March 2012

WIOMSA Newsbrief

Volume 17 No. 1

Newsbrief

The WIOMSA Trust Officially Launched

17th March 2012 marked another important day in the WIOMSA’s history. The WIOMSA Trust (WT) was launched in Mauritius, where the trust is registered. This is an exciting milestone for WIOMSA which few believed would be achieved so soon in the history of the Association.

This milestone was marked by the signing of the WIOMSA Charitable Trust Deed by recently appointed founding Trustees of the Trust, Dr Magnus Ngoile from Tanzania, Dr Pascale Chabanet from Reunion, and Prof. Lena Gipperth from Sweden, and the representative of the Mauritius-based Loita Management Services Limited. Dr. Salomao Bandeira, the WIOMSA Vice President also signed the Deed as required by Law. The WIOMSA Trust fund was officially launched by Dr. Bandeira, at La Plantation Hotel in Mauritius at a reception that was hosted jointly by WIOMSA and the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) and was attended by members of the WIOMSA Board, the trustees of the Trust as well as invited partners representing different organizations in Mauritius. Other speakers at the event, who lauded the move to establish the trust, included the founding trustees, Dr. Daniel Marie who represented the Officer in Charge of MOI, Rezah Badal and Susanna Dalais from Loita Management Services Limited.

Speaking on behalf of the WIOMSA President, Dr. Bandeira told invited guests that the launch of the trust marked the culmination of an extensive and well thought out that started with the approval of the WIOMSA Resource Mobilization Strategy in the Fourth WIOMSA General Assembly in 2009 in Reunion. The process had involved the effort, time and commitment of the Board of Trustees, the Secretariat, consultants and partners to set up an important financing tool that would channel funds towards supporting the achievement of agreed priorities and goals for WIOMSA and the region within the framework of the Association’s strategic plan.

Table of Contents
1. Launch of the WIOMSA Trust.
2. Board Decisions
3. Major events held in the region
   i) Western Indian Ocean Climate Change Workshop for Coastal and Marine Protected Areas: An Adaptation Partnership Workshop
   ii) WIO-COMPAS Assessors Trained in South Africa
   iii) Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge Platform - First Regional Technical Workshop
   iv) First Regional Technical Workshop for the Implementation of the Small Islands Developing States Mauritius Strategy (ISLANDS)
   v) Preliminary output of the regional expert meeting on the project Regional comparative assessment of potential areas with Outstanding Universal Value in the Western Indian Ocean
   vi) An Official Launch of the Satellite receiving Station and Field Data Collection for the AMESD Project
3. New Publications
4. Upcoming events
   i) Sea Cucumber Fisheries: An Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Indian Ocean (SCEAM Indian Ocean)
   ii) The Integrated Sustainable Coastal Development Program for 2012 to kick off in Sweden
5. Photo gallery
Dr. Bandeira gave the background of the establishment of the trust, saying that it was one of the key components of the WIOMSA Resource Mobilization strategy whose principal goal is to ensure WIOMSA’s financial future through securing long-term sustainable financing for the Association’s core activities. The WIOMSA’s financial future ensures WIOMSA’s core activities and coastal resources. The WIOMSA has received generous support from WIOMSA’s traditional donors and strengthening the Secretariat to support ongoing fundraising activities. WIOMSA has received generous support from the international community since inception, notably from the Swedish Government. As a maturing organisation, realising that the sustainability of the organisation relies on expanding its funding base and diversity of funding streams, the Association investigated several options to further strengthen its position in the region. The establishment of the trust is a first for marine science in the region as it follows models generally used in the terrestrial conservation sector. The WIOMSA Trust aims at providing a reliable and sustainable source of funding to support research activities in the Western Indian Ocean region and to support WIOMSA’s core activities.

Initial contributions to the trust have come from the Swedish Government and from income generated by WIOMSA through several service provision activities. It is anticipated that these modest initial contributions will encourage other organisations from within and outside of the region to add their support to the fund for the continued benefit of WIOMSA’s core activities.

