



Call for Concept Notes

WIOMSA through the Marine Science for Management (MASMA) programme and the Cities and Coasts project are inviting concept notes for supporting innovative actions (demonstration and pilot projects) – Innovation for Sustainability Grant Programme

Deadline for submission of concept notes: 26th June 2020

BACKGROUND

WIOMSA is implementing two marine science initiatives the [Marine and Coastal Science for Management \(MASMA\) Programme](#) and the [Cities and Coasts \(C&C\) project](#), both funded by the Government of Sweden through Sida. WIOMSA is pleased to announce an inaugural call to support innovative actions (demonstration and pilot projects), through the Innovation for Sustainability Grant programme. To address modern-day marine sustainability challenges, the grant programme supported by both MASMA and C&C project, is established to bridge the gap between marine research and innovation. In this call, WIOMSA aims to provide competitive grants that drive innovation for a sustainable marine environment.

The goal of the Innovation for Sustainability Grant programme is to support the development and testing of transformative, paradigm-shifting concepts, and approaches that address and enhance our understanding of marine and coastal environmental issues. This grant seeks to support projects that use cost-effective, replicable and innovative methods to design, implement and/or evaluate existing solutions to contemporary issues or areas in need of improvement in the way marine and coastal environmental problems in the region, are addressed. Overall, projects should inspire the development and implementation of sustainable solutions to maintain the functioning of marine and coastal ecosystems

The Innovation for Sustainability Grant programme will support a portfolio of innovations that collectively improve the sustainability of the coastal and marine environment. It encourages collaboration between different actors, including researchers, communities, government authorities and the private sector, to co-invest in ideas that can generate greater impact in the planned and on-going management efforts in coastal cities and the coastal and marine environment at large. It is envisaged that through this initiative, people-centered innovative solutions will be identified and tested, and the lessons learned from their results will contribute to bringing about more sustainable behavioural and social/environmental changes. It is also hoped that this program will accelerate the introduction of innovation into coastal and marine science and management in the WIO region.

The call for proposals is a two-stage process with the submission and review of concept notes followed by invitation to develop full proposals from selected concept notes.

WIOMSA will identify and support between 3 and 5 projects annually. Grants will be awarded for a duration of a maximum of 2 years to support the development, upscaling and up-taking of innovative actions and solutions.

SCOPE OF WORK

This call aims to inspire experts in the WIO region to come up with innovative solutions (demonstration and pilot projects) to address the most pressing problems facing coastal cities and the marine environment in the WIO region. Through this call, WIOMSA hopes to identify existing and/or new innovative solutions that need to be supported.

Innovative solutions are business **unusual approaches** and **creative ways** that aim to address social, economic and environmental needs in a holistic way to drive change. Innovative solutions for marine environment challenges are modifications or creative solutions applied to ecosystem services, products,

processes, market approaches and organizational structures which lead to enhanced sustainability, productivity and socio-ecological and economic benefits. Innovative solutions call for life-cycle thinking while incorporating all aspects of sustainability: economic, social and environmental and fostering partnerships. Example of marine environmental challenges that can be addressed through innovative solutions include- pollution, waste, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, unsustainable utilization etc.

The proposal should aim at (but not limited):

- i) identifying, promoting and supporting new and alternative livelihood opportunities for coastal communities e.g. adapting successful fishing techniques from one community to another
- ii) identifying and testing innovative technical solutions to address pressing management challenges in the coastal and marine arena. Development of low-cost technologies to deal with plastic waste challenges is one such example.
- iii) developing innovative strategies that could minimize damage and mortality of critically endangered marine species and ecosystems in the WIO region e.g. development of selective fishing technologies to reduce the problem of by-catch.
- iv) Improving on the use of technologies to support marine and coastal management – e.g. using apps to increase sharing and dissemination of knowledge among coastal communities and managers.

These projects could include: appropriate, cost-effective and state-of-the-art techniques, methods and approaches that take into account the specific context of the targeted stakeholders; projects that aim to put into practice, test, evaluate and disseminate actions, methodologies or approaches that are new or unknown in the specific context of the project; and/or projects that apply techniques or methods that have not been applied or tested elsewhere, that offer advantages compared to current techniques and that can subsequently be applied on a larger scale to similar situations in the WIO region.

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 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 demonstrated experience related to or relevant to the focus of the proposal.
- 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 practitioners from outside the region may not exceed three person-months annually.
- iii) The Principal Investigator/s should be a practitioner from the WIO region and be employed by an institution based in the WIO region.
- iv) Proposals developed in collaboration with the private sector will be given special consideration.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The review criteria will include, but not necessarily be restricted to, six assessment categories: Innovation, Partnership, Measurability, Transferability, Quality and Impact.

