



SIOFA | APSOI

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

MoP-13-01-Rev1

Report on the Secretariat Activities (since MoP 12)

The SIOFA Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☐ Meeting of the Parties ☒
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ☒ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
Following Rule 8.1(f) and (g) of the SIOFA Rules of Procedure (RoP), this document presents an annual report of the Secretariat, detailing its staffing resources and its activities covering the period between MoP12 and MoP13.	

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

- The MoP **to note** the activities conducted by the Secretariat between MoP12 and MoP13 and the updates to the staff.
- The MoP to **complete** the Annex U of the MoP9 Report.
- The MoP to **endorse** the SIOFA Secretariat goals 2026 to 2027.

Report on the Secretariat Activities (since MoP 12)

1. Introduction

Following Rule 8.1(f) and (g) of the SIOFA Rules of Procedure (RoP), this document presents the annual report of the Secretariat, detailing its staffing resources and activities for the period between MoP12 and MoP13.

2. Status of the Agreement and Participation

2.1. CCPs and Signatories

SIOFA's Contracting Parties:

- Australia
- People's Republic of China
- Cook Islands
- European Union
- France (on behalf of its Overseas Territories)
- Japan
- The Republic of Korea
- Mauritius
- Seychelles
- Thailand

SIOFA's Participating Fishing Entity:

- Chinese Taipei

SIOFA's cooperating non-Contracting Party:

- The Union of Comoros
- India

The signatories to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mozambique
- New Zealand

2.2. Observers

In accordance with Article 14 of the Agreement, intergovernmental organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of the Agreement, including in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, and regional fisheries management organisations with competence over high seas areas adjacent to the SIOFA Area, are entitled to participate as observers in meetings of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

Pursuant to Rule 18.2 of the Rules of Procedure (RoP), observer status granted to non-governmental organisations remains valid for future meetings unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties. Between MoP12 and MoP13, the Secretariat received two applications from non-governmental organisations seeking observer status to SIOFA: New World Hope Organization (NWHO)³ and World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).⁴ As of the date of this paper, their status requests are currently in progress in accordance with Rule 18.2 of the RoP.

3. Meeting of the Parties and subsidiary bodies Chairpersons

Table 1 provides an overview of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Meeting of the Parties and its associated subsidiary bodies.

Table 1: Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the SIOFA:

Body	Chairperson	Vice-Chairpersons
Meeting of the Parties	Ms Anaïd Panossian (Jul 2025 to Jul 2026)	Ms Laura Marot
Compliance Committee	Mrs Meera Koonjul (Jul 2024 to Jul 2026)	M. Patrick Sachs
Scientific Committee	M. Alistair Dunn (Nov 2020 to Aug 2027)	Dr. Zhou Fang Ms. Charlotte Chazeau

Per Rule 5.3 of SIOFA RoP, the subsidiary bodies of the Meeting of the Parties shall elect their Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives, alternate representatives and advisers of the Contracting Parties, each of whom shall serve for a maximum of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term of two years.

According to the rotational schedule of MoP Chair (Annex II of the RoP), the Chairing of the MoP will be assured by the European Union after the end of the 13th Meeting of the Parties and the Vice-Chairing will be assured by the Cook Islands.

4. Secretariat Staffing Resources

The Secretariat staff currently consists of an Executive Secretary, a Data Officer working part-time (since January 2026, up until 31 December 2028), a Science Officer (since February 2022 up until 31 January 2029), a Compliance Officer (since February 2023 up until February 2027), an Information and Communication Technology Expert working part-time (since February 2026 up until February 2027) and an Intern Assistant to the Secretariat (since March 2026 up until September 2026).

For the Secretariat to function effectively, it is imperative that the Executive Secretary prioritises good communication, transparency, human resources, and financial management.

³ SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-04.

⁴ SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-07.

With regards to communication and transparency, the Executive Secretary conducts depending on the Chairs availability, if possible monthly, a Chairs meeting with all SIOFA Chairs and Vice-Chairs to discuss Secretariat operations and potential challenges that may require joint action or advice.

Furthermore, biweekly or monthly staff meetings are planned to stay updated on various matters, monitor progress, and identify any challenges that may require assistance. These meetings also serve as an opportunity for staff members to raise issues for resolution by the Executive Secretary.

The Secretariat currently has 5 offices:

1. Scientific Office, for all science-related matters and for preparing applications for European grants.
2. A Compliance Office, whose main responsibilities are to administer the compliance-related services provided by the Secretariat, to oversee programs and collaborations related to the fight against IUU fishing, and to support endeavours in relations to the regional commissions, and other compliance related tasks as directed by the Meeting of the Parties.
3. A Data Office, which is responsible for the databases and the management of the data.
4. An Information and Communication Technologies Office, in charge of the management of the SIOFA website and IT related tasks, notably any technical issue.
5. A Human Resources and Financial Office, which oversees recruitment, staff supervision and monitoring, and budget management as well as the maintenance of the premises.

