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Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers

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Streamlining of Ocean Wave Farms Impact Assessment (SOWFIA) Project

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Deliverable D5.2

Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers



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Deliverable D5.2 a
Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers
Report on questionnaires

June 2012



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SOWFIA project synopsis

The Streamlining of Ocean Wave Farms Impact Assessment (SOWFIA) Project (IEE/09/809/ SI2.558291) is an EU Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) funded project that draws together ten partners, across eight European countries, who are actively involved with planned wave farm test centres. The SOWFIA project aims to achieve the sharing and consolidation of pan-European experience of consenting processes and environmental and socio-economic impact assessment (IA) best practices for offshore wave energy conversion developments.

Studies of wave farm demonstration projects in each of the collaborating EU nations are contributing to the findings. The study sites comprise a wide range of device technologies, environmental settings and stakeholder interests. Through project workshops, meetings, on-going communication and networking amongst project partners, ideas and experiences relating to IA and policy are being shared, and co-ordinated studies addressing key questions for wave energy development are being carried out.

The overall goal of the SOWFIA project is to provide recommendations for approval process streamlining and European-wide streamlining of IA processes, thereby helping to remove legal, environmental and socio-economic barriers to the development of offshore power generation from waves. By utilising the findings from technology-specific monitoring at multiple sites, SOWFIA will accelerate knowledge transfer and promote European-wide expertise on environmental and socio-economic impact assessments of wave energy projects. In this way, the development of the future, commercial phase of offshore wave energy installations will benefit from the lessons learned from existing smaller-scale developments.

Grant Agreement number: IEE/09/809/SI2.558291
Project acronym: SOWFIA
Project title: Streamlining of Ocean Wave Farms Impact Assessment

Deliverable D5.2 a

Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers Report on questionnaires

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June 2012

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1. Introduction

In October 2010, the SOWFIA project (Streamlining of Ocean Wave Farms Impact Assessment) was launched. The SOWFIA project draws together partners from across Europe with the aim to streamline impact assessment for wave farm developments.

The streamlining process is carried out at local, national and European level through a gathering of the experiences of the key actors in the wave energy sector and dissemination of the findings to Policy makers at European and National level, by means of interactive meetings and presentations.

It is therefore intended to hold a series of meetings with at least 5 EC directorates, namely DG Mare, DG Environment, DG Climate change, DG Energy, DG RTD and with EACI to present the main outcomes of the project and measure of how European authorities will use the project findings.

In occasion of the EU-OEA Ocean Energy 2012 and a short notice an informal meeting was held with representative of the EU - DG Mare, Dr. Brian Toll and EU - DG RTD, Dr Ir. Matthijs Soede in Brussels on Monday the 25th of June 2012. The meeting represented the first possibility to raise awareness about the aims and objective of the SOWFIA process.

The meeting was aimed at presenting the up-to-date findings of the SOWFIA project, outlining the proposed outcome and paving the way for the integration of the SOWFIA outcome within the agendas of the different DGs in the form of recommendation and guidelines.

1.1. Agenda

The meeting was carried out in an informal way. The following topics were discussed:

- Development of EU-Directives.
- How can SOWFIA assist the DG to achieve their goals?
- Presentation of the SOWFIA findings
- Feedbacks on SOWFIA aims and recommendations
- Outline of Workshop C

2. Development of EU-Directives

The development process of EU-Directives by the different DG was discussed, with the aim to understand how new directives are integrated with existing legislation and potential conflicts identified and addressed.