A number of pertinent decisions concerning the governing of the Association have been made by the Board of Trustees in the latter part of 2011 and in 2012. Some of the decisions include:

**Recent Board Decisions**

**The WIOMSA Trust Fund:**

The Board decided that a trust fund should be established for the purpose of securing the long-term financial sustainability of the Association. The Board expects that the WIOMSA Trust (WIT in short), will provide a reliable and sustainable source of funding to support research activities in the Western Indian Ocean region and to support WIOMSA’s core activities. The Board decided that the Trust is registered in Mauritius as it offers better incentives that the other countries in the region. Loita Management Services has been retained as the Corporate Trustee to assist with the administration of the Trust as required by Mauritian Law. WIOMSA Board of Trustees – whose main responsibility is to provide an oversight role to the Trustees of the Trust has appointed has appointed Dr Magnus Ngoile from Tanzania, Dr Pascale Chabanet from Reunion, Prof Lena Gipperth from Sweden as Trustees of the fund. Dr. Chabanet is the representative of the Board in the trust. The trustees are prominent individuals in their own right, and together with the Loita Management Services Ltd, are tasked with the primary responsibility to guide the Trust through the initial stages of establishment. They will also use their considerable combined influence together with the WIOMSA Board of Trustees and the WIOMSA Secretariat, to leverage resources and support to capitalise the trust over the next five years.

The success of the Trust depends on continued commitment and support from friends of WIOMSA particularly, members through payment of annual subscription fees, partners through either executing joint projects and/or requesting for WIOMSA’s services and donors, funders and private sector through providing direct funding to the trust or interest-free loans. Let us play our part in making the WIT a success!

**WIO-COMPAS:**

The Board, which together with the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island, are the certifying bodies for the Western Indian Ocean Certification of Marine Protected Area Professionals (WIO-COMPAS) programme, approved 9 candidates to be assessed for certification in the first Level 3 Certification Assessment Event to be held in May 2012, in South Africa.
Major events held in the region

Western Indian Ocean Climate Change Workshop for Coastal and Marine Protected Areas: An Adaptation Partnership Workshop
*Cape Town, South Africa, February 8 – 10, 2012*

Thirty nine participants from 9 Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries and the United States were brought together by the Adaptation Partnership to identify climate change capacity building needs for coastal and marine protected areas in the WIO region. The workshop was organized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Department of State (DOS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with regional assistance provided by WIOMSA.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify the capacity requirements for managers of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within the WIO region to conduct vulnerability assessments and build adaptive responses to climate change impacts within their management frameworks.

The first day consisted of presentations from each country on Climate Change and MPAs grouped according to three capacity building categories: information, tools and experiential learning. On the second and third day, 5 separate groups identified climate and non-climate stressors to key MPA resources (corals, fisheries, mangroves, sea turtles, seagrasses). The groups then identified some of the impacts of these stressors and management actions to address these, before categorizing and prioritizing capacity building needs to address these impacts.

From each of the five groups came a common thread of capacity building needs that are priorities for better management of climate stressors and protection of resources in MPAs. The following were the top five needs that were identified:

**Understanding Climate Change**

While MPA managers were confident with the knowledge and tools needed to address non-climate stressors, their confidence decreased when it came to climate stressors. It is important that there be a better understanding of the relationship between human activities and climate change impacts on communities, natural resources, and natural processes as well as ways to analyze and assess these impacts and adaptive responses. MPA managers need to have a better understanding of the impacts of climate change so that they can communicate this to community members and decision makers. This can be approached as Climate Change 101 training and/or Climate Change Adaptation training.

**Improved Data and Information**

All five resource groups identified the need for improved data and information tools to understand the impacts of climate change on resources. This could include tools to collect baseline data and to monitor the health of ecosystems and changes in the climate.

Monitoring of climate change impacts is important but expensive, and sufficient and sustained resources are not available. It would be helpful to have standardized monitoring methodologies within the region.

**Education and Awareness**

A need for education, awareness, and communication programs and tools targeted at MPA managers, policy makers, and community members was an important need across the resources groups. This includes education about the impacts of climate change on MPA resources and tools for raising awareness among policy makers and community groups. It also includes training for MPA managers on how to engage policy makers and communities in order to generate political will for the creation of new MPAs and to support the management of existing MPAs, including the enforcement of MPA protection measures.

Communication capacity building activities should focus on both internal and external communication. For **external communication**, managers need communication tools and training on how to use communication materials as education tools. New materials should focus on climate change and target decision makers.