The tasks of each office have been clearly defined. Each office carries out its own tasks but also participates in the Secretariat's collective discussions and tasks. Thanks to this organisation, the Secretariat is set up to carry out the tasks assigned by the MoP, the SC or the CC and to respond to the requests from the CCPs or other organisations.

5. Secretariat Activities since MoP12

The Secretariat activities since MoP12 included:

- Execution of tasks outlined in MoP12 Report;
- Collection and analysis of data, and preparation of data reports;
- Organisation and coordination of meetings;
- Cooperation with other organisations (including intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO));
- Implementation of scientific activities (further detailed below);
- Participation in meetings of adjacent RFMOs;
- IT activities;
- Administrative functions, including human resources management, financial administration, and record-keeping.

The Secretariat also implemented the tasks contained in the MoP12 Report, the CC9 Report, the SC10 Report and the tasks linked to the recommendations of the SIOFA Performance Panel.⁵ A comprehensive overview of completed tasks and ongoing implementation is provided in **Annex 1** of this document.

5.1. Communications and Circulars

5.1.1. SIOFA Circulars

The following Circulars were used to distribute information to SIOFA Official Contacts (Table 2). These Circulars are accessible via the internal communication section of the SIOFA website (<https://siofa.org/internal-communication>). Access to this section requires logging in.

⁵ See document MoP-13-06.

Table 2: Compilation of all Circulars sent to SIOFA Official Contacts between MoP12 and MoP13.

Circular	Title	Date
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-16	Final Report and notification of the decisions of the 12 th Meeting of the Parties	2025-07-16
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-17	Proposed technical edits and corrections for the new or amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) at MoP12	2025-07-24
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-18	Transfer of quota in Del Cano Rise area.	2025-08-05
SIOFA CIRCULAR n°2025-19	Intersessional decision on the renewal of the Data Officer contract	2025-08-06
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-20	SIOFA publication on the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network online Magazine	2025-09-01
SIOFA Circular n° 2025-21	Outcome of Intersessional Decision 2025-I relating to the Renewal of the Data Officer contract 2026-2028	2025-09-08
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-22	Amendments to the SIOFA IUU Vessels List Following Updates from the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)	2025-09-08
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-23	Call for Members of the Evaluation Panel for the Procurement of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System	2025-10-02
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-24	Entry into Force of Decisions Adopted by the 12th Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	2025-10-03
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-25	Letter from RSN Chair to BBNf Preparatory Commission	2025-10-03
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-26	Implementation on Williams Ridge fishery in the 2025-2026 fishing season	2025-11-28
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2025-27	Outcome of the Selection Panel and the Award of Contract for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System	2025-12-30
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-01	Process to apply for financial assistance to attend the SC1	2026-01-08
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-02	Voluntary contribution received from Australia to organise the SC11	2026-01-29
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-03	Circulation of the SIOFA CCP Compliance Report (CCR) Template for the Compliance Assessment Period of 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025	2026-02-27
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-04	Request for Observer Status from the New World Hope Organization (NWHO)	2026-03-18
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-05	Invitation to attend the 10th Compliance Committee and the 13th Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	2026-04-17
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-06	Amendments to the SIOFA IUU Vessels List Following Updates from the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, & the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	2026-04-15
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-07	Request for Observer Status from the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	2026-04-14

Circular	Title	Date
SIOFA CIRCULAR n°2026-08	Call for Applications for Financial Assistance to Participate in the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee and the 13th Meeting of the Parties	2026-04-20
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-09	ERRATUM - Circular n°2026-05	2026-04-25
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-10	SIOFA IUU Vessels list	2026-05-06
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-11	Circulation of the Draft Budget for 2027	2026-05-06
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-12	Confirmation of the Provisional Agendas of the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee and of the 13th Meeting of the Parties.	2026-05-22
SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2026-13	Circulation of the SIOFA Financial Report	2026-05-22

5.1.2. SC Circulars

Table 3 contains a compilation of all Scientific Committee Circulars dispatched between MoP12 and MoP13. All SC Circulars are available on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/science/sc-circulars>.