The development process of a new directive can be summarised as follows:

- The relevant DG carries out an impact assessment on the current legislation and addresses areas of needs of a new legislation
- An Open Consultation is carried at European level to understand positive and limits of the current directive
- A Communication is sent out outlining the intention of producing a new Directive
- An Impact Steering Group (ISG) is formed, reviewing the outcome of the open consultation. Members of the different DGs are invited to take part in the ISG.
- The Secretary General is invited to comment on the draft directive.
- A consultation is held with other DGs to discuss the directive (e.g. DG Health, DG Mare, DG Energy, DG Mare, DG Clima, DG RTD). The different DGs comment on the published document.
- The directive is then sent to EU Council for approval

3. How can SOWFIA assist DG to achieve their goals?

The difference between Communications and Directives has been highlighted. The first provide an indication, whilst the latter influence directly Governments of the Member States (MS) who are requested to implement the directive in their legislation.

This difference is important to understand how a project like SOWFIA could help the different DG achieving their goals as highlighted in the 2009 DG Energy Directive.

Different steps can be undertaken to aid such policies, and this should not aim at changing the existing directive. Such a process would be lengthy and ultimately very difficult to achieve.

DGs do upgrade and update regularly their directives, however it was suggested that a project like SOWFIA could help DG Mare and DG RTD by producing:

- Guidelines for the removal of Barriers
- Best practice information on consenting process for Wave Energy
- Non-legislative Frameworks aimed at EU cooperation on Wave Energy
- Recommendation at EU level for the creation of Community Thinking and the generation of Synergies between the different DGs.

4. Presentation of SOWFIA findings

The initial outcomes of the SOWFIA projects were presented, including the lessons learnt from the engagement of device and site developers as well as local stakeholders, and those that can be imported from offshore wind.

The Data Management Platform tool was presented (although its functionality could not be showed due to no internet connection) stimulating a conversation on the type of data and knowledge that would be useful to policy makers, and general users.



5. Feedbacks on SOWFIA

The SOWFIA presentation was positively received by the two DG representatives, which showed support for the project and highlighted areas where SOWFIA could contribute to the overarching aim to develop sustainable ocean energy technologies such wave energy. In particular SOWFIA could:

- Increase Knowledge on the issues concerning Wave Energy and the surroundings ecosystem. SOWFIA should look also at what types of data are needed. Low or high quality data format, why choosing a particular type of data and how this can be of use.
- Assessing how procedure for consenting can be improved and provide information on the development of wave energy (Infrastructure Regulations)
- SOWFIA could help in informing of the on-going DG Mare Consultations expanding feedback on existing legislation
- The SOWFIA project should be presented to the head of department of DG Mare and DG Environment. An informal meeting to establish first contact with the head of department of DG Mare will be organized before 1st of September 2012.
- The DG Mare representative informed SOWFIA that Commissioner Damanaki could be attending the ICOE conference in Dublin.

6. Outline of Workshop C

The draft agenda of Workshop C was presented to the DG representatives, outlining how the information gathered so far will be presented to local and national regulators.

The breakout sessions are aimed at stimulating debate and evaluate potential conflicts in the implementation of complimentary EU Directives within the different MS.

The format of the agenda was met with positive feedback from the DG reps.

7. Future dissemination activities

The positive feedbacks received by the DG representatives provides an encouraging outlook for the SOWFIA consortium. As a results talks are underway to present the SOWFIA to other DGs as well as national authorities.



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Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers
Meeting with DG Environment

19th July 2012



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SOWFIA project synopsis

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Studies of wave farm demonstration projects in each of the collaborating EU nations are contributing to the findings. The study sites comprise a wide range of device technologies, environmental settings and stakeholder interests. Through project workshops, meetings, on-going communication and networking amongst project partners, ideas and experiences relating to IA and policy are being shared, and co-ordinated studies addressing key questions for wave energy development are being carried out.

The overall goal of the SOWFIA project is to provide recommendations for approval process streamlining and European-wide streamlining of IA processes, thereby helping to remove legal, environmental and socio-economic barriers to the development of offshore power generation from waves. By utilising the findings from technology-specific monitoring at multiple sites, SOWFIA will accelerate knowledge transfer and promote European-wide expertise on environmental and socio-economic impact assessments of wave energy projects. In this way, the development of the future, commercial phase of offshore wave energy installations will benefit from the lessons learned from existing smaller-scale developments.

