



Newsbrief

New MASMA Projects approved for funding

In November 2009, a special call for full proposals, under the Commissioned Topic titled: *Implication of Climate Change for Natural and Social Systems in the Coastal and Marine Areas of the Western Indian Ocean Region*, was issued. By the deadline of submission for proposals on January 22nd, 2010, thirty full proposals had been received. The MASMA Programme Committee met in February 2010 in Richards Bay to review the submitted proposals.

Seven proposals were approved for funding after they were found to meet most of the key criteria set for MASMA Commissioned research and conditions for submitting proposals as highlighted in the announced Call. The criteria included relevance to the climate change issues, feasibility of the research to be completed in two years, using innovative scientific methods and approach, demonstrating regional relevance of the expected results and viability of the proposed project in terms of appropriate resources available to the team such as human, financial, infrastructural, equipment etc.

Below are the summaries of the approved projects

Preparing for climate change by identifying effective coral reef fisheries and protected area management options in the Western Indian Ocean

This project is aiming at responding to a fundamental question that which forms of existing resource management and resource-use systems promote or degrade the resilience and resource value of coral reefs to climate change. To respond to this question, the project will undertake a regional-scale evaluation of existing management and resource-use systems and how they promote species and ecological functions that will increase the resilience and maintain the value of coral reefs during the coming era of climate change.



Some of the PC Members on a field visit of the Benefits sharing Project in South Africa.

More specifically, the project will: 1) compile a comprehensive database, combining existing and additional regional data collections, on the ecological status and vulnerability of coral reefs, as well as ecological, resource use, and social indicators associated with coral reef fisheries and management options; 2) evaluate the relationships between ecological conditions, susceptibility to climate change, management systems and regional resource-use preferences; and 3) develop regionally-relevant computer-based simulations to investigate the effects of climate change scenarios and management options on coral reef ecosystem function and fisheries.

Small-Scale versus Large Scale Coral Genetic Connectivity within Southeast African Marginal Reefs

Estimates of contemporary gene flow among southeast African reefs are required to reveal the dependence of the South African coral

communities on those to the north. Such a study will be especially relevant if the systems are found to be structured with high levels of self-seeding, as found on the Great Barrier Reef, since recovery from large-scale damage may be gradual. The latter is of global importance in view of increasing coral mortality from climate change-related bleaching events.

The study intends to assess the population genetic structure of coral species at various spatial scales and determine whether the degree of self-recruitment/migration of species at the reefal scale limits their resilience potential. Predictive biophysical modelling of connectivity and studies on gene expression will follow to study coral responses to a changing environment.

In other words, the study aims to estimate levels of self-recruitment within the Two-mile Reef (TMR)(small-scale connectivity) and the dependence of its coral populations on

northern reefs for coral resilience (large-scale connectivity). The findings are important to assess whether the current management strategies ensure protection of coral reef resilience should the reefs happen to rely on their own genetic diversity to adapt to environmental change in the future. The assessment will be conducted in tandem with an ecological risk assessment (ERA) using expected climate change related threats to coral reefs.

Coral Reefs and Global Change – A historical perspective spanning the Western Indian Ocean

This study proposes to examine the spatial and temporal environmental changes affecting coral reef ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean. The specific objectives of the study are:

- 1) To reconstruct sea surface temperature, river runoff and nutrient export on historical time scales by geochemical monitoring of massive coral growth banding spanning the western Indian Ocean.
- 2) To study the effect of ocean acidification on coral growth and calcification on a large-scale for nearshore and open ocean reefal systems throughout the western Indian Ocean.
- 3) To quantify the effects of long-term climate and land-cover changes on reefal ecosystems by integrating remote sensing and hydrological modelling with coral data for 100 years.

Modelling the effects of climate change on the distribution of shared fishery species in the subtropical Western Indian Ocean

In this study it is proposed to use a climatic envelope method to explore the extent to which the range of four selected shared fisheries species endemic to the subtropical WIO might shift in response to changes in the surrounding environment with climate change. The project will also explore the existing 'genetic variation' of two of these species. Genetic variation provides the raw material for adaptation as well as the genetic connectivity among different populations of species. Results from the genetic analyses will then be used to interpret the climatic envelope model and an overall 'model' developed for each species.

This study will go towards assessing the response to implications of climate change and climate variability, specifically the assessment of adaptive capacity and genetic connectivity of marine species and their populations and influences on species composition, genetic diversity and biodiversity, resistance and resilience to disturbance, and regeneration potential.