**Internal communication and sharing knowledge** needs to be improved across MPAs in the region. Communication within the MPA community will require a unique set of tools so that information sharing can take place more easily and with greater regularity. A discussion forum for continued dialogue with MPA managers and others working with MPAs and marine resources in the WIO can serve as a place for sharing best practices, lessons learned, and information tools and bringing concerns or problems for a collaborative discussion about solutions.

**Vulnerability assessment**

There was specific mention by the groups of the need for improved capacity to conduct vulnerability assessments, including training and assessment tools.

**Alternative Livelihoods**

Participants also identified a need to improve the types of alternative livelihoods available to communities in and around MPAs. This could include improved education opportunities, training, and incentives to reinforce the adoption of alternative livelihoods.
The development of a capacity building plan is still underway, but participants identified three actions that could be implemented quickly to provide MPA managers with immediate tools that they can deploy in their management efforts. These actions are:

1. **Maintain communication and contact,** and share best practices and lessons learned among MPA players at the workshop through an online dialogue forum. (WIOMSA has offered to provide a platform).
2. **Create an inventory of experts on climate change issues affecting MPAs and engage them through the forum so that data, protocols, and tools are shared in a timely manner.**
3. **Improve the understanding of impacts and vulnerabilities within the region.**

NOAA and USAID will work with regional representatives and stakeholders to identify the most appropriate follow-on activity to this workshop, with the goal of improving the ability of MPA managers to better assess and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Follow-on activities to consider could include:

1. **Climate Change Communication** – training and tools
2. **Climate Change 101 and/or Adaptation** - training
3. **Vulnerability Assessment** – training and tools for standardization across the WIO region
4. **Data Collection and Monitoring** – training and tools for standardizing across the WIO region

Other potential capacity building activities may include:

- **Provide more specific climate change focus in WIOMSA’s WIO-COMPAS trainings.**
- **Develop communication tools for managers, including enhancing report writing and presentation skills.**
- **Produce a manual (in four languages: English, French, Portuguese, Kiswahili) for climate change and related issues for use by MPA managers. This could be produced through a regional body like WIOMSA, which has good experience in supporting this kind of publication.**
- **Develop protocols for local level monitoring of climate-linked issues that could be undertaken by MPA staff and fed into a central regional network for access by managers from other parts of the region. This could be linked to the online platform for MPA managers discussed above.**

**Possible Next Steps**

The development of a capacity building plan is still underway, but participants identified three actions that could be implemented quickly to provide MPA managers with immediate tools that they can deploy in their management efforts. These actions are:

1. **Maintain communication and contact,** and share best practices and lessons learned among MPA players at the workshop through an online dialogue forum. (WIOMSA has offered to provide a platform).
2. **Create an inventory of experts on climate change issues affecting MPAs and engage them through the forum so that data, protocols, and tools are shared in a timely manner.**
3. **Improve the understanding of impacts and vulnerabilities within the region.**
The WIO-COMPAS program held a training course for assessors in February 2012 in Johannesburg. The training involved 11 assessors from Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa and Tanzania. The training intervention, conducted by QalaNet Consultants at the request of WIOMSA, is part of the ongoing development of the WIO-COMPAS Programme for the Certification of MPA Professionals and it targeted Level 1 and 2 assessors.

One of the strategic goals for WIO-COMPAS is the achievement of greater national and international credibility and recognition for certification in the interests of professionalising the field of marine protection and the assessment model adapted by the program is one of the ways of ensuring that this credibility is maintained. Broadly speaking, the assessment model and the implementation of the model must be seen to be a high quality product which leads to reliable assessment results and this can only be achieved through a credible training process.

The objectives of the assessor training course were to formalise the experience and status of the current crop of WIO-COMPAS assessors, through improving their expertise in the theory and practice of assessment; to model an Assessor Training programme for Apprentice Assessors that will be replicated in the future in order to increase the pool of qualified assessors for the programme; to refine a good-practice Quality Assurance system for the WIO-COMPAS programme; and to define those elements and aspects of the WIO-COMPAS certification programme which give it a stamp of high quality, in support of advocacy and marketability.