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Deliverable D5.2 b

Site/Technology developers, project financiers and authorities questionnaires

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July 2012

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1. Introduction

In October 2010, the SOWFIA project (Streamlining of Ocean Wave Farms Impact Assessment) was launched. The SOWFIA project draws together partners from across Europe with the aim to streamline impact assessment for wave farm developments.

The streamlining process is carried out at local, national and European level through a gathering of the experiences of the key actors in the wave energy sector and dissemination of the findings to Policy makers.

Within this context an informal meeting was held with representatives of EU - DG ENVI: Sylvia Barova (Nature Unit), Leo De Vrees (Marine Environment and Water Industry) and Cyril Michel (Marine Environment and Water Industry) and of EU-DG MARE, Carlos Pérez Collazo (Unit C).

The meeting was aimed at presenting the up-to-date findings of the SOWFIA project, outlining the proposed outcome and paving the way for the integration of the SOWFIA outcome within the agendas of the different DGs in the form of recommendations and guidelines as well as to discuss collaboration and inputs in the different workshops.

1.1. Agenda

The meeting was carried out in an informal way. The following topics were discussed: Development of EU-Directives.

- Presentation of SOWFIA findings
- Environmental Requirements as obstacle for development?
- How can SOWFIA input?
- Workshop C

2. Presentation of SOWFIA findings

Prof. Greaves introduced the SOWFIA project to the audience with a presentation outlining the findings of the SOWFIA project to date and outlining long term goals to be achieved. This included reports from Stakeholders and Developers Survey and Workshop.

3. Environmental Requirements as obstacle for development?

The current EU Environmental legislation comprises a number of Directives applying at the same time for the protection and conservation of the environment and ecosystems. In the case of Ocean energy, the natural potential for energy generation might be constrained by the obligation to comply with the requirements derived from the implementation at national level of the Birds Directive, Habitat Directive, Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive. Besides, the Marine Strategy Directive and the RES Directive also cover the ocean energy sector.

From the Commission point of view, the challenge is not to comply with the different requirements in order to preserve and protect the environment but rather to cope with all the different administrative procedures for permission and licences. The Commission has observed that in those countries where Directives are implemented in a correct way, they have facilitated in fact the process for permits.

The Commission also indicated that the Marine Directive offers a description of criteria and indicators in order to achieve the good ecological status in a very detailed way.

The Commission acknowledge the challenge of ocean energy as a new comer but sees as well a great opportunity for this source to develop in a sustainable way by learning from other testing sources like offshore wind and encourages the sector to organise and contributing with input to the Commission.

4. How can SOWFIA input?

The Commission was interested in the project outcomes, in particular the work carried out in WP3. The Commission was glad to explain the works DG-ENVI are developing in the field of Ocean Energy and they encourage SOWFIA to get involved in Natura 2000 designation for marine areas since information gaps arise.

The Commission encourages the production of guidance documents like the sector guidelines published for wind energy. SOWFIA could contribute with its outputs to the production of such a document for ocean energy.

The Commission thinks that SOWFIA should input and exchange data with DG-MARE database (EMODNET) in order to increase the knowledge base of ocean energy at the Commission.

The Commission encourages SOWFIA to get in contact with coordinators of the PISCES project, WWF UK since PISCES is an international partnership that brings together the major sectors operating in the Celtic Sea to find a way to manage marine activities more sustainably. Currently they have just released some guidelines in directives and policy issues for stakeholders.

As well, the European Environment Agency is in charge of the State of Marine Environment report.

5. Workshop C

SOWFIA coordinators informed the Commission about the workshop to be held in October in Dublin, Ireland where the focus is on regulations and process to obtain permits and licences and asked if one representative of DG-ENVI could speak at the conference from the environment point of view. The Commission accepted the proposal with no rejection and indicated that if a formal invitation was sent they could discuss internally the possibility.