The Future of Coral Reefs in the WIO region: Influence of climate change on the sexual reproduction and recruitment of reef-building corals

This study aims to document the sexual reproduction and recruitment of two reef-building coral species belonging to these families, in relation with environmental and anthropogenic factors to ascertain the implication of climate change on the long-term resilience of the WIO coral communities. In particular, the reproductive features of these corals will be compared between a subtropical (South Africa) and a tropical (Reunion Island) reef that are representative of two different reef systems in the region, to ascertain how climate change may influence the adaptive trend in coral communities in the coming decades. Lastly, the importance of Marine Protected Area for reef resilience against climate change will be tested by comparing the coral recruitment rates between areas exposed to different levels of protection in the new marine reserve of Reunion Island.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- 1) to document the gametogenesis, fecundity, timing of reproduction, fertilisation and recruitment rate and settlement preference of the two selected species in South Africa and Reunion Island;
- 2) to ascertain the influence of the environmental factors such as Sea Surface Temperature and light intensity on these reproductive features using both field and aquarium experiments in each locality;
- 3) to determine the recruitment rates of corals in the MPA of Reunion Island and to compare them between areas exposed to different levels of protection (no or low protection versus no take area).

Effects of global warming on coral disease outbreaks in the Western Indian Ocean

Understanding the relationship between the emergence of coral diseases and climate change in the WIO coral reefs is difficult because of the lack of investigation into the identification, prevalence and etiology of coral disease.

Therefore, the proposed research aims to provide a basic information system for decision making, based on scientific data on (1) the prevalence and variability at embedded local-regional and temporal scales, (2) factors involved in the occurrence and spread, and (3) the effect of pathogens on host populations. Additionally, this study is intended to characterize and identify the agents of the pathogens using field observation combined with techniques from microbiology laboratory analysis. The proposed research will be conducted on managed and unmanaged sites located on three target reef ecosystems: Reunion, South Africa and Mayotte. The results from the research are expected to enhance management, conservation, and protection strategies by developing efficient and adapted management tools to predict and mitigate disease outbreaks.

Adapting to climate variability: Coping with short term climate variability through seasonal prediction and building social resilience

The goal of this project is to develop this framework for building social adaptation to climate change, on time scales relevant to communities (weeks to seasons), based on predictions of the risk of climate impacts on this time scale.

The goal of this proposal is to build adaptive capacity to climate change by understanding peoples' vulnerability to threats and improving prediction of climate risks and disasters. Specific objectives are:

1. to improve ability to predict short term climate risk for selected indicators and variables in a "coastal climate outlook";
2. to assess social vulnerability to climate variability and develop guidelines for doing this relevant to the East African coastal zone;
3. to identify opportunities for adaptation, focused on natural resource dependence and feedbacks between social and ecological resilience;
4. to propose mechanisms to institutionalize seasonal climate outlooks and adaptation in the coastal zone in ways relevant to local governance mechanisms.

The project will focus on coastal communities in Kenya and Tanzania, with particular emphasis on small-scale fishers and their broader community.

Progress on the Second call

On March 13, 2010, WIOMSA through the MASMA Programme announced the second Call inviting full proposals to be submitted for Commissioned research on climate change. The decision to announce the second Call was reached by the MASMA PC in realization that most of the proposals approved in the first Call were mainly focusing on research related to coral reefs or coral reef-based fisheries. The new Call invited submission of full project proposals on any of the WIOMSA priority research topics excluding coral reef and reef-based fisheries.

By the deadline for submission on 21 April, 2010, some 20 proposals were received at the Secretariat. The evaluation process to review these new proposals is currently underway. An overview of these new proposals reveal that they are addressing the effect of climate change on mangroves, benthic species, coastal infrastructure and heritage, coastal erosion, implications of sea level rise, coastal communities and their fisheries activities among others.

Migrants Fishers Project Wrap Up Workshop. By Beatrice Crona



Kenya and Tanzania Migrants at Kunduchi, Tanzania.

