



## **Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programme**

### **Call for Research Proposals**

**Deadline: MARG I – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

## **BACKGROUND**

Since its establishment in 1995, the Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programme of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) has sought to enhance the capacity of emerging scientists in the WIO region to conduct research, as an effort to increase our understanding of various aspects of marine science. The MARG program provides support to promising young scientists conducting marine research and gives them the chance to present research findings at various regional and international conferences.

## **DURATION AND SIZE OF THE FUNDING AVAILABLE**

**WIOMSA is calling for research proposals for consideration for funding support** under the MARG I programme for the year 2021-2022, projects to start 1 July 2021-30 June 2022.

**MARG-I:** Intended to give emerging research scientists, such as MSc and PhD students, the opportunity to develop their ideas into real research projects and conduct well-defined research activities in their countries/institutions. The MARG-I Research Grant is awarded for a duration of 1 year, renewable for a maximum of one term. The maximum amount offered is US\$ 10,000 per year. Proposals for MARG I Grants are reviewed once a year.

## **SCOPE:**

Over the years, the majority of MARG I project have focused on coastal ecosystem surveys and investigations, with mangroves, seagrass, and coral reefs accounting for the majority of them. In this call, priority will also be given to research projects in the following areas: ocean governance, ocean acidification, climate change, cumulative impacts, bycatch effects, and restoration effectiveness, technology in marine and coastal management, food security, coral reef management strategies, MPA/LMMAs and resilience, food security, ocean literacy, coastal and ocean processes, impact of covid-19, coastal tourism, indigenous knowledge and food security.

Completed MARG I research projects that have published their results in a peer-reviewed journal and provided a good rationale for a follow-up study, will also be given a priority.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Young and upcoming scientists and resource managers involved in research in the marine sciences in the WIO region are eligible to apply as individuals or as teams. Additional requirements are:

- **Affiliation:** Employment at a recognised institution in the region.
- **Educational background:** Academic degree of not less than a bachelor's or equivalent.
- **Expertise:** Proof that the applicant possesses relevant expertise in the field in which the funding is being sought.

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

Applications for MARG support should be made online by visiting the WIOMSA website (<https://www.wiomsa.org/research-support/marg/>). Once received, the proposals are pre-screened at the Secretariat then assessed by a specially convened review team. Applications which do not include copies of all required supporting documents by the application deadline will be considered incomplete and will be disqualified at this stage. Proof of institutional support is required.

The reviewers will assess the qualifications of the applicant, the scientific quality and feasibility of the proposal, financial requirements and the relevance of the expected results.

Priority will be given to applicants requesting partial support and to quality proposals from MSc and PhD students which meet the requirements. You will also have an added advantage, if your research work from previous MARG grants has been published in a peer-reviewed Journal.

Applications from women researchers, and from scientists in WIO countries whose working language is not English, are encouraged.

## **PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS**

For the purpose of raising the profile of the MARG Programme as well as making the research results easily accessible, MARG I grantees are required, in addition to submission of a final report, to:

- i) publish the results of their research in an international or regional peer-reviewed journal; and
- ii) submit to the Secretariat during the course of their research projects, short summaries (one to two pages) of their preliminary results or lesson learned, for publication in the *WIOMSA Newsbrief* as well as the WIOMSA website and social media.

## **TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Grant fund will be channelled through grantees' institutions. It is therefore a requirement that grants applications are endorsed by heads of institutions.

## **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Please note that, applications will 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 WIOMSA website link is provided below:

<http://proposals.wiomsa.org/the-marine-research-grant-programme-application-for-marine-research-grant-marg-i/>

Please read the instructions carefully before completing the relevant form.

The deadline for submission of MARG I applications is 30<sup>th</sup> **May 2021**.

For any information contact, the Executive Secretary, Email: [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org).