The training focused on deepening the links between the WIO-COMPAS assessment model and general assessment theories and practices and interrogating the use of the instruments and tools in terms of defining the roles and responsibilities of assessors and moderators. During the discussions, a draft training model was developed for apprentice assessors. The proposed model includes procedures for assessor apprenticeship and a training program outline for apprentice assessors. The issue of clarifying a Quality Assurance model for WIO-COMPAS was also discussed at length. The proposed WIO-COMPAS Quality model would include governance structures, quality control process, and assessor and moderator framework, an assessment model, certification and a communications strategy.

During the training course, a WIO-COMPAS strategy meeting was held and a number of points deliberated upon including the Level 3 certification event in May 2012; a learning workshop to review the entire WIO-COMPAS model. The workshop, planned for September 2012 aims to review the WIO-COMPAS programme as a whole with special attention being given to Level 3 Certification Event and the assessors training course, to discuss the impacts of certification on the MPA staff as well as the MPA themselves, to analyze training/professional development gaps from all the certification events and see how they could be aligned with the existing regional training courses and courses offered by academic institutions, to deliberate on how the devolution of the Certification Events to the country level be effected, to deliberate on whether the current management models of MPAs be relevant 30 to 50 years from now. Other points discussed during the strategy meeting included a possible assessment of the management effectiveness of MPA, establishing a database on MPAs in the region and establishing a blog specifically for MPAs in the region.
The Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIO-CC) was first proposed by President James A. Michel, Government of the Seychelles, in 2007 as a “platform to galvanize political, financial and technical commitments and actions at national and regional levels on climate change adaptation, promoting resilient ecosystems (marine and coastal resources), sustainable livelihoods, and human security”.

The concept of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge is to mobilize countries that share the ocean’s vast and resource rich waters and coasts to come together and commit to action towards conservation and sustainable livelihoods including responses to the threat posed by climate change— including ecosystem based adaptation—over the next twenty years. With a focus on coastal and marine zones, the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge would build on the long-standing efforts of regional organizations including the Indian Ocean Commission and Nairobi Convention by focusing on the following principles:

- Countries and territories in the driver’s seat of the Challenge at both the development and implementation level with a focus on local and national needs and priorities
- Strengthening and aligning with existing conventions, strategies, action plans, networks, and partnerships as the basis for action
- Broader coastal zone management approach to ensure sustainable coastal economies and communities and safeguard the resilience of the region’s marine and coastal ecosystems
- Evidence and science-based approaches to integrated coastal zone management

The concept of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge is based on other similar regional high-level political tangible commitments in Micronesia, the Coral Triangle and the Caribbean, which have been able to leverage extensive global attention and resources. These Challenges have been supported by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), which was initiated, and is co-chaired, by the Presidents of the Seychelles and Palau in 2005.

The next step is to operationalize the Challenge through the creation of a Regional WIO – Challenge Platform under the leadership of the Seychelles. This Platform and the actions needed to move forward in operationalizing the WIO - CC will be supported as part of implementation of the SIDS Mauritius Strategy with funding from the European Union and other technical and financial partners over the next 18 months. A workshop was held in Seychelles on 14 and 15 March 2012 to kickstart this process.

The WIO-C (short for “Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean”), which is a group of international and regional organizations and agencies working together to support partnerships that advance marine research, conservation and management in WIO region, was asked to assist with the facilitation of this workshop. The WIO-C has developed a close working relationship with the emerging Coastal Challenge over the years and is well placed to provide technical guidance and advice to the Platform. Dr. Tim Andrew of WIOMSA and Mr. Harifidy Railison of the WWF Marine Programme in Madagascar, undertook the co-facilitation task on behalf of the WIO-C.

Participants in the meeting included Seychelles Government officials, the WIO – CC Platform Chair and focal points from Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, Tanzania (Zanzibar), Reunion, Kenya and Mozambique (representatives from South Africa and Tanzania mainland were invited but were unable to attend on this occasion), representatives from regional bodies, including the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the Indian Ocean Commission, representatives from WIO regional projects including the ISLANDS and Climate Change Project, representatives from WIO – Consortium including WIOMSA and WWF, and a GLISPA representative.

The workshop was chaired by the WIO-Coastal Challenge President, Mr Wills Agricole, recently appointed Permanent Secretary in the Seychelles Ministry for Environment and Energy, with the following objectives:

1. Mobilize WIO country level engagement and commitment to move forward the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIO – CC) to build a common vision and regional strategy that addresses climate change impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems;
2. Define roles and responsibilities of the WIO – CC Platform members and other stakeholders to advance common objectives and priorities; and
3. Consult and receive input to develop the WIO Coastal Challenge over the next 18 months through support from the ISLANDS project.