In May 2010 the MASMA funded project on migrant fishers in the Western Indian Ocean held their final workshop in Mombasa to analyze the data collected during the 2 year project. The project was funded in 2008 with the aim of addressing the social, cultural and economic issues related to migrant fishing in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

Marine resources continue to make an important contribution to coastal livelihoods in the WIO region and fishing remains one of the most important elements of these livelihoods. However,

declining catches in many near-shore fisheries are being reported across the region and governments and fishing communities alike are therefore increasingly looking at ways to manage the exploitation of coastal ecosystems. However, this task is complicated by spatial mobility of fishers across local and national boundaries and by the fact that very little is known about the extent and pattern of these movements, what the underlying drivers of migration are, and what the potential impacts of it are on communities of both origin and destination.

The MIGRANTS project has sought to understand some of these issues. It has focused on identifying the factors that drive fishers to migrate from their home grounds, and to establish the migratory patterns followed by different fisher groups. Another goal has been to identify the factors influencing the choice of fishing areas by migrant, and assess the impact of the migrant fishers on resident communities, as well as determine the social and economic issues facing migrant fishers.

The research has been conducted in five countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and Comoros, where in-depth case studies on the causes and effects of fisher migrations have been done in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

During the recent workshop, members of the project team spent an intense week pulling together the data collected. At the end of the workshop the team was fortunate to have a chance to interact with members of the Kenya Fisheries Department who have also been engaged in issues surrounding migrant fishers. The project PIs, together with members of the Kenyan team and representatives from the Kenyan Fisheries Department spent one day comparing and synthesizing the information collected through the MIGRANTS project and the Fisheries Department to produce a policy brief which will be released shortly.

The synthesized project findings will be presented in a report to WIOMSA at the end of the year.



Participants at the close-up workshop

Brains and hard work: the Chwaka Book synthesis production!

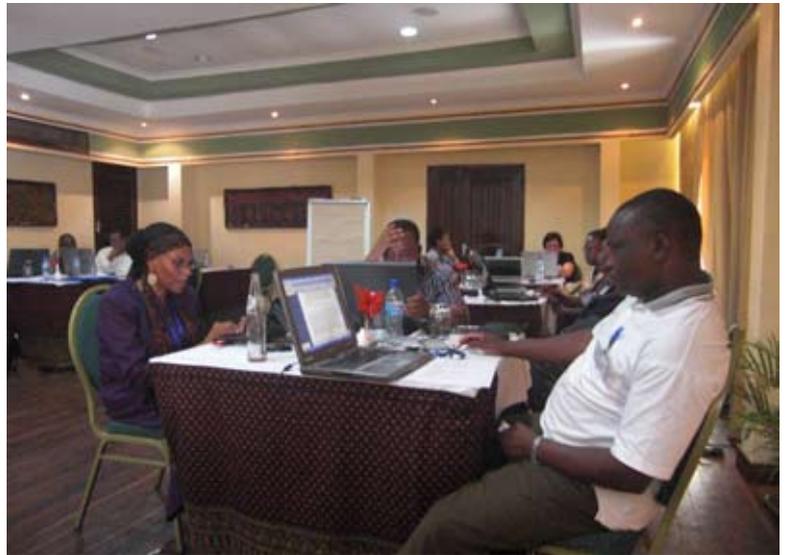
By Maricela de la Torre-Castro

As part of the ongoing effort to synthesize different cases from the WIO region, a writing workshop took place in Zanzibar, Tanzania as part of the production of the Chwaka Bay Book. Scientists from the WIO region and beyond were brought together with the support of WIOMSA for an intensive working week to advance their chapters.

A total of 22 researchers worked together during a whole week (17-21st May 2010) to advance the chapters to be included in the Chwaka Bay synthesis book. The researchers were mainly from Tanzania, but researchers with a wide range of nationalities were represented too, i.e. Swedish, Mexican, Austrian, German and Israeli. This illustrates that Chwaka Bay has been an important site for research with broad international collaboration over the years.

The workshop was planned and executed as an active exercise in which the researchers had the opportunity to (i) immerse completely in the writing process (ii) interact with each other (iii) present the advances of the chapter work (iv) provide peer-reviewed feedback on each other's chapters and (v) discuss the writing process in general and the future actions for the book accomplishment. The gaps in the knowledge and future research were also discussed.

