



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT THE
ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING
COURSES/WORKSHOPS & PUBLICATION OF
BOOKS/MANUALS**

Deadline for submission of proposals: 15 June 2016

CONTEXT

WIOMSA is implementing a five-year Marine and Coastal Science for Management (MASMA) Programme (2018-2022), that aims to assist the countries of the western Indian Ocean (WIO) to achieve the 17 ambitious SDGs, and comply with the Paris Agreement. These two frameworks, particularly the SDGs, present a universally applicable and interconnected framework for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. While the focus of the new Programme will be on SDG 14, this will be linked to the other SDGs that have strong linkages with this goal, such as SDG 13.

WIOMSA remains the only organisation in the WIO coordinating a regionally-oriented grant mechanism for building professionalism and competitiveness amongst regional scientists. According to the external evaluation of the previous phase of the MASMA Programme conducted in 2016/2017, “the Programme has evidently supported the ‘advancement and application of science’ through a diversity of competitive grants, notably the research projects. The Programme has striven to maintain a high level of creativity and scientific rigour, and it is likely that the research results will have an impact on future research in related domains.”

The MASMA Programme also incorporates a strong capacity development component, and adopts a holistic definition of capacity development, encompassing much more than training, and includes: **different levels** (individual, institutional, enabling environment), and all **phases of the knowledge generation and knowledge translation cycle** (from setting the research agenda and research design through to research use and communication). Regional scientific capacity is still inadequate in several disciplines. For example, the skills to utilize existing information to develop predictive ecological or climate models are very limited in the region.

The Programme offers grants in the following categories:

- i) Grants for research. WIOMSA will continue to use both ‘open’ and ‘commissioned’ grants for research support. These are considered as key mechanisms for building and strengthening scientific capacity for inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary research in the WIO region. Further, for the first time, the Programme will also encourage the submission of country-specific (case studies) proposals, which will, however, still involve regional participation as they address priority regional issues and lend themselves to upscaling from local to regional levels. Research projects will also be planned to account for specific societal impacts that can be measured. In addition, knowledge generated will need to be made available and in a format that allows it to be used by stakeholders.
- ii) Grants to support the organization of regional training courses/workshops. WIOMSA and its partners have been at the forefront of initiating and pioneering innovative capacity development programmes, which go a long way towards improving the individual capacity of professionals, and consequently the management effectiveness of their organizations. Support for the organization of training courses and workshops, is considered a key mechanism for building and strengthening scientific and management capacity. Priority will be given to proposals for capacity development based on best practices and that show a high potential to contribute to positive behavioural and social/environmental changes, the identification and promotion of livelihood options, and/or filling gaps in university curricula.

- iii) Grants to support the publication of books/manuals and writing workshops. Dissemination of research results from research work undertaken in the region is one of the main priorities of WIOMSA. WIOMSA recognizes that substantial useful information of relevance to marine and coastal management is in the hands of scientists of the region. To address this problem, the MASMA programme provides grants to scientists in the region and their partners to publish research results in the form of books/manuals, and assists with distributing them to as wide an audience as possible. Furthermore, grants are issued to facilitate the preparation and publication of information packages, knowledge products, and decision-support tools, relevant to policy development and implementation at national or regional levels.
- Writing workshops have also become a common feature of most of the projects supported by WIOMSA. They provide opportunities for brainstorming on key research findings, as well as for capacity building for emerging scientists in terms of approaches to data analysis, information synthesis, access to data, and the best methods for disseminating information and results.
- iv) The Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programme. The MARG programme provides young and upcoming scientists with a reliable and flexible mechanism to turn their ideas into research projects and also offers opportunity for presentation of research results at various regional and international fora. Three types of grants are awarded: MARG I (research support); MARG II (sharing gaining technical experience away from your institutions) and MARG III (travel grant).

WIOMSA utilizes the MASMA Programme, through these grants, to promote regional collaboration in research amongst experts from the different countries in the WIO, and partnerships between regional scientists and those from elsewhere.

