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SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Third Session

Mahe, Seychelles, 17-20 December 2007

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Preparations for the Conference on fisheries development and its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals

In response to discussions at the Second Session of the Commission relating to the preparations for a regional conference on sustainable fisheries development and its contributions to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Scientific Committee formed an ad-hoc Conference Group at the Second Meeting of the Committee. Delegates at the second meeting volunteered and the Conference Group comprised delegates from France, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa, in addition to the Deputy-Executive Secretary of IOTC and the SWIOFC Secretary. On the evenings of the 1st and 2nd day of the Scientific Committee meeting, the Conference Group discussed aspects of the preparation of the conference and presented their proposals to the plenary SC on the final day of the meeting. The SC agreed on the following

General Comments:

The title of the event requires further consideration since it will not correspond to the typical structure and format of a conference *per se*. Other options include calling the event a 'forum'.

Host Country:

Seychelles, France (Reunion) Kenya and Yemen have expressed an interest in hosting the event, with the SFA, IFREMER/IRD, KMFRI, and the Yemen Ministry of Fish Wealth as the relevant host organizations, respectively. A venue has not been discussed and will be detailed in proposals by each country to be presented at the Third Session of the Commission in December 2007.

Organizing Committee:

The member country and host organization that hosts the Conference will establish an Organizing Committee to organize Conference logistics such as travel, accommodation, visas etc.

Preferred Period:

It was considered that at least ten months would be required for the host country to organize an event of this type. Following the Third Session of the Commission in December 2007, the required preparation time indicates that the event will be scheduled for the period of October to December 2008.

Conference Steering Committee:

The Conference Steering Committee (CSC) should comprise, at least, the members of the SWIOFC Bureau and representatives from member countries who are not currently represented on the Bureau but who have expressed an interest to host. In addition, a technical consultant will be recruited to oversee technical aspects of the event and will be a member of the CSC. France has identified a representative to sit on the CSC and other countries have been requested to do so at the earliest opportunity. The CSC will be formed following the 2nd Meeting of the Scientific Committee and its role will be to oversee technical development of the Conference, including, but not exclusive to, proposals from prospective host countries, Conference themes, sessions, scheduling, facilitators and quality control. The CSC will develop a terms of reference for prospective hosts of the Conference¹. The CSC will operate via email but will meet prior to the Third Session of the Commission in Seychelles in December. The CSC will report and inform progress and plans to the other members of SWIOFC who are not represented on the CSC.

Format and Duration:

The format of the Conference will encourage open discussion and critical analysis of the presentations through the appointment of a Conference Panel, who will appraise and synthesize the contribution of fisheries development towards the MDGs. Conference themes will be organized by the CSC into higher level session themes, which will form the basis for synthesis by the Conference Panel. Additional themes that were identified as of potential importance was a synthesis of regional programme development, implementation and outcomes over the past few decades, and case studies on non-consumptive resource use.

The duration of the Conference would ideally be three days, targeting the middle of the week (Tuesday to Thursday) to facilitate travel logistics.

Preparation of National Papers:

Fisheries institutions from member states will be invited to submit two case studies, each dealing with a Conference theme of their choice. An indicative listing by members of the SC is presented in **Appendix B**. The member countries will inform the Commission of the persons nominated to be focal points for coordinating the preparations of national studies and who will be one of the three persons in the national delegations to attend the Conference. A major component of these case studies will be a critical analysis of the contribution of fisheries towards MDGs. Case study format will be prepared by the CSC and the technical consultant. National studies should incorporate the views of industry and national NGOs. Submissions will be in abstract, full paper and presentation formats. Presentations should be prepared according to set format and time duration. Posters were discussed and it was decided that this was not a suitable format for this Conference.

Regional Papers:

¹ The standard host responsibilities for an FAO Session or Conference is attached in **Appendix A**. Host countries should be prepared to meet these responsibilities or offer to better them.

Regional NGOs and relevant programmes will be invited to submit papers to provide context to national case studies and to strengthen the analysis of the contribution of fisheries to the MDGs.

Conference Target Audience and Participants:

The Conference will be invitation only with SWIOFC to issue invites. The target audience for the Conference will be fisheries managers, policy-makers, scientists and regional NGOs. The number of participants was suggested to include three persons from national fisheries agencies and Governments, and approximately twenty invitees from regional programmes and NGOs. This indicates that the Conference will be targeted at around 60 participants.