The meeting closed with no more points to be discussed and the Commission was keen on exchanging information and keeping update of SOWFIA developments. In addition, the representatives of DG-ENVI underlined that the environment won't be an obstacle for ocean energy but rather the lobby of traditional sectors. DG-ENVI has set up a Common Implementation Strategy for the Energy Infrastructure Natura 2000 where EWEA is member.



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Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers:
DG MARE Workshop: Maritime Spatial Planning and
Energy,
Malahide, Dublin, Ireland

14th June 2013



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Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers

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1. Introduction

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Opportunities for streamlining the consenting process were discussed at local, national and European level though a gathering of the experiences of the key actors in the wave energy sector and dissemination of the findings to policy makers.

Within this context two partners from the SOWFIA project consortium were asked to present and participate in a workshop organised by DG MARE on Maritime Spatial Planning and Energy which was held in Dublin (Ireland) on 14 June 2013. In this context energy was taken to include oil and gas, offshore wind energy and ocean renewable energy sectors. This event was the first in a series of stakeholder workshops assessing the benefits and challenges of MSP for specific maritime sectors and activities. The workshops aim to draw conclusions on the specific needs and best practices on cross-sector cooperation. Discussions and conclusions will feed the work of the Commission to support the development and implementation of MSP in Europe.

The workshop was chaired by Eugene Nixon from the Marine Institute in Ireland and brought together representatives of the industry, regions, environmental NGOs and national authorities dealing, or interacting, with energy and spatial planning. The discussions focused on the managing competition and coexistence; data collection, knowledge and management for the energy sectors in the context of MSP, maritime planning in cross-border contexts and culminated with a session on best practices, recommendations and conclusions.

The presentations by the SOWFIA partners were in the session on data collection, knowledge and management for the energy sectors in the context of MSP.

1.1. Agenda

The workshop was a one-day long event with presenters having the opportunity to meet the evening before to discuss their respective sessions. The workshop was opened by Carla Montesi, who is Director of the Baltic Sea, North Sea & Landlocked Member States section of DG MARE, European Commission. Subsequent to her introduction, the following sessions took place

1. Opening session

Anne-Bénédicte Genachte

Regulatory Affairs Advisor, European Wind Energy Association
Planning: the first step to sustainable growth

Jim Herbertson

International Association of Oil & Gas Producers

MSP: the view from OGP, the International Oil & Gas Producers Association

Karin Dubsky

Founder and International Coordinator, Coastwatch Europe

Marine planning: an improvement for marine and coastal

management?

2. Managing competition and coexistence

Andreas Wagner Managing Director, Stiftung Offshore Windenergie

The experience of offshore wind in German MSP

Piet Briët Senior Consultant and Programme Manager, Living North Sea Initiative

Clean seabed or reuse of offshore structures? Opportunities for coexistence.

Francis O' Donnell CEO, Irish Fish Producers' Organisation, Chairman of the Federation of Irish Fishermen

MSP from the fishers perspective

John Dolan Managing Director, d'Amico Tankers

MSP – the shipowners' perspective

Alec Taylor Marine Policy Officer, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

MSP and energy – an NGO perspective

3. Data collection, knowledge and management for the energy sectors in the context of Maritime Spatial planning

José Chambel Leitão Co-founder and Manager, HIDROMOD, Modelação em Engenharia

How to extract knowledge from data – shipping and energy case studies

Peter Edmonds Marine Data Manager, The Crown Estate

Data and offshore renewable energy developments

Anne Marie O'Hagan Hydraulics & Maritime Research Centre, University College Cork

Learning how to manage ocean energy within MSP: data, information and knowledge requirements

Iain Shepherd DG MARE, European Commission

Marine knowledge 2020, from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting: the benefits for MSP

4. Maritime Planning in a cross-border context

Vernon Fox Head of Infrastructure Services - Offshore, Mainstream Renewable Power, on behalf of Friends of the Supergrid

