Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
Marine and Coastal Science for Management (MASMA) Programme

A First Call for Concept Notes

Deadline for submission of full proposals: 15 December 2012
1. BACKGROUND

In June 2012, the Government of Sweden approved a new five years of support to WIOMSA for the implementation of the Marine and Coastal Management for Science (MASMA) Programme. This new Programme began on 1 July 2012 and will run through to 30th June 2017.

A principal component of MASMA is a competitive grants programme, which is the only competitive research grant mechanism that provides funding and technical support for coastal and marine research, training and communications on a regional basis in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). Through these grants, WIOMSA has encouraged and supported natural or social scientists (individually or as part of multi-disciplinary teams) to conduct research on priority regional coastal and marine issues. In addition, the Programme has supported the organization of training courses and workshops for strengthening research and management capacity, and the printing of publications. Furthermore, MASMA has promoted regional collaboration in research amongst experts from the different countries in the WIO, and partnerships between regional scientists and those from elsewhere. An important element of the Programme has been the building of professionalism and competence of regional researchers in designing and coordinating research projects.

A series of review processes have been carried out to assess the performance of previous phases of MASMA in order to identify and refine the priority focus areas for the new Programme. This process has shown that, while many projects have provided information that is necessary for creating enabling conditions that make it possible to plan and implement marine and coastal management Programmes, fewer projects have led to changes that have increased the wellbeing of coastal people and concomitant positive environmental change. This suggests that the new Programme should, in addition to contributing towards the creation of enabling conditions for coastal and marine management, focus on mechanisms to contribute to lasting behavioural and social/environmental changes.

To ensure that all approved projects are completed within the duration of the Programme, there will be only two calls for proposals, the first in 2012 and the second in 2013. The call for proposals is a two stage process with the submission and review of Concept Notes first, followed by invitations for submission of full Proposals for selected concept notes.

1.1 Description of the New Programme

The development of the new Programme has been widely participatory so that it should reflect the commitment and interests of a wide range of actors in achieving sustainable and just management of coastal and marine resources and environments of the WIO region. In addition, a self-assessment exercise was carried out at the end of the last phase to gauge achievements of WIOMSA to date and help to identify gaps and determine where effort should be placed in the future. From this reflection, it was apparent that the new Programme should be accompanied by strategies that respond to the following critical questions:

- How to ensure WIOMSA becomes a more efficient, effective, relevant and financially viable organization?
How to strengthen interactions between WIOMSA and research institutions/management authorities and between research institutions and management authorities on a regional basis?

In the light of these questions it was evident that, while research will continue to be at the core of WIOMSA’s activities in the new Programme, the kind of research supported should contribute towards the creation of enabling conditions for coastal management, as well as leading to behavioural and social/environmental changes for sustainable development and improved wellbeing. This is best achieved through the existence of a more efficient, effective, relevant and financially viable WIOMSA. Promoting behavioural and social/environmental change, as well as strengthening the financial viability of WIOMSA as a whole, will therefore be the key aspects of the new Programme.

The overall goal of the new Programme is “to establish a common regional platform by 2017 to advance and apply science for the sustainable development of marine and coastal environments, bringing together governments, institutions, the private sector and community stakeholders for joint actions, and ensuring that a financially sustainable WIOMSA plays a key role in this process”.

This goal feeds well into WIOMSA’s 2020 Vision to “be recognized widely as a leader in promoting the development of marine and coastal science professionals, advancing marine and coastal science, and promoting the conservation and sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment”.

The goal of the new Programme will be achieved by implementing a results-focused and highly integrated set of specific objectives. The Programme will deliver in four result areas linked to the objectives, and each result area has a number of specific outcomes that are anticipated after activities have been implemented over a five-year period.

The specific Programme objectives with a description of anticipated results after implementation are as follows:

i) To undertake organizational change to improve the financial and organizational sustainability of WIOMSA.

This result area includes outcomes that relate to both improving the efficiency of the organisation as a whole to provide regional services to its stakeholders, as well as ensuring that the organisation is in a viable financial position to continue to provide these services in the longer-term, in collaboration with a broader range of development partners.

