9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

CC-09-06 / MoP-12-31

Rev1

Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS

VMS WG Chairperson

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	Closed session document [2] ☐
Abstract	

This paper provides an update to the CC09 and MoP12 on the progress made by the SIOFA VMS Working Group (VMS WG) since the conclusion of MoP11. The paper also updates the work plan of the VMS WG, based on discussions held intersessionally by the WG to include, *inter alia,* the procurement of the SIOFA VMS and a proposed pilot phase prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

Rev1 of the document incorporates input from the CC09 on the work plan

Recommendations
• That CC09 and MoP12 **note** the progress made by the VMS WG towards the operationalization of the SIOFA VMS
• That CC09 **recommends** the adoption of the updated work plan and that MoP12 adopt it.

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[2] Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS

Introduction

The 11th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP11) endorsed a project roadmap towards the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS (MoP-11-21_Rev1), as foreseen by CMM 16 (2023) on a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System[3]. The key activities and outcomes of the project roadmap are:

1. **Definition of standards, specifications and procedures (SSPs) for, among others, data formats and transmission, data confidentiality and security requirements.**
   Indicator: SSPs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties

2. **Building up SIOFA's capacity to implement the SIOFA VMS**
   Indicators: Cost-effective hosting option identified
   Key Secretariat staff trained in the use of the SIOFA VMS.
   Secretariat Headquarters adapted to host SIOFA VMS.

3. **Establishment of the SIOFA VMS (acquisition, testing and entry into operation)**
   Indicators: SIOFA VMS operational
   Entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS

Progress since MoP11

To achieve the aforementioned milestones, the SIOFA VMS WG undertook the following tasks in the intersessional period between MoP11 and MoP12:[4]

- Determining a cost-effective and efficient hosting model for the SIOFA VMS and other operational and infrastructure considerations; and
- Drafting terms of reference (ToR) for the procurement of the VMS system.

In addition, the VMS WG recognised the need to align the provisions of CMM 03 (2016) on Data Confidentiality and CMM 07(2024) on Vessel Authorization, with those of CMM 16 (2023) (Vessel Monitoring System) and the SIOFA VMS SSPs to ensure compatibility between those instruments and ensuring a smooth implementation of the SIOFA VMS once it enters into operation.

Three meetings of the Working Group were held during the intersessional period with participation from the majority of Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities which enabled the make substantial progress on the work plan, and the additional matters outlined above, notably:

- Options Paper for the Hosting of the SIOFA VMS;
- Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the procurement of the SIOFA VMS, based on the recommendation from the VMS WG that the SaaS will be chosen as the hosting option;
- Potential amendments to CMMs and the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

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[3] CMM 16 (2023) for the Establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (Vessel Monitoring System)
[4] See adopted VMS Workplan

Updated work plan

Annex 1 presents an updated VMS WG work plan that outlines the implementation status of planned activities and proposes new activities and tasks necessary to achieve entry into the operation of the SIOFA VMS.

Based on discussions in the VMS WG, future work – outlined in Work Package 3 (WP3) would include:

- providing support to the Secretariat and CCPs for the procurement process of the SIOFA VMS, in accordance with the directives of the MoP;
- providing support to the Secretariat and CCPs for the testing phase, as appropriate;
- reviewing paragraph 15 of CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring) as regards automated entry/exit notifications via the SIOFA VMS;
- recommending adjustments to other SIOFA CMMs, the SSPs, and SIOFA policies as may be necessary following the testing phase.

Recommendations / Note

- CC09 is requested to review the updated work plan, provide guidance as appropriate, and recommend its adoption by MoP12.
- MoP12 is invited to consider the updated work plan and adopt it.

Annex 1 - Timeline for the main tasks and activities

SIOFA VMS

WP 2 - Assessments / Analysis

Name	Timeline	Priority	Progress
Establish Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSP)	2023-11-01 - 2024-05-16	Critical ⚠	Completed
Data confidentiality and security for SIOFA VMS	2024-01-15 - 2024-07-05	Critical ⚠	Completed
Definition of Term UVI	2024-01-15 - 2024-07-05	High	Completed
Determining cost-effective and efficient hosting model for the SIOFA VMS and other operational and infrastructure considerations	2024-11-01 - 2025-07-04	Critical ⚠	Completed
Potential amendments to CMMs and the SIOFA SSPs	2025-03-16 - 2026~~5~~-07-~~04~~	Critical ⚠	Ongoing (Amendments to be considered by CC09/ MoP12 & MoP13)
Scoping Missions	2024-07-08 - 2025-12~~09~~~~ 18~~	Low	Ongoing

Legend:

Completed = Green

Ongoing = Orange

Not yet started = Grey

Delayed =Red

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WP 3 - Setup and Entry into Operation of SIOFA VMS

Name	Timeline (Indicative)	Priority	Progress
Procurement of SIOFA VMS[5]	2025-08-01 - 2025-12-31	Critical ⚠	ToR Drafted (to be considered by CC09 / MoP12)
Call for bids issued	01-Aug-25	Critical ⚠	Not Started
Deadline for submission of bids and proposals	31-Oct-25	Critical ⚠	Not Started
Examination and evaluation of proposal	2025-11-01 - 2025-11-30	Critical ⚠	Not Started
Notification to successful bidder	2025-12-01 - 2025-12-01	Critical ⚠	Not Started
Contract signing	2025-12-31 - 2025-12-31	Critical ⚠	Not Started
Start of Services	2026-01-01 - 2026-01-01	Critical ⚠	Not Started
Testing phase of SIOFA VMS	2026-01-01 - 2026-06-24	High	Not Started
Entry into operation of SIOFA	2026-07-10 or end of MoP13	Critical ⚠	Not Started

Legend:
Completed = Green
Ongoing = Orange
Not yet started = Grey
Delayed =Red

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[5] The Procurement of the SIOFA VMS will be followed by the setting up of the SIOFA VMS, including the Secretariat's Infrastructure and training f SIOF Staffs to deploy the SIOFA VMS.