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Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

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Modernisation and Redesign of the SIOFA Website

The SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract	
<p>This paper details the goal planned in the SIOFA MoP-13-01 para 8.3 about Communication and Visibility of SIOFA</p> <p>The purpose of this paper is to draw the attention of SIOFA Members to the need to modernise the SIOFA website and to seek support for the Secretariat to undertake a website redevelopment process with the objective of launching an updated platform by the end of 2027.</p>	

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Modernisation and Redesign of the SIOFA Website

Introduction

The current SIOFA website was developed more than 10 years ago, with the support of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). The goal was to provide SIOFA a digital platform to support its daily operations and communication activities. While the website has served its purpose since then, it was developed under the technical and design standards that no longer reflect current expectations for usability, accessibility, or public-facing communication.

Objectives of the Website Renewal

1. Improved Access to Documents and Information

Contracting Parties, observers, and Secretariat staff rely on the website to access meeting documents, conservation and management measures (CMMs), and other formal outputs. The current structure makes this process unnecessarily cumbersome. A renewed website should streamline navigation and document retrieval without disrupting established practices, ensuring continuity while improving efficiency.

2. A Modern Public-Facing Website Reflecting SIOFA's Current Work

The existing site does not adequately explain who SIOFA is, what it does, or why it matters to a general audience. A renewed website should include accessible content that presents SIOFA's mandate and activities in plain language, including its responses to contemporary challenges such as:

- Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
- The Precautionary Approach (PA)
- The Climate Change
- The BBNJ Agreement and high-seas governance

This public-facing section would enhance transparency, and support and position SIOFA appropriately alongside other regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

Proposed Approach

The Secretariat proposes to carry out the website renewal primarily through internal effort, drawing on existing technical capacity. External support may be sought through partnerships, for example, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which has web development resources available, or through voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties.

This approach is intended to minimise financial implications within the current budget cycle. Should additional resources be necessary. An estimated budget line of 10 to 20k€ may be funded by the Reserve Funds in 2027.

Suggested Timeline

The Secretariat anticipates that a renewed website could be operational by the end of 2027, subject to available capacity and any external support secured. The following phases are expected:

Phase	Timeframe	Activities
Phase 1 – Discovery & Planning	1-2 months (Starting on 1 September 2026)	Review current site structure; define requirements; identify content priorities and external support options.
Phase 2 – Design & Development	2-4 months (November 2026–February 2027)	Design and build renewed site; prepare a public-facing content; Introducing the news section to communicate SIOFA's activities.
Phase 3 – Migration & Validation	3-4 months (March-June 2027)	Migrating document library; Pre-launch testing; Validating website (MoP14).
Phase 4 – Deployment & Stabilisation	2-4 months (Sept-December 2027)	Website launch; Post-launch maintenance.

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Expert works 24 hours per week, equivalent to approximately 5 hours per day. It is anticipated that approximately 10 hours per week will be dedicated to the website redesign project, representing 40% of the ICT Expert's available capacity. In addition, the project may require ongoing support from the Data Officer, as well as contributions from Secretariat staff at various stages of planning, development, testing, and implementation.

The Secretariat's goal is to be able to present a concrete proposal at MoP14. If the MoP14 approves the proposal, the next step will be to move on to Step 4, which involves the maintenance and long-term sustainability of the SIOFA website.