Table 3 : SC Circulars sent from MoP12 to MoP13

SC Circular	Title	Date
2025-05-Rev2	The 2025/26 SIOFA Scientific Committee work plan	2025-07-23
2025-06	SIOFA SC Call for feedback on Project Terms of Reference and Advisory Panels nominations	2025-07-22
2025-07	Scientific Committee Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM2)	2025-07-22
2025-08	Third Scientific Committee Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM3)	2025-09-18
2025-09	SIOFA Scientific Committee Workshop: Window of Opportunity - Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS)	2025-09-26
2025-10	SIOFA Scientific Committee Workshop on the impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species (WS2025-DWS)	2025-09-26
2025-11	SIOFA Scientific Committee support to the 2025 Deep-sea Fishery Resources survey in the SIOFA Convention Area (Nansen Cruise)	2025-11-06
2025-12	Provisional Meeting Arrangements, Terms of Reference, Agenda and Timetable for the Third Joint MoP-SC Workshop on the Development of Harvest Strategies (WS2025-HSS)	2025-11-17
2025-13	SIOFA SC Workshop on the Development of E-Monitoring Standards (WS2026-EMS)	2025-11-24

SC Circular	Title	Date
2025-14	Invitation to the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and meeting arrangements	2025-12-10
2025-15	Confirmation of Meeting Arrangements, Terms of Reference, Agenda and Timetable for the SIOFA SC Workshop on the Development of E-Monitoring Standards (WS2026-EMS)	2025-12-17
2026-01	Provisional Annotated Agenda of the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee	2026-01-05
2026-02	Confirmation of the Provisional Annotated Agenda of the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee	2026-02-10

5.1.3. Intersessional Decision

One intersessional decision was organised by the MoP Chairperson and the Secretariat between MoP12 and MoP13 in accordance with Rule 13 of the RoP: *Intersessional Decision N° 2025-I relating to the renewal of the Data Officer contract 2026-2028*. The outcome of this intersessional decision is available in SIOFA Circular 2025-21.

5.2. Secretariat Meetings

5.2.1. Annual meetings

Since the last Meeting of the Parties (MoP12), three meetings have been organised by the Secretariat with the support of the hosting countries of the meetings:

- SC11 in Australia: The 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee, was held in Fremantle, Australia, from the Monday, 23rd March to Tuesday, 31st March 2026.

The 11th Scientific Committee (SC11) has been hosted by Australia who sent a voluntary contribution of 90 000 AUD for its organisation to the SIOFA Secretariat. Thanks to this funding the SC 11 has been held in Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle and several activities have been proposed to the participants in person.

- CC10 in Seychelles: The 10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee will take place in Beau Vallon, Seychelles, from Wednesday, 1st July to Friday 3rd July 2026.
- MoP13 in Seychelles: The 13th Meeting of the Parties will take place in Beau Vallon, Seychelles from Monday, 6 July to Friday 10th July 2026.

The 10th meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC10) and the 13th Meeting of the Parties (MoP13) have been organised by the authorities of Seychelles, in collaboration with the Secretariat. Looking at the high costs of Seychelles' hotels, the Secretariat is grateful for this funding that allowed SIOFA's CC10 and MoP13 to be held at the Savoy Resort & Spa Seychelles.

The Secretariat has sent out an information note (Circular 2026-05), accompanying the invitation to attend CC10 and MoP13, which sets out the practical arrangements and accommodation options in the surrounding area.

5.2.2. Hybrid meetings

In accordance with the recommendation from MoP10 to prioritise face-to-face meetings, the Secretariat has aimed to minimise the use of hybrid meetings. Although Zoom access is available, it operates in a listen-only mode where online participants would not intervene.

Nevertheless, remote presentations by some consultants were necessary, considering the significant travel expenses.

Moreover, the Secretariat has taken into consideration the travel difficulties caused by the geopolitical events since the beginning of 2026 and has included, subject to the Chairs' approval, the possibility to join meetings remotely, where reasonable.

5.2.3. Virtual meetings

Virtual monthly meetings were scheduled with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the MoP, CC, and SC. These sessions provided updates on ongoing work and addressed any emerging issues.

Bi-weekly SC-related meetings were held with the SC Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons to coordinate SC tasks, oversee consultancies, prepare working groups, and plan SC meetings.

Additionally, frequent internal meetings were convened by the Executive Secretary to allow officers to report on their activities and address any challenges. These gatherings also facilitated discussions on Secretariat's organisation and detailed who's in charge of what.

Additionally, several workshops were conducted virtually:

- Two Scientific Committee Workshops on the Precautionary Approach and Management 2 (WS2025-PAM2 and WS2025-PAM3)
- A Scientific Committee Workshop on the Window of Opportunity Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS)
- A Scientific Committee Workshop led by the EU on the Impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species (WS2025-DWS)
- The Third Joint MoP-SC Workshop on the Development of Harvest Strategies (WS2025-HSS)
- A Scientific Committee Workshop led by the EU on Development of E-Monitoring Standards (WS2026-EMS)
- Four Meetings of the Working Group to Support the Establishment of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Vessel Monitoring System (7th -10th Working Group)

5.3. Attending at meetings of other International Organisations

The Secretariat has participated in meetings held by other organisations, as detailed in Table 3 below.

