

SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION (SWIOFC)



Ten Years Promoting And
Strengthening Regional Cooperation
For Securing Sustainable Fisheries
In South West Indian Ocean (SWIO)
Region

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Design: Michael Lusaba and John Kabubu, WWF;

With support from WWF





Acknowledgements:

We are greatly indebted to Dr Pedro Barros, FAO, for providing inputs from the SWIO Scientific Committee. We are also thankful to WWF CEAI for financial support, design and production of this booklet

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Acronyms

AU-IBAR	– African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources;
CSIR	– Council for Science and Industrial Research of South Africa
DWFN	– Distant Water Fishing Nation;
EAC	– East Africa Community;
EAF	– Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries;
EEZ	– Exclusive Economic Zone;
ETP	– Endangered, Threatened and Protected Species;
FADs	– Fishing Aggregating Devices;
FAO	– Food and Agriculture Organization;
HDI	– Human Development Index;
IUCN	– International Union for Conservation of Nature;
IUU	– Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;
IOC	– Indian Ocean Commission;
IOTC	– Indian Ocean Tuna Commission;
MCS	– Monitoring, Control and Surveillance;
MDGs	– Millennium Development Goals;
MTC	– Minimum Terms and Conditions;
NGOs	– Non-Governmental Organizations;
ORI	– Oceanographic Research Institute;
PFRS	– Policy Framework and Reform Strategy;
ReCoMaP	– Regional Coastal Management Programme of IOC
RFB	– Regional Fisheries Body;
RFMO	– Regional Fisheries Management organization;
RECs	– Regional Economic Commission;
SIDA	– Swedish International Development Agency;
SIOFA	– South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;
SWIO	– South West Indian Ocean;
SWIOFC	– South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission;
SWIOFP	– South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project;
SWIOFish	– South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Programme;
UNCLOS	– United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
UNDP	– United Nations Development Programme;
UNEP	– United Nations Environmental Programme;
WCS	– Wildlife Conservation Society;
WPCCTF	– Working Party for Coordination and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries;
WWF	– World Wide Fund for Nature;

1. Abstract

This booklet was produced within the commemorations of 10th anniversary of establishment of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), to revive its history, and better understand the past. It reflects on SWIOFC's present and future roles, considering the current and expected challenges. It also serves as a short reference document to understand the work done in the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) region for strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable marine fisheries management.

The booklet provides a general overview of the SWIO, including the SWIOFC geographical area of competence, relevance of coastal and marine fisheries, including the coastline, continental shelves and EEZ features; social and economic settings; and relevance and challenges of

fisheries management.

The rationale for SWIOFC is highlighted, based on the relevance of regional fisheries collaboration and cooperation, and in accordance to the international and regional legislation.

Subsequently the document focuses on SWIOFC, its objectives, functions, species covered, members, as well as its structure and the progress achieved since its establishment, relevant entities involved, decisions taken, leadership and challenges faced.

At the end, it addresses the future of SWIOFC taking in account the current and future fisheries issues and challenges.