Language:

The Conference Group discussed the issue of Conference and output language. Although constituting a major cost, it was felt that the Conference should be in English and French, as recognized by FAO for the region, given that the target audience and participants includes policy makers.

Conference Outputs:

The Conference papers, critique and recommendations (framed as a Conference Declaration) to be published by FAO as Conference Proceedings.

Action: *Delegates are invited to consider these proposals and advise the Session appropriately. In particular, delegates should decide:*

- 1. The title of the event – Conference, Forum or some other descriptor*
- 2. A host country*
- 3. To confirm or alter their country's interest in providing case studies with reference to Annex B noting those themes for which there are as yet no expressions of interest*
- 4. To inform of the focal points for coordinating the preparations of national studies and who will be one of the three persons in the national delegations to attend the Conference.*

APPENDIX A

STANDARD HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AN FAO SESSION/CONFERENCE

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST COUNTRY WITH REGARD TO PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR FAO AND PARTICIPANTS

The Host Country undertakes to:

1. Accord, for the purpose of the Conference, to delegates and observers and to FAO, its property, funds and assets as well as to FAO staff, all the privileges and immunities provided for in Article VIII, paragraph 4, and Article XVI, paragraph 2, of the Constitution and Rule XXXVII -4 of the General Rules of the Organization, and specified in the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.
2. Grant visas and all necessary facilities to delegates, observers and consultants attending the Conference.
3. Hold FAO and its staff harmless in respect of any claims by delegates and observers or by other third parties arising out of the Conference, except where it is agreed by the Host Country and FAO that the claim arises from gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such staff.

OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST COUNTRY

A. Staff

The Host Country will:

4. Nominate a Liaison Officer who will be responsible for the coordination of local facilities and arrangements for the Conference.
5. Make available local stenographers and typists, related assistance and services required for the conduct of the Conference.
6. Bear all necessary cost of the staff provided, including salaries, overtime and subsistence allowances, if required, and travel to and from the Conference.

B. Facilities and Equipment

The Host Country will provide or pay for:

7. One meeting room with seating and table space for 60 persons and fully equipped for simultaneous interpretation; 4 small meeting rooms, one office adequately furnished, and space for duplication and collation of documents.
8. With international keyboard, computer(s) equipped with Word 6.1 or Word 97/2000 and e-mail, and connected to printer(s); 2 photocopiers and other equipment as required.

C. Supplies and Services

The Host Country will provide:

9. Office supplies, stationery and paper as required.
10. Facilities for the local reproduction of documents needed for the Conference.
11. Telephone, telefax and postal services within the host country, in connection with the work of the Conference, free of charge.
12. First-aid facilities for delegates, observers and staff.

D. Transport

The Host Country will:

13. Provide transport within the host country for delegates, observers and staff as required for the conduct of the Conference. This may also include transport from airport to hotel and hotel to meeting site, depending upon local circumstances.

APPENDIX B

Indicative expressions of interest by country delegates and NGOs to provide case study papers for the Conference on Fisheries Development and its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals, 2008.

THEME	Co ²	EC	Fr	Ke	Mu	Md	MI	Mo	SA	Se	So	Ta	Ye	Ww
Fisheries development and its contribution to MDGs														
Incorporating fisheries in poverty reduction strategies														
Contribution of fisheries to food security at local/ household levels								●			●			
Changes in the nature of artisanal /small scale fisheries														
Coping with the impact of institutional change														
Impact of tourism on fisheries development					●									
Developments within the prawn fishery				●		●						●		
Impact of fisheries reform and allocation of fishing rights									●	●				
Value adding through post harvest and quality improvement				●				●			●		●	
Globalisation and marketing changes - ecolabelling				●										●
Key successes/constraints in the process of tuna fisheries development			●		●					●				
Marine protected areas for sustainable artisanal fisheries				●		●						●	●	●
The role and impacts of regional programmes														●
Non-consumptive resource uses and their importance									●					

² Co: Comoros; EC: European Community; Fr: France; Ke: Kenya; Mu: Mauritius; Md: Madagascar; MI: Maldives; Mo: Mozambique; SA: South Africa; Se: Seychelles; Ye: Yemen; Ww: World Wildlife Fund for Nature.