



SIOFA | APSOI

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

Scientific Committee

La Réunion, Wednesday 21st August 2024

SC CIRCULAR n° 2024-13

SUBJECT: Final Arrangements for the Scientific Committee Workshop to progress future protected area designation (WS2024-PAD)

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank those delegations that provided feedback on the draft Arrangements, Provisional Agenda and Timetable distributed through SC Circular 2024-10, and transmit to you the Revised Provisional Agenda for the Scientific Committee Workshop to progress future protected area designation (WS2024-PAD), to be held virtually on the 13th and 20th November 2024 from 07.30 UTC to 11.30 UTC.

The Revised Arrangements, Provisional Agenda and Timetable of the Workshop are included as Annex A of this Circular, and are available as WS2024-PAD-ADM-03 and WS2024-PAD-ADM-04 documents on the meeting page (<https://siofa.org/meetings/WS2024-PAD>).

All delegates are requested to register their attendance to the Workshop as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 30 October 2024 by completing the form provided as document WS2024-PAD-ADM-01 and emailing it to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org).

The Workshop will consider a number of papers as background for its discussions. Should you wish to submit documents to the Workshop, please format them using the meeting document template (WS2024-PAD-ADM-02) and submit them via email to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org), by Wednesday 30 October 2024.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you during the Workshop,

Sincerely yours,

Trent Timmiss

Convener of the WS2024-PAD Workshop

Annex A – Revised working arrangements for the Workshop to progress future protected area designation (WS-2024-PAD)

Introduction

At SC9, the Scientific Committee proposed a workshop to progress future protected area designation (WS-2024-PAD) (SC9 Report, paragraph 312 & 319).

This workshop will be to review the protocol for future marine protected areas designation, and the development of a workplan, building on substantive work undertaken by SIOFA (SC9 report, paragraph 312). In addition, the workshop will evaluate the SIOFA interim protocol for the designation of protected areas (SC9 report, paragraph 319).

This Circular outlines the Revised Arrangements, Provisional Agenda and Timetable of the Workshop. The outcomes of the Workshop will be presented to the 2025 meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Revised Workshop Arrangements

The proposed Workshop Arrangements are:

1. The workshop is open to all representatives of the Scientific Committee and SIOFA Scientific Committee Observers.
2. The workshop will be convened by Mr Trent Timmiss (AUS).
3. The workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) on Wednesday 13th November 2024 and Wednesday 20th November from 07.30 UTC to 11.30 UTC.
4. A Convener's report of the workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Convener, circulated for comment to the Workshop participants, and then presented to the 2025 meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Revised Provisional Agenda

Session 1 - 13th November 2024 from 07.30 UTC to 11.30 UTC

1. **Opening**
 - a. Welcome from Convenor
 - b. Introduction of meeting participants
 - c. Adoption of agenda
 - d. Confirmation of meeting documents
 - e. Workshop report arrangements
2. **Background**
 - a. Basis for the current SIOFA interim protected areas
 - b. SIOFA Bottom fishing footprint
 - c. International Obligations and Initiatives of potential relevance
3. **SIOFA Protocol for future marine protected areas designation**
 - a. Review Interim Protocol and criteria (SC3 report, Annex H)

- b. Application of Bioregionalisation (Paper SC-09-27)
- c. SIOFA PAE2022-MPA1 - Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs, project report
- d. Other potential protected approaches in the SIOFA Area:
 - I. Marine OECMs (Information Paper MoP-11-INFO-21),
 - II. Ecological or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs),
 - III. Important Marine Mammal Protected Areas (IMMAs)
- e. Advice to SC10 on the existing SIOFA MPA protocol

Session 2 - 20th November 2024 from 07.30 UTC to 11.30 UTC

4. **Evaluation of SIOFA Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs)**
 - a. Interim SIOFA BPAs (CMM 01(2024) Annex 3)
 - b. Current voluntary BPAs (Proposal MoP-11-29 rev2)
 - c. Advice to the SC10 and MoP12 on their application as effective spatial management tools and for providing clarity for BPA adoption within the SIOFA benthic management framework (MoP11 Report, Para 161)
5. **Workplan to progress identification and designation of future MPAs**
 - a. Draft workplan and indicative budget
6. **Summary of advice to SC10**

Revised Timetable

30 October 2024

Deadline for submission of any papers to the workshop.

30 October 2024

Deadline for registration of participants to the workshop.

13 November 2024

First session of the workshop meetings take place virtually between 0730 and 1130 UTC. A short break will be scheduled at about 0930 UTC.

20 November 2024

Second session of the workshop meetings take place virtually between 0730 and 1130 UTC. A short break will be scheduled at about 0930 UTC.

29 November 2024

Distribution of draft Workshop Conveners Report for comment by participants.

15 February 2024

Final Workshop Conveners Report submitted to SC10.