ISIS – An Integrated Sea Information System. Using big data to address European offshore energy development challenges

Lodewijk Abspoel Senior Policy Advisor, North Sea, Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Maritime Policy, Netherlands

MSP in the North Sea: think big, think long-term, think ecosystems, think human and money



Charlotte Herman Marine Environment Legal Counsel, Ministry of Environment, Belgium

Synergies and multiple use as an answer to the race for space in the North Sea

Eoin Sweeney Vice-Chairman of Ocean Energy Systems; Former Head of Ocean Energy, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Vision of the OES-IA for ocean energy and issues arising

5. Best practices, recommendations and conclusions

Frederico Cardigos Director for Maritime Affairs, Regional Government of Azores

Maritime planning and energy in the regions: the Azores, an outermost region case

David Palmer Deputy Director for Marine Planning and Policy, Marine Scotland

Marine planning and renewables: the Scottish experience

Presenters were supplied with a series of probing questions before the event so that these could be responded to and covered in the presentations at the workshop.

2. Coverage of SOWFIA findings

Both SOWFIA consortium partners (HMRC-UCC and Hidromod) participated in the session on data collection, knowledge and management for the energy sectors in the context of Maritime Spatial Planning. This session explored the use of data to draw up maritime spatial plans, focusing on the knowledge needs and current gaps related to various energy sectors, including ocean energy. The presentations covered the type of data and knowledge needed by public authorities and developers to efficiently plan the long term development of the offshore energy sectors as well as the gaps that currently exist. Both presenters also voiced opinions on data/knowledge could be exchanged across-sectors (and with the authorities) to ensure better coexistence of energy development and other maritime sectors. In the context of SOWFIA this effectively concerned the need to make data and information from Environmental Impact Assessment (as well as other types of assessment such as SEA and AA) easily accessible and available to interested stakeholders.

José Chambel Leitão outlined the SOWFIA project concentrating on the design and development of the Data Management Platform and how this aids the development of informed knowledge, which will enable valid decisions to be made in a more effective and efficient manner. This was supplemented by explained examples of the types of data currently present on the DMP and how it can be used.

Anne Marie O'Hagan gave an overview of the current status of ocean energy development in the EU including the various ocean energy targets to be achieved by Member States by 2020. This was complemented by an outline of what information the various actors (developers, planners etc.) need to make decisions on development planning and from where this is currently available.

In order to plan it is recognised that there is a need for data and information but given the current status of the industry it is difficult to confidently state the space required for ocean energy developments. An example using Pelamis was presented to provide the audience with a vision of what potential space is required to deliver on existing targets. The presentation culminated with a discussion on what the ocean energy industry, as a new and developing sector, needs from a Maritime Spatial Planning process.

3. Discussion

During the presentations, strong support for MSP was expressed by the various energy sectors. The Oil and Gas industry stressed the benefits of MSP for the multiple-use of marine space and to provide a stable framework for long-term investments. The offshore wind and ocean energy sectors stressed the crucial importance of MSP for the development of their industry and especially for the development of cross-border grids.

Representatives from the fisheries sector called on policy-makers to ensure that MSP recognises the importance of their industry and not push it to one side. Many presenters saw substantial need for, and added-value from, having a dedicated agency in each Member State to work on streamlining planning processes and licensing procedures. The shipping industry highlighted the importance of the UN Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) as the basis for planning activities in the marine environment. They also stressed the value of MSP for safety of navigation as competition for maritime space increases.

Environmental NGOs supported the benefits of MSP, especially in establishing coherent networks of Marine Protected Areas and delivery of conservation objections at national, regional and international level. Concerns were however expressed that MSP could become a tool to allocate space to various sectors rather than integrate all concerns to achieve sustainable development. The need to deliver the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive were highlighted in this regard.

Specifically in relation to ocean energy, DG MARE acknowledged the challenge of incorporating ocean energy as a new sector but sees it as a great opportunity to develop the sector in a sustainable way by learning from other sectors such as offshore wind. DG MARE also encouraged the sector to contribute further input to them in their ongoing work on MSP and over-arching Integrated Maritime Policy.

