



Newsbrief

Sida/SAREC continues to support WIOMSA

Sida's strong support to WIOMSA continues for the next three years. The Association is granted 6, 8 million US dollars for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2010. A large part of the Swedish funding is directed to the MASMA grant programme.

According to Sida, one of the main goals of their support is to assist WIOMSA in establishing itself as a regional research council with a sufficiently sustainable structure to support research projects.

Several meetings and external reviewers

The application for this new, third phase was submitted to Sida in August 2006. During last year, Sida made frequent visits to the WIOMSA secretariat in Zanzibar to discuss the preparation of the application. The application was sent to three external reviewers who gave further recommendations and input to the process. The proposal also received inputs from the members of the Board of Trustees, the MASMA Programme Committee and some partners and members of the Association.

In Sida's response to the project proposal, they indicated that "a strong WIOMSA, with a clear mandate in relationship to ongoing and to planned



In April Claes Kjellström from Sida/SAREC visited the WIOMSA Secretariat in Zanzibar to sign the agreement. Photo: Melckzedek Osore

new initiatives, would be attractive to the scientists and management institutions active in natural as well as social sciences".

Priority research themes

As a regional marine science association, WIOMSA's priority research themes are sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, ecosys-

tem function, pollution, management systems and governance as well as development of coastal communities.

New programme, based on Strategic Plan

There are some major differences between the new phase and the previous two phases of the MASMA Programme. The new phase builds on the WIOMSA

Strategic Plan. This is in line with the decision of the WIOMSA Board that all new projects and programmes should be based on the Plan.

In the new MASMA programme, WIOMSA has adopted a new framework that helps scientists and researchers to interact with managers and decision-makers. It will make it possible for the Association to work across the whole spectrum identifying priorities for research, conducting research and translating knowledge into actions.

In the new program, the criteria on trans-disciplinary research have been relaxed, social and natural scientists are allowed to submit their proposals separately. However, the requirement will be retained in special cases where it is seen as essential. MSc and PhD as well as postdoctoral students will be more involved in the programme.

The main objectives of the MASMA programme are to support activities that increase research capacity, so that research can be conducted and translated into actions that contribute to the well-being of the people of the region.

New programme Components

The new MASMA programme is grouped into five components, which can be summarised as:

- Building and strengthening scientific capacity. The programme will continue to use the competitive research grants for research, training courses and workshops and support for printing. Three types of grants will be supported. These are 'Open' competitive grants, 'Commissioned' competitive grants and Planning grants.

- Linking science to actions. Research outputs generated from MASMA and other sources will be synthesized and developed into information packages and decision-support tools for utilization by management authorities and decision-makers.

- Information dissemination and communication. WIOMSA will continue to produce the News briefs, Book

series and the Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science. Production of the special issues of international journals such as *Ambio* will also be given priority. The WIOMSA website, databases and the organization of the WIOMSA Scientific Symposium will be further developed.

- Collaboration/partnerships strengthening. WIOMSA will further strengthen opportunities for networking amongst researchers and other stakeholders in the region.

- Implementation of the WIOMSA Strategic Plan. A number of priorities identified in the Strategic Plan and the Resource Mobilization Strategy will be implemented, for example: Enhancing members to participate at country level, broadening the membership base to include more social scientists and raising the profile of WIOMSA in the region and internationally.

An important regional player

In the Western Indian Ocean region, Sida also supports the UNEP Regional Seas Programme for Eastern Africa, where WIOMSA plays an active role. The South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission also receives support from them.

In the evaluation report covering 2003 to present Sida concludes that WIOMSA has become "A regional centre of excellence, a major catalyst in coastal and marine science in the Western Indian Ocean". Today, Sida believes that a core of scientific capacity now exists in the region, partly due to Sida's regional and bilateral programmes, which they think is necessary for the existence of a research funding programme.

Resource mobilization continues

Even though Sida's continued support to WIOMSA is strong, the Association is well aware of the need to find alternative sources of funding and to decrease its financial dependence on one major donor. WIOMSA has started to implement a Resource Mobilization Strategy to strengthen its local ownership and financial stability. One of many strategic activities planned this year is to introduce a membership fee.



WIO Journal of Marine Science now added to the ISI database

WIOMSA's Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science has been evaluated and added to the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) database.

"This is a major achievement for our young Journal bearing in mind that some of the well known and well established journals do not appear in the ISI list" says Dr Julius Francis, Executive Secretary of WIOMSA.