Addressing this objective will indirectly contribute to the achievement of the overall WIOMSA Vision through ensuring that the Association is organisationally and financially strong enough to deliver promised outcomes to stakeholders. While organisational improvement is an on-going initiative and has been maintained from the previous funded phase, the focus on ensuring financial independence is novel to the new Programme.
ii) To develop institutional capacity to identify and define problems/ issues, and to conduct quality research that is relevant and critical for technology transfer and the promotion of behavioural and social/ environmental change.

This result area includes redirecting support towards institutions in the region to enable them to effectively participate in setting research agendas, carrying out priority research, and contributing to behavioural and social/ environmental change.

While supporting innovative and quality research initiatives and contributing to improved capacity in the region to conduct this research has always been a fundamental component of WIOMSA’s activities, this effort has mostly been directed towards individuals rather than institutions in the past. The approach adopted in the new Programme is to work directly with regional institutions to improve their capacity to identify and solve environmental problems/issues, undertake quality research, and to transfer knowledge effectively into policy and management. This will assist in achieving the Vision of advancing marine and coastal science in the region in a sustainable manner.

iii) To strengthen WIOMSA’s existing partnerships, and develop new ones with the intention of working together towards achieving behavioural and social/environmental change.

This result area encompasses outcomes that build on the recognition that the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of WIOMSA’s activities relies on strong regional and international links, both at the level of operations and financial support. Successes to date will be built upon while new partnerships that will be developed in a pro-active and strategic manner.

While this objective is not new, and builds from previous phases, it emphasises the importance that the Association places on strong partnerships. This is absolutely relevant to achieving the Vision as it contributes to WIOMSA’s abilities to both provide a wide range of technical support in the region and also to attract additional resources to enable this support to continue into the future. Successful implementation of a number of key activities will depend on full involvement of other regional partners. Activities that will be implemented jointly with other partners include: organization of workshops to discuss topical issues, production of policy briefs, Report Cards and State of the Coast reports, to mention a few.

iv) To develop and implement an effective communication strategy that allows the work of WIOMSA and its partners to be used to influence behavioural and social/environmental change.

Working in a large and diverse region, it is critical for a regional organisation to have effective and appropriate communication strategies and activities. As this is a key element of achieving WIOMSA’s Vision, this result area is maintained from previous phases where some success has already been realised. However, because it is recognised that this is a cornerstone to the work that WIOMSA does, and that there is room to improve and
diversify approaches, especially in the transfer of knowledge to the management and policy level, it remains as a key result area. Previous communication efforts have not been guided by a clear strategy, and one of the main early outputs would be production of this guiding document.

1.2 Key differences between the new Programme and the previous ones

While some aspects from previous phases are maintained in the new Programme due to their continued relevance (e.g. the continued need to provide a regional marine and coastal research management function, the ongoing requirement to improve capacity at multiple levels in the region, and to improve the effectiveness of communication and information dissemination), there are several new aspects. In terms of the MASMA Research Grants the following aspects are new:

i) Institutions (including government departments, research and academic institutions, NGOs, CBOs, or private companies) are targeted. There is a need to build the capacity of institutions in the region to be able to carry out research programmes and to be important partners in sustaining WIOMSA’s future work, projects and programmes. Such institutions will be prioritised for funding support. The MASMA programme has had significant successes in building capacity among individual scientists in the region, while the institutions to which these scientists often belong have had too little involvement in the management of projects.

ii) Granting criteria have been re-structured to encourage co-funding from other sources.

iii) All projects should lead to behavioural and social/environmental changes (in other words, projects should include activities that lead to real changes that impact on coastal communities and their environment in a demonstrable manner).

iv) A move from information generation to demonstrating ‘proof of concept’/pilot testing and setting up demonstration projects, as an important contribution to bringing about behavioural and social/environmental changes. Mandatory participation of either/or management authorities, private sector and communities, in projects should demonstrate clearly how planned activities will lead to behavioural and social/environmental changes (in other words, activities that lead to real changes that impact on coastal communities and their environment).

v) Science-to-policy dialogues have been identified as lacking and critical to ensure change at national, regional and international levels. This will form an important part

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1 For the purpose of this Programme, “Proof of Concept/s” (POC) is defined as a mandatory objective, to be included in all studies, which will demonstrate or verify the feasibility of a certain method(s) or idea(s) or concept(s) to be used for behavioural, social and/or environmental change(s). POC can include financial and market issues, as well as aspects such as environmental outcomes, social and political outcomes, technical implications, and scaling issues. It follows that the Concept(s) to be validated are stated unambiguously at the proposal stage of each project.
of the communications and information dissemination component of the new Programme, and projects incorporating science-to-policy elements are encouraged.

