

Training Workshop Announcement: Communicating Research to Policy Makers in the Western Indian Ocean Region

Introduction: Good decision-making on the sustainable use and protection of coastal and marine resources is often a complex process involving social, ecological and financial considerations. Arriving at a decision that balances the needs and desires of the stakeholders is further confounded by the complexity of the ecosystem itself. Marine and coastal environmental processes, both natural and anthropogenic, are interlinked, multi-scaled and often cross administrative boundaries including national borders.

The use of scientific products (data, reports, policy briefs, science articles etc.) is an important component of the processes that result in the development of policies and management decisions relating to coastal and marine resource use and protection. Making the best decision at the right time is important given the risk of potential damage to the ecosystem, coupled with the perennial problem of limited financial resources.

Given the importance of the role of scientific information, many scientists find it difficult to effectively share and communicate research findings with managers and policymakers, not only in the WIO region, but also globally. The practice of mutually beneficial engagement between scientists, managers and policy-makers is not well-developed. The presentation and “language” of research findings therefore needs to be fit for purpose whether it be for an issue requiring rapid management intervention, or for a policy that will guide management actions over many years.

It is anticipated that the training workshop will improve the ability of scientists, and managers and policy-makers to better converse and exchange ideas relating to the use of scientific knowledge.

Organizing Consortium

- Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), Tanzania
- Training Center in Communication (TCC), Kenya
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), S/Africa
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)

Workshop Objectives: To improve decision-making and the development of policies based on defensible scientific research. Participants will receive training on different ways to communicate research findings to decision- and policy makers by:

1. Identifying the most appropriate policy audiences
2. Preparing policy briefs and factsheets
3. Preparing various types of written communication for the news and social media
4. Preparing policy presentations

When: April 4- 8th 2016

Where: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Who Should Apply:

Scientists and Marine/Coastal Managers from the WIO region. Must be employed by any institution based in the WIO region and possess a postgraduate degree in natural sciences/natural resource management. For Scientists, they must have published at least one article in a peer reviewed journal as lead authors. Resource managers should have at least three years of working experience in marine/coastal management. Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

How:

Please send your letter of motivation, Curriculum Vitae and a letter of recommendation from your employer to:
Dr. Shigalla Mahongo <mahongo@hotmail.com>, with a copy to
Dr. Mathias Igulu <mathiasigulu@gmail.com>.

Financial Support: All successful applicants will be fully supported by WIOMSA.

Deadline: Feb 10th 2016

Selection Announcement: Feb 16th 2016