The inclusion of the Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science (WIOJMS) in the ISI database will raise the profile and visibility of the journal and therefore attracting prominent scientists to publish in it. Publishing in ISI registered journals is one of the main requirements for some of the funding agencies in the Western Indian Ocean region. ISI's editorial staff review about 2,000 new journal titles annually, but only 10-12% of the journal evaluated are selected.

"The Journal evaluation and selection is an ongoing process, so maintenance of the quality of the journal is even more critical now to avoid being deleted from the database. WIOMSA would like to thank for all support members and others have given to the Journal" says Dr Francis.

Scientific Information (ISI) database can be search in at:
www.thomsonscientific.com

WIOMSA and CRC – initiating an innovative Certification program for MPA professionals

The development of an innovative Certification program for MPA professionals in the Western Indian Ocean region started in 2006. In February WIOMSA and Coastal Resource Center organized a workshop in Mombasa to discuss a certification program of professionals working in Marine protected areas.

The purpose of the workshop on "Initiation of a Professional Certification Program for Marine Protected Areas Professionals in the Western Indian Ocean Region" was to discuss and provide greater detail to the draft elements of the certification program. This had been outlined in documents shared with interested individuals and agencies in the Western Indian Ocean region over the previous six months.

The certification program for Managers of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is developed under the USAID funded programme on "Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems" (SUCCESS) which WIOMSA and Coastal Resource Center (CRC), at the University of Rhode Island are implementing. The purpose of the program is to bring the knowledge and skills of those working in MPAs to a level of professional standards.

Managers of MPAs, representatives of authorities responsible for management of MPAs, and conservation and intergovernmental organizations from six countries in the region attended the workshop which took place 19-20 February. During the meeting the participants discussed in detail how to initiate and make operational the proposed Certification Program. This included discussions on entry requirements, program curriculum, and the framework for the certification program.



Participants from six countries in the Western Indian Ocean region attended the workshop. Photo: Melckzedek Osore

One of the important outcomes was an implementation plan for proposed activities to move the certification program from the conceptual stage to having a program ready for individuals to apply. Some important strategic decisions were:

1. The certification programme will certify MPA professionals/practitioners, i.e., it will not be limited to certifying only MPA managers, as originally planned.
2. The minimum entry level to the programme will be a high school certificate/diploma with three years experience in a supervisory role within an MPA
3. The foundation course should focus on imparting knowledge and skills on these four core competency areas: legal and institutional framework,

operations, communication and stakeholder's engagement, and marine and coastal ecology.

The foundation course in the certification programme is meant to be based existing relevant courses. Only in those cases where such do not exist will new courses be developed. This includes researching the possibilities of integrating university courses/programs into the MPA Professionals Certification Program.

WIOMSA and CRC agreed to continue facilitating the process of building this Certification Program until after the Certification Program Board is in place. The second meeting will be held in the second half of 2007 and will decide on the Board composition, role, and membership, amongst others.



A walk in the mangrove forest while the tide is coming in. Photo: Per-Olav Moksnes.

Swedish Scientists introduced to the Tanzania's coastal and marine environment

For a number of years, the International Foundation for Science (IFS) and WIOMSA, have been exploring opportunities for collaboration in light of their complementarities in their objectives. In October 2006, an agreement was reached to jointly organize a field trip and a workshop for postdoctoral scientists from Sweden, as a pilot activity and from which other long-term activities could be developed. This unique initiative was organized under the framework of the IFS/Sida-Nature Marine Sciences Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme, which aims at strengthening links between scientists.

The IFS/WIOMSA field trip and workshop held in January/February 2007. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize them with some Tanzanian coastal biotopes and social contexts

and issues. This was important as most of them had no experience in working in tropical coastal and marine environment. An additional aim was to brief them on some ongoing coastal research projects and to start discussions on some possible future research topics in the region with experts from the region.

The field trip started on 18 January with the arrival in Zanzibar of eighteen Swedish postdoctoral scientists as well as five others scientists

from Norway, South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania. In Zanzibar, the group visited the Institute of Marine Science and WIOMSA's office located in the Stone Town, before travelling to many parts of the island. Among many places, the scientists visited mangrove areas and

seaweed farms in Chwaka Bay, intertidal zones in Paje and the Jozani Forest National Park. Mafia Marine Park was the next stop on their field trip. The group met with the management and was guided to many sites on Mafia. Meetings were arranged with local fishermen in the marine park to share



photo: Per-Olav Moksnes

experiences and ideas. The group also visited villagers active in beekeeping as an alternative source of livelihood. Under the sea, other attractions as whale sharks and the coral reefs were studied.

