



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT THE
ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING
COURSES/WORKSHOPS & PUBLICATION OF
BOOKS/MANUALS**

Deadline for submission of proposals: 28th February 2020

CONTEXT

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 ambitious SDGs, and comply with the Paris Agreement. These two frameworks, particularly the SDGs, present a universally applicable and interconnected framework for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. While the focus of the new Programme will be on SDG 14, this will be linked to the other SDGs that have strong linkages with this goal, such as SDG 13.

WIOMSA remains the only organization in the WIO coordinating a regionally-oriented grant mechanism for building professionalism and competitiveness amongst regional scientists. According to the external evaluation of the previous phase of the MASMA Programme conducted in 2016/2017, “the Programme has evidently supported the ‘advancement and application of science’ through a diversity of competitive grants, notably the research projects. The Programme has striven to maintain a high level of creativity and scientific rigour, and it is likely that the research results will have an impact on future research in related domains.”

The MASMA Programme also incorporates a strong capacity development component, and adopts a holistic definition of capacity development, encompassing much more than training, and includes: **different levels** (individual, institutional, enabling environment), and all **phases of the knowledge generation and knowledge translation cycle** (from setting the research agenda and research design through to research use and communication). Regional scientific capacity is still inadequate in several disciplines. For example, the skills to utilize existing information to develop predictive ecological or climate models are very limited in the region.

POINTS TO NOTE

Experience from previous calls shows that many of the proposals submitted for grants to support the organization of regional training courses/workshops, and publication of books/manuals and writing workshops, were not successful due to a number of reasons, including:

- Lack of a clearly articulated need for the proposed course/workshop. Such proposals did not clearly identify a gap that the course was intended to fill; or did not include a review of previous and on-going courses/workshops on similar subjects, to highlight their differences to the proposed one.
- Limited regional coverage. Courses and workshops were not open to participants from all, or most, of the countries in the WIO region.
- Absence of course content or book/manual outline. Proposals did not include detailed course /book/manual outlines making it difficult to assess the relevance of the proposed concept.
- Combining courses/workshops with other activities. This call is limited to the organization of short-term courses or workshops only.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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 for proposals, institutions are defined as government departments, research and academic institutions, NGOs, CBOs, or private companies. Members of the project team should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i) The Project Leader/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.
- ii) Trans- Multi-disciplinary teams of researchers are encouraged.
- iii) The grant is specifically intended for Institutions based 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 one man-month.
- iv) 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.
- v) PhD/Master students are not allowed to apply for these grants as Principal Investigators.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Institutions are permitted to submit more than one proposal. However, an institution will be awarded more than one grant only if it is a large institution and has different departments or units with financial and administrative autonomy, location, specialist capacity, and has submitted separate proposals. They should also have a different lead person and substantially different team members for each of the submitted proposals.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Proposals should be submitted by 28th February 2020. The MASMA Programme Committee will review the submitted proposals within a period of two months and applicants will be informed of the Committee's decisions immediately thereafter.

Applications should be completed and support documents uploaded at <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/masma-proposals/>. Only those applications submitted via this system will be processed.

For further information contact **The Executive Secretary, Email: secretary@wiomsa.org.**