

To: Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and invited Observers

NOTICE OF MEETING

2nd Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Scientific Committee

The 2nd meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee will be hosted in **Saint-Denis, La Réunion** from 13-17 March 2017 (dates inclusive) at the premises of SIOFA Secretariat, C/O DAAF, Bâtiment B, Parc de la Providence, 97489 Saint-Denis. It is expected that the meeting will run from 9am to 5:30pm each day.

A Heads of Delegation meeting will also be held on the 12th March 2016 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the Best Western Hotel, 2 rue Doret, 97400 Saint-Denis.

NOTE: The Heads of Delegation meeting is being held in a separate location to the meeting venue.

Getting to Saint-Denis

1. World ⇔ La Réunion (Roland Garros International Airport – Gillot Airport)

a) Taxi

It costs approximately 25 Euros (approximately 27 USD) from Roland Garros International Airport to St. Denis.

b) Bus

Airport Shuttle bus operates every hour (From 6:30 am to 6:00 pm) to Saint-Denis town-centre. Bus fare is 4Euros (approximately 4.3 USD).

See details at: <http://www.citalis.re/sites/all/themes/citalis/images/ligneM.pdf>

2. Flights to La Reunion

If there is no direct flight from your country, it would be convenient to transfer at major international airports in France, UAE, RSA or Mauritius.

Air France has nine non-stop flights between Paris, France and St-Denis with most flights arriving during the morning hours. Air Austral and Corsair are other valid options for flights from France.

Air Mauritius has numerous connecting flights between Paris, France and St-Denis

Participants are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and fund the expenses incurred.

Agenda

A provisional agenda for the Scientific Committee meeting is provided in Attachment A to this circular. We request that Parties provide their comments on the agenda to the interim Secretariat by **21 January 2017**. A revised agenda will be circulated by **31 January 2017**.

Registration

All delegates, including observers, are asked to register their attendance by **31 January 2017** by completing the form provided in Attachment B and emailing it to the interim Secretariat.

Papers

National Reports: SIOFA Parties are asked to submit to the interim Secretariat a National Report, compiled in accordance with the guidelines provided in Annex H of SC1 report, to the Scientific Committee using the template provided in Attachment C by **10 February 2017**.

SIOFA Parties may submit working papers and information papers to the Scientific Committee for consideration.

Working papers should be used for matters where the Scientific Committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Meeting of the Parties. Working papers should be submitted with advice on the specific agenda item the paper has been prepared for, a clear recommendation for the Scientific Committee's consideration and a one paragraph abstract for inclusion in the meeting report. Delegates should be prepared to present their working paper/s to the meeting.

Information papers should be used where they are of relevant general interest to an agenda item, not requiring presentation in the plenary but may be referred to in discussion. Information papers should be submitted with advice on the specific agenda item the paper relates to.

All papers should be received by the interim Secretariat by **10 February 2017** and these will be circulated via email to all registered participants by **15 February 2017**.

Consistent with the SIOFA Rules of Procedure, observers may submit relevant documents to the Scientific Committee as information papers. Observers will be given access to all documents that do not contain confidential data and/or commercially sensitive information.

A copy of the Scientific Committee Terms of Reference has provided in Attachment D.

Accommodation

Preferential rates have been negotiated for a selection of hotels in Saint-Denis. A list of these hotels has been provided in Attachment E.

Visas

Whereas France is a member of the [European Union](#) and the [Schengen Area](#), the [overseas departments and territories of France](#) are not part of the Schengen area and apply their own visa restrictions. Those policies are generally similar to those adopted according to the [Schengen acquis](#).

Overseas departments: Overseas territories:

- [French Guiana](#)
- [Guadeloupe](#)
- [Martinique](#)
- [Mayotte](#)
- [Réunion](#)
- [French Polynesia](#)
- [New Caledonia](#)
- [Saint Barthélemy](#)
- [Saint Martin](#)
- [Saint Pierre and Miquelon](#)
- [Wallis and Futuna](#)

Foreign nationals who require a visa for a French overseas department or territory can obtain one by lodging an application at a French embassy or consulate in their country of residence (or, in the case of foreign nationals already in [metropolitan France](#), the local prefecture) for a fee of €9 to €60 (depending on the destination and length of stay).

Note that a Schengen short stay visa ('C visa') is not valid for the French overseas departments and territories, and vice versa.

For more information, please contact the local French consulate or embassy in your country or refer to the following website:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_the_French_overseas_departments_and_territories

General Information about La Réunion

This wildly beautiful and rugged volcanic island (*with a very active volcano*), was uninhabited when discovered by the Portuguese in the early 16th century. In 1643 it was claimed by the French. They named it Bourbon and established their first colony here in 1662. In the years that followed, slaves from Africa were imported to work the sugar plantations. The island was renamed Reunion in 1793, and it remained a French colony, except for a brief British occupation from 1810 to 1815. Over time, French immigration, supplemented by influxes of Africans, Chinese, Malays, and Malabar Indians, gave the island its ethnic mix. The island's economy is dominated by the sugarcane industry, and its main exports include sugar, seafood, rum, and vanilla. Tourism, especially from Europe, is a significant economic factor.

- Official Name Reunion, (*an overseas department of France*)
- Population 839,500
- Capital City Saint-Denis (147,800)
- Electricity 220V - 50Hz
- Currency Euro
- Languages French (official), Creole
- National Day 14 July; Bastille Day
- Religions Catholic, Hindu, Muslim
- Measuring System Metric
- Time Zone GMT/UTC +4

Information on tourism and information are available at <http://www.welcometoreunionisland.com>

Proposed Timeframes

Comments due on Agenda	21 January 2017
Circulation of Revised Agenda	31 January 2017
Registration deadline	31 January 2017
Papers due to Secretariat	10 February 2017
Meeting papers circulated (25 days before the meeting)	15 February 2017

Attachments to this Circular

- A. Provisional agenda for the Scientific Committee meeting
- B. Registration form for all delegates
- C. Template for submission of national reports and papers
- D. Scientific Committee Terms of Reference as agreed by the Meeting of the Parties in October 2015
- E. List of Hotels