



SFS/DM/SWIOFC/19/7 E

## **SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION**

### **Tenth Session**

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## **UPDATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SADC REGIONAL FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE COORDINATION CENTRE**

The SADC Protocol on Fisheries recognizes SWIOFC as an Appendix 2 organization, and this requires closer collaboration between the two organizations. Majority of SWIOFC Member Countries are also Members of SADC, and these includes Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. The role that SWIOFC is playing towards implementation of the Protocol is very important, hence there is a need to strengthen relations between the two organizations.

Regarding the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC), following approval by SADC Council of Ministers of the Charter establishing the MCSCC in August 2017, eight countries signed so far, and these include Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Three other countries (i.e. Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe) are finalizing their ratification processes, and have promised to sign the Charter soon. Once these three countries sign, or any other three countries in the region sign the Charter, it will immediately enter into force, enabling fast tracking of processes to implement the MCSCC project.

During November 2017, SADC Ministers responsible for Fisheries approved the establishment of an Interim Project Management Unit (IPMU) to operationalize the MCSCC and directed the SADC Secretariat to work, in collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, on the modalities to set-up this unit in Maputo, including secondment of an Interim Project Coordinator to kick-start implementation of the project plan. The Government of Mozambique has honored its promise to second two officers (Coordinator and MCS Expert) and made available office space for the IPMU. In addition, the Government of Mozambique has also mobilized resources through World Bank for construction of the MCSCC building. Land has been secured for this purpose and architectural plans have been developed.

SADC Secretariat, with support from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), mobilized resources towards the establishment of the MCSCC, under the project titled "South West Indian Ocean Fisheries-Improving Governance, Livelihoods and Ecosystems". The Government of Germany is funding the project for an amount of 1,5 million Euro for a period of 5 years (2019 to 2023). In the first three years the project will support the work of the IPMU. SADC Secretariat, Government of Mozambique and WWF are currently programming this project and conducting inception workshops with Member States to finalize the action plan for the IPMU.

In November 2017, Ministers of SADC Members also approved the establishment of a Regional Technical Team (RTT) to support the work of the IPMU, which consists of Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The RTT has already met three times since 2018 to:

- (i) Review a report for the collaboration between FISH-i Africa project and MCSCC. During their meeting in June 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa, Ministers approved this collaboration on a three-year phased-in approach. SADC Secretariat together with Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) have developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with a three-year action plan to implement collaboration between FISH-i Africa project and MCSCC, which will form part of the IPMU responsibilities. This action plan includes:
  - a) Incorporation of FISH-i Africa Project into MCSCC as a platform for information exchange amongst Member States and partners. The Royal Norwegian Government through the Norwegian Agency and Development (NORAD) is currently reviewing a funding proposal for this cooperation. The project preparation mission was conducted in February 2019. The IPMU staff will undergo training in Gaborone, Botswana on “Basecamp information sharing platform” under FISH-i Africa, by end of October 2019;
  - b) Provision of support to the regional joint fishery and ocean patrols under Operation Vanguard, with support from Sea Shepherd. Operation Vanguard patrols have already been realized in Namibia and Tanzania, and countries (Angola, Namibia and South Africa) members of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) are also considering joining this activity as part of the sub-regional actions under the MCSCC.
- (ii) Review and finalize the Roadmap for the IPMU. Part of the roadmap for the IPMU is being supported through the “South West Indian Ocean Fisheries-Improving Governance, Livelihoods and Ecosystems” project. WWF is also providing technical and financial support to the work of the IPMU. The RTT also reviewed the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the identified priority services of the MCSCC, as well as for the development of the draft Regional MCS Strategy. The bid for the consultancy was advertised. The strategy will align the regional work/efforts from other partners like IOC (PRSP) and other regional fisheries organizations and development partners like BCC, FAO, South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), SWIOFC, SIF, WWF and others;
- (iii) Advise on key areas requiring capacity strengthening in the region. In 2018, RTT identified “The use of electronic technologies for fisheries management, compliance and risk assessment”, and this year it identified “Improving Fisheries Governance through Transparency in Vessel Records Management and Authorization Schemes”;
- (iv) Review the minimum information requirements for information sharing through the MCSCC, as well as minimum information standards required. This process is led by Seychelles supported by Namibia. A final report with recommendations is expected for December 2019. Recently, the RTT co-opted two members: Mr. Malcolm Block, Port State Measures (PSM) expert from Namibia, to assist with his expertise on the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in the region through the work of the MCSCC; and an official to be nominated by the Government of Zambia so that there is diversity dealing also with inland fisheries issues pertaining to the work of the MCSCC.

To further improve regional cooperation and collaboration to combat IUU fishing in the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region, SADC Secretariat and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) have engaged on modalities to align Regional Plan for Fisheries Surveillance (PRSP) with the SADC regional MCS processes. This include supporting implementation of actions under MCSCC for alignment with PRSP under the European Union (EU) funded E€OFISH programme. SWIOFC, with the support of SWIOFish1 project, has also played a critical role in promoting cross-regional cooperation and collaboration amongst regional organizations and countries in the EA-SA-IO region, through a consultative

cooperation mechanism, which is currently in its fourth year and that recently met in Livingstone, Zambia, 2-3 September 2019.

SADC Secretariat would like to acknowledge the dedication and support to this work by SADC Member States, SWIOFC Member Countries, and cooperating and development partners like the EU, FAO, IOC, Sea Shepherd Global, SIF, SWIOFish1 Project, World Bank, WorldFish, WWF and others.

Action: Commission members are invited to take note of developments occurred in regard to the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre and provide comment and/or advice.