



Marine and Coastal Science for Management
(MASMA) Programme

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) through the Marine Science for Management (MASMA) programme is inviting full proposals for research on **Mariculture Development in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region: Sustainable Technologies that Meet the Needs of the Region and its People**

Deadline for submission of proposals: 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. BACKGROUND

Mariculture in the Western Indian Ocean presently encompasses brackish water and marine culture of a range of seaweed (*Eucheuma*, *Kappaphycus*), invertebrate (sea cucumber, abalone, mussel and oyster, mud crab and shrimp) and finfish (mullet, milkfish, rabbitfish and tilapia) species. Despite potential, regional production from mariculture in the Western Indian Ocean remains low and both commercial and small-scale mariculture activities, also known as community-based mariculture, have experienced modest growth in the past few years. While commercial mariculture has focused mainly on prawn farming in Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar, and abalone and cobia in South Africa, small-scale mariculture is mainly centred on seaweeds, finfish (mainly milkfish), shellfish (mainly oysters) and holothurians. In recent years, mariculture activities, particularly the small-scale mariculture projects, have attracted attention from governments, private sector, social entrepreneurs and conservation and development agencies, as they have been found to be playing a key role in diversifying coastal livelihoods by stimulating new local employment and in so doing, improving incomes and food security. Despite their continued growth, most of these initiatives are faced by ecological, technical, financial and institutional challenges that affect their efficiency, sustainability and profitability.

- The present Call for Proposals aims to promote the sustainable development of mariculture in the WIO Region, and to contribute towards the development of the sector in such a way that it can fulfill its potential to reduce poverty and hunger, in line with emerging thinking about the role of aquaculture in the region.
- Proposals should aim to advance this agenda through research initiatives that: support the participatory development of productive, profitable mariculture technologies that meet producer, consumer and wider societal needs. Ensure that the structure and functions of coastal and marine ecosystems are maintained or restored for equitable and sustainable use.

SCOPE OF WORK

The present competitive call is focusing on the development and improvement of sustainable mariculture production systems and technologies in the WIO region. Although they might include only a sub-set of WIO countries, each proposal must nonetheless consider all WIO countries, irrespective of the present size or nature of their respective mariculture (brackish and marine) sectors, in order that the technologies developed are readily applicable and can generate similar outcomes elsewhere than in the area(s) in which they were developed and piloted.

It is particularly important that:

1. Production systems and technologies (strains, systems, feeds, value chains, products, markets) developed or improved through the present call are demand led and meet the needs of subsistence, small-scale mariculture and small and medium scale enterprise-oriented mariculture, with particular consideration of women and youth.
2. Research questions are clearly formulated and demonstrate the relevance of the research to inclusive economic development.

3. The proposed applied research contributes to low environmental impacts models for local adoption and transfer of suitable mariculture systems. The research must show how these systems are linked to extension that would enable the public to benefit.

The focus of the study

The main purpose of this call is to improve, develop and pilot test production model(s) demonstrating and/or improving the economic, social and environmental viability of farmed species. Applications are sought from multi-disciplinary teams that can demonstrate their ability to:

- Identify technologies which through further development will better meet the needs of subsistence, small-scale mariculture, in addition to small and medium scale enterprise-oriented mariculture, with relevance to poor consumers, including women and youth, while sustaining ecosystem services.
- Adopt a participatory approach to innovative technology development.
- Develop, pilot and refine the technologies together with the producers to effectively demonstrate their economic, social and environmental sustainability and ensure that the proposed technologies integrate factors conditioning technology adoption among target groups.
- Develop a strategy and costed plan aimed at ensuring sustained technology uptake and its wider spread.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Suitable project proposals that encompass any of the two priority research themes are invited for submission. 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, institutions are defined as government departments, research and academic institutions, NGOs, CBOs, and private companies. Members of the project team should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i) The Principal Investigator/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, and have a track record of previous project management experience.
- ii) The grant is specifically intended 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 the scientists from outside the region may not exceed three person-months annually.