The following general outputs were expected from the meeting and were mostly achieved:
- WIO-Coastal Challenge platform country members committed and engaged with clear understanding of the benefits of the Challenge;
- “Champions” for forwarding political commitment and country ownership identified;
- Roles and responsibilities of WIO - CC Platform and coordination mechanism to operationalize WIO – CC defined and understood with different stakeholders;
- Input for implementation of ISLANDS Work Plan to operationalize WIO – CC: operational plan developed; and
- Next steps identified.

Overall, participants left the meeting with a greater understanding of how the challenge was a long-term initiative requiring ongoing and voluntary engagement from participating countries. At the same time operationalizing the Challenge forms a key part of the Islands project's activities and this initial support provides a critical starting point for the Challenge, although for the relatively short initial period of 18 months. In this regard the participants were also able to assist in providing inputs into the Islands supported workplan for the next 18 months during the course of the workshop.

In addition it was clear that the Challenge had the strong support of the President and Government of Seychelles, and that her roving Ambassador for Climate Change, Mr. Ronnie Jumeau, would push forward the concept at the highest levels in the region and globally. The RIO+20 and Nairobi Convention COP 7 meetings were flagged as potential fora to assist in this process.

An important process started at the workshop was that of developing a vision for the Challenge. The participants listed criteria that they would like to see in the 20 year Vision. These were categorised and included in a first draft that will be further worked on by participants after returning to their home countries. It is anticipated that a draft will be ready for adoption at the next WIO-CC technical meeting scheduled for September 2012.
There is a need for the ISLANDS Programme to build capacities, mobilise additional resources, and develop long-term technical platforms that will contribute to the sharing of best practices.” This is according to His Excellency, Mr Callixte D’Offay, Secretary General of the IOC, on his opening remarks delivered during opening ceremony of the First Regional Technical Workshop for the Implementation of the Small Islands Developing States Mauritius Strategy (ISLANDS), which was held at the La Plantation Hotel, Balaclava, Mauritius, from 24-25 January 2012.

ISLANDS, whose official name is ‘Implementation of the SIDS Mauritius Strategy in the Eastern Southern African-Indian Ocean Region’ (ISIDSMS), is a project of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), which is financed by The European Union. The overall objective of project is ‘to contribute to an increased level of social, economic and environmental development and deeper regional integration in the Eastern Southern African (ESA)-Indian Ocean (IO) region through the sustainable development of SIDS’. The specific objective is to ‘accelerate the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the ESA-IO region’. The ESA-IO region comprises of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zanzibar (Tanzania). ISLANDS project, is a two year project, with a budget of 10 million EUR. The project is implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission in collaboration with the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), supported by a technical assistance provided by a consortium of partners led by MWH SA/NV (Belgium), including MWH UK Ltd (United Kingdom), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and ETC Foundation (The Netherlands).

The objective of the Technical workshop was to enable the representatives of all the key stakeholders to take stock of progress in the implementation of the ISIDSMS Project, review the log-frame and make recommendations to the Project Steering Committee for the next steps.

The workshop was structured around the four key results of the project, which are:
- A Monitoring and Evaluation system for the implementation of the MS is developed and operational at national, regional and international level.
- Best practices in mitigating vulnerabilities of SIDS on the four selected themes are established:
  - A Coral Reefs facility for the region is made operational;
  - A disaster insurance scheme against natural disasters is developed;
  - A high level political strategy for transforming an Island State into a sustainable development Island State where economic, social and environmental development will be optimally integrated is operational; and
  - A Western Indian Ocean Challenge initiative on Climate Change is operational.
- Capacity to leverage commitments for the pursuit of best practices on the four selected themes and attract investments for implementation is developed in the region.
- Partnership for implementation of MS at national, regional and global level strengthened.

