



Marine and Coastal Science for Management  
(MASMA) Programme

CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT THE  
ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING  
COURSES/WORKSHOPS

Deadline for submission of proposals: 30 September 2015

## 1. BACKGROUND

A principal component of the Marine and Coastal Science for Management (MASMA) Programme is a competitive grants programme, which is the only competitive research grant mechanism that provides funding and technical support for coastal and marine research, training and communications on a regional basis in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). Through these grants, WIOMSA has encouraged and supported natural or social scientists (individually or as part of multi-disciplinary teams) to conduct research on priority regional coastal and marine issues. In addition, the Programme has supported the organization of training courses and workshops for strengthening research and management capacity, and the printing of publications. Furthermore, MASMA has promoted regional collaboration in research amongst experts from the different countries in the WIO, and partnerships between regional scientists and those from elsewhere.

The Programme has supported research capacity development through the competitive research grants to conduct research, organization of training courses and workshops. Support for the organization of training courses and workshops, is considered a key mechanism for building and strengthening scientific and management capacity. Priority is given to proposals submitted by institutions from the region, and to those that show high potential to contribute to positive behavioural and social/environmental changes. Proposals that will be supported should be those that put research into practice through demonstrating “proof of concept”, by these we mean pilot testing, or setting up demonstration projects as well as influencing or contributing to changes in regulatory frameworks at different levels.

The programme 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. In view of the vulnerabilities that exist in the region’s coastal areas this is an aspect that needs to be prioritized.

Most of the submitted proposals that were not selected for funding in the previous call showed weaknesses including:

- Lacking clearly articulated need for the proposed course/workshop. Such proposals did not clearly identify a gap that the course is intending to fill; or did not include a review of the 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. Proposals did not include detailed course content of the proposed courses, which is important.
- Combined courses/workshops with other activities. This call is limited to organization of short-term courses or workshops only.

Proposals for the organization of training courses and workshop should focus (amongst others aspects) on:

- Training courses and workshops focusing on field and data analysis methodologies, as several graduate degree programmes for natural and social sciences in universities in the region are offered by research (with little or no course work);
- 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;
- Organizations of workshops aiming at demonstrating “proof of concept” (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 as well as in policy briefs.
- Projects to build capacity of targeted audience in emerging technologies such as the use of Remotely Operated Vehicles 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 decisions.
- Small-scale fisheries governance. Courses/workshops aiming at strengthening the governance of small-scale fisheries, are encouraged.

## **2. 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 a scientist from the WIO region and be employed by an institution based in the WIO region.

### **3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

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

### **4. APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION**

**Proposals should be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.** 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 after.

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

For any information contact, The Executive Secretary, Email: [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)