



Open Call for Proposals

Cities and Coasts Project

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) through the Cities and Coasts Project is inviting proposals for research funding and for supporting the organization of training courses/workshops

Deadline for submission of proposals: 13 July 2018

1. BACKGROUND

WIOMSA, with funding from the Government of Sweden, is implementing a four-year Cities and Coasts (C&C) Project (2018-2021), whose main objectives are to:

- improve scientific knowledge and to stimulate research directed at underpinning effective and efficient responses by coastal cities to current and foreseeable challenges they face. Support will be given only to high quality, demand-driven, and policy-relevant action research;
- support capacity building and the transfer of knowledge and expertise;
- support the sharing of knowledge between cities in the region, develop cost effective and minimal technology solutions, and undertake successful community engagement;
- forge partnerships among stakeholders from the academic, practitioner, private sector, civil society, and coastal city policy-making communities.

Coastal cities are more than a collection of people and buildings and form complex systems of habitation, infrastructure, governance and public services. Coastal cities are not demarcated islands and mostly highly dependent on the inflow of goods and services from the surrounding areas. In addition, the volume and concentration of waste from these systems pose significant challenges to city and coastal managers. Cities are significant features of the coastal landscape and often have major environmental impacts which affect local populations reliant on coastal resources, as well as communities and environments beyond their immediate boundaries. Cities are also typically associated with increased and rapid urbanization, with resultant additional pressures on ecosystem services.

Coastal cities are dynamic complex systems which need energy, water, food and other resources in order to function and support diverse activities. If managed properly cities have the potential to offer better socio-economic conditions and quality of life to residents as well as the wider nation within which they sit. The integrated adaptive management and sustainable development of coastal cities is therefore essential, with science, technology, architecture, socio-economic information, and planning, all contributing to key insights and perspectives essential for durable decision making.

Importantly, coastal cities and islands sit on the nexus of climate change and the ocean. Climate change impacts, particularly rising sea levels, increased storm events, and tidal surges, have significant adverse impacts on concentrations of vulnerable populations living in coastal cities in WIO region. Large areas of many coastal cities in the region are situated at low elevation (below 10 metres above mean sea level) making them particularly vulnerable. In addition, as focal points for large populations and socio-economic activity, climate influence on aspects such as thermal stress, water quality and supply, and energy demand all add to the vulnerability these human systems face.

This inherent vulnerability is exacerbated in the WIO coastal zone by a range of persistent issues including a high incidence of poverty, a low capacity to build and maintain appropriate infrastructural defences, susceptibility to cyclone activity, and soft erodible coasts. This poses a range of clear risks but also offers opportunities for the development of leading edge solutions that would have relevance and application in similar locations globally.

The links between environment, society and economy in urban centres are important in the countries of the WIO region, and there is a need to better understand their interdependencies, and the associated constraints to sustainable development. This understanding should inform planning and decision-making in city environments. The coastal zone of the WIO region hosts major cities, harbours, industries and other

development infrastructure that, whilst vulnerable themselves, are increasingly posing threats to the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems and potentially worsening their own situation.

WIOMSA, through its C&C Project, is announcing a call for research proposals inviting full proposals for conducting research that generates solutions-oriented knowledge required to address the complex challenges facing coastal cities in the WIO region, improve broader planning of coastal cities as well as identifying opportunities offered by coastal cities for advancing sustainable development. The C&C aims to mobilizing scientists to collaborate with other key stakeholders in coastal cities such as local authorities, city planners, policy makers from central government, the private sector, civil society and citizens, in research co-design and co-production of the knowledge and production of decision-support tools, needed to support the transformation of coastal cities towards sustainability. The C&C-funded research projects must deliver both excellent science and clearly identify how the research will lead to tangible positive outcomes for target groups at the levels of policy, technology, environment, and the wellbeing of coastal communities.

Further, WIOMSA is also inviting proposals for supporting the organization of training courses/workshops. These proposals should seek to involve different groups including scientists, policy-makers, NGOs and local government representatives. Proposals should focus on regional priority issues and aim at building the capacity of key stakeholders in coastal cities to address these.

2. GRANTS OFFERED

The C&C Project offers two types of grants:

- i) Grants for research. In this Project, both ‘open’ and ‘commissioned’ grants for research support will be used. 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, WIOMSA 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 include those that address specific issues of priority whose societal impacts can be measured. In addition, knowledge generated will need to be made available 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 related to coastal cities, the identification and promotion of sustainable livelihood options, and/or filling gaps in university curricula.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Proposed projects should aim to address some of the leading environmental problems in coastal cities such as land-based sources of pollution, impacts of climate change, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. They should aim to contribute to the development of integrated spatial planning that will bring together urban planning and environmental management (coastal management).

