



CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING COURSES/WRITING WORKSHOPS & PUBLICATION OF BOOKS/MANUALS

Deadline for submission of proposals: 11th June 2021

CONTEXT

WIOMSA is implementing a five-year Marine and Coastal Science for Management (MASMA) Programme (2018-2022), that aims to assist the countries of the western Indian Ocean (WIO) to achieve the 17 [Global Goals for Sustainable Development \(SDGs\)](#), and comply with the [Paris Agreement](#). These two frameworks, particularly the SDGs, present a universally applicable and interconnected framework for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic). While the focus of the Programme is on SDG 14, this will be linked to the other SDGs that have strong linkages with this goal, such as SDG 13.

WIOMSA is the only organization in the WIO coordinating a regionally-focused grant mechanism to improve the professionalism and competitiveness of regional scientists. Through a variety of competitive grants, like the MASMA grant for research projects, WIOMSA has continued to support the advancement and application of marine and coastal science in the WIO region. The MASMA Program has enhanced scientific rigor and creativity and innovation. The results of several research projects have influenced regional policy.

The MASMA Programme also incorporates a strong capacity development component, and adopts a holistic definition of capacity development, encompassing much more than training, and includes: **different levels** (individual, institutional, enabling environment), and all **phases of the knowledge generation and knowledge translation cycle** (from setting the research agenda and research design through to research use and communication). Regional scientific capacity is still inadequate in several disciplines. For example, the skills to utilize existing information to develop predictive ecological or climate models are very limited in the region.

The current call offers grants in the following area:

Grants to support the organization of regional training courses/workshops. WIOMSA and its partners have been at the forefront of initiating and pioneering innovative capacity development programmes, which go a long way towards improving the individual capacity of professionals, and consequently the management effectiveness of their organizations. Support for the organization of training courses and workshops, is considered a key mechanism for building and strengthening scientific and management capacity. Priority will be given to proposals for capacity development based on best practices and that show a high potential to contribute to positive behavioural and social/environmental changes, the identification and promotion of livelihood options, and/or filling gaps in university curricula.

Grants to support the publication of books/manuals and writing workshops. Dissemination of research results from research work undertaken in the region is one of the main priorities of WIOMSA. WIOMSA recognizes that substantial useful information of relevance to marine and coastal management is in the hands of scientists of the region. To address this problem, the MASMA programme provides grants to scientists in the region and their partners to publish research results in the form of books/manuals, and assists with distributing them to as wide an

audience as possible. Furthermore, grants are issued to facilitate the preparation and publication of information packages, knowledge products, and decision-support tools, relevant to policy development and implementation at national or regional levels.

Writing workshops have also become a common feature of most of the projects supported by WIOMSA. They provide opportunities for brainstorming on key research findings, as well as for capacity building for emerging scientists in terms of approaches to data analysis, information synthesis, access to data, and the best methods for disseminating information and results.

SUGGESTED FOCUS

Proposals for the organization of training courses and writing workshops should seek to involve different groups including scientists, policy-makers and practitioners. Proposals should focus on regional priority issues that are in alignment with the theme of the Programme, **“Generating the scientific and policy-relevant knowledge for achieving SDG 14 and facilitating implementation of the Paris Agreement in the WIO Region”**, with special emphasis given to the following areas amongst others:

- Training courses and Workshops focusing on field and data analysis methodologies. These should be organized as hands-on workshops that offer critical skills development for scientists at all career stages but with preference to early career scientists.
- Trainings and workshops aimed at building the capacity on modeling techniques for studying Global change.
- Training courses and workshop that build capacity for environmental problem analysis and decision-making.
- Organization of workshops aiming at demonstrating “theory of change” (small- and large-scale pilot testing) and/or setting up demonstration projects as well as influencing, or contributing to, changes in regulatory frameworks at different levels;
- Writing workshops that transform data to knowledge (where participants will be asked to bring their own data) to synthesize information from multi-disciplinary projects, as well as information from relevant projects supported by other partners. Such workshops would result in publications in peer-reviewed journals, books, guidelines as well as in policy briefs
- Trainings and workshops that implement published training tools/manuals/methodologies developed from previously funded trainings and workshops.

POINTS TO NOTE

Many of the proposals submitted for grants to support the organization of regional training courses/workshops, the publication of books/manuals and writing workshops, were unsuccessful in previous calls for a variety of reasons, including:

- The proposed course/workshop did not have a clearly articulate the need. Such proposals did not explicitly define a gap that the course aimed to fill, nor did they involve a refer to previous and/ or ongoing courses/workshops on related topics, to highlight the gaps between them and the proposed one.
- Limited regional coverage. Courses and workshops were not open to participants from all, or most, of the countries in the WIO region.

- Absence of course content or book/manual outline. Proposals did not include detailed course /book/manual outlines making it difficult to assess the relevance of the proposed publication.
- Combining courses/workshops with other activities. This call is limited to the organization of short-term courses or workshops only.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The proposals should be submitted by an Institution, or a consortium of Institutions. In the latter case, the lead Institution should submit the proposal on behalf of the Consortium. For the purposes of this call for proposals, institutions are defined as government departments, research and academic institutions, NGOs, CBOs, or private companies. Members of the project team should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i) The Project Leader/s should have attained an education level of at least MSc or MA degree in a discipline(s) related to or relevant to the focus of the proposal.
- ii) Trans- Multi-disciplinary teams of researchers and marine/ coastal practitioners are encouraged.
- iii) The grant is specific for Institutions from the WIO region. However, consortia of institutions may involve other institutions or researchers from outside the region as appropriate, and cover their costs from the grant funds applied for. The involvement/participation of scientists from outside the region may not exceed one man-month.
- iv) The Project Leader/s should be from the WIO region and be employed by an institution based in the WIO region.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Institutions are permitted to submit more than one proposal. However, an institution will be awarded more than one grant only if it is a large institution and has different departments or units with financial and administrative autonomy, location, specialist capacity, and has submitted separate proposals. They should also have a different lead person and substantially different team members for each of the submitted proposals.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The workshops may take place in physical and/or virtual form, depending on the situation with COVID-19 and country specific regulations. Given the current situation and uncertainties around the pandemic, proposals **must** show evidence that the proposal outputs can be achieved under the current situation. For publication of books/manuals, authors must aim to complete the writing process before **30 September 2022**.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Proposals should be submitted by 11th June 2021. The MASMA Programme Committee will review the submitted proposals within a period of one months and applicants will be informed of the Committee's decisions immediately thereafter.

Applications should be completed and support documents uploaded at <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/masma-proposals/>. Only those applications submitted via this system will be processed.

For further information contact **The Executive Secretary, Email: secretary@wiomsa.org.**