



Assessment of Management Effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs): a workshop to identify appropriate regional approaches and methodologies, and to integrate these with ongoing initiatives to build management capacity in the Western Indian Ocean

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Aichi Target 11 requires that by 2020, 10% of coastal and marine areas are conserved through “**effectively and equitably managed**”, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas. The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) has been at the forefront of efforts to design and manage MPAs but weak management capacity continues to hinder marine conservation efforts. Management effectiveness assessments (MEAs) are a valuable approach to building capacity and directly improving site management.

The aim of the workshop is therefore to help build capacity for understanding and using MEAs as a means to improve MPA management, building on earlier and current initiatives. It will also be used to identify appropriate approaches and methodologies that could be disseminated through the region and will provide a calibration of progress in MEA in the WIO and will provide an opportunity to share challenges and lessons learned. The course will cover all types of MPAs, included community-managed sites and LMMAs.

The 5-day workshop will bring together 22 MPA managers, technical officers and practitioners from across the WIO who have experience with MEA, as well as those who wish to initiate MEAs at their sites and need support and knowledge. The course will be practical and interactive using tailor-made and relevant existing material. Participants will be requested to bring information about their MPAs, such as management plans, indicators and monitoring plans, and reports from their research, monitoring or management work. This will be used as a basis for building an MEA framework that is relevant to their site, management capacity, and existing or newly developed monitoring and evaluation programs.

Representatives of both government run and community managed MPAs will be considered. The workshop will be delivered in English, but francophone Resource Personnel will be available to help with translation.

By the end of the workshop, participants will have:

- An understanding of how MEA is important for improving conservation outcomes;
- Knowledge of the range of approaches and methodologies available and an understanding of which approach may be most suitable in their countries and at their sites;
- A plan to take the knowledge they have gained back to their sites/countries in order to promote the use of MEA in MPAs;
- An understanding of how to use MEA to strengthen the structure and focus of MPA management plans and how to make a more deliberate connection between science and monitoring programmes that answer critical management questions, and
- An understanding of how MEA helps to meet the national commitments for global conservation targets.

Date of workshop: **5-9 December, 2016**

Location: **Mombasa, Kenya**

Deadline for completed applications: **24 October 2016**

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association’s MASMA grant awarded for this workshop will fund the airfares and associated travel costs and board and lodging of the successful applicants.