During the first day of the workshop, a general up-date was given and the stage of development of the different chapters presented. The Chwaka bibliography work was also presented. Prior to the workshop, all research work done in Chwaka Bay was gathered and a "Chwaka Bay Library" created for the participants to access to continue their work. On the second day of the workshop, all chapters were presented in a plenary session and possible overlaps and cross-references identified. A pretty intense afternoon of writing culminated with a wonderful dinner in a popular Chinese restaurant in Stone Town! On the third day, authors had the opportunity to address overlaps and continue with the writing and polishing of their chapters. The fourth day was devoted to peer-review and feedback. All the chapters were assigned to be reviewed by a researcher from another chapter. The feedback was given in oral and written form. During the last day, a plenary session addressed gaps in the



Writers keeping their noses to the grind stone

knowledge, future research and key messages of the book. The researchers also reflected on the specific key messages and management implications of their respective chapters. In the evening a wonderful beachside barbecue was arranged in which all participants performed regional dances from their respective regions of origin.

The Chwaka Book Writing Workshop was perceived as very positive by all the participants. The opportunity to work together and make substantial advances in the different chapters was highly valued as well as the seriousness and commitment of all members to the writing.

It must be said that it was wonderful to see the engagement, enthusiasm, comradeship, and hard work that all participants demonstrated during this productive week. The exercise certainly helped all co-authors to be sure that this book is their book.



Participants' group photo

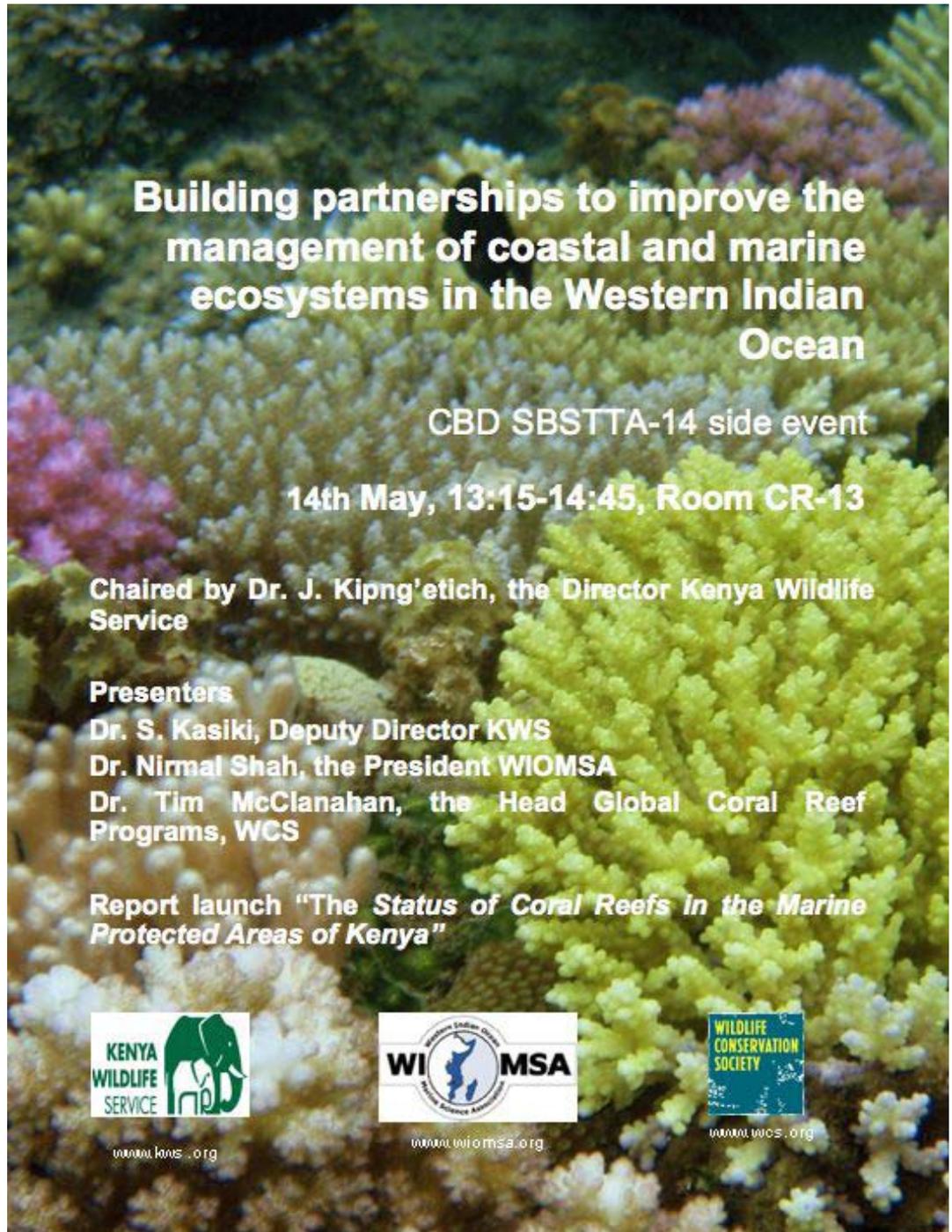
Partnerships are vital for management of coastal and marine ecosystems!
By Nyawira Muthiga & Nirmal Shah

