



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: 15 March 2019

1. BACKGROUND

WIOMSA, with funding from the Government of Sweden, is implementing a four-year (2018-2021) Cities and Coasts (C&C) project, whose focus is to build and strengthen the capacity in coastal and marine planning of coastal cities in the WIO region through high quality, demand-driven, policy-relevant action research, capacity building and the transfer of knowledge and expertise, enhanced knowledge sharing and forging partnerships with key stakeholders.

Through this project, WIOMSA is announcing a call for research proposals to conduct research that generates solutions-oriented knowledge required to address the complex challenges facing coastal cities in the WIO region. Further, the proposals should aim to improve broader planning of coastal cities as well as identify the opportunities offered by coastal cities in advancing sustainable development. The C&C project aims at 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, co-production of 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 high quality, demand-driven, and policy-relevant action research that leads to tangible positive outcomes for target groups at the levels of policy, technology, environment, and the wellbeing of coastal communities, within and around coastal cities.

WIOMSA is also inviting proposals to support the organization of training courses/workshops. These proposals should target different groups including scientists, policy-makers, NGOs and local government representatives. Proposals should focus on priority regional issues and strengthen the capacity to undertake research relevant to coastal cities and the capacity of key stakeholders to participate and engage in coastal city planning processes. The proposals should identify opportunities offered by coastal cities and the environment around them.

2. GRANTS OFFERED

The C&C Project offers two types of grants:

- i) **Grants for research:** these are considered as key mechanisms for building and strengthening scientific capacity for inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary research in the WIO region. The Programme also encourages the submission of country-specific (case studies) proposals which should nonetheless involve regional participation to address priority issues at a regional level, that are of relevance to coastal cities. The case studies should also 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 scientific and 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.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Proposed research projects should address some of the leading environmental problems in coastal cities such as land-based sources of pollution, impacts of climate change, climate change adaptation and mitigation. The projects should contribute to the development of integrated spatial planning that will bring together urban planning and environmental management (coastal management). In other words, the projects should contribute to the incorporation of key marine and coastal biodiversity issues into core city functions such as spatial planning, land-use management, local economic development and infrastructure design.

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

Research proposals should display:

- **Quality science:** the proposals should be innovative, have scientific merit, 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.

Research 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 the [Guidelines](#). Research proposals will be assessed according to the criteria described in Annex 1.

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, and should contain the following information:

- i) A description of the training course/ workshop, its purpose, intended audience (and their anticipated number), and resulting product/output (which could be publications or follow-up activities)
- ii) Identification and demonstration of the need for the course/workshop.
- iii) Course outline and names of resource persons, their qualifications and responsibilities.
- iv) A timeframe for the implementation of the proposed activities.
- v) A specific budget detailing the exact nature of all anticipated expenses and a matching funding plan.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Research 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 a 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) PI should be a scientist residing and employed by an institution based in the WIO region at the time of the application.
- iv) PhD/Masters students are not allowed to apply for these grants as PIs.

5. SIZE OF GRANTS AND INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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 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 addresses a common overall research question.
- 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.

¹ Institutions can submit more than one proposal. However, an institution can 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 capacities. 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

Proposals should be submitted online at <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/cities-coasts-overview/cities-coasts-proposals/> by **15 March 2019**.

Please note that applications may only be submitted through the online system. Only the applications submitted via this system will be processed. Applications should be completed and support documents uploaded on the links provided above.

For further information on the reviewing process and other relevant information please visit the WIOMSA website, <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/masma-proposals/> or contact the Executive Secretary on secretary@wiomsa.org.

7. CHECKLIST

Before submitting your research project 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 proposal has been used		
Number of pages of the proposal does not exceed 12 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 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Main criteria	Corresponding sections in the Guidelines	Description of the criteria
Scientific quality (30%)	Methodologies and Scientific track record of the researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear research focus, approach and methods which clearly show the potential for innovation ▪ The research 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposal identifies the long-term <i>Impacts</i> that the project intends to address. ▪ A 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 will be targeted by 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Realistic work plan describing the work of involved institutions and their timelines and project management structure ▪ The proposed research should represent good value for money, particularly in the relationship between the investment and the potential for impact.