2. Introduction

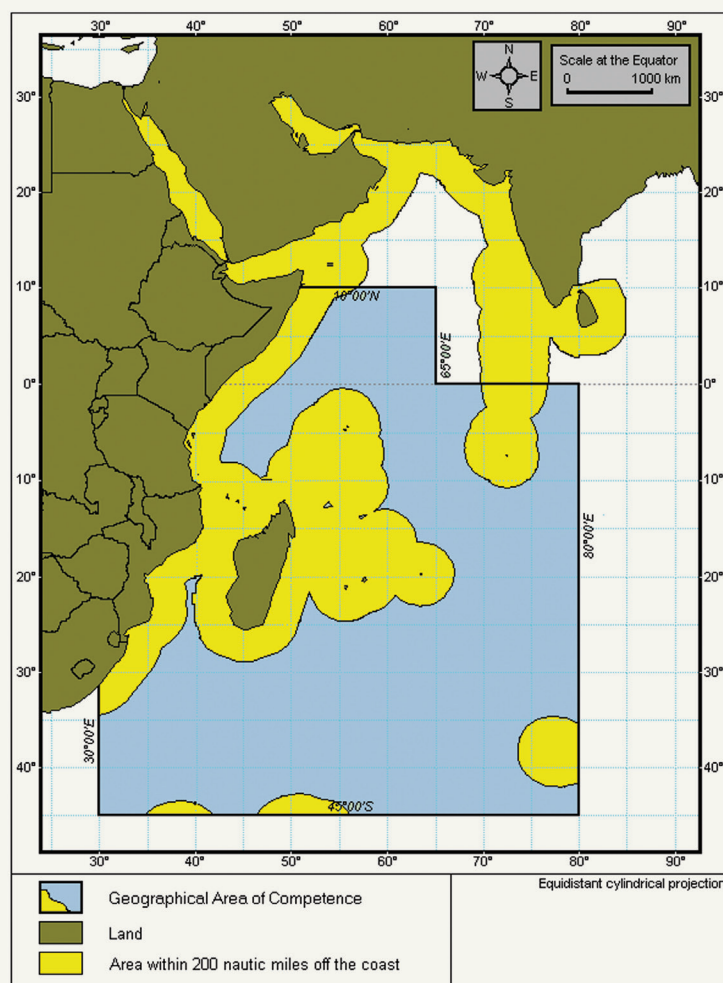
2.1. Rationale for the Booklet

This booklet was produced within the commemoration of 10th anniversary of establishment of SWIOFC, to capture the trajectory of this organization, including important moments, to revive its history, so that everyone better understands the past. It is equally to reflect on its present role, taking in account the current reality, and for the future, considering the expected challenges. It is also intended as short reference document to understand the work done in the SWIO region for strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable marine fisheries management.

2.2. Geographical definition of South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) region and area of competence of SWIOFC

The area of competence of the Commission are all waters under the national jurisdiction of coastal states included within a line drawn as follows: from a point on the high water mark on the East African coast at latitude 10° 00' N, thence due east along this parallel to the longitude 65° 00' E, thence due south along this meridian to the equator, thence due east along this parallel to the longitude 80° 00' E, thence due south along this meridian to a parallel 45° 00' S, thence due west along this parallel to the longitude 30° 00' E, thence due north along this meridian to the coast of the African Continent.

This area corresponds to the Exclusive Zones of countries within most of FAO Fishing area 51 (Indian Ocean, Western).



2.3. Relevance/Importance of coastal and marine fisheries in SWIO region

2.3.1. Length of coastline, area of continental shelf and of the EEZ

The membership of SWIOFC includes four of the five countries with the largest coastlines of the African continent (Madagascar, Somalia, South Africa, Mozambique, and Egypt), five countries with the largest EEZs of the continent (South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, and Somalia), and three of the five countries with the largest continental shelves of the continent (South Africa, Morocco, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Namibia). SWIOFC also includes non-African countries, namely France, Maldives and Yemen. These attributes relate to the economic, environmental and social relevance of the coastal and marine environment including fisheries resources for these SWIO states.

2.3.2. Social and economic settings

With an estimated population of more than 185 million people, from sparse to heavily populated countries, the SWIO has some of the poorest countries (seven) in the world, middle income (two), high (two) and one very high Human Development Index (HDI) states.

The development of most of these countries relies heavily on the use of natural resources, including fisheries.

¹ Only a part of South Africa's coastline, EEZ and continental shelf is within SWIOFC.

² As part of the island of Socotra, Yemen, lies with the SWIOFC boundary

³ Human Development Index: poor below 0.55; middle 0.55 to 0.70; high 0.70 to 0.79; very high greater than 0.8

2.3.3. Relevant fisheries in the region

The SWIO has the longest unfragmented fringing reefs in the world, and globally has the second highest coral reef diversity after the Western and Central Pacific. It is one of most important marine biodiversity hotspots on the planet.