- iii) The Principal Investigator/s should be a scientist from the WIO region and be employed by an institution based in the WIO region.
- iv) MSc and PhD students as well as postdoctoral scientists may participate in the approved projects; some of their expenses including stipends could be covered from the grants if found to be appropriate.

SIZE OF GRANTS

The size of the grant for this call is:

US\$ 300 000 over a 2-year period, with a mandatory minimum of 20% contributed as matching funds by applicants.

Matching funds can be provided either as cash, or as 'in kind' funding (e.g. costs of staff time). Projects with substantial matching funding in cash from different sources including governments, partners and private sectors, will be given special consideration.

The grant will enable institutions to support researchers and postgraduate students in their research work as well as to purchase equipment, expendable supplies, literature, etc.

Institutions or Consortia are encouraged to submit one large project proposal, or several linked projects under the umbrella of a research Programme, which jointly address a common overall research question.

A number of factors will be taken into account when considering whether to award the maximum amount:

- i) Number of countries involved or the geographical scope of the project;
- ii) Number of students and postdoctoral scientists involved;
- iii) Number of field trips and facilitation meetings with stakeholders and communities planned;
- iv) The amount of matching funds;
- v) Multi-disciplinary teams; and
- vi) Scope of work (for instance, a high number of convincing work packages and deliverables, indicating value for money).

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Only one proposal will be accepted from a particular institution, either on its own or as the lead institution of a Consortium¹. However, in cases where an institution is included as part of another proposal submitted from a Consortium (and where it is not the lead Institution), additional proposals will also be considered.

Full proposals should **strictly NOT EXCEED 24 A4 PAGES** (excluding the cover page, budget and annexes) prepared as a WORD Document, using Times New Roman 12 pts, and according to the format described in Annex II.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Full proposals should be submitted by email to reach WIOMSA by 30th September 2015. The MASMA Programme Committee will review the submitted full proposal and applicants will be informed of the Committee's decisions within a period of two months. Full proposals should be submitted online at <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/masma-proposals/>.

For further information on the priority research themes, reviewing process and other relevant information please visit the WIOMSA website, www.wiomsa.org or contact the Executive Secretary at the above address.

¹ 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, which 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 proposal.

CHECKLIST

Before submitting your Full Proposal, please check that each of the following conditions is met as any violation may result in disqualification of your proposal from this Call.	Yes	No
Correct format of the full proposal has been used		
Number of pages of the full proposals does not exceed 25 pages (excluding annexes)		
Curriculum Vitae of the Principal Investigators and other senior team members are submitted as Annexes to the full proposal		
Duration of the proposed project does not exceed 24 months		
The maximum amount requested does not exceed US\$ 300 000		
The amount of Matching funds is indicated		

Annex I. Description of criteria

Main criteria	Corresponding sections in the Guidelines	Description of the criteria
Scientific quality (30%)	Methodologies and Scientific track record of the researchers	Clear research focus, approach and methods, which clearly show the potential for innovation and is carried out by a research team with demonstrated capacity and track record. The proposal is integrated across countries, disciplines, sectors and scales.
Potential for impacts (30%)	Goals and Objectives; Outputs and outcomes; Applicability of the results in practice, and potential impacts; Dissemination/communication plans	Explanation of how the research would contribute to impact. Clear strategy and capacity for engaging with community, policy and practice to ensure the uptake of research results. An appropriate mix of actors at different levels to tackle the problem.
Relevance and value addition (20%)	Background and rationale for the proposed project; Gender Considerations	Relevance and/or value-addition of the proposed research to the needs and priorities of the region in terms of identified gap in policy, practice and research.
Feasibility and overall effectiveness (20%)	Project Activity Plans; Monitoring and Evaluation plan; Log frame for the project; Risk Analysis; Matching Funding Plan; and Budget and Budget Justification	Realistic work plan and an appropriate monitoring strategy. Explanation of how this research would represent good value for money, particularly the relationship between the investment and the potential for impact