This simple sounding but hard to roll out paradigm was highlighted at a unique Side Event held during the recent 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD SBSTTA 14) convened from 10-21 May 2010, at the United Nations Environment Programme Offices in Nairobi, Kenya. The Side Event was organized by, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and was supported by the Nairobi Convention. It had as an objective, to demonstrate the exciting results of ongoing partnerships between some of the key organizations in the WIO region, including WIOMSA, and to build further partnerships with others.

The importance of the Side Event was demonstrated by the fact that it was chaired by the CEO of KWS, Dr Julius Kipng'etich and that the presentations were delivered by well known and senior scientists and managers of our region namely Dr. Nirmal Shah, President of WIOMSA, Dr. Tim McClanahan and Dr Nyawira Muthiga of the WCS and Dr. Samuel Kasiki, Deputy Director of KWS. Attendance surpassed the expectations of the organizers with some 30 senior participants including participants from the CBD secretariat, regional and international NGOs, government institutions and journalists.

The presentations were anchored on the hard lesson learned that the challenges facing management of marine and coastal resources in our region not only require integrated and ecosystem approaches, but also close collaboration between communities, NGOs, and government institutions. New ways of working together and creating synergies rather than creating competing silos are vital. Regional and international partnerships can also support the efforts of government and communities, as was stressed by all the presenters. Given that ten countries of the WIO region recently signed the new Protocol and Strategic Action Programme of the Nairobi Convention such partnerships are expected to assist in implementing the work programme. A showcase of such partnerships between the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) was demonstrated by the presenters. Readers who want to know more about this Side Event are directed to the Nairobi Convention website where all the Power Point presentations can be downloaded on the following website.

www.unep.org/NairobiConvention/Information_Center/Side_Event_Coastal&Marine.asp



Building partnerships to improve the management of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean

CBD SBSTTA-14 side event

14th May, 13:15-14:45, Room CR-13

Chaired by Dr. J. Kipng'etich, the Director Kenya Wildlife Service

Presenters
Dr. S. Kasiki, Deputy Director KWS
Dr. Nirmal Shah, the President WIOMSA
Dr. Tim McClanahan, the Head Global Coral Reef Programs, WCS

Report launch "The Status of Coral Reefs In the Marine Protected Areas of Kenya"

www.kws.org www.wiomsa.org www.wcs.org

A Tanzanian First! Bivalve hatchery installed at IMS. By Narriman Jiddawi

A group of five experts in bivalve farming and hatchery operations visited the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) in February 2010 to install the first hatchery for bivalves in Tanzania as the first stage of a three-year project funded by the Island Creek Foundation of Duxbury and the McKnight Foundation of Chicago, both in the USA. The project was developed and is directed by Dr. Narriman Jiddawi (IMS) and Dr. Hauke Kite-Powell of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Jiddawi and Kite-Powell have been working on shellfish culture projects in Zanzibar villages for several years with McKnight Foundation support; and in August 2009, local bivalve and pearl farmers and jewelry makers from Fumba and Menai Bay were led by IMS staff members on a visit to shellfish farming and jewelry making operations in the USA as part of a USAID exchange program initiated by the Coastal Resource Center of the University of Rhode Island.

A bivalve hatchery is a facility where shellfish larvae are hatched under controlled conditions

and grown to sufficient size so that they can safely be transferred to open water or shellfish beds until they reach market size. Once it is fully operational, the hatchery at IMS is expected to produce several million shellfish seed per year, including clams and oysters; and also to provide a base for research on shellfish biology and reproduction. A bivalve hatchery requires the production of large quantities of high quality algae as food for the broodstock (mothers) and for the larvae and seed. Much of the equipment at the hatchery is dedicated to the production of algae and to rearing the larvae.

