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

1st Meeting of the SIOFA VMS Working Group (VMSWG-01)

Online, 15th January 2024

VMSWG-01-INFO-01

Overview of the SIOFA VMS Project and EU Project Grant

SIOFA Secretariat

Document Type	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	This paper provides an overview of the project that should achieve the establishment of the SIOFA VMS, as foreseen by the adoption of CMM 16 (2023). It also provides a brief on the EU Grant that is supporting this endeavour.

Recommendations

- That the SIOFA VMS WG take note of the project overview for the establishment of the SIOFA VMS.

¹ 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).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

EU Grant for SIOFA VMS and Project Timelines

Introduction

As agreed by the MoP10, there shall be intersessional processes to guide the establishment of the SIOFA Vessels Monitoring System (VMS). This will be supported by the respective experts from the CCPs, observers and recruited experts from outside the organisation.

These undertakings are being financially supported in most part by the European Union (EU) through a grant of EUR 250,000. The Grant Agreement was signed between the Executive Secretary (ES) of SIOFA and the EU on the 16th of November, 2023, with the funds made available shortly thereafter. The grant has been made available to the SIOFA for a period of 36 months from the time of the signature of the Grant Agreement.

This document provides an overview of the proposed process for the entry into operation and entry into force of the SIOFA VMS, including the proposed project methodologies, deliverables and milestones, and tentative timelines for the project.

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Milestones

The key objectives of the project would be:

Establishment of the 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

Building of the 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.

Establishment of the SIOFA VMS (acquisition, testing and entry into operation).

Indicator: SIOFA VMS operational

Project Milestones:

- SSP adopted, Hosting option, Infrastructure and resource needs and other operational considerations are identified, with the agreement of the MoP
- Entry into Operation of SIOFA VMS

Methodology

The key thematic areas of the project are:

- Project Management and Coordination: This will include all activities by the Secretariat to manage the project throughout the project duration.
- Assessments and Analysis: Assessing the requirements to implement and the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.
- Set up and Entry into Operation of the SIOFA VMS: Acquisition and entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.
- Dissemination and Communication Activities: Project dissemination and communication activities

The process to achieve the establishment of the SIOFA VMS includes:

- Intersessional process with the CCPs and experts to establish the *Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs)*, adopted by the MoP.
- Intersessional process with the CCPs and experts to determine the most cost-effective and efficient hosting model for the SIOFA VMS, adopted by the MoP.
- Procurement of the SIOFA VMS, including testing of the system, [adapting of secretariat] and training of key staff
- Entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS
- Agreement by the MoP for entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, as foreseen by Paragraph 32 of CMM 16 (2023).³

The above process will be dependent on the decision and direction of the MoP, the entry into operation and the entry into force of the SIOFA VMS.

³ [CMM 16 \(2023\) - Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System \(Vessel Monitoring System\).](#)

Project Timelines (Tentative)

The tentative timelines for the establishment of the SIOFA VMS are proposed below:

SIOFA VMS

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Name	Priority	Timeline - Start	Timeline - End
Assessments / Analysis			
Establish Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSP)	High	17/11/2023	28/06/2024
Data confidentiality and security for SIOFA VMS	High	17/11/2023	28/06/2024
Determining the most cost-effective and efficient hosting model for the SIOFA VMS and other operational and infrastructure considerations	High	02/07/2024	23/12/2024
Scoping Missions	Low	01/07/2024	28/03/2025
		17/11/2023	28/03/2025
Setup and Entry into Operation of SIOFA VMS			
Procurement of SIOFA VMS	Critical 	08/07/2025	07/01/2026
Set up of SIOFA VMS	High	08/01/2026	08/03/2026
Secretariat Infrastructure Review	Medium	01/01/2026	02/04/2026
Training	Medium	01/02/2026	28/02/2026
Operation of SIOFA VMS	Critical 	03/04/2026	07/12/2026
Entry into force of CMM 16	Critical 	10/07/2026	10/07/2026
		08/07/2025	07/12/2026

Project Timelines (Tentative)...cont.

It should be noted that the current project has been designed around a 36-month timeline, which reflects the period of the grant agreement (EU), which is supporting the establishment of the SIOFA VMS.

Risk Management

Risk No	Description	Proposed risk-mitigation measures
1	Delays in subcontracting	Timely publication of ToR and call for applications, as well as selection procedure. Submit the ToR directly to potential applicants to stimulate response.
2	Delays of work implementation, deliverables, or non-performance of a subcontractor	Continuous communication between the project manager, advisors and subcontractors to monitor progress and finding joint solutions for any obstacle to the contract work
3	Insufficient Project visibility	Use SIOFA suitable media and interlinked web sites via all participants/consultants
4	Change of key personnel	Good communication among project team to guarantee careful handing over of tasks & information
5	Insufficient engagement of CCPs in the processes, including intersessional works	Full time engagement with CCPs during the inception of the project and throughout of the project to maintain awareness of the work.
5	Delayed agreement for the entry into force of the SIOFA VMS, once all the criteria have been met	Full time engagement with CCPs during the inception of the project and throughout of the project to maintain awareness of the importance of the establishment of the SIOFA VMS.
6	Project implementation overlaps the 36-month period of the grant agreement.	Ensure timely implementation of project tasks. Explore possibilities to extend project, if delays in implementation are observed.

SIOFA VMS WG

One key consideration of the project is the alignment of the work of the SIOFA VMS WG with the project itself. As it is now, the SIOFA VMS WG has been tasked with the development of detailed Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) (SIOFA VMSWG) for data formats and transmission, data confidentiality and security requirements and to further discuss the term 'unique vessel identifier' in paragraph 1 of the CMM. It may, therefore, be necessary that the MoP considers the broadening of the scope of work of the SIOFA VMS WG to support the entirety of the intersessional processes that would lead to the establishment of the SIOFA VMS.