Reports of those meetings have been published on SIOFA website, under the tab [Internal Communication](#); and in the section titled "Secretariat travels, meetings and training reports"

Table 4: Meetings attended by the SIOFA Secretariat, since the MoP12

Meeting Title	Host Organisation	Location	Dates	Attendance	Staff
FAO DSF Project Workshop on assessing the impacts of deep-sea fisheries on deepwater sharks in areas beyond national jurisdiction	FAO	FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy	14-16 July 2025	In person	Science Officer
Consultative and Knowledge-Sharing Workshop on the establishment of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Training and Extension Network (SWIO-FTEN)	IOC Secretariat	Mahe, Seychelles	31st July – 1st August 2025	In person	Compliance Officer
FAO Expert Advisory Panel on CITES Listing Proposals	FAO	FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy	21-25 July 2025	In person	Science Officer
EAF-Nansen Forum 2025	EAF Nansen Programme	Mombasa, Kenya	28-29 October 2025	In person	Science Officer
Exchange visit to the Secretariat of the SPRFMO	Southern Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)	Wellington, New Zealand	29 October – 8 November 2025	In person	Compliance Officer
Science to Policy Workshop	Monaco Exploration	Port Louis, Mauritius	12-14 November 2025	In-person	Science Officer
Database training for The Ministry of Marine Resource of Cook Island	Cook Island	Avarua, Cook Islands	15-23 November 2025	In-person	Data Officer
Nansen cruise in the SIOFA Area 2025	EAF Nansen Programme and FAO	Indian Ocean	18 November-13 December 2025	In person	Science Officer
Regional Workshop on the BBNJ Agreement	UN-DOALOS	Addis Ababas	1 – 5 December 2025	In-person	Compliance Officer

Meeting Title	Host Organisation	Location	Dates	Attendance	Staff
International MCS Network (IMCNET) Annual General Membership Meeting	IMCSNET	Online	13 January 2026	Remote	Compliance Officer
13 th Session of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)	SWIOFC	Comoros	22 -24 January 2026	Remote	Compliance Officer
Comoros National workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and related instruments	DOALOS	Moheli, Comoros	26-28 January 2026	Remote	Executive Secretary and Compliance Officer
FAO DSF Project third Steering Committee meeting	FAO	NPFC Headquarters, Tokyo, Japan	17-19 March 2026	In person	Science Officer
Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement (Third session)	UN	United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA	23 March - 2 April 2026	In-person	Compliance Officer
30 th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	IOTC	Male, Maldives	11 - 15 May 2026	Remotely	Compliance Officer
Workshop on “Developing guidance for improved implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, the precautionary approach and climate change considerations by deep-sea RFMOs”	FAO	FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy	14-16 June 2026	In person	Executive Secretary

Meeting Title	Host Organisation	Location	Dates	Attendance	Staff
Workshop on strengthening the strategic vision for fisheries communications, engagement and outreach, in relation to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in the ABNJ	FAO	FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy	17-19 June 2026	In person	Executive Secretary

6. Cooperation with other organisations

At MoP12, in 2025, the MoP tasked the Secretariat to gather information about developments related to Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)⁶ and other fora of relevance to SIOFA where possible in the course of its activities, such as its participation in the RSN, and to submit information papers with this information to future meetings of the MoP (MoP12 Report, para 419).

6.1. Cooperation with CCAMLR, RFMOs and other International Organisations

6.1.1. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
SIOFA tries as often as possible to attend remotely to the annual CCAMLR meeting as observer to consider their respective missions, particularly with respect to stocks and species which are within the competence and /or mutual interest to both participants. In parallel, their respective teams work regularly in collaboration notably concerning the tagging, and the IUU fishing. The term of the CCAMLR's Executive Secretary David Agnew finished in March 2026 and the Secretariat is already in touch with Dr Nathan Walker the new Executive Secretary.

6.1.2. South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)
SIOFA has been invited to participate as Observer to the virtual annual meetings of the SEAFO Commission and its subsidiary bodies from 18th to 27th November 2025, but due to human resources and time constraints, the Secretariat didn't attend to these meetings. Nevertheless, exchange by emails is usual or during some workshops attending in person.