The idea for the hatchery was motivated by interest from the local community in expanding the production of indigenous shellfish for food, pearl farming, and jewelry making using shells. Shellfish are in demand for food both in the local markets and from hotels which have shown a particular interest in a reliable source of fresh, live shellfish. In order to ensure that these activities are sustainable and no pressure is exerted into the natural environment, it is

necessary to supplement wild stocks with seed from a hatchery. Hatchery production has several advantages over collection of wild stock shellfish. Hatchery production is reliable and can supply growers with their seed requirements when it is convenient to them - often much earlier in a growing season than in the natural setting. They can also allow shellfish growers to "plant" the seed in locations that are easy to harvest once the shellfish reach market size.

Bivalves are ideal animals for aquaculture: they are herbivores requiring no additional feeding apart from the natural algae and detrital content of seawater, generally require minimum husbandry, and actually clean the water as they feed - so they have no bad impact to the environment. Continued improvements in culture methodology and technology will be required to meet increasing demand and also to make bivalve culture more economically attractive to both investors and people who wish to become shellfish farmers.



Dr. Jiddawi at the hatchery

Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programme January – June 2010

The tables below highlight the projects approved for MARG support in the first half of 2010. The MARG Programme continues to attract not only students and upcoming research scientists in the WIO region but also seasoned researchers. By the end of May 2010, WIOMSA had provided 22 grants from 34 applications requesting support from all the three categories of MARG. The successful applications were from 16 institutions in 8 countries.

MARG-I is awarded to individual scientists to carry out well-defined research activities in their countries and institutions. This year WIOMSA received 11 MARG I applications out of which 3 were funded to conduct research in La Reunion, Seychelles and Tanzania.

MARG-II is awarded to individual scientists to visit and stay at other institutions within WIO and where necessary outside the region. This is for the purpose of sharing or gaining technical experience as well as processing data and writing-up manuscript. 7 applications were received in this period out of which 6 projects by researchers from five institutions in Kenya, Madagascar, La Reunion and Tanzania were approved for implementation.

MARG-III provides travel support to individual scientists to attend scientific meetings and conferences, giving them opportunities to present their work and learn from others. Out of the 16 applications that were submitted in the first half of the year, 13 researchers from 11 institutions in Comores, Kenya, Mauritius, Reunion, South Africa and Tanzania received some funding.

Title of MARG-I Project	Researcher and affiliation
Population census, ecology comparison of seabird breeding colonies at Barren island Maintirano (Western) and Tamatave islets East coast Madagascar, and their conservation with community groups	Marc Nestor Rabenanadrasana, Marine Ecology Laboratory, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, St Denis, La Reunion
Alternative Nursery Methods for Juvenile <i>Holothuria scabra</i> (Sandfish)	Twalibu Kithakeni, Dept of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
The influence of recruitment and herbivory on the recovery of Seychelles coral reefs	Karen Michelle Chong-Seng, ARC CoE Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University, Australia

Title of MARG – II Project	Researcher and affiliation
Placement at the University of Western Australia. To develop a numerical circulation model of the fringing reefs on Reunion Island	Emmanuel Cordier, IRD University of La Reunion, St. Denis, La Reunion
Placement at the University of Dar es Salaam's Department of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries to use GFAAS to analyse water and sediments from Kenya	Joel Gatagwu, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Mombasa, Kenya
Perform PCR, DGGE and sequencing of microbial DNA samples at the Biodiversity Research Centre in Taipei, Taiwan.	Suleiman Mohammed, Institute of Marine Sciences, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Placement at the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (POL), United Kingdom	Shigalla Mahongo, Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Placement at the Laboratory of Marine Biology, University of Mons, Belgium	Pricilla Rokotoarisoa, Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines, Tulear, Madagascar
Placement at the Department of Animal Ecology and Ecophysiology, University of Radboud, Nijmegen, the Netherlands	Ishmael Kimerei, Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