The other main highlights of the workshop were:
- Launching of the ISLANDS project brand
- Official presentation of the book “Saving Small Islands Developing States – Environmental and Natural Resource Challenges” on the 26 January

The official presentation then led an open discussion/debate between a panel of experts and workshop participants, the media and other invited guests. This discussion was chaired by Mr Raj Mohabeer from the Indian Ocean Commission and was centred on issues related to establishing an evidence base for sustainable development, its dissemination to target audiences and its use in influencing development strategies in the public and private sectors.
Preliminary output of the regional expert meeting on the project: Regional comparative assessment of potential areas with Outstanding Universal Value in the Western Indian Ocean

Saint-Denis, Île de La Réunion, France, 14-16 February 2012

The World Heritage Centre has established a new initiative to expand the representation of marine sites on the World Heritage List. This project established a more robust methodology that is more relevant to the ecological specification for identifying marine sites of potential Outstanding Universal Value. The methodology has for the first time been applied it in the Western Indian Ocean. It is the intention to work with Western Indian Ocean countries in the future in particular to initiate a process that leads towards new World Heritage nominations, and will roll out the approach to other marine regions.

The primary finding was that on the basis of geology and oceanography, the Mozambique Channel stands out as a unique region globally. It has the oldest coastlines in the Indian Ocean, long term environmental stability and a unique oceanography dominated by dynamic eddies, driving uniquely productive and highly connected marine ecosystems. At different locations in the Mozambique Channel, supraterrestrial examples of biogeography and diversity, habitats (coral reefs and mangroves) and key species (coelacanth, marine turtles, cetaceans, dugongs, seabirds) can be found. The countries bordering the Mozambique channel (Mozambique, Madagascar, Comoros, Tanzania, France) have individual or shared jurisdiction over these different locations. This offers the opportunity for a coordinated initiative to build a trans-boundary serial World Heritage site in which each country may nominate a site that expresses the combined Outstanding Universal Values of the geology and oceanography of the channel as a whole, and one or several of the biotic aspects of the individual site.

Second, the Mascarene Plateau also stands out globally in geologic and oceanographic terms, representing a Cenozoic hotspot-island arc system that interacts with the main open ocean currents that drive biogeographic and evolutionary processes in the Western Indian Ocean. The islands and banks on the plateau drive unusual oceanographic processes, host restricted and endemic species, and the Saya de Malha bank reputedly has the largest seagrass beds in the world. The countries in which the Mascarene Plateau is located, Seychelles and Mauritius, have extended their EEZs to contain the entire Plateau under their national jurisdiction, enabling consideration of sites on the plateau for potential World Heritage listing.

The methodology developed by the project included first a draft assessment which considered the principal features of the Western Indian Ocean that correspond to the World Heritage criteria vii (geology and oceanography), ix (ecology and evolution) and x (biodiversity). These included the region's geology, oceanography, biogeography, biodiversity, key habitats and key species. Second, through consideration of these features, the report and the marine experts meeting independently identified areas in the WIO that contain the supraterrestrial examples of these features, when assessed on a global scale. This approach can be replicated in other coherent marine regions, corresponding approximately to the Province level of the Marine Ecoregions of the World framework.

To implement these transboundary sites, intergovernmental initiatives that draw synergies from the World Heritage Convention, Nairobi Convention, Indian Ocean Commission and Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge were identified as critical to future success. A report of the meeting will be available in June 2012.

World Heritage Marine Programme, further information:
Dr. Fanny Dioufere (Coordinator, 7, Place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris, France.
Email: F.Dioufere@unesco.org)
Scientific team
Dr. David Obura, Dr. Catherine Gabrie & Julie Church, dobura@cordioea.org
An Official Launch of the Satellite receiving Station and Field Data Collection for the AMESD Project

On the 30th March 2012, the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), in the presence of its stakeholders, officially launched the newly installed satellite receiving station and the commencement of a field campaign to collect data for the verification of remotely identified potential fishing zones in Tanzanian waters. This activity is part of the Africa Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) project, which is funded through the European Development Fund. The receiving station, based at TAFIRI Head office in Dar es Salaam will be collecting data that will be used to identify and map potential fishing zones (PFZ) based on gradients of biophysical environmental variables such as sea surface temperatures (SST) and chlorophyll (CHL) concentration at 1 km spatial resolution (Fig.1).