1.3 Thematic Areas of the New MASMA Programme

A major concern for the future prosperity of WIO countries is ensuring the wellbeing of human populations through the maintenance of biological diversity and the ecological function of coastal and marine environments. Concomitantly, this is also key to the development of strategies to resolve conflicts and address threats to resources and the environment in general.

Recognizing the above, and based on wide consultation, a number of priority research themes and cross-cutting activities have been identified as priority areas for calls for research proposals in the new MASMA Programme.

1. Vulnerability, Resilience & Adaptation

The WIO Region is among the most vulnerable regions in the world to on-going and future change and variability. The region’s coastal and marine resources and the communities that depend on these resources for food, water, and livelihoods are particularly sensitive to global change impacts. Impacts due to population pressure, climate change, and globalization often act in synergy, compounding one another, with possible abrupt changes across scales. Impacts include those on aspects such as biogeochemical cycles, ecological dynamics, climatic effects, food security, water scarcity and quality. These all have social and economic consequences requiring innovative social, political, economic and political responses. It is also important to recognize the interconnectedness between ecological, social, economic and political processes and the way that these impact on each other. There is a need to understand resilience, to improve the ability to respond to global changes, and build the social and ecological adaptive capacity from community to national levels.

WIOMSA’s support for research in the area of Climate Change has previously focused on the impacts of climate change on coral reefs, mangroves and fisheries. Climate change impacts such as increasing air and surface sea temperature, precipitation changes, increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and sea level rise are further compounded by concerns about ocean acidification due to elevated levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The new Programme will place emphasis on research seeking to understand and increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to global change, while reducing poverty and supporting development. Proposed research projects under this theme might include amongst others:

- Increasing the understanding of current relationships between climate, interacting with other drivers, on fisheries productivity, population dynamics, migratory behaviour and catchability of fish stocks, and also how climate exacerbates environmental stressors and impacts ecological processes sustaining fish stocks.
Understanding interactions between the combined impacts of global and local changes on marine biota, using an ecosystem and integrative approach to identify the key points for management interventions,

- Carbon sequestration – carbon cycle in the context of sequestration/climate change - assessments of carbon stocks and processes, drivers of variability in carbon storage and sequestration, threats, scaling up of carbon cycling data, ecosystem services, interactions between carbon and other elements (e.g. nitrogen).

- Carbon in the social and economic sphere–socioeconomic aspects of carbon sequestration, opportunity costs, benefit sharing, climate financing and mechanisms.

- Determine the combined effects of climate change, land-use practices (e.g. deforestation, coastal development that forms a barrier to mangrove landward migration), and other human impacts (e.g. pollution, eutrophication) on resilience and adaptive capacity.

- Understanding the future state of social-ecological systems. What happens with regime shifts from one state to another (thresholds, hysteresis), in terms of future services and management regimes. Can we identify and guide changing systems towards desirable states?

- How to build social-ecological resilience, and adaptive capacity to future change – identifying behavioural and social changes that are required, and mechanisms needed to encourage this

- Establish proof of concept study sites, looking at environment/ecosystem services and human system, to trial and model different interventions to build resilience/adaptation scenarios, scaling and interactions across study sites

- Determine costs associated with addressing the implications of climate change.

- Determine the role of economic policy instruments in achieving adaptation to future change, including climate compatible development under different climate/impact mitigation scenarios.