The rich natural environment provides the resources – such as fish and invertebrates – which support the livelihoods of more than 60 million people living in the coastal belt. The fisheries have artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial sub-sectors targeting a variety of resources, such as mollusks and small pelagic fish mainly caught by beach/reef collectors, subsistence and artisanal fishers, and, therefore, with significant local and national relevance; demersal fish including fish and crustaceans (such as shrimp, lobster, crab, langoustine) that constitute the most important coastal and continental shelf fisheries group; and large pelagic fish (such as tuna and tuna-like species, billfish and sharks) which are also of great economic importance and constituting some 70% of offshore catches (WWF Concept Note, 2015).

Invariably fisheries are extremely important for the economies of the SWIO countries. Across the region artisanal fisheries provide a major source of livelihood and food security. The semi-industrial and industrial shrimp fisheries mainly operated in Mozambique and Madagascar but also Tanzania and Kenya represent one of the main sources of foreign income to those two countries from natural resources. The shrimp fisheries of the SWIO have experienced an increasing involvement of artisanal and small scale fishers in recent years. Most SWIO countries (with the exception of the Maldives) license foreign fishing vessels to fish to tuna within their waters and seek greater participation and economic benefits from this sector. Some 70% to 80% of the Indian Ocean tuna catch (the total of which is worth USD 2 to 3 billion) is caught in the Western Indian Ocean. Important tuna landing ports and processing hubs include Port Louis/Mauritius (capacity 120,000 tons/year), Victoria/Seychelles (100,000 tons/year), Antsiranana/Madagascar (36,000 tons/year) and Mombasa/Kenya (20,000 tons/year).

2.3.4. Main challenges

Relevant challenges include:

Overfishing: Overfishing is an issue for the fisheries sector worldwide, including from the SWIO region. Globally 29% of the world fish stocks are over-exploited; 61% fully fished; and only 10% under-fished (FAO, 2014). All SWIOFC countries have overfished stocks that need to be better managed. The Scientific Committee of the SWIOFC regularly monitors the status of stocks in SWIOFC's zone of competence. In 2013, 34% of the relevant marine SWIO fish stocks were overexploited, while 66% were not. The trend, from 2005 to 2013, although with some variations, is an increase in the number of overexploited fish stocks. Overfishing threatens livelihoods and food security of local communities; and national and regional economies.

Negative Ecosystem Impacts: Negative ecosystem impacts can result from fishing with destructive gear such as explosive, poisons, heavy bottom trawls and small meshed nets. Also from by-catch, when most of it discarded dead, or when endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP) are killed. These affect the ecosystem's balanced animal communities, its habitat (such as coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass beds and sea bottom substrate) and its biodiversity. By-catch includes important non-targeted commercial fish stocks, juveniles of the targeted stocks and endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species (including marine turtles, marine mammals, sea bird, sharks, etc.). Discards have socio-economic dimensions affecting food security and livelihoods of the local fishing communities.

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing: A main contributor to overfishing and marine ecosystem damage. It is estimated that IUU fishing cost up to US\$1.5 to 2 billion/year for Sub-Saharan Africa countries. In the SWIO region, IUU is estimated to be around 400 million/year threatening fish stocks, distorting markets, undermining governance structures, and imposing considerable costs on the economies of developing countries, including the

livelihoods of coastal fishing communities. Existing international/regional instruments addressing IUU fishing have not been effective due to a lack of political will among the affected countries and a lack of human, technical and financial resources to enforce existing legislation. Dynamite fishing, use of nets with small mesh size, and fishing in critical/prohibited/protected habitats are common in coastal fisheries, while in offshore fisheries, violation of fishing zones and underreporting by the industrial fishing fleets are the common features.

Degradation of critical coastal habitats: The degradation of critical coastal habitats such as mangrove, sea-grass beds and estuaries from natural and anthropogenic factors, affecting reproduction and nursery grounds, and consequently the recruitment of relevant fish stocks.

Climate Change: The impacts from climate change on regional habitats, species and communities needs are still not fully understood, but it is clear that significant changes in local weather patterns, runoff and sea level rise will threaten critical marine ecosystems including key breeding, nursery and feeding grounds for fish, affecting recruitment, abundance and occurrence.

The challenges above have to be addressed not only nationally, but equally through strengthened regional collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, so as to be able to produce mitigating ecological and socio-economic impacts.