In Dar es Salaam, the group visited three academic units at University of Dar Es Salaam: The Institute of Resources Assessment, the Economic Research Bureau and the Faculty of Aquatic Sciences and Technology as well as the marine field station at Kunduchi, north of the city. The fish market and an experimental plant for sewage water treatment were also visited. The field trip culminated in a two day workshop with scientist from all over the region in Dar es Salaam. Some reactions from the participants on their return to Dar were:

"Many issues are very much the same in Tanzania and Sweden. But in Tanzania people really depend directly on nature for their livelihoods." said Matias Sköld marine scientist from the Swedish Board of Fisheries.

Saleh Yaya, PhD student at the Institute of Marine Science based in Zanzibar had this reaction regarding the international group:

"It was open-minded and they asked many funny questions! The participants asked new questions to the villagers that I hadn't thought about before."

Linda Kumblad from the Department of Systems Ecology at Stockholm University, was positive about the outcomes of the study tour:

"Collaborating from the beginning to the end is important. The field trips provided a nice platform for collaboration and meeting the workshop participants helps to create an important network. We got to see and learn a lot about the coastal areas and their management. Meeting the local scientists helped us to understand the often many complex issues."

Professor Ian Bryceson enjoyed organising and leading the study tour: "I definitely feel confident that several useful collaborative research initiatives will evolve from this exercise."



During the study tour the scientists visited and learned more about the ecology of coral reefs. Photo: Max Troell

New ideas on future coastal research born during workshop

After the IFS/WIOMSA study tour, a two day workshop on "Priority Research Agenda for coastal and environment in Tanzania" was held in Dar es Salaam 31 January - 1 February.

In total the workshop was attended by forty-six participants. Twenty one scientists from Sweden, Norway, Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania who had participated in the study tour attended. Additional participants came from Kenya, Mauritius and Tanzania.

The workshop was intended to give a brief introductory overview of important forward-looking prioritised research issues by experienced senior researchers from Tanzania as well as providing an opportunity for scientists from within and outside the region to get to know about each other's research interests, and to form working groups in order to come up with ideas for possible joint research topics which could then be the subject of joint applications, proposals, workshops, and training courses.

Julius Francis from WIOMSA gave an overview over regional research agendas based on mainly on the MASMA priority research themes. Reflections from the field trip were presented and invited speakers presented forward-looking research priorities within different their disciplines: social science, economics, natural science and coastal management. Different funding possibilities for future research proposals were presented.

The participants formed thematic groups and depending on the member's research interests, they discussed potential research topics. In the end of the workshop all groups made presentations of their project ideas and research questions. Many interesting topics came up in the areas



Per-Olav Moksnes, Hakan Wennbärg and Omar Amir discussed future research topics during the workshop in Dar Es Salaam. Photo: Anna-Karin

of Sustainability and management of marine resources, ecosystem functions, pollution, management systems and governance and sustainable development in coastal communities.

The participants to the workshop developed detailed outline on four topics namely: identification and assessment of existing livelihoods and opportunities in coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean region; national institutions and tourism- its implication for coastal communities; the role of small-scale aquaculture in diversification of livelihoods in coastal communities within the Western Indian Ocean region development and the use of pesticides, their transport through the environment, and their adverse effects on the marine environment.

Now some months later, only the pesticide group has developed their outline further into a proposal for a planning grant that has been submitted to Sida. The overall aim of the planned project is to study and compare the use of

pesticides, their transport through the environment, and their adverse effects on the marine recipient, in three areas of the Western Indian Ocean. The aim of the proposal is to enable a planning trip for the project leader of the proposed project to the three study areas located in Kenya, Mauritius and Zanzibar.

The second meeting of the Swedish postdoctoral and regional scientists is planned to be held during the Fifth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, scheduled for October 2007.

Workshop for Training of Trainers' increase capacity in regional Soc-Mon resource team

Among the ten MASMA training workshops proposals were submitted to WIOMSA in 2006 two of them were funded. One of these was titled: The Training of Trainers' workshop on Socio-economic Monitoring in the Western Indian Ocean; known in short as the SocMon WIO ToT. This training workshop was eventually conducted in Mahe, Seychelles the following year during January 8th - 12th, 2007.

The purpose of the workshop was to train a core training team to conduct training for socio-economic monitoring teams in the WIO region and in their respective countries. As a result of the increased capacity from these training, sustainability of SocMon will now be ensured in the WIO region.