The AMESD project targets mainly local fishers through the support of the private-public partnership, where local fishers will benefit in terms of reduced time and fuel consumption in searching for fishing grounds within Tanzania territorial and Exclusive Economic Zone waters. This in turn will increase their income in line with poverty reduction and food security policies that lead to improved access to fishing sites and initiate an operational information service that will improve fishery management and provide appropriate advice to stakeholders. In order to achieve an effective management of these fisheries resources, fishers will be required to report back to the Fisheries Department through TAFIRI on actual catch so that jointly they can device an interactive and improved fisheries management plan for sustainability of fishery resources. In addition, access to satellite data will improve fisheries and environmental management policies development and provide appropriate and adequate technical advice to fishers in particular and other stakeholders.

The launch was attended by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, the Deep Sea Fisheries Authority based in Zanzibar, the Fisheries Division of Tanzania, Tanzania’s Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Mauritius Oceanography Institute, WWF-Tanzania, Institute of Marine Sciences from Zanzibar, WIOMSA, Dar es Salaam Fishers Union, District fisheries officers from Mafia and Kilwa, three fishers each from Kilwa and Mafia. It is hoped that, together with TAFIRI, these stakeholders will be able to collaborate in the implementation of this project, for a better managed sustainable fisheries within Tanzania and in the WIO region as a whole. Similar stations have been installed in various WIO region countries aiming at benefiting socio-economic development of the local communities and the economies of WIO countries in general.

New Publications

Preparing for Climate Change in the Western Indian Ocean: Identifying Climate Refugia, Biodiversity Responses and Preferred Management

This Book, part of the WIOMSA Book Series has been written by Dr. Tim McClanahan, Dr. Andrew Baker and Dr. Mebrahtu Ateweberhan. The publication stems from the WIOMSA Funded Climate Change Project “Preparing for climate change by identifying effective coral reef fisheries and protected area management options in the Western Indian Ocean”. The research presented in the book develops a synoptic view of the biodiversity and resilience of coral reefs to climate change in the western Indian Ocean. The study investigated the ecology of coral reefs in the context of climate change disturbances and their expected continued influences on reef ecology. The study had three major foci: the ecology of coral reefs, the ecology of algal symbionts in corals and an evaluation of the types of management restrictions that coral reef stakeholders in the region prefer and are likely to support and thus might be the most easily achieved in the region and in specific communities. The book makes key recommendations that will be useful in planning adaptation that will improve the chances for the persistence of reefs and communities that depend on them.
The third edition of *A Field Guide to the Seashores of Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Islands* includes over 1,650 species of plants and animals from all coastal habitats. It has 155 pages of watercolour illustrations and hundreds of detailed line drawings that facilitate identification of the marine life common to this region. 53 regional and international experts (including 10 new ones) have contributed precise descriptions of species and their habitats, together with an authoritative summary of the knowledge of each taxonomic group. This edition is completely revised, though the extent of the revision varies. For some groups, such as crabs, amphipods, isopods and macroalgae, there are significant revisions reflecting changes in the taxonomy and systematic arrangement of species; while for many other taxa only minor changes were needed, either to the text or illustrations. There are a few new illustrations, general improvements to layout and accuracy, and about 70 species have new names. The Bibliography is expanded by 250 or so references, thereby providing an up-to-date reference source (over 1,600) for the region. The 46 introductory pages present revised descriptions of the WIO coastal zone from geological history, climate, oceanography and coastal habitats, to human activities, environmental issues and regional and global phenomena (including climate change). Sections new to the third edition are on oil and gas exploration in the coastal zone, marine alien invasive species and piracy. These replace the previous section on remote sensing using satellite imagery. The coastal dangers and treatment section has been completely updated and expanded, highlighting changes in treatment to malaria and descriptions of Chikungunya and Dengue.

While the third edition has been revised, the first and second editions are not out of date, as the overall content of the Field Guide remains virtually the same.

**PRICES**

**WIO Region**

Recommended Retail Price: US$ 40

Recommended Wholesale Price: US$ 20

**Rest of World**

Recommended Retail Price: US$ 50

Recommended Wholesale Price: US$ 30

Order copies of the book from the WIOMSA secretariat by e-mailing secretary@wiomsa.org. It is also available in major bookshops.
WIOMSA is proud to present an exciting new addition to its blog called “From the Archives”. To mark the progress and evolution of the marine science community over the years, we are requesting you to search your archives for interesting images or articles that show the impacts that scientists, practitioners and managers have had on the development of marine sciences, conservation and management of the coastal and marine environment in the WIO region in general.

