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

10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-10 / MoP-13-10

Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS

The Chairperson of the SIOFA VMS Working Group

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>This paper provides an update to the CC10 and MoP13 on the progress made by the SIOFA VMS Working Group (VMS WG) since the conclusion of MoP12.</p>

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.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That CC10 and MoP13 note the progress made by the VMS WG towards the operationalization of the SIOFA VMS;• That CC10 recommend and MoP13 agree on the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

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) for the Establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (Vessel Monitoring System).³ The key activities and outcomes of the project roadmap were:

- 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 the 12th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA

To further advance work towards these milestones, the SIOFA VMS Working Group was convened on four occasions since the conclusion of the 12th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP12), culminating in the following conclusions:

- Adoption of the Pilot Phase for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System⁴
- Completion of work related to the *Consideration of the use of the SIOFA VMS for the submission of entry and exit notifications*⁵
- Review of CMM 16 (2025) in relation to *Possible Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs*.⁶

Following the recommendations put forward by the Selection Panel for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), the Secretariat completed the procurement process for the SIOFA VMS. This resulted in the awarding of a contract to Collect Satellite Localisation (CLS). The contract established CLS as the provider of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) Vessel Monitoring System services to SIOFA for a period of thirty-six (36) months, commencing in January 2026.

Subsequent to the awarding of the contract, the service provider undertook the set-up of the SIOFA VMS. This phase also involved the procurement of IT equipment necessary for the operation of the SIOFA VMS. Furthermore, SIOFA staff received training in the use and administration of the system, ensuring the Secretariat was equipped to manage the new platform.

³ Superseded by [CMM 16 \(2025\) for the Establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System \(Vessel Monitoring System\)](#)

⁴ Circulated to Official Contacts on 7 October 2025.

⁵ [Insert CC/ MoP Paper Number here]

⁶ As above.

The completion of the training and set-up facilitated the commencement of the Pilot Phase for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System. The pilot phase was launched with specific objectives to guide its implementation and evaluation.

1. Commissioning and post-deployment testing of the SIOFA VMS
2. Facilitate CCPs' initial setup and successful transmission of VMS position reports to the SIOFA VMS
3. Verify compatibility of the various data formats expected by the SIOFA VMS, particularly for CCPs transmitting position reports pursuant to paragraph 6(b) of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System (i.e. simultaneously by the vessel to its FMC and the Secretariat)
4. Identify any additional infrastructure requirements
5. Develop the Secretariat's technical and operational capacity to receive, manage, and analyze VMS position reports effectively
6. Develop the Secretariat's capacity to provide technical support to CCPs when the SIOFA VMS becomes fully operational
7. Identify and address any unforeseen technical, confidentiality, security, or policy risks prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS

The Scope of the Pilot Phase was further expanded by the 7th SIOFA VMS Working Group to include a targeted test to confirm the technical feasibility of automating the submission of entry and exit notifications using the SIOFA VMS.

The outcome of the pilot phase of the SIOFA VMS is documented in the *End of Evaluation Report for the SIOFA VMS* CC-10-INFO-01 / MoP-13-INFO-01, which details the results of the pilot phase, capturing the progress made vis-à-vis the above objectives, and provides recommendations regarding the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS. The paper also concludes that, based on the outcomes of the pilot phase of the SIOFA VMS, the VMS is operationally ready for its entry into operation, subject to endorsement of the 10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and the 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13). It also concluded that automated entry and exit reporting under the SIOFA VMS is technically feasible, under certain conditions, as discussed in this report. Successful transmission and detection of entry and exit notifications were achieved via FLUX and NAF reports, as well as through ALCs capable of sending them.

The Secretariat successfully completed its second scoping mission concerning the Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Vessel Monitoring Systems (RFMO VMS) at the Secretariat of the Southern Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO). This mission took place from 29 October to 8 November 2025, building on earlier efforts to enhance the Secretariat's understanding of VMS operations in comparable organisations.

Status of Implementation

Annex 1 provides a comprehensive update on the progress of the individual tasks and activities that were endorsed by MoP11 and MoP12. These actions were essential steps towards achieving the entry into operation of the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), outlining each key task, the status of its implementation, and any relevant observations or outcomes.

Recommendations / Note

- CC10 and MoP13 are welcome to note the progress made by the VMS WG and the Secretariat towards the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, that CC10 recommends its entry into operation to MoP13, and that MoP13 endorses the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

Annex 1 - Update on the progress of the individual tasks and activities towards the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS

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 - 2026-07	Critical ⚠	Proposed amendments to be considered by CC10 and MoP13
Scoping Missions	2024-07-08 - 2025-12	Low	Completed

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

WP 3 - Setup and Entry into Operation of SIOFA VMS

Name	Timeline (Indicative)	Priority	Progress
Procurement of SIOFA VMS	2025-08-01 - 2025-12-31	Critical ⚠	Completed
Call for bids issued	01-Aug-25	Critical ⚠	Completed
Deadline for submission of bids and proposals	31-Oct-25	Critical ⚠	Completed
Examination and evaluation of proposal	2025-11-01 - 2025-11-30	Critical ⚠	Completed
Notification to successful bidder	2025-12-01 - 2025-12-01	Critical ⚠	Completed
Contract signing	2025-12-31 - 2025-12-31	Critical ⚠	Completed
Start of Services	2026-01-01 - 2026-01-01	Critical ⚠	Completed
Testing phase of SIOFA VMS	2026-01-01 – Entry into Operation of SIOFA VMS	High	Ongoing
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