



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR A CHAIRPERSON OF THE SIOFA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) is seeking an independent chair to take the duties and responsibilities of the SC Chairperson beginning as soon as possible until the conclusion of the 8th ordinary Meeting of the Parties (likely June 2021) with the possibility of renewal if, at that time, there is no candidate available from a Contacting Party and the Chairperson receives a positive review of the first term from the MOP.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) was signed in Rome the 7th July 2006 and entered into force in June 2012. Its Contracting Parties are Australia, China, the Cook Islands, the European Union, France in respect of its overseas territories, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Thailand. Chinese Taipei participates as a participating fishing entity. SIOFA covers the high seas areas of the Southern Indian Ocean. The SIOFA website can be found at <https://www.apsoi.org/>

The objectives of this Agreement are *to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Area through cooperation among the Contracting Parties, and to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in the Area, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the Area that are Contracting Parties to this Agreement, and in particular the least developed among them and small-island developing States.*

Article 7(1) of the SIOFA Agreement Article establishes a Scientific Committee (SC) which acts as an advisory body to the Meeting of the Parties.

The Article 7(1)(a) of the SIOFA Agreement sets out the functions of the Scientific Committee as such:

- (i) to conduct the scientific assessment of the fishery resources and the impact of fishing on the marine environment, considering the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area, and the results of relevant scientific research.
- (ii) to encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research to improve knowledge of the state of fishery resources.
- (iii) to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of the conservation and management measures referred to in article 6(1)(d);
- (iv) to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of measure regarding the monitoring of fishing activities.

- (v) to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on appropriate standards and format for fishery data collection and exchange; and
- (vi) any other scientific function that the Meeting of the Parties may decide.

2. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee are available on the SIOFA website <https://www.apsoi.org/node/8>

The Scientific Committee Terms of Reference set out the duties of the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee. The Chairperson manages the business of the Scientific Committee and act as the primary liaison between

- (a) the Scientific Committee and the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties
- (b) the Scientific Committee and the Executive Secretary and
- (c) the Scientific Committee and the Chairpersons of other subsidiary bodies established by the Meeting of the Parties.

Specifically, the SC Chair’s tasks are focused on the preparation of the annual SIOFA Scientific Committee meeting and preparation of its advice and recommendations. The SC Chair also provided scientific leadership to the committee’s intersessional work, including to evaluate tenders for scientific consultancy services.

The Scientific Committee chair will need to have regard to all SIOFA rules, including its conservation and management measures and the Rules of Procedure insofar as they apply to the Scientific Committee. This includes conservation and management measures which apply to the Scientific Committee’s handling and safeguarding of confidential data. You will need to agree as part of your contract to adhere to this.

The Independent SIOFA SC Chairperson is required to be independent. The successful candidate cannot be an officer or official of a government or any authorities connected to SIOFA, , nor working for any observer in any connection with SIOFA for the duration of this term.

3. TIMETABLE

The Consultant Chair of the Scientific Committee would ordinarily attend the following meetings:

Meeting	Date and Location	Tasks and duties
7 th Meeting of the Parties	17-20 November 2020, Online	Presentation of the SC5 Report ¹

¹ Noting that you will not have attended this meeting, the MOP and existing SC working group chairs will work with you to support your in delivering an appropriate presentation.

3 rd Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG)	To be decided (2021) (ordinarily adjacent to SC)	Participation
3 rd Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG)	To be decided (2021) (ordinarily adjacent to SC)	Participation
6 th Scientific Committee	To be decided (2021)	Chairing
8 th Meeting of the Parties	To be decided	Presentation of the SC6 Report

Meetings in 2021 may be virtual, so the successful candidate will be asked to work flexibly with the Secretariat to refine the virtual process and deliver meetings through this medium if required.

4. REMUNERATION

SIOFA will provide the following compensation to the successful candidate:

- A competitive rate taking into account skills and experience to be determined by the Meeting of the Parties based on 25 days of meetings and 15 days of preparation
- The Secretariat will reimburse a return flight to all physical meetings attended (or, by arrangement, the Secretariat can make and pay for these bookings). The travel class is economy for flights <10 hours and premium economy for flights >10 hours.
- Travel outside of the meetings listed in section 3 will be approved by the Meeting of the Parties and may be additionally remunerated.
- The Secretariat will provide a Daily Subsistence Allowance using the prevailing UN rates <https://icsc.un.org/# for accommodation and meals>

5. SELECTION PROCESS

Candidates are invited to provide their CV and a covering letter outlining their suitability and experience for this position. Application close 6 October 2020. Applications should be submitted electronically, in English, to:

Mr Thierry Clot, Executive Secretary of SIOFA (thierry@siofa.org) and Kerrie Robertson, Chairperson, Meeting of the Parties (Kerrie.Robertson@awe.gov.au)

The Meeting of the Parties will review applications and may seek to interview candidates. The Meeting of the Parties will advise the successful applicants as soon as possible. The successful applicant will be asked to sign a contract with the Secretariat.

6. CONTACT PERSON

Thierry CLOT, Executive Secretary thierry@siofa.org

SIOFA Secretariat : secretariat@siofa.org