MARG-III: Title of Event	Participating Researcher and affiliation
Training course on project design, management and logframes. 8th - 19th March 2010 in Manzini, Swaziland	Joyce Kulekana, Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
The GRC Marine Natural Products Conference. 28th February to 5th March, 2010, Ventura Beach, Marriot California in USA	Thomas Mwambire Dzeha, Marine Natural Products Research Development Fellow, Mombasa, Kenya
30th Sea Turtle Symposium. 24th - 30th April, 2010 in Goa, India	Katia Ballorain, KELONIA Marine Turtles Observatory, La Reunion;
30th Sea Turtle Symposium. 24th - 30th April, 2010 in Goa, India	Anfani Msoili, Association pour le Développement Socio-économique d'Itsamia, Comores
11th International Symposium on GIM 2010. 28th June - 1st July, 2010 in Melbourne, Australia	Eva Sosovele, Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
Training Course on Economic Tools for Conservation. 9th - 20th August 2010 in California, USA	Edward Njagi, National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya.
Workshop on QPCR for Coral Biologist. 10th -20th August, 2010 in Austin, Texas in USA	Phanor Montoya-Maya, Oceanographic Research Institute, Durban, South Africa
International Symposium on Biodiversity Associated with Mangrove Ecosystems. 17th to 21st May, 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam	Elisha Mrabu, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Mombasa, Kenya
2nd Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium. 20th - 24th June, 2010, Phuket, Thailand	Karlynn Kari Langjahr, Chumbe Island Coral Park, Zanzibar Tanzania
First Meeting of the African Marine Mammal Colloquium. 18th - 21st May 2010, Kleinbaai, South Africa	Omar Amir, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Hands-on Training Course on Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (QPCR) for Coral Biologists. 10th - 20th August 2010, University of Texas, Austin, Florida, USA	Ranjeet Bhagooli, University of Mauritius, Reduit, Mauritius
Workshop on International Collective Support of Fish workers. 7th - 10th July 2010, Chennai, India	Rose Mwaipopo, College of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
2010 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Annual Science Conference. 20th - 24th September, 2010. Nantes, France	Joseph Nyingi Kamau, University of Kwa Zulu Natal, Durban, South Africa

Several countries elect their country coordinators



Mr. Lionel Bigot
Université de La Réunion
Country Coordinator for La Reunion



Ms. Kerstin Henri
Nature Seychelles
Country Coordinator for Seychelles



Dr. Almeida Guissamulo
Eduardo Mondlane University
Country Coordinator for Mozambique

The WIOMSA Country Coordinators, like the members of the WIOMSA Board of Trustees are elected by members in their respective countries. As was the case during the elections of the Board members, the elections of Country Coordinators involved only the paid members and students. Elections of Country Coordinators are held every three years after the election of the members of the Board has been finalized.

WIOMSA Country Coordinators elections have so far been organized in six countries namely: Mozambique, Reunion, Seychelles, South Africa and Zanzibar. Of these, the incumbent countries coordinators for South Africa (Prof. Michael Schleyer), Tanzania mainland (Dr. Charles Lugomela) and Zanzibar (Dr. Nariman Jiddawi) were re-elected unopposed. Kerstin Henri was elected unopposed as the Country Coordinator for Seychelles. This is the second time that she is elected in that position.

Dr. Lionel Bigot was elected the Country Coordinator of Reunion after defeating Dr Jean Francois Temon in the closely contested election held in May 2010. In Mozambique, Dr Almeida Guissamulo won the election by majority votes defeating his opponent Mr. Marcos A M Pereira. Lionel and Almeida are replacing Matthieu Le Corre and Adriano Macia, respectively. Matthieu Le Corre will be missed as he was one of the most active Country Coordinators, who apart from organizing regular meetings of WIOMSA members in Reunion, in 2008/2009-played a key role in the organization of the Sixth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium that was held in Reunion in August 2009. Macia achieved quite a lot during his tenure particularly in recruiting paid members. Mozambique is among leading countries with the most paid members.

The other countries are in the process of organizing their elections.

WIOMSA congratulates the elected Country Coordinators and is looking forward to working with them during their tenure promoting WIOMSA in their respective countries. We are also grateful to Matthieu and Adriano for serving the Association well.



Prof. Michael Schleyer
Oceanographic Research Institute
Country Coordinator for South Africa



Dr. Charles Lugomela
University of Dar es Salaam
Country Coordinator for Tanzania Mainland



Dr. Nariman Jiddawi
Institute of Marine Sciences
Country Coordinator for Zanzibar

New Editor in Chief and Editorial Board appointed

In May 2010, the WIOMSA Board of Trustees appointed Prof. Michael Schleyer of the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) as the new Editor in Chief of the Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science. He takes over from Prof Alan Whittick, who has been - the Editor in Chief since the establishment of the Journal in 2002.

