



Open Call for Proposals

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 funding

Deadline for submission of proposals: 1 March 2019

1. BACKGROUND

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 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and comply with the Paris Agreement. Collectively, these two frameworks present a universally applicable and interconnected approach to integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development and require a similarly integrative and widely useful mosaic of solutions. While the focus of the new MASMA Programme is on SDG 14, all efforts are being made to link to other SDG's as they interact to attain broader sustainability targets and ambitions; such as climate action (SDG 13), partnerships for the goals (SDG 17) and others.

As a regional programme, MASMA seeks to strengthen trans-disciplinary research by involving researchers from different disciplines, countries, and sectors. The central purpose of MASMA is to increase our shared knowledge relevant to the welfare of coastal communities, the society at large, and their mutual sustainable development. This is considered paramount in bolstering environmental management and the governance capability required to meet sustainability goals. In this context, MASMA provides an innovative way to link the development of new human and research capacity with existing capacities to address coastal issues and challenges. Accordingly, MASMA provides a platform and mechanism for addressing research needs required by countries of the WIO in achieving the SDGs.

The MASMA Programme offers grants in the following categories:

- i) **Grants for research.** This element provides '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, the Programme also encourage the submission of country-specific (case studies) proposals, which, however, still involve regional participation as they address priority regional issues and lend themselves to upscaling from local to regional levels.**
- 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.
- iii) **Grants to support the publication of books/manuals and writing workshops.** Dissemination of results from research work undertaken in the region is one of the main priorities of WIOMSA. In this context, support is provided to various forms of publications and dissemination of research and knowledge-building outcomes, including innovative use of modern media formats and technologies.

Related to this element of MASMA, writing workshops have also become a common feature of many projects supported by WIOMSA. These 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. It 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 grants).

WIOMSA utilizes the MASMA Programme, through these grants, to contribute to expanded research opportunities and promote regional collaboration in research amongst experts from the different countries in the WIO and to establish partnerships between regional scientists and those from outside the region. The main focus of the Programme is to strengthen research quality and capacity building in the partner countries, both at institutional and individual levels, strengthen the interactions between researchers and other groups- and enhance the use of information generated from research.

WIOMSA through the MASMA programme, is pleased to invite full proposals to conduct- original and innovative research that contributes to **“Generating the scientific and policy-relevant knowledge for achieving SDG 14 and facilitating implementation of the Paris Agreement in the WIO Region”**. Successful implementation of the SDGs, and particularly SDG 14 and other related SDGs, requires enhanced - collaboration between the policy and scientific communities- and other stakeholders. The MASMA Programme aims at mobilizing scientists to collaborate to ensure the successful implementation of SDG 14, in partnership with policy-makers and stakeholders, and more broadly to provide the knowledge needed to support transformation- towards sustainable development.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Proposed projects should aim to address at least one of the [priority research themes](#) for the MASMA Programme. These priority themes are drawn mainly from the peer-reviewed World Ocean Assessment (WOA) and the Regional State of the Coast Report (RSOCR) for the WIO region. Priorities from these documents are in line with the recommendations from the 2016 MASMA evaluation report, which stated that *“WIOMSA should discuss the relevance and feasibility of expanding its traditional research fields to include research on how macro-level drivers of societal change affect coastal and marine environments in the WIO region, and/or to conduct or support research on coastal and marine policy and legislation.”*

The over-riding principle governing the 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 contribute to tangible outcomes for coastal communities and their environment. Proposals aiming at solving identified management and environmental problems as well as promoting sustainable exploitation of new opportunities from the coastal and marine environment are also encouraged. Proposals should address a challenge which is of significant regional or even global relevance. The proposal should demonstrate the added value of a regional, not merely a multi-country approach, over a national approach. Given the complexity and scope of most of the challenges facing coastal and marine environment, project teams must be transdisciplinary, thus including researchers from: social sciences/humanities/economy; natural sciences and societal partners (i.e. citizens, civil society organisations).

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 project should put research into use through interaction and collaboration with society (coastal communities, public and 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.

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

3. ELIGIBILITY

Suitable project proposals that encompass any of the 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 (PI) 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 project leader/s should be a scientist residing and employed by an institution based in the WIO region at the time of the application.
- iv) PhD/Master students are not allowed to apply for these grants as PIs.

4. 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 -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 costs 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 basic 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.

5. 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 12 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 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 proposals.

6. APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Full proposals should be submitted online at <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/masma-proposals/> by **1 March 2019**.

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 priority research themes, reviewing process and other relevant information please visit the website, <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/masma-proposals/> or contact the Executive Secretary at secretary@wiomsa.org.

7. 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 for the full proposal has been used		
Number of pages of the full proposals does not exceed 12 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 36 months		
The maximum amount requested from WIOMSA does not exceed US\$ 330 000		
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	<p>Identified long-term <i>Impacts</i> that the project intends to address.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Description of project <i>Outputs</i> (deliverables) and clear motivation how those outputs contribute towards the outcomes.</p> <p>Clear strategy/steps of how relevant stakeholders targeted by the project will be involved in its implementation in order to ensure the uptake of outputs and achievement of the identified outcomes.</p>
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 Plan, Risk Analysis; Matching Funding Plan; and Budget and Budget Justification	Realistic work plan describing the work of involved institutions and their timelines and project management structure. Does the proposed research represent good value for money, particularly the relationship between the investment and the potential for impact?