- **Level of Innovation (30%)** – The potential to address an important problem or critical barriers to the progress of achieving sustainable coastal and marine environment. The project must demonstrate the potential to improve and apply a novel concept, approach, methodology or tool. We will examine the degree to which the project is transformative, original, unique and creative in the context of the current state of the field. Also important is the degree to which the project proposes new paradigms or challenges existing one and the potential to solve the problems identified, and add value beyond current approaches.
- **Partnerships (15%)** – The extent of involvement by the relevant key stakeholders in the implementation of the project is an important feature for a successful proposal. This should consider how partnerships are intended to function and the relative importance of each partner’s role in terms of delivering the proposed project outcomes and the ensuing uptake of the project’s outcomes/deliverables.
- **Measurability (15%)** – As part of WIOMSA’s efforts to maximise project effectiveness and efficiency projects must be able to provide measurable outcomes that align with stated project goals and overall project performance. In this context, proposals containing sound measures of project performance and outcomes/outputs are preferred.
- **Transferability (15%)** – As stated in the program outline, projects that can deliver outcomes/outputs that are well suited to assimilation and replication throughout the WIO region are preferred. The need for the minor finessing to meet specific local conditions are recognised when outcomes are replicated.
- **Proposal quality (15%)** – This element includes project feasibility, demonstrated understanding of the issues to be addressed, coherence of the work plan, realistic budget and budget lines, and an effective communication/dissemination strategy for project results.
- **Impact (10%)** – We are looking for projects that will have long-term effects on the marine environment and people. We look for projects that can potentially disrupt the status quo by implementing new ideas, creating new models of engagement, and transforming behaviour. Additionally, we take into account the project’s potential for far-reaching impact and/or appeal to other users and the wider WIO community.

In addition to aligning with the above criteria, proposals will also be reviewed based on the following aspects:

- **Knowledge/Science-driven.** Projects must specifically address well-defined sustainability or related management questions and objectives that will benefit from the proposed solutions. The scientific merit and rationale must be compelling and consider critical review and analysis of preliminary data and/or published literature, as appropriate.
- **Coastal and Marine relevance** – Potential impact on sustainable coastal cities and the marine environment. The degree to which the proposed project could ultimately address WIOMSA’s mission

to support high-quality research that delivers solutions to real-world problems and inform policy and practice for the common good

- **Involve stakeholders.** Proposals should show clear levels of involvement of stakeholders (management authorities or private sector or communities) in the co-design, co-development and co-implementation of the innovative solutions.
- **Responds to needs** – projects proposal should show urgent unmet needs related to marine environment problem or local communities.
- **Demonstration of potential impacts** – the proposal should describe the intended impacts that the project will have on the target project area, population or problem etc. Proposal should define measurable outcomes and outline how progress will be assessed.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Concept notes should be submitted online at <https://proposals.wiomsa.org/innovation-for-sustainability-grant-proposals/> by **26th June 2020**.

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 WIOMSA website, www.wiomsa.org or contact the Executive Secretary at secretary@wiomsa.org.

Concepts that meet the above criteria and describe innovative programs will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Concept notes should strictly NOT EXCEED 5 A4 PAGES (excluding annexes) prepared as a WORD Document, using Times New Roman 11 pts, and should contain the following information:

- i) **Title Page**, which should include the following:
 - **Title:** The title should serve to identify the project. It should be as short as possible and sufficiently descriptive to reflect the nature of the proposed work.
 - **Investigators:** List of names and affiliations of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project.
 - **Project period:** Start and completion dates.
- ii) **Summary.** A one-page concise summary of the Concept Note
- iii) **Background and rationale.** This section should present the reasons behind the proposal and should specify what will be changed or contributed to through the project. It should present the facts and evidence that support the need for the proposed innovation. This section should also show evidence of demand for the proposed project in the target stakeholders and its potential to stimulate the envisaged changes.
- iv) **Goal and specific objectives.** State the overall goal and the specific objectives of the project against which the progress of the project could be assessed. It is important to clearly demonstrate through the

specific objectives, it is feasible to address the identified challenges on budget and within the project timeframe.

- v) **Methodology.** This section should provide a concise description of design, methods and approaches the project intends to use to achieve intended outcomes and impact.
- vi) **Workplan.** A Gantt chart showing objectives, activities and timeframes should be presented in the form of a table. This table should essentially provide a summary of the other descriptive sections of the proposal.
- vii) **Budget and Budget Justification [submitted as separate files in Excel format].** The proposal should have a clear and detailed budget for all activities and for each year.

Annexes [submitted as separate files]

- **Details of the institution/consortium of institutions:** A description of the institution submitting the proposal should be provided, including a motivation outlining the capacity of the institution to carry out the proposed work and to manage the project activities from a logistic and financial perspective. In the case of a consortium, this motivation should be extended to all institutions that are part of the consortium. A project management framework should be included in the proposal describing how the partners will work together. Signed supporting letters from the heads of the institutions should be provided. Information about participating institutions should be in one file.
- Maximum two-page curriculum vitae (CVs) for the principal investigator (PI), co-PIs, and a page for other senior project team members should be included, with all CVs in one file.