The major achievements of the Soc-Mon WIO ToT Workshop can be summarized as follows:

- Resource capacity was boosted by increasing the number of SocMon resource persons in the regional resource team from 3 to 14 trainers spread across all WIO countries;
- New monitoring tools were launched and they were adaptation for use in WIO - these included: SocMon WIO training guidelines, SocMon WIO site databases and associated database guidelines, and guidelines for dissemination to stakeholders;
- Country trainers and country focal points were identified to coordinate SocMon activities;
- Process for a national socio-economic monitoring plan for Seychelles was initiated;
- Provided an opportunity for technical guidance and facilitation to initiate a new regional SocMon for South Asia.

Launch of SocMon WIO Guidelines

The Seychelles Minister for Environmental and Natural Resources officially launched the SocMon Guidelines for



The Training of Trainers' workshop increased the number of SocMon resource persons in the regional resource team from 3 to 14 trainers.

Coastal Managers of the Western Indian Ocean at the workshop.

The guidelines are the main reference document for the trainers at the workshop. The minister Mr Ronny Jumeau officially launched the Guidelines at a ceremony witnessed by the key stakeholders in the country including government departments and parastatals such as the coast guard, ports authorities, coastal managers and non governmental organisations such as research institutions, fisherscooperatives, tourist hotels and divers shops operators among many others.

The minister said the guidelines were very helpful, coming out at a time when Seychelles government is keen on incorporating the people's concerns in marine resources management. He said Seychelles is a small island but had the highest number of Marine

Protected Areas (MPAs) in the region. It is also a leading tourist destination and a leading exporter of pelagic fish including tuna, these two industries have supported the country's economy up and continue to sustain the people of Seychelles.

In his remarks the Minister directed relevant institutions in Seychelles to make use of the guidelines for informed decisions taking into consideration social issues.



The Seychelles Minister for Environmental and Natural Resources, Mr Ronny Jumeau launches the SocMon Guidelines.

Member of WIOMSA has been chosen as a Young Global Leader 2007

Dr Rolph Payet, a young and passionate environmentalist in the region has been named a Young Global Leader 2007 by the World Economic Forum.

Dr Payet has over the last 15 years contributed actively to marine research and ocean governance in the western Indian Ocean. Supported by a grant from WIOMSA, he was one of the first researchers in the region to study the impact of marine debris on marine life. He is also involved in the work of the Nairobi Convention as interim coordinator, being instrumental in obtaining political commitment from all of the parties of the Nairobi Convention. In 1998 he was appointed coordinator of the Shoals of Capricorn Programme, a three year marine research programme involving over 100 scientists and covering many disciplines. Experience gained in managing this large research project prompted him to convince the government to setup and support a marine research institute in Seychelles. In 2002, Rolph was elected co-chair of the International Coral Reef Initiative, which provided the impetus for the formalization of a regional coral reef task force. Among his many achievements and appointments, in 2003 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in recognition of his contribution to marine research in the Western Indian Ocean.

Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, told Dr Payet in a letter he had been chosen “in recognition of your record of accomplishments, your commitment to society and your potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world”.

Commenting on his nomination, Dr Payet said: “The announcement has made me realize that as an islander,

I can make a difference globally. Islands face a spectrum of threats today and tomorrow, and while our present and future generations will continue to strive to preserve the paradise we live in, the hope for the future of islanders appears bleak with the looming threats of climate change and biodiversity loss.”

Dr Payet said he would use his appointment to bring island issues to the attention of world economic leaders. The Global Island Partnership initiated by President James Michel and previous UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the Mauritius International Meeting on Small Island States in January 2005 would serve as Dr Payet’s strategic platform to bring the plight of the islands to the world.

Drawn from a pool of over 4,000 candidates, the Young Global Leaders nominated in 2007 have been



chosen by a committee of 34 eminent international media leaders. The World Economic Forum is a Geneva-based independent international organization of world leaders from the public, private and non-governmental sectors committed to improving the state of the world.

Recently, Dr Payet was awarded a MAS-MA grant to lead a project on “Critical factors ensuring coastal and marine ecotourism activities in the Western Indian Ocean providing environmental and socio-economic benefits” to be implemented in Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, Tanzania, and South Africa.

WIOMSA wishes to congratulate Dr Payet’s selection as a Young Global Leader and it is looking forward to working closely with him in promoting and implementing his agenda.