3. Relevance/Importance of Regional Collaboration on Fisheries

Although SWIO states may differ in historical, political, social and economic specificities, they have common fisheries interests, taking in account that they share common fish stocks, comparable physical, biological realities, and similar aspirations:

- a) Ensuring adequate research and training, sharing of information and experiences;
- b) Establishing coherent, coordinated and sustainable marine fisheries management, and national and regional fisheries policies/strategies for their own benefit;
- c) Securing far greater social and economic benefits;
- d) Joining their efforts to guarantee more effective and cost-effective monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing fleets; and
- d) Better influencing regional and international fisheries processes.

Regional fisheries collaboration and cooperation can be ensured through Regional Economic Communities (RECs), like the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), East Africa Community (EAC) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), but also, through Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), and South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) as provided for under international fisheries/sea instruments, primarily UNCLOS and UNFSA.

4. International Legislation promoting Regional Fisheries Collaboration, through RFB/RFMOs

International cooperation for managing shared fish stocks

International legislation obliges coastal states to cooperate for effective conservation and sustainable use of shared fish stocks. This includes several articles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), among others:

- Art. 63(1) – for the same stock or stocks of associated species occurring within the exclusive economic zones of two or more coastal States;
- Art. 63 (2) – for the same stock or stocks of associated species occurring both within the exclusive economic zone and in an areas beyond and/or adjacent to the zone;
- Art. 116 - States fishing on the high seas to attend to the rights, duties and interests of coastal states and also cooperate in the conservation and management of the high seas fisheries;
- Art. 64 - cooperation between fishing and coastal states through international organizations to conserve and promoting the objective of optimum utilization of shared stocks, including:
 - establishing total allowable catches;
 - adopting conservation and management measures;
 - considering effects on associated and dependent species;
 - contributing and exchanging data;
 - promoting optimum utilisation.

Regional framework for managing shared fish stocks

The United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) addresses long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. It's Article Art. 8 (1) - Establishes the role of Regional Fisheries Bodies/Management Organisations (RFBs/RFMOs) in providing the mechanisms for achieving cooperation between and among states participating in shared fisheries.

For tuna, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) - an FAO, Article XIV Body - is responsible for adopting conservation and management measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks.

The South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) – an FAO Article VI Body is responsible for promoting regional cooperation in the utilization and management of fish stocks within the EEZs of the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) states.

The South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) – recently established aims to promote regional cooperation for management of deepwater fish stocks outside the EEZ.

5. Objective of SWIOFC

The main objective of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) is to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the Southwest Indian Ocean region, by the proper management and development of the living marine resources, and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the members of SWIOFC, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States.

SWIOFC promotes the application of the provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, including the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

6. Functions of SWIOFC

The functions and responsibilities of the Commission include:

- to contribute to improved governance through institutional arrangements that encourage cooperation amongst members;
- to help fishery managers in the development and implementation of fishery management systems that take due account of environmental, social and economic concerns;
- to keep under review the state of the fishery resources in the area and the industries based on them;
- to promote, encourage and coordinate research related to the living marine resources in the area and draw up programmes required for this purpose, and to organize such research as may be necessary;
- to promote the collection, exchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information;
- to provide a sound scientific basis to assist Members in taking fisheries management decisions;
- to provide advice on management measures to member governments and competent fisheries organizations;
- to provide advice and promote co-operation on monitoring, control and surveillance, including joint activities, especially as regards issues of a regional or sub-regional nature;
- to encourage, recommend and coordinate training in the areas of interest of the Commission;
- to promote and encourage the utilization of the most appropriate fishing craft, gear, fishing techniques and post harvesting technologies.

7. Species and stocks coverage

All living marine resources.

8. Members

The Commission is composed of such Members and Associate Members of the FAO that are coastal States, whose territories are situated wholly or partly within the area of the Commission, and can join by notifying, in writing, the Director-General their interest in becoming a member of the Commission.

Current membership includes Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, United Rep. of Tanzania, and Yemen.

9. Organisation Structure of SWIOFC

Principal body

The governing body of SWIOFC is the Commission. It is composed of all Members. Meetings of the Commission are held at least once every two years. The Commission has a Scientific Committee and may establish, on an ad hoc basis, such other committees or working parties as it may consider necessary.