4. How can SOWFIA input?

The next workshop will take place in November 2013 in Vilnius and will focus on fisheries and aquaculture in MSP. Subsequent to that, a further workshop will discuss shipping and take place in Greece during the Greek presidency of the Council of the European Union. In relation to ocean energy, following completion of a public consultation on this between June and September 2012, DG MARE expect to publish an impact assessment on future options for ocean energy later in 2013.

Materials from the workshop can be downloaded from:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/msp-workshop-series-1-energy/custom-18-681fed59a71343d18b1f3749968c1d41.aspx>



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Reports of interactive meetings with policy makers:
Meeting with DG CLIMA,
Edinburg, Ireland

30th October 2013



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October 2013

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1. Introduction

In October 2010, the SOWFIA project (Streamlining of Ocean Wave Farms Impact Assessment) was launched. The SOWFIA project draws together partners from across Europe with the aim to streamline impact assessment for wave farm developments.

Opportunities for streamlining the consenting process were discussed at local, national and European level though a gathering of the experiences of the key actors in the wave energy sector and dissemination of the findings to policy makers.

This deliverable brings together a set of reports of interactive meetings with policy makers. These meetings were carried along all SOWFIA project with the aim to present to at least 5 EC directorates, namely DG MARE, DG Environment, DG Climate Action, DG Energy, DG RTD and EACI, the main outcomes of the project and measure of how European authorities will use the project findings.

In Occasion of the EU-OEA Ocean Energy 2013 conference a short notice and informal meeting was held with representative of EU – DG Climate Action (CLIMA), Mrs Beatrice Coda (Low Carbon Technologies) in Edinburg on Wednesday 30th of October 2013. The meeting gave to the project a possibility to transmit the findings and conclusions learned during the project and at the final conference.

The meeting was aimed at presenting the final findings of the SOWFIA project, outlining the main points of its final conference and paving the way for the integration of the SOWFIA outcome within the agenda of DG CLIMA in the form of recommendation and guidelines.

1.1. Agenda

The meeting was carried out in an informal way. The following topics were discussed:

- The SOWFIA project, its context and objectives;
- The SOWFIA methodology, its final conference and main topics; and
- Feedback and conclusions.

2. The SOWFIA project, its context and objectives

Mr Carlos Perez-Collazo introduced the SOWFIA project to the DG CLIMA representative, during an informal conversation. The context of the project and its objectives were outlined, presenting the main reasons and concerns that have motivated the project. This included dissemination material produced by SOWFIA project, as leaflets and reports.

3. The SOWFIA methodology, its final conference and main topics

During the meeting the structure and methodology followed by SOWFIA, as well as the outcomes and main topics discussed during its final conference, held in Alborg the 3rd of September 2013 during the EWTEC conference 2013, were discussed.

The three main topics in which SOWFIA has been structured were discussed, named: integrated planning and administrative procedures; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); and human dimensions and consultation.

To exemplify the findings of the project printed copies of some SOWFIA deliverables were provided to the DG CLIMA representative. These deliverables were: a copy of the D2.6, the WP2 final report; a copy of the D4.4, D4.5 and some key dissemination leaflets. Furthermore, it was commented to the representative that other key reference documents can be found on the web page, and that the final publishable report as well as D4.6 and D3.5 were going to be uploaded to the project web page in the following weeks. The relevance of these documents was highlighted, as they represent the summary of the project findings and conclusions, specifically for work packages 3 and 4.

4. Feedback and conclusions

The meeting was concluded with the input from the representative of DG CLIMA, transmitting to the project that she was not directly working for the unit that it is working on a more direct line with SOWFIA project and that she will pass through the information collected during the meeting to her respective colleague at the proper unit. She also requested SOWFIA to contact back her with electronic copies of the final project reports.