“From the Archives” will feature classic photos or articles that have appeared in newspapers, magazine, reports and journals prior to 2000. Please send photos from events including conferences, symposia, courses and workshops, fieldtrips, from on, over or under the water, or any other item of interest. Articles that may have helped shape and define marine science and conservation in the WIO region will be particularly appreciated.

Please submit your photo or article to secretary@wiomsa.org. Your submitted photo should include your name, email address, the photo caption as well as a brief story of the photo. All photographs will be credited accordingly. For articles, one could submit the full article or part of it with its full citation. Please attach a brief note explaining why the article has made a major contribution to the region.

Treasures from the Archives: Photos and Articles from the Past

Participants to the 1989 Regional Meeting that recommended the Establishment of WIOMSA.

Upcoming Events:

SEA CUCUMBER FISHERIES: AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (SCEAM Indian Ocean)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) are co-organizing a sea cucumber fishery manager's workshop in Zanzibar, Tanzania, 16-20 November 2012. The meeting follows from a landmark workshop in Fiji in 2011 involving 13 Pacific island nations – SCEAM Pacific and extends a recently completed regional sea cucumber fisheries project in the Western Indian Ocean. The workshop aims to be a platform for sharing management strategies striving towards ecologically sustainable and socially accepted harvest levels.

At the workshop, management tools and governance aspects of this unique and high valued resource will be discussed. The workshop will rely on experiences from both the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, and consist of theoretical and mentoring components to support sea cucumber fisheries management improvements where they are needed. International experts in sea cucumber fisheries management will present seminars and facilitate workgroups and plenary sessions. The workshop is specifically for fisheries managers in nations with an operating fisher or a recently closed fishery. It is anticipated that about 30 participants will attend the workshop. For more information, please contact the coordinator of the workshop, Mr. Hampus Eriksson, hampus@ecology.su.se.
The Integrated Sustainable Coastal Development Program for 2012 to kick off in Sweden

Ramboll Natura AB, the School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) are pleased to announce the Integrated Sustainable Coastal Development (ISCD) program for 2012. The 2012 program will be run in two rounds, the first being held in Sweden from May 28-15 June with the Tanzania component of the program taking place in Zanzibar in October 2012. Round two will be held August in Sweden with the second component being held in Tanzania in December 2012. 30 participants have been selected from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia and Tanzania for the first program. For round B, 47 applications have been received and interviews to selected potential participants will be conducted in May.

The long term objective of the programme is to contribute to an integrated sustainable development of coastal zones (lakes and sea coast) in which the needs and rights of poor people are taken into account. This shall be achieved through supporting processes of change in key organizations working with planning and management of coastal zones. It is expected that at the end of the programme each participants shall have an increased understanding of the importance and benefits of an integrated sustainable coastal planning and management for socioeconomic development, with respect to environmental impact, poverty alleviation and equality, in a livelihood; security and rights perspective; increased knowledge about the planning process for an integrated sustainable coastal development; increased knowledge about experiences, methods and tools for organizational change in general and within coastal zone management in particular; and extended international and national networks for working with coastal development.

The ISCD program is quite comprehensive and is built around the participants developing a Change Project (CP), whose purpose is to enable participants to link the learning from the programme to their own work context and to initiate and support processes of change in their home organization. Thus participants have to define, design and develop their CP based on needs, tasks and responsibilities in their ordinary work and are assigned mentors to guide them through this process.
Get your article published:

We are accepting articles for the September issue of the WIOMSA Newsbrief. Articles should be a maximum of two pages. Send your articles to secretary@wiomsa.org by the 31st of May 2012.

Indumathie Hewawasam and Rudy van der Elst, with invited guests at the launch.

Susanna Dalais (Loita), Lilian Omolo (WIOMSA), Shanil Ramtohul (Loita), Daniel Marie (MOI) at the Launch.

Climate Change Workshop: Sylvana Anta (Seychelles National Park Authority) presents a poster on Seychelles MPAs at the climate change workshop.

Janette du Toit, Peter Chadwick and Rémi Ratsimbazafy during group work at the Assessor Training Course.

Helena Motta, Arthur Tuda and George Msunmi in a class exercise at the Assessor Training Course.

Meg Pahad (Qalanet Consultants) and Lilian Omolo (WIO-COMPAS Secretariat) at the Training of Assessors.