Currently it is composed by two Working Parties, namely the Working Group on Fisheries Data and Statistics, and the Working Party for Coordination and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is provided by FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa. It was based in Harare, Zimbabwe, but has recently moved to Maputo, Mozambique. SWIOFC is a member of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network that meets biennially.

10. Evolution/Progress of SWIOFC work since its establishment

10.1. Establishment/Foundation of SWIOFC, including founding members

SWIOFC was established in 2004 by Resolution 1/127 of the FAO Council under Article VI 1 of the FAO Constitution. Its Rules of Procedures were adopted by the Commission at its First session in 2005.

Founding members include Comoros, France, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, and Tanzania. Observers, at the 1st session included the, Republic of Korea, EU, FAO, IOC, IUCN, SADC, SIDA, SWIOFP, UNDP, and UNEP.

10.2. Relevant entities involved in SWIOFC work and their contribution

A variety of entities has been engaging with SWIOFC throughout its existence, to partner, facilitate and/or support some of its activities, including:

- Development and Financial Agencies:

- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA);
- Swedish Board of Fisheries;
- World Bank.
- Intergovernmental Organisations:
 - Africa Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR);
 - Nairobi Convention;
 - Regional Economic Communities (RECs):
 - Indian Ocean Commission (IOC);
 - Southern Africa Development Community (SADC);
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
 - Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS);
 - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF);
- Projects:
 - Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) - Nansen
 - Regional Coastal Management Programme (ReCoMaP);
 - Smartfish Project;
 - South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP);
 - South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth (SWIOFish);
- Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO):
 - Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
 - South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SWIOFA);
- Regional Research Institutions:
 - Council for Science and Industrial Research (CSIR);
 - Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI);
- SWIO governments (Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen);
- United Nations:
 - United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
 - United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

10.3. Relevant decisions/programmes/actions taken

SWIOFC has sought to better structuring/updating itself. It was the first FAO Article VI fisheries body to undertake an external performance review. To adequately address the relevant challenges, has been instrumental to promote regional cooperation in fisheries aspects, including guidance in the implementation of important fisheries projects, like SWIOFP (in close collaboration with the World Bank), EAF Nansen (in close collaboration with FAO), and recently SWIOFish (in close collaboration with the World Bank).

Relevant aspects include strengthening regional fisheries scientific information and statistics, coordination and cooperation on relevant regional fisheries, and fisheries management, including MCS.

Year	Relevant decisions taken
2005	Adoption of the Rules of Procedure; Establishment of the Scientific Committee; Establishment of the Programme of Work for the Commission.
2006	Approval of the Establishment of the Working Group on Fisheries Data and Statistics; Agreement to link with SWIOFP through an Ad-Hoc Steering Committee.
2007	Endorsement for Mozambique to set up an Informal Network of Heads of MCS.
2009	Establishment of a Regional Steering Committee for EAF Nansen Project
2011	Endorsement of the project proposal for SWIOFish .
2012	Performance review of SWIOFC and priority areas for the future Establishment of the Working Party for Coordination and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries (WPCCTF) EAF Nansen work in SWIO region
2014	SWIO Regional meeting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

10.4. Leadership of SWIOFC

The leadership of SWIOFC has been secured by the SWIO member states on a rotational basis, including both mainland and island states, and has successively included so far the following Chairs:

- Mrs Nancy Gitonga (Kenya);
- Mr Rodrigues Bila (Mozambique);
- Mr Rondolph Payet (Seychelles);
- Mr Godfrey Monor (Kenya);
- Dr Hussain Hassan (Maldives);
- Mr Daroomalingum Mauree (Mauritius); and
- Mr Hosea Gonza Mbilinyi (Tanzania)

The secretariat has always been secured by the FAO subregional office for Southern Africa, initially based in Harare (Zimbabwe), but very recently moved to Maputo (Mozambique), through Mr Aubrey Harris, FAO Senior Fisheries Officer.

