

To: Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and invited Observers

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

First Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), and Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

Meeting dates

First Meeting of the Compliance Committee: 23-25 June – registration open from 20:00, HoD meeting 20:30-21:00

Fourth Meeting of the Parties: 26-30 June – registration open from 20:30 Sunday 25th, HoD meeting 25 20:45-21:15

It is expected that the meetings will run from 9am to 5:30pm each day.

Meeting venue

Aanari Hotel & Spa
Royal Road
Flic-en-Flac
Mauritius
(230) 453 9000
customerservice@aanari.com

Interpretation

The meetings will be held in English and French and simultaneous interpretation in the other language will be provided.

Getting to Flic and Flac

1. Flights to Mauritius

Mauritius Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport is linked by direct flights to major airports in Europe as well to South Africa, Seychelles, Madagascar, La Réunion, Dubai, Kenya, India, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

2. Airport to Flic and Flac

- a) Taxi from Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport to Flic and Flac will cost approximately Rs 2600 one way with the Aanari hotel recommendation for airport transfers transfert.mru@gmail.com.

There is an Airport Taxi Service counter in the Tours Operator Hall at ground level and more information can be found on the official airport website which provides a guide price of Rs 2000 <https://mauritius-airport.atol.aero/to-and-from-airport/airport-taxi>

- b) For bus options please consult the official airport website <https://mauritius-airport.atol.aero/to-and-from-airport/public-bus>

3. Car Rental

There are a number of companies offering car rental services from the airport. Their counters are located in the Tour Operators hall.

- ABC car rental
- ADA Co Ltd
- Avis
- Budget Car Rental
- Europcar
- First Car rental
- Hertz
- SIXT

Participants are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and fund the expenses incurred.

Agenda

A provisional agenda for the Compliance Committee meeting is provided in Attachment A to this circular. We request that Parties provide their comments on this agenda to the interim Secretariat by **4 May 2017**. A revised agenda will be circulated by **14 May 2017**.

A provisional agenda for the Meeting of Parties is provided in Attachment B to this circular. We request that Parties provide their comments on this agenda to the interim Secretariat by **7 May 2017**. A revised agenda will be circulated by **17 May 2017**.

Registration

All delegates, including observers, are asked to register their attendance to both meetings by **14 May 2017** by completing the form provided in Attachment C and emailing it to the Secretariat.

Meeting Papers

Compliance Committee

Proposals to be discussed at the Compliance Committee should be submitted to the Secretariat by 24 May 2017. These proposals will be made available to official contacts no later than 29 May 2017.

Any other documents to be discussed at the Compliance Committee should be submitted to the Secretariat by 9 June 2017. These documents will be made available to official contacts no later than 13 June 2017.

Meeting of the Parties

Proposals to be discussed at the Meeting of the Parties should be submitted to the Secretariat by 27 May 2017. These proposals will be made available to official contacts no later than 1 June 2017.

Any other documents to be discussed at the Meeting of the Parties should be submitted to the Secretariat by 12 June 2017. These documents will be made available to official contacts no later than 16 June 2017.

Information papers

Consistent with the SIOFA Rules of Procedure, observers may submit relevant documents to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties as information papers. Information papers should be submitted with advice on the specific agenda item the paper relates to.

Access to documents

Observers will be given access to all documents subject to any rules relating to the confidentiality of certain data and commercially sensitive information.

Delegates are kindly requested to identify any papers being submitted which contain data subject to rules of confidentiality that necessitate restricted access.

Reference documents

A copy of the Compliance Committee Terms of Reference may be found on the SIOFA website here <http://www.siofa.org/node/7>

A copy of the Rules of Procedure of meetings of the Parties may be found on the SIOFA website here <http://www.siofa.org/node/4>

Accommodation

It has not been possible to provide a list of recommended hotels for these meetings. However a search for accommodation in, on search (engines such as booking.com) for accommodation in Mauritius, Flic and Flac will provide a variety of options.

Those interested in staying at the venue Hotel Aanari & Spa can contact reservations on resa@aanari.com and specify participation to the SIOFA conference of. Prices have been quoted to me as being Rs 3200 per night for single room B&B, and Rs 3600 per night on half board basis.

