWS	Workshop on deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Area	Intersessional workshop		EU SIOFA-SC8	Completed
2022/23		WS2023-HSPA	Joint MoP-SC workshop on harvest strategy pre-assessment	Intersessional workshop		EU SIOFA-SC8	Completed

## SC-08-INFO-03 - SC Workplan and budget

Table 2: Ongoing and postponed projects (2022/23)

Year	Project code	Summary Title	Budget	Funding source	Project Status
2022/23	PAE2021-01b	Identification of representative protected areas within SIOFA (ToR2)	10,000 €	EU Grant (GO2)	Contracted (report due April 2023)
2022/23	PAE2021-01c	Investigate and advise on the use of habitat suitability modelling in predicting benthic species diversity and distribution in SIOFA (ToR3)	10,000 €	EU Grant (GO2)	Contracted (report due April 2023)
2022/23	PAE2021-01d	Holistic framework for assessing and preventing Significant Adverse Impacts (SAIs) on VMEs (ToR4)	10,000 €	EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO2)	Contracted (report due April 2023)
2022/23	PAE2021-01e	Identify and update existing and potential SAIs within the SIOFA management area (ToR5)	5,000 €	EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO2)	Contracted (report due April 2023)
2021/22	SER2022-TOP1	Toothfish stock structure (molecular analysis)	8,333 €	EU grant GO1	Contracted
2021/22	SER2022-ORY1	Orange roughy stock structure	8,333 €	EU grant GO1	Contracted
2021/22	SER2022-BYS1	Alfonsino stock structure	10,000 €	EU grant GO1	Contracted
2021/22	SER2022-BYS2	Alfonsino otolith ageing + age validation using bomb radiometry	10,000 €	Mop9 + EU grant GO1	Contracted
2021/22	PAE2022-MPA1	Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs	18,000 €	EU SIOFA-SEAs	Contracted
2021/22	SER2022-TOP2	Toothfish population spatial structure	34,000 €	EU SIOFA-SEAs	Contracted
2021/22	SEC2022-OBS1	Harmonisation of Scientific Observer programmes	48,000 €	EU SIOFA-SEAs	ToR's published
2021/22	WS2022-EMON1	E-monitoring schemes	No allocated budget		Combined with SEC2021-01
2022/23	WS2022-SMON1	Monitoring of alfonsino, toothfish, orange roughy	No allocated budget		Postponed
2022/23	WS2022-HS1	Harvest strategies (roadmap)			Included in MoP-SC WSHSPA
2022/23	WS2022-BDATA	Biological data collection protocol	No allocated budget		No progress
2022/23	WS2022-ADATA	Acoustic data protocol	No allocated budget		No progress
2022/23	WS2022-ALF1	Alfonsino acoustic surveys feasibility	No allocated budget		No progress
2022/23	SER2022-BYS3	Alfonsino acoustic abundance (feasibility to be confirmed by workshop)	15,000 €	MoP9	No progress
2022/23		Alfonsino stock assessment	25,000 €	EU Grant GO1	No progress
2022/23		Alfonsino growth curve	No allocated budget		No progress
2022/23	WS2022-EMON1	E-monitoring schemes	No allocated budget		No progress
2022/23	WS2022-BIRD1	Seabird mitigation options (CMM2021/02, 2019/13, ACAP)	No allocated budget		No progress
2021/22	-	Review of CMM 2019/12 (Shark)			Included in WSDWS
2021/22	PAE2021-05	Review seabird bycatch mitigation (CMM2021/02, 2019/13, ACAP)	No allocated budget		No progress
2021/22	SER2022-TOP3	Toothfish growth curve (+ otolith collection)			No progress
2021/22	SER2022-ERA1	Update to the ERA work - update the teleosts ERAs with better and more recent input data	15 000 €	EU grant GO2	Postponed
2022/23		Development of research and monitoring plans for protected areas			Contracted
2022/23		Further ERA for benthic species on the Saya de Malha bank			No progress
2022/23		Review toothfish data collection requirements	-	-	Postponed to SC8
2022/23		Standardised data collection protocols for BYS	-	-	Postponed to SC8
2021/22		Update BYS maturity staging classification	-	-	No progress
2021/22		Review progress under CMM 2019/12 (Sharks)	-	-	Included in WSDWS
2022/23		Review of VME indicator taxa list	-	-	To be considered at SC8
2022/23		Annual review of VME encounters	-	-	To be considered at SC8
2022/23		Summary of SIOFA data			To be considered at SC8
2022/23		Fisheries overview			To be considered at SC8
2022/23		Ecosystem summary			To be considered at SC8
2022/23		Annual report of VME encounters			To be considered at SC8
2022/23		SIOFA data transformation strategy			Report pending