6.1.3. South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)
SIOFA did not attend the 13th Session of SWIOFC, which took place in person only, in Moroni – Comoros, from 22 to 24 January 2026, but participated virtually in the workshop National Workshop on the Implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and Related Instruments, where a presentation by SIOFA was delivered in French, explaining the actions undertaken in recent years to improve resource management.

Jon Lansley who has been SIOFA Executive Secretary from 2016⁷ to 2019 is the new SWIOFC Executive Secretary, and that should facilitate the cooperation between the two organisations.

The next SWIOFC meeting will take place in Kenya in October 2026 and was to be preceded by the Steering Committee of the SWIOFish5 project and the Regional Steering Committee of the EAF-Nansen project. It is planned that the Secretariat will attend to these meetings at least remotely.

6.1.4. South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
The Compliance Officer visited the SPRFMO, with the core of the visit focusing on VMS operations and system design and discuss different approaches to VMS configuration, alerting tools and gap-reporting methodologies, as well as ongoing system enhancements. This visit also provided an opportunity for the two Secretariats to discuss higher-level institutional matters, including Secretariat management structures, governance arrangements, the functioning and maturity of their respective Compliance Committee, approaches to work planning and intersessional processes and the implementation and follow-up of performance review recommendations.

6.1.5. Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, has been reactivated for 6 years on 5th November 2024, Christine Bogle ended her term as Executive Secretary and has been replaced by Jonathon Barrington. During the SC 11, ACAP recommended to harmonise SIOFA's CMM 13(2025) and

⁶ See paper MoP-13-15

CMM 02(2025) with international best practices across other regional fisheries management and conservation organisations as SEAFO and SPRFMO (<https://siofa.org/media/2802>).

6.1.6. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

The Secretariat virtually attended the 30th Session of the IOTC, as several proposals of the agenda (Proposal L to Q) were considered to be of potential relevance to SIOFA.

Concerning the cooperation between SIOFA and IOTC a summary of the situation is below.

A draft Cooperation Agreement between the IOTC and SIOFA was endorsed by the IOTC Commission in 2022 to support collaboration on shared areas of interest.

In 2023, SIOFA substantially revised the draft, prompting the need for additional FAO legal review. Following this review, FAO requested that the agreement be reformulated as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SIOFA and FAO rather than between SIOFA and IOTC.

On 5 September 2024, the SIOFA Secretariat sent a letter to the IOTC Secretariat outlining SIOFA's position, reflecting discussions held during the 11th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (July 2024). The letter was forwarded to the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) as requested. In the letter, SIOFA reiterated its preference to establish an agreement directly with IOTC, not with FAO. The IOTC Secretariat responded by confirming that cooperation remains possible; however, because IOTC lacks independent legal personality, it cannot enter into a formal agreement directly, and the IOTC Executive Secretary does not have delegated authority from the FAO Director-General to sign such an instrument.

At present, cooperation between the IOTC and SIOFA is developing outside the framework of a formal agreement between the stakeholders.

6.1.7. Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP)

In accordance with paragraph 417 of the MoP12 Report, the Meeting of the Parties agreed to the participation of SIOFA in the SWIOP Project and tasked the Secretariat to sign a proposed MoU between SIOFA and the implementing agency of component 1.2 of the Project, Expertise France (EF), on its behalf. The Secretariat and EF, together with the other participating RFMO (IOTC), carried out an exercise to review and agree on activities to be undertaken under the project, notably those to be undertaken jointly by the RFMOs.

The Secretariat is still in discussion with EF to finalise an MoU to operationalise SIOFA's participation in the Programme.

6.2. Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariats' Network (RSN)

SIOFA continues to engage with the Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariats' Network (RSN). Our collaboration with the RSN is fruitful. The RSN Secretariat regularly keeps its members informed about ongoing projects and alerts us to current studies or surveys in which SIOFA's activities need to be documented.

Our participation and these exchanges allow us to get to know each other better and to coordinate our efforts as much as possible in order to defend the role of the RFMO in the management of fishery resources."

6.3. Cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

6.3.1. FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries Project

The Science Officer cooperated and participated in various FAO-DSF II meetings:

- Steering committee meeting in March 2026
- Nansen cruise in November-December 2025
- EAF Symposium in Rome in March 2025

The Science Officer coordinated the provision of a report on commitment of SIOFA resources to the DSF project (June 2025), and various actions related to the project.

FAO-DSF II and the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer) coordinated on paper submissions to SC11 on the Nansen cruise 2025 in SIOFA (see e.g., papers SC-11-INFO-08 and 09).

