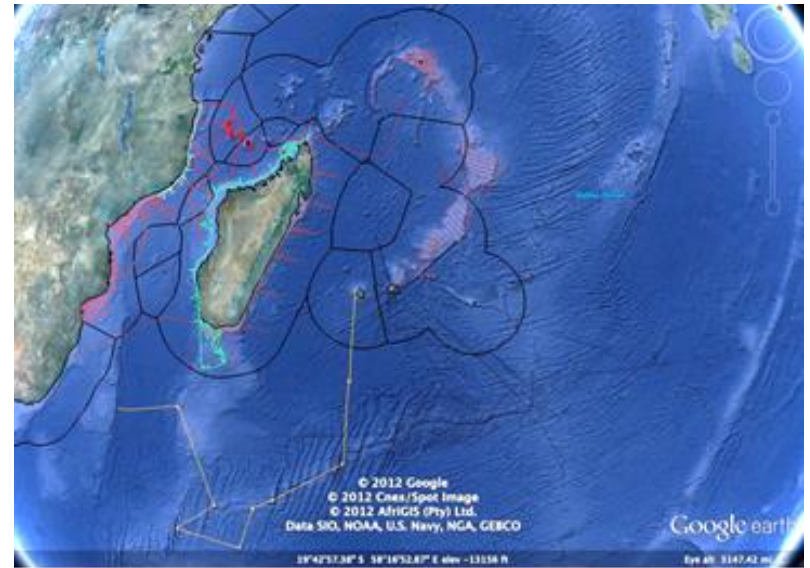


Legacy and lessons from SWIOFP – 2 years on



INCORPORATING



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What was SWIOFP?



- Multi-national fisheries research & management project
- Shared stocks & regional management
- 9 countries involved
- 5-year project (2008-2013)
- World Bank funded
- Regional management unit at KMFRI
- Partners were Fisheries Departments (governments)



Aims of SWIOFP

- Assess existing and potential offshore fisheries
- Provide data for science-based fisheries management
- Strengthen institutional scientific capacity
- Develop collaborative networks
- Establish national and regional fisheries management plans



Planned activities

- Workshops and meetings to plan and analyse historical data
- Surveys at sea
- Fisheries observer programme
- Data analysis and developing management strategies
- Masters degree programme



Outcomes and lessons learnt

Based on:

- Implementation Completion Report prepared by a consultant for participating countries
 - Implementation performance rated “Satisfactory”
 - Achieving project outcomes rated “Moderately Satisfactory”
- Personal experiences as part of the SWIOFP



1. Participatory process

Description

All aspects of SWIOFP followed a fully participatory process, through regular workshops and planning meetings.

Outcomes:

- Ensured stakeholder buy-in and relevance of project objectives
- Pooling of scarce resources
- Regional networks of collaboration - they remain today

Lesson: Slower than using consultants – but much more enduring!



2. Surveys at sea

Description

A total of 40 surveys at sea were planned, using research vessels (Dr. Fridtjof Nansen) and leased fishing vessels, with scientists on-board

Outcomes

- 32 surveys successfully completed
- Heavy budgetary and logistical burden on project resources
- Survey data had variable quality
- Political realities not foreseen (security, vessel availability, red tape)

Lesson: Do fewer but better surveys; use experienced survey leaders at sea



3. Fisheries Observer programme

Description

A coordinated region-wide fisheries observer programme to collect catch, effort and biological data at sea and port landing sites

Outcomes

- Success in countries with prior experience
- Overall lack of infrastructure and experience – region not ready for a coordinated programme

Lessons

- Avoid complex and expensive projects that rely on the coordination of multiple factors
- Try smaller pilot study (1 or 2 countries) to establish a model that can be expanded?



4. Masters Degree programme

Description

MSc programme developed to:

- advance scientific capacity building; and
- provide manpower for specific SWIOFP research projects

Students funded and supported by provision of data / samples and academic supervision

Outcomes

- 21 students from 5 countries selected
- Many MSc theses and scientific publications relevant to fisheries management generated
- Scarcity of students in some countries

Lesson: Good system – use it again!



5. Data analysis and use



Description

SWIOFP collected much data at high cost. Data analysis lagged, therefore outcomes could not be integrated into fisheries management.

Outcomes

- Data analysed during workshops, by individual researchers and by MSc students
- Survey delays restricted the time needed for analyses
- Few solid recommendations made, or implemented

Lesson: Not enough attention given to data analysis for use in fisheries management. It is more fun to collect data than to analyse it!

6. Linkage to RFMO's and relevance

Description

A RFMO (SWIO Fisheries Commission; FAO) was established in 2004, and aligned with SWIOFP.

Outcomes

- Provides a formal platform for fisheries management at a regional level
- Brings together higher level government officials at annual meetings, and scientific committee meetings

Lesson: In its present form, the SWIO Fisheries Commission is of limited relevance in the region



Conclusion - Outcomes

- Network of scientists and sharing of information
- Improved fisheries information and databases
- Increased scientific / institutional capacity
- SWIO Fisheries Commission established



Conclusion – lessons learnt

- Participatory process better than using consultants
- Project objectives should be more realistic
- The Masters Degree programme worked well – use it again
- Data analysis for fisheries management to be prioritized
- Science is a multi-year process that cannot be rushed – more time!
- An exit strategy providing for continuity is crucial