10.5. Challenges/Constraints faced

The main challenges included:

- Lack of adequate human, technical and financial resources to timely implement all the relevant actions, mainly taking in account the very weak economies of the majority of the member countries;
- Political instability and piracy, which affected sometimes the implementation of agreed/planned actions;
- Official languages (English and French) are maintained for a good flow of communications among the member countries, but this also increases financial costs, which could otherwise be channeled to implement other activities;
- Unsettled maritime boundaries in some cases, which sometimes affects adequate engagement of member states in a more effective and stronger regional cooperation.

11. The Future of SWIOFC and Challenges to be addressed

11.1. The reality of fisheries in Africa and in SWIO region

At the pan-African level, the work on fisheries has gained recently recognition at the highest political level, for the first time ever, with the adoption in 2014, by the African Head of States, of the Africa Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS). This changed dramatically the way fisheries had been previously addressed in the continent, to be currently considered one of the main economic areas to be focused, and to secure food security and alleviate poverty.

At the regional level, the SWIO region is organised in several Regional Economic Communities (RECs), like the IOC, EAC, SADC, which include fisheries, as one of their priority areas, including the promotion of regional fisheries cooperation, through agreed strategies and protocols. For example the SADC Fisheries Protocol, which includes six (Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania) of the twelve SWIOFC countries, addresses inter alia management of shared fisheries resources, harmonisation of fisheries legislation, fisheries law enforcement, fisheries access agreements, and high seas fishing.

Institutionally, regional fisheries in SWIO are being addressed through three RFB/RFMOs, namely IOTC (all SWIOFC members belong to IOTC), SWIOFC and SIOFA (so far only three SWIOFC members have adhered to SIOFA), addressing more or less the same countries, although with clear distinct mandates. This calls for improved inter-institutional coordination among them to be effective.

In addition, the SWIO region is currently witnessing the implementation of several regional fisheries initiatives which are extremely important for strengthening regional cooperation and coherence among the countries for ensuring improved fisheries management. These include the Smartfish Project, SWIOFish Project (both at national and regional levels), WWF fisheries work, which are addressing important aspects for regional fisheries management, including regional Minimum Terms and Conditions (MTC).

It is equally important to also consider the impacts climate change on occurrence, distribution, seasonality and abundance of fisheries resources. For example, variations on runoff are linked with recruitment and catches of shallow water shrimp in Mozambique. For the small scale fishers this aspect is crucial as it directly affects their subsistence.

11.2. The role of SWIOFC based on current and expected future challenges

SWIOFC needs to take in account the current and future scenarios to continue to be relevant and an important actor in promoting fisheries regional cooperation. This includes (i) leading and fast tracking harmonization of fisheries legislation; (ii) assuming more active coordinating role in ensuring regional cohesion and engagement with DWFN and also effective MCS in the region; (iii) be a technical arm of the various RECs from the region, as far as the fisheries aspects are concerned, not only to ensure coherence and effectiveness, but equally to fast track the implementation of the various fisheries-related regional protocols/strategies; and (iv) adequately addressing climate change impacts, mainly for the small scale fisheries.



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First Session of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, held at the Mombasa Beach Resort, Mombasa, Kenya, from 18 to 20 April 2005: For the 1st Photo.



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First Session of the Scientific Committee of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, held at the Dar-es-Salaam Conference Centre, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from 31 May to 3 June 2006.