SUGGESTED FOCUS

Proposals for the organization of training courses and workshops should seek to involve different groups including scientists, policy-makers and practitioners. Proposals should focus on regional priority issues that are in alignment with the theme of the Programme, **“Generating the scientific and policy-relevant knowledge for achieving SDG 14 and facilitating implementation of the Paris Agreement in the WIO Region”**, with special emphasis given to the following, amongst other topics:

- Training courses and workshops focusing on field and data analysis methodologies, as many post graduate degree programmes for natural and social sciences at universities in the region are offered by research, with little or no support offered in these skills;
- Building the capacity to develop and use modelling techniques suited to risk assessment, ecosystem function and performance, and the prediction of environmental and social outcomes from influences such as environmental degradation, management strategies, and climate change;
- Organization of workshops aiming at demonstrating “theory of change” (small and large scale pilot testing) and/or setting up demonstration projects as well as influencing, or contributing to, changes in regulatory frameworks at different levels;
- Organization of writing workshops (where participants will be asked to bring their own data) to synthesize information from multi-disciplinary projects, as well as information from relevant

projects supported by other partners. Such workshops would result in publications in peer-reviewed journals, books, as well as in policy briefs;

- Projects to build capacity of the targeted audience in emerging technologies such as the use of Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) in coastal and marine research;
- Marine Spatial Planning. Focusing on practical, hands-on training based on regional and global best practice on how to use marine spatial planning as a decision-making tool to manage coastal and ocean areas within national and regional settings;
- Capacity building for Science-based governance. This should focus on how to gather and use scientific evidence and advice in policy development and decision-making;
- Training courses and workshops that target awareness raising and contribution to achievement of the relevant SDGs by local and national actors;
- Small-scale fisheries governance. Courses/workshops aiming at strengthening the governance of small-scale fisheries.

POINTS TO NOTE

Experience from previous calls shows that many of the proposals submitted for grants to support the organization of regional training courses/workshops, and publication of books/manuals and writing workshops, were not successful due to a number of reasons, including:

- Lack of a clearly articulated need for the proposed course/workshop. Such proposals did not clearly identify a gap that the course was intended to fill; or did not include a review of previous and on-going courses/workshops on similar subjects, to highlight their differences to the proposed one.
- Limited regional coverage. Courses and workshops were not open to participants from all, or most, of the countries in the WIO region.
- Absence of course content or book/manual outline. Proposals did not include detailed course /book/manual outlines making it difficult to assess the relevance of the proposed concept.
- Combining courses/workshops with other activities. This call is limited to the organization of short-term courses or workshops only.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The proposals should be submitted by an Institution, or a consortium of Institutions. In the latter case, the lead Institution should submit the proposal on behalf of the Consortium. For the purposes of this call for proposals, institutions are defined as government departments, research and academic institutions, NGOs, CBOs, or private companies. Members of the project team should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i) The Project Leader/s should have attained an education level of at least MSc or MA degree in a discipline(s) related to or relevant to the focus of the proposal.
- ii) Trans- Multi-disciplinary teams of researchers are encouraged.
- iii) The grant is specific for Institutions from the WIO region. However, consortia of institutions may involve other institutions or researchers from outside the region as appropriate, and cover their costs from the grant funds applied for. The involvement/participation of scientists from outside the region may not exceed one man-month.
- iv) The Project Leader/s should be from the WIO region and be employed by an institution based in the WIO region.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Institutions are permitted to submit more than one proposal. However, an institution will be awarded more than one grant only if it is a large institution and has different departments or units with financial and administrative autonomy, location, specialist capacity, and has submitted separate proposals. They should also have a different lead person and substantially different team members for each of the submitted proposals.

Proposals to organise workshops/workshops and books publications should **strictly NOT EXCEED 5 A4 PAGES (excluding annexes)** prepared as a WORD Document, using Times New Roman 12 pt, single spacing, normal margins (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins), portrait orientation.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Proposals should be submitted by 15th June 2018. The MASMA Programme Committee will review the submitted proposals within a period of two months and applicants will be informed of the Committee's decisions immediately thereafter.

Applications should be completed and support documents uploaded at <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/masma-proposals/>. Only those applications submitted via this system will be processed.

For further information contact **The Executive Secretary, Email:** secretary@wiomsa.org.