6.3.2. FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

The Science Officer completed the annual submission of data to FAO-FIRMS, and relative update of the SIOFA FIRMS factsheets, in September 2025

<https://firms.fao.org/firms/search/institution/siofa/en>

7. Administrative

7.1. Staff management

Specific features of SIOFA's Secretariat, including the civil status of staff or the presence of the headquarters in French overseas territories, have posed challenges in securing appropriate insurance coverage, in particular medical insurances for non-French staff and life and disability insurances to cover all staff members.

7.2. Staff development and training

In March 2026, the Secretariat staff participated in a five-day training course supervised by Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) relating to administrative system training and THEMIS operational training for users.

In 2025, English lessons were given to non-English native speaker staff.

Furthermore, since the beginning of this year, staff members through an institutional Coursera subscription, are encouraged to identify and enrol in online courses that support their professional development and the effective performance of their duties.

8. SIOFA Secretariat goals 2026-2027

The SIOFA Secretariat's mission is to assist the Parties in implementing the Agreement. The workload, skills and processes required to deliver this service will not remain static. Changing requirements of the Agreement, staff turnover, technological advances and the challenges facing fisheries in the Southern Indian Ocean require the Secretariat to periodically review its performance and adapt accordingly.

This section sets out the Executive Secretary's operational vision for 2026-2027, structured around three pillars: (1) governance and continuity, (2) operational capacity, and (3) communication, and visibility

8.1. Governance and continuity

The Secretariat's ability to serve the Parties depends on its institutional continuity and the quality of its human resources. Two sensitive issues require the attention of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP)

during the 2026-2027 period: the election of a new Executive Secretary (ES) and the more general vulnerability associated with a reduced workforce. The loss of a single staff member (due to turnover, extended leave or illness) can create significant operational gaps.

8.1.1. Recruitment of a new Executive Secretary

Challenge: The current ES's term of office will end in December 2027. In accordance with Annex U of MoP9, a detailed process must be followed under the Chair's leadership.⁷

A structured transition is essential to preserve institutional memory and ensure continuity of service to the CCPs.

Objective 1: Support the conduct of the ES recruitment process

- September 2026: Provide clear information on the role and expectations via a role advertisement as described in Annex U of the MoP9 report.
- October 2026: Communicate the timetable and process to the CCPs, under the Chair's leadership.

Objective 2: Ensure a structured and well-documented handover

- September-October 2027: Map relationships with Parties, RFMOs, the FAO, other partners and neighbouring States.
- November 2027: Compile a handover dossier comprising ongoing files, key contacts, outstanding commitments, administrative files and procedural records.

Objective 3: Assist the new Executive Secretary in taking up their duties

- December 2027: Organise a structured briefing covering the Agreement's obligations, compliance status, key relationships and administrative tasks. Ensure an overlap period between the outgoing Executive Secretary and the new Executive Secretary where possible

8.1.2. Institutional resilience

Challenge: The Secretariat is vulnerable to operational disruptions given its small staff size. The departure or absence of a single staff member can create significant gaps. The ICT specialist post (filled in February 2026) partially addresses this issue, but broader resilience measures are required.

Objective 1: Strengthen staff skills to meet new demands

- September 2026-February 2027: Implement a training plan to enhance cybersecurity awareness and knowledge in the fight against cybercrime
- 2027: Implement additional procedures to improve the data collection and the data control.

Objective 2: Retain experienced staff and preserve institutional knowledge in the long term

- Actions: Subject to the work carried out and the actions undertaken, make the ICT post permanent.
- Actions: Ensure that all permanent staff tasks and routine work is well documented and that the relevant assets that are used are identified.

⁷ https://siofa.org/meeting-file/meeting-documents/9th_meeting_of_the_parties_mop9/SIOFA-MoP9-Report-and-annexes.pdf (pp. 169-176).

8.2. Operational capacity

Challenge: The Secretariat's operational tools and infrastructure must adapt to growing demands, particularly regarding vessel monitoring systems and data management

Objective 1: Strengthen the maintenance of the VMS infrastructure to support the effectiveness of monitoring and compliance functions

Objective 2: Implement, with the support of an expert, starting in, September 2026, an action plan to build the capacity of small developing states or small island states bordering the SIOFA marine area

Objective 3 : Present a second performance review cycle at MoP15 (five years after the review presented at MoP10)

- According with the first performance review report (MoP-10-01, page 23) "A reiteration of the Performance Review process within an appropriate time frame, which we would recommend could be 5 years from now, given the fact this Review is the first such process carried out by the organisation".
- The Secretariat has not conducted a performance review since MoP10. A second review cycle may be planned in 2027, if the MoP agrees, as following :
 - First semester 2027: Launch the performance review process: define the scope, methodology and objectives
 - Second semester 2027: Finalise the review for the panel review chairperson to present their recommendations to MoP15.