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Session Number	Place	Date	Sessional Chairs	Elected Bureau to steer the Commission in the Inter-sessional Period	Participating Countries and Observers	Relevant Decisions Taken
1 st	Mombasa (Kenya)	18-20 April 2005	Nancy Gitonga	Chair: Mozambique (Rodrigues Bila); 1st Vice-Chair: Seychelles (Rondolph Payet); 2nd Vice-Chair: Kenya (Nancy Gitonga)	Comoros, EU, France, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Republic of Korea, IOC, IUCN, SADC, SIDA, SWIOFP, UNDP, UNEP, FAO	Examined outcomes of COFI; Examined outcomes from 4th Meeting of RFB Secretariats; Reviewed fisheries management in SWIO; Discussed collaboration with other regional organizations and programmes; Adopted the Rules of Procedure; Established the Scientific Committee; Established a Programme of Work for the Commission; Elected Members of Bureau
2 nd	Maputo (Mozambique)	22-25 August 2006	Rodrigues Bila	Chair: Seychelles (Rondolph Payet); 1st Vice-Chair: Madagascar (Mamy Andriantsoa); 2nd Vice-Chair: Mozambique (Rodrigues Bila)	Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, Yemen, IUCN, Swedish Board of Fisheries, SWIOFP, ORI, UNEP, NEPAD, FAO	Approved the Establishment of the Working Group on Fisheries Data and Statistics; Agreed to link with SWIOFP through a Committee; SWIOFC to hold a Regional Conference on MDG; Agreed to engage in on-going MCS activities
3 rd	Mahe (Seychelles)	17-20 December 2007	Rondolph Payet	Chair: Madagascar; 1st Vice-Chair: Maldives (Hon. Hussain R. Hassan); 2nd Vice-Chair: Seychelles (Rondolph Payet)	France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Yemen, IOC, IOTC, ReCoMaP, SWIOFP, SIDA, World Bank, FAO	Agreed that the 2nd Working Party on Fisheries Data Statistics should address Harmonization of fishery frame surveys; Agreed to establish the Ad-Hoc Steering Committee for SWIOFP; Hold a Conference on MDG to be held in Seychelles; Endorse Mozambique to set up an Informal Network of Heads of MCS; Endorsed a project proposal on Safety at Sea for Small Scale Fishers Agreed on recommendation SWIOFC 2-01

Session Number	Place	Date	Sessional Chairs	Elected Bureau to steer the Commission in the Inter-sessional Period	Participating Countries and Observers	Relevant Decisions Taken
4 th	Mombasa (Kenya)	23-25 September 2009	Godfrey Monor and Mammy Ramanantsao	Chair: Maldives (Hon. Hussain R. Hassan); 1st Vice-Chair: Mauritius (Daroomalingum Mauree); 2nd Vice-Chair: Madagascar	Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, African Union, ASCLME, CSIR, IOC, IOTC, ORI, Swedish Board of Fisheries, SWIOFP, UNEP, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Bank	Commended the EAF Nansen Project; Raised the Need for Transparency and Regional Cooperation in Fishing Agreements Established a Regional Steering Committee for EAF Nansen Project; Appreciated Initiatives of SADC in fighting IUU fishing; Held the SWIOFP Steering Committee Meeting
5 th	Male (Maldives)	13-16 March 2011	Hussain Hassan	Chair: Mauritius (Daroomalingum Mauree); 1st Vice-Chair: Tanzania (Hosea Gonzal); 2nd Vice-Chair: Maldives (Hon. Hussain R. Hassan)	Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, ASCLME, SWIOFP, Swedish Board of Fisheries, World Bank, FAO	Discussed relevant outcomes of COFI and the Meeting of RFB Secretariats Network; Examined the process of EAF; Endorsed a project proposal for SWIOFish ; Held a Special review Meeting of SWIOFP Steering Committee
Ad-Hoc Special Special Meeting of SWIOFC	Maputo (Mozambique)	30 September 2011	Daroomalingum Mauree	-----		Addressed the performance review of SWIOFC Support for a significant reinforcement of SWIOFC
6 th	Flic en Flac (Mauritius)	08-11 October 2012	Daroomalingum Mauree	Chair: Tanzania (Hosea Gonzal); 1st Vice-Chair: Madagascar; 2nd Vice-Chair: Mauritius (Daroomalingum Mauree);	Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, AU, ASCLME-GEF, IOTC, Smartfish Project, SWIOFP, World Bank, WWF, FAO	Performance review of SWIOFC and priority areas for the future (financial structure, secretariat moved to a coastal member country (Mozambique), SWIOFC from FAO advisory to management body); SWIOFC to be the forum for development of regional component of SWIOFish Establishment of SWIOFC Working Party for Coordination and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries (WPCCTF) Steering Committee for the RBM project in SWIO EAF Nansen work in SWIO region



SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION (SWIOFC)

Ten Years Promoting And
Strengthening Regional Cooperation
For Securing Sustainable Fisheries
In South West Indian Ocean (Swio)
Region



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