The WIOMSA Board of Trustees also appointed new members of the Editorial Board as follows:

- i) Jared BOSIRE , Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
- ii) Blandina LUGENDO, Department of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries, University of Dar es Salaam
- iii) Kassim KULINDWA, Department of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam
- iv) Francis MARSAC, Institut de recherché pour le developpement (IRD)
- v) Nyawira MUTHIGA, Wildlife Conservation Society(WCS)
- vi) Jose PAULA, University of Lisbon
- vii) Chris REASON, Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town

Each member of this multi-disciplinary Board brings quite extensive experience and knowledge in his/her area of expertise and publication in peer-reviewed journals. They are also well connected as they belong to several scientific Associations and networks, therefore will provide new names of experts who could be added in the database of reviewers for the Journal. One of the main challenges of the new Editorial Board is to continue improving the quality of the Journal and therefore increasing its impact factor. With all its long-term experience and knowledge as well as connections, that should be a manageable milestone for this Editorial Board. We wish them the best of luck!



Prof. Michael Schleyer, Editor in Chief



Dr. Jared Bosire



Dr. Kassim Kulindwa



Dr. Nyawira Muthiga



Dr. Blandina Lugendo



Dr. Francis Marsac



Prof. José Paula

Special Issue of the Ocean and Coastal Management is out!

Special issue of Ocean and Coastal Management Journal “Understanding the Human Dimensions of the Management of Coastal and Marine Resources in the WIO region” edited by Rose Mwaipopo, G. -M. Lange and Y. Breton as Guest Editors, has been published in Volume 53 No 4 of April 2010.

This Issue comprises of the selected papers from Fifth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, which was held in October 2007 in Durban, South Africa. In addition to the editorial, the Issue comprises of the following articles:

- i) The changing social relations of a community-based mangrove forest project in Zanzibar – Fred Saunders, Salim M. Mohammed, Narriman Jiddawi, Bengt Lundèn, Karolina Nordin and Sara Sjöling
- ii) Lessons learnt from a collaborative management programme in coastal Tanzania – Sue Wells, Melita Samoilys, Solomon Makoloweka and Hassan Kalombo
- iii) Social acceptability of a Marine Protected Area: the case of Reunion Island – Aurélie Thomassin, Carole S. White, Selina S. Stead, and Gilbert David
- iv) Ecological knowledge interactions in marine governance in Kenya – Louisa S. Evans
- v) Socio-Economic Features of Sea Cucumber Fisheries in Southern Coast of Kenya – Jacob Ochiewo, Maricela de la Torre-Castro, Charles Muthama, Fridah Munyi, and J.M. Nthuta

This is the fourth and the final Special Issue from the Fifth WIOMSA Symposium. The others are: Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Sciences (2009, Volume 84, Issue 3, Pages 299-428); Aquatic Conservation (Volume 19 Issue S1, Pages S1 – S69) and Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science Volume 8 Number 2).



Kizzie bids WIOMSA Secretariat farewell

Dr. Melckzedek K. Osore, the Coordinator of WIOMSA's Marine Science for Management (MASMA) Programme is relocating to Mombasa, Kenya on completion of his third consecutive term of working as member of staff at the Secretariat in Zanzibar.

Kizzie, as he is popularly known among friends and colleagues, opted not to renew his contract on completion of the current term. During his tenure at the WIOMSA Secretariat, he played a key role in some of the major transformations of the Association in the second half of this decade. These included the preparation of the WIOMSA Strategic Plan and the Resource Mobilization Strategy, acquisition of the WIOMSA Secretariat Building, and the growth of the MASMA Programme into an important research granting mechanism in the WIO region.

Among his key responsibilities at the Secretariat, he mostly cherished the experience of communicating directly with researchers and members of the Association both locally in the western Indian Ocean region and abroad in the process of coordinating both MARG and MASMA grants. He was grateful to have had an opportunity to not only serve the researchers in this region, but also to learn from them. He said; “As the designate rapporteur in both the MASMA Programme Committee Meetings and the annual Grantees Meetings, I was able to gain much knowledge on a broad spectrum of the coastal and marine sciences in our WIO region and beyond. I witnessed the functioning of a regional scientific research council and in the process I gained a lot of insight and knowledge – much, much more than any training institution could ever provide”.

WIOMSA and the Secretariat in Zanzibar wish him well as he takes up other responsibilities.



The Executive Secretary
Western Indian Ocean Marine
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