Dr Indumathie Hewawasam, a new member of the WIOMSA Board of Trustees

Dr Hewawasam has been selected to join the WIOMSA Board of Trustees as a coopted member for the current tenure of the Board 2006-2009.

She is bringing to the Board her long-term experience and knowledge on coastal and marine issues of the WIO region and Africa in general as well as networks based on her involvement in environmental and development issues in different parts of the world.

Currently, she is a senior environmental specialist at the World Bank. She has a law degree from Sri Lanka and practiced as an Attorney at Law in the official Bar in Sri Lanka in the late '70s and early '80s. She has an M.A. in international development with a specialization in environmental management and a Ph.D. in marine policy. Dr. Hewawasam joined the World Bank in 1987. Her expertise over a 20 year career at the Bank ranges from coastal and marine resource management, community based natural resources management, poverty reduction and environmentally sustainable development.

During her career at the World Bank, Dr. Hewawasam has led multi-sectoral teams to carry out analyses on Environment, Growth and Poverty as well as spearheading both lending and non-lending initiatives. Since the early '90s, her work has primarily focussed on assisting developing nations with policy and institutional reform towards sound management of exclusive economic zones, territorial waters, coastal zones and promoting sustainable livelihoods. While most of Dr. Hewawasam's career at the World Bank has been in Washington, DC, she also carried out an extended assignment in Tanzania during 2002 and 2005. Among recent assignments

Dr. Hewawasam has provided leadership to, include the publication: *Blueprint 2050: Sustaining the Marine Environment in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar*; and the multi-donor program supported by the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility entitled *Tanzania Marine and Coastal Environmental Management Project*. The latter is the largest such program supported by the World Bank in Africa and addresses governance issues in the offshore fisheries, the nearshore marine environment and poverty reduction among coastal communities.

Apart from her work in Africa, she also advises on the World Bank's Tsunami Rehabilitation and proposed Integrated Coastal Zone Management programs in India. Outside the World Bank, Dr. Hewawasam serves on a number of Committees including the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, the U.S. National Academies of Science Committee on International Capacity Building for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Ocean and Coasts; and on the Advisory Committee of the Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation.



Dr Indumathie Hewawasam, senior environmental specialist at the World Bank is a new member of the WIOMSA board.

Approved MARG III grants January – March 2007

During the first quarter of this year, four MARG III projects were approved.

Four successful applicants from institutions based in Kenya, Comores and Tanzania were supported by WIOMSA to participate in scientific meetings and/or present their projects in international forums held in Mexico, USA, Finland and Israel. Table 1. summarizes MARG III awarded between January and March 2007.

| Dates | MARG III Grantee | Project title and venue |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Jan 21 - Feb 10 | Shakil Visram CORDIO, Kenya | Light and photosynthesis in coral reefs – Puerto Morelos, Mexico |
| Feb 24 - 28 | Said Ahamada, AIDE, Comores | 27 th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology - Myrtle, South Caroline, USA |
| Mar 10 - 16 | Sware Semesi, FAST, Tanzania | Algae research methodology - Abo, Finland |
| Mar 11 -16 | Flower Msuya IMS, Tanzania | 8th International Marine Biotechnology Conference – Eilat, Israel |

International Year of the Reef 2008



The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef, at its General Meeting in Cozumel, Mexico, 22-23 October 2006.

The first IYOR was declared and implemented in 1997 in response to the increasing threats and loss of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. IYOR 97 was a global effort to raise awareness and understanding of coral reefs and the threats they face, and support related conservation, research and management efforts. Despite of IYOR 97's success in raising global awareness of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, ten years later, there remains an urgent need to increase awareness, to take action, further conserve and manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to appreciate their value to humanity.

About ICRI

ICRI is a partnership of nations and organizations seeking to implement the recommendations of the Rio Earth Summit (Agenda 21, Ch.17) and other international Conventions and agreements for the benefit of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, such as mangroves and sea grasses.

It is with this in mind that ICRI invites you to:

1. Encourage national governments to embrace the declaration of IYOR 2008.
2. Establish an appropriate national coordination process to plan for IYOR 2008 in your country.
3. Encourage renewed efforts at national and local levels to protect, conserve and sustainably manage coral reef resources.
4. Support the IYOR 2008 both financially and with in-kind contributions.

For further information on IYOR 2008 including ways to share your IYOR 2008 activities with others, please visit www.iyor.org or contact info@iyor.org.

WIOMSA Scientific Symposium

The Fifth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium will take place 22 - 26 October in Durban, South Africa.

Find out more on our website:
www.wiomsa.org



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