8.3. Communication and visibility

Challenge: SIOFA's role and what distinguishes it from other RFMOs is often misunderstood or unknown to stakeholders, non-CCPs and the general public.

Objective 1: Redesign the SIOFA website to improve usability, visibility and reach.

- Sept 2026: Conduct an internal review of the website's content, structure and user experience; define target audiences (CCP member countries, non-CCP member countries, the general public).
- Nov 2026: Recruit temporarily a developer, to redesign the site, improving its structure, search functionality and mobile accessibility
- January 2027: Introduce a dedicated news section on the website to communicate SIOFA's activities in a format tailored to different audiences.

Objective 2: Increase recognition of SIOFA's scientific work through better dissemination of research results and findings.

- October 2026: Convene a small working group comprising interested staff members and the ICT expert to identify the best channels and formats for disseminating scientific results (website, newsletters, social media, etc.)
- February 2027: Establish a regular schedule for publishing and promoting scientific results as they are produced.

Annex 1: Tasks Assigned to the Secretariat

The table below gathers the tasks assigned to the Secretariat by the MoP12. The tasks assigned to the Secretariat by the SC10 have been assessed during the SC11, under the document *SC-11-22-Rev1 - SIOFA Scientific Committee tasks from the SIOFA Performance Review 2023*.

The table answers to a “traffic light” colour system to rapidly visualize the status of the tasks with the aim to identify tasks that warrant further attention from the MoP and the Secretariat. The tasks completed are marked in green, the tasks in progress in yellow and the tasks not completed in red.

Report	Para	Task required	Secretariat Actions
MoP12	17	The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to implement the following additional improvements a) More stringently distinguish between which working papers should be brought to the attention of the Scientific Committee (SC) and which to the MoP. b) For papers that are submitted to both the Compliance Committee (CC) and the MoP, use the same title for both papers and attribute the same numbering, e.g., if a paper is CC-09-01, the identical MoP paper should be numbered MoP-12-01. c) Add a column to the meeting page with the date on which a paper was published on the SIOFA website to enable users to more easily identify if and when a paper has been revised	Completed. CC10 and MoP13 meeting documents coding has evolved, and the meeting pages have been updated.
MoP12	68	The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to send another follow-up to the head of the expedition and also to the flag State seeking an explanation of their intentions and recent activity.	Completed. See MoP-13-INFO-06.
MoP12	83	The MoP [...] TASKED the Secretariat to launch the procurement process of the SIOFA VMS on the basis of the approved ToR.	Completed. See CC-10-10.
MoP12	86	The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to publish the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS as a standalone document on the SIOFA website to enable easier access.	Completed. See https://siofa.org/management/CMM/16%282025%29
MoP12	108	The MoP NOTED paragraph 72 of the SC10 report, NOTED the revised guidelines for the Submission of Annual National Reports given in SC-10-INFO-01-Rev1, and TASKED the Secretariat to make it available on the SIOFA website.	Completed in July 2025. Guidelines available at siofa.org/science/sc-guidelines

	109	The MoP NOTED paragraph 78 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED the Overview of SIOFA Fisheries 2025 (SC-10-14-Rev1), and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	110	The MoP NOTED paragraph 84 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA Ecosystem Summary 2025 (SC-10-15-Rev1), and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	111	The MoP NOTED paragraph 236 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA Fisheries Summary: orange roughy 2025, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	112	The MoP NOTED paragraph 245 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED SIOFA Fisheries Summary: alfonsino 2025, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	113	The MoP NOTED paragraph 282 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA Fisheries Summary: Toothfish 2025, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	114	The MoP NOTED paragraph 294 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA fisheries summary for oilfish (<i>Ruvettus pretiosus</i>) and escolar (<i>Lepidocybium flavobrunneum</i>) 2025, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	115	The MoP NOTED paragraph 318 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA Fisheries Summary: hapuka (<i>Polyprion</i> spp., hapuku wreckfish <i>P. oxygeneios</i> , wreckfish <i>P. americanus</i>) 2025, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	116	The MoP NOTED paragraph 322 of the SC10 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA Fisheries Summary: common mora (<i>Mora moro</i>) 2025, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.	Completed in July 2025. See https://siofa.org/publications
MoP12	187	The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to apply the SIOFA trend analysis rules to the William's Ridge Management Areas and to work closely with CCPs when the trend analysis rules are developed for the Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge areas.	Completed in February 2026. See paper SC-11-17
MoP12	188	The MoP NOTED that the necessity of Project ALF-2025-01 for alfonsino age and growth, which had been included in the SC work plan, would depend on the outcomes of Project ALF-2024-01 for alfonsino age protocol development, which is ongoing. The MoP AGREED to maintain the budget associated with Project ALF-2025-01 and to TASK the SC to report to the MoP on whether	Done see SC11 report and SC Workplan