Visas

Citizens exempted of Visa

Holders of Diplomatic Passports other than those issued by the Government of Afghanistan, Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Islamic Rep, Iraq, Libya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, and Yemen.

Holders of Laissez-passer issued by the United Nations, SADC or from other internationally recognized organizations. Citizens from the following countries: Australia, Belize, China, France, India, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Republic of Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, United Kingdom and Vanuatu.

Citizens who require a Visa

Citizens from the following countries will need a visa prior to their arrival: Bangladesh, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Philipines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Taiwan/China and Yemen.

Citizens from the following countries can receive a visa on arrival, however it is recommended to confirm with the closest Mauritian Embassy or Consulate: Comoros, Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, South Africa and Thailand.

For more information contact the Mauritius consulate or embassy in your country, please refer to the following website: <https://www.embassypages.com/mauritius>

General Information Mauritius

Electricity

Electric Power is 230V running at 50Hz. The sockets used are usually British type.

Currency

The currency of Mauritius is the Mauritian Rupee (MUR). Current approximate exchange rates are (19/04/2017):

1 USD = 35,37 Rs

1 EUR = 37,89 Rs

There is no restriction on foreign currency, traveller's cheques and other banking instruments. Credit cards are widely accepted everywhere on the island.

Climate

Mauritius enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate throughout the year. The country has two seasons: a warm humid summer extending from November to April and a relatively cool dry winter from June to September. The month of October and May are commonly known as the transition months.

In winter (June to September) temperatures are around 22°C on the coast and 19°C on the Central Plateau.

Time

Mauritius is four hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Language

Most people in Mauritius are bilingual and are equally fluent in English and French. Creole, French and English are the main languages in the everyday environment and several oriental languages are also spoken.

Health

No vaccinations are required to enter Mauritius. However a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers over 1 year old arriving from areas where yellow fever cases are reported.

Culture

Mauritius is a blend of diverse cultures and religions. The population consists of Hindus, Creole, Chinese, Muslims and Europeans.

Driving

People in Mauritius drive on the left-hand side of the road and give way to the right. Foreigners with a driving license issued by a Competent Authority in their respective countries are allowed to drive during their stay in Mauritius.

Geography

Mauritius is located approximately 2000 kilometers to the south eastern coast of Africa and lies east of Madagascar on 20°S, 57.5E. The country covers an area of 1865km with 330 kilometres of coastline. Mauritius is 45km in width and 65km in length.

Information on tourism and information are available at <http://www.tourism-mauritius.mu/>

Proposed Timeframes

Agendas and Registration

Comments due on Compliance Committee Agenda	04 May 2017
Comments due on Meeting of the Parties Agenda	07 May 2017
Circulation of Revised Compliance Committee Agenda	14 May 2017
Registration deadline	14 May 2017
Circulation of Revised Meeting of the Parties Agenda	17 May 2017

Proposals

Compliance Committee Proposals due to Secretariat	24 May 2017
Meeting of the Parties Proposals due to the Secretariat	27 May 2017
Compliance Committee Meeting Proposals circulated (25 days before the meeting)	29 May 2017
Meeting of the Parties Proposals circulated (25 days before the meeting)	01 June 2017

Any Other Papers

Any Other Papers for Compliance Committee due to Secretariat	09 June 2017
Any Other Papers for Compliance Committee circulated (10 days before meeting)	13 June 2017
Any Other Papers for Meeting of the Parties due to Secretariat	12 June 2017
Any Other Papers for Meeting of the Parties circulated (10 days before meeting)	16 June 2017

Attachments to this Circular

- A. Provisional agenda for the Compliance Committee meeting
- B. Provisional agenda for the Meeting of the Parties
- C. Registration form for all delegates
- D. Template for submission of Compliance Committee papers
- E. Template for submission of Meeting of the Parties papers
- F. SIOFA Compliance Committee Terms of Reference
- G. SIOFA Rules of Procedure of Meetings of the Parties

Please direct all correspondence to jon@siofa.org
Executive Secretary of the SIOFA