The over-riding principle governing selection of projects for funding is that the full proposals should both have high scientific merit and demonstrate that the results of the research will lead to tangible outcomes for coastal cities, coastal communities and their environment.

Proposals should display:

- **Quality science.** The proposals should be innovative, have scientific merit and have clearly defined research questions and hypotheses, and a realistic workload. Further, they should add value to on-going work in the relevant scientific fields in terms of quality and relevance.
- **Demonstrable contribution to wider environmental, economic and societal outcomes.** The proposed projects should put research into use through interaction and collaboration with society (coastal communities, public actors, private actors, etc.) and thereby achieve outcomes which may contribute towards significant behavioural and social/environmental changes, as well as influence or contribute to, changes in regulatory frameworks at different levels.

This call is targeting institutions rather than teams of individuals.

Each application should:

- Illustrate steps that were taken to co-design research questions with key non-academic stakeholders (management authorities, city planners, private sector, or communities). Plans for engaging these stakeholders in knowledge co-production should also be outlined. The expected impact of the research and likelihood of uptake of solutions by non-academic stakeholders should be explained.
- Address a challenge which is of significant regional or even global relevance. The team should demonstrate the added value of a regional, not merely a multi-country approach, over a national approach.

Applications will be assessed according to the criteria described in Annex 1.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Suitable project proposals that encompass priorities issues in coastal cities of the WIO region 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 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.

5. SIZE OF GRANTS

The size of grants for this call are:

- Up to a maximum of US\$ 330 000 over a 3-year period, with a mandatory minimum of 25% contributed as matching funds by applicants.
- Matching funds can be provided either as cash, or as ‘in kind’ funding (e.g. staff time costs, office and project management cost etc.). Projects with substantial matching funding in cash from different sources including governments, partners and the private sector, 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.

6. 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 pt, single spacing, normal margins (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins), portrait orientation, and according to the format described in Annex II.

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 the individual proposals are submitted by different departments or units, which have different financial and administrative autonomy, location, and specialist capacity. They should also have a different lead person and substantially different team members in each of the submitted proposals.

Proposals to organise workshops/workshops 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), and portrait orientation.

7. APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Full proposals should be submitted online at <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/cities-coasts-overview/cities-coasts-proposals/> by **13 July 2018**.

Please note that applications may only 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 the links provided above.

For further information on the reviewing process and other relevant information please visit the WIOMSA website, www.wiomsa.org or contact the Executive Secretary at secretary@wiomsa.org.

8. CHECKLIST

Before submitting your Full Proposal, please check that each of the following conditions are met, as any violation may result in disqualification of your proposal from this Call.	Yes	No
Correct format for the full proposal has been used		
Number of pages of the full proposals does not exceed 24 pages (excluding annexes) for research projects or 5 pages for courses/workshops		
Curriculum Vitae of the Principal Investigators and other senior team members are submitted as Annexes to the full proposal		
Duration of the proposed research project does not exceed 36 months or two weeks for courses/workshops		
The maximum amount requested from WIOMSA does not exceed US\$ 330 000 for research projects		
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; Detailed dissemination/communication plans	Identified long-term <i>Impacts</i> that the project intends to address. Clear description of project <i>Outcomes</i> (expressed as changes and effects that the project will bring about in different parts of society) and how those Outcomes may contribute to the identified Impacts. Description of project <i>Outputs</i> (deliverables) and clear motivation how those outputs contribute towards the outcomes. Clear strategy/steps of how relevant stakeholders targeted by the project have been involved in co-designing the project and will be involved in its implementation in order to ensure the uptake of outputs and achievement of the identified outcomes.
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 gaps 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.

A note on Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

The term “output” refers to what the project intends to produce and that can be described as a deliverable. Typical examples include, but are not limited to, documents (scientific publications, reports, policy briefs, etc.), technologies, methods, data sets (survey results, interview data, etc.).

The term “outcome” refers to a significant effect brought about by the project. The effect is a change in a social, environmental or economic context. It can be a change of practice, a change in policy, a change in logics or beliefs, etc.

The term “impact” refers to changes in society with a reach that goes beyond what can reasonably be achieved within the project time. The desired impacts are changes that the project contributes to through its outputs and outcomes.

The outputs, outcomes and impacts of a project must form a logical whole, in which outputs are designed to contribute towards outcomes, and outcomes are designed to contribute towards impacts.