		Project ALF-2025-01 and its associated budget would still be required once Project ALF-2024-01 is complete and the SC has reviewed the results.	
MoP12	207	The MoP AGREED to take the following approach for assessing the FOP for Comoros' planned hapuka fishery from a compliance perspective, if possible: The Secretariat would develop a checklist for assessing FOPs from a compliance perspective, similar to the one used by the SC for assessing FOPs from a scientific perspective (SC10 Report, Annex H). - The MoP would review and endorse the checklist. - Comoros would conduct a self-assessment of its FOP using the endorsed checklist. - The MoP would review the Comoros' self-assessment and conduct its own assessment of Comoros' FOP.	Completed Annex M of the MoP12 Annex L of the SC11
MoP12	226	The MoP AGREED to establish the following provisional monitoring measures with a view to properly monitoring and ensuring the compliance by the Comoros lobster fishery to the conditions (TAC, TAE) required by the intersessional decision, before its approval for Comoros to conduct this proposed fishery as a new and exploratory fishery in accordance with CMM 17. - In order to monitor the use of the TAC in a transparent manner, Comoros shall send monthly catch reports of its lobster fishery to the Secretariat using the template in Annex N.2. The Secretariat will circulate this report to CCPs. - In order to monitor the use of the TAE in a transparent manner, Comoros shall ensure the FV Rinascente 9 reports daily to the Secretariat of the trap settings, including the position of traps (30 minutes resolution), using the template in Annex N.3. This daily report is required when at least one trap remains to be set under the water. The Secretariat will compile the daily position reports from FV Rinascente 9 on a monthly basis and circulate this monthly compilation to CCPs. Any CCP that wishes to receive the daily position reports on a more frequent basis shall notify the Secretariat 30 days in advance.	Not completed. One trip has been conducted by the Rinascente 9 after MoP12 in October 2025. A few daily reports were received from the captain. The total catch of rock lobster in October 2025 was not circulated to CCPs but appears in the Comoros annual report (SC11-12). Note that Comoros delisted the FV Rinascente 9 on 13 January 2026.
MoP12	251	The MoP NOTED that the draft SIOFA Meetings Documents Policy required further development and refinement. The MoP REQUESTED that CCPs provide comments on the draft to the Secretariat in the intersessional period and TASKED the Secretariat to present an updated draft to MoP13.	Completed. See paper MoP-13-12

MoP12	368	The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to correspond with the relevant CCPs to seek their input on their preferences among the proposed options in MoP-12-25-Rev2 and to submit an updated paper, with CCPs' input, for review to SC11, CC10, and MoP13.	Completed in September 2025. See papers SC-11-23, MoP-13-07, CC-10-07
MoP12	369	Based on the recommendations of SC10 (SC10 Report, para 156), it was proposed that a checklist be developed to assess any BFIA in the future. Mauritius requested that this checklist should be developed. Mauritius then requested the assistance of the Secretariat with respect to preparation of the BFIA, in line with the BFIA standard.	Completed in February 2026. See paper SC-11-19
MoP12	383	The MoP AGREED to implement a more streamlined process for reviewing the status of the implementation of the SIOFA Performance Review recommendations going forward as follows: a. The implementation status of recommendations that relate to the work of the subsidiary bodies of the MoP will be reviewed and discussed within the relevant subsidiary body and captured in any output from those bodies, e.g., the SC and CC reports. b. The MoP's review will focus on the implementation status of recommendations that require the specific direction of the MoP and recommendations for which SIOFA MoP12 Report 43 progress has been made in the intersessional period. c. The MoP will not regularly review the implementation status of recommendations that are incomplete and for which no actions have been taken in the intersessional period. d. The table of recommendations in the paper presented by the Secretariat for the MoP will be reordered as follows: i. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period will be presented at the top of the table. ii. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed will be moved to second from bottom in the table; iii. Recommendations that the MoP has not adopted will be moved to bottom in the table.	Completed. See paper MoP-13-06
MoP12	417	The MoP AGREED to the participation of SIOFA in the SWIOP Project and TASKED the Secretariat to sign the proposed MoU between SIOFA and Expertise France on its behalf	MoU is currently under negotiation.
MoP12	419	The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to gather information about developments related to BBNJ and other fora of relevance to SIOFA where possible in the course of its activities, such as its participation in the RSN, and to submit information papers with this information to future meetings of the MoP.	Completed. See paper MoP-13-15.