2. **Coastal Livelihoods**

Most coastal communities are very poor and located in marginal areas. They depend on natural resources for their livelihood and their economy depends mainly on subsistence farming, forestry, artisanal fishing, small-scale businesses and the informal sector. With population increase and migration, new ethnic compositions have emerged due to migration and competition from external actors, and coastal and marine resources have increasingly been put under pressure. Local management systems, where they exist, are often threatened and local people increasingly lose control over their coastal and marine resources. At the same time both human and financial capacity in environmental government agencies to support sustainable coastal livelihoods is often lacking or not seen as a priority by decision-makers. This has in some cases led to over exploitation of these resources and has narrowed the provisioning options at local
levels and threatens food security and diminishes the potential for natural systems to deliver important ecosystem services. New livelihood opportunities have often not been developed locally and the coastal communities have increasingly been trapped in a vicious dependency cycle where poverty generates environmental problems, and vice versa.

Strategies to improve local use of coastal and marine resources and identify alternative livelihoods include the empowerment of local actors, especially women, who often have the least opportunities, enhancement of locally existing natural resource management systems, adoption of alternative/additional income generating activities, and increased environmental awareness. For example activities such as fish and/or mollusk farming have been proposed as additional or alternative livelihood options for coastal communities, which may have the potential to reduce pressure on reefs and provide of employment and a reliable supply of cheap protein. Other suggested activities have included seaweed farming and tourism/eco-tourism related services.

However, introduction of these activities and strategies have encountered numerous and varied constraints that are not always well understood. Many such interventions have not been sustained or have had unintended negative outcomes. Some of these constraints include insufficient investment capital available, lack of suitable markets, poor infrastructure, political instability, uneven distribution of wealth between local actors, unforeseen environmental consequences, lack of expertise, inappropriate government policies and interventions, lack of research into suitability of proposed additional livelihoods (e.g. inappropriate culture species), gender inequality, among others.

The role of research institutions, government agencies, funders private sector and NGO's in identifying, promoting and supporting new and alternative livelihood opportunities for coastal communities has also been varied and inconsistent, and in some cases inappropriate. A particular problem is the identification of relevant recipients in coastal communities for such interventions and options, because the nature and dynamics within communities are not adequately understood and taken into account. Cursory, albeit well-meaning, engagements with communities to offer opportunities to increase economic status and food security can have unintended social results, and have in many cases been diverted to serve middle-men or those who are influential or already have capacity and resources. This can result in the further marginalisation of the poorest most dependent sectors, and increase their vulnerability.

Proposed research projects under this theme might include amongst others:

- Understanding poverty dynamics, the pathways into and out of poverty, and how poverty influences the ways people use a range of ecosystem goods and services.

- Understanding communities’ use of and dependence on ecosystem services for livelihoods, and the structure and social dynamics within the communities that define and influence access by different sectors of the community to resources, economic opportunities, and skills development.

- Interdisciplinary investigation of where feedbacks between social dynamics and ecological dynamics are occurring. For instance, understanding of functional ecology – e.g. how certain types of reef use promote or damage particular functional processes (for example, herbivory)
- Understanding dynamics of livelihood diversification. These are so poorly understood that many alternative livelihood projects have demonstrated very low levels of sustainability.

- Investigation of the social, financial and environmental risks and benefits of additional and alternative livelihood strategies.

- What are the main 'drivers', in particular with respect to macro-economics, which lead to unfair trade models?

- Understanding pressure and access to the coast and its resources, particularly in relation to private interests, tourism and urbanisation.

- Understanding local fisheries and food security in relation to local tourism and export of high value products with possible concurrent loss of local socio-economic opportunities.

- Understanding the relative roles and relationships between communities, management agencies and non-governmental organisations in establishing viable additional and alternative livelihood options, and the factors that mediate sustained success or failure.

Notwithstanding the realities above, it is intended that this theme is broad enough to encompass the whole range of coastal livelihoods, including activities associated with sectors such as fisheries, tourism, mariculture, energy, agriculture and forestry, mining, as well as ports, shipping and marine transport.

3. Governance for the Future

Governance is defined as the process of informed decision making that enables trade-offs between competing users of a given resource so as to balance protection with beneficial use in such a way as to mitigate conflict, enhance equity, ensure sustainability and hold officials accountable (Turton et al., 2007). Governance thus entails the institutional capacity of public organizations (not limited to formal government) to furnish public and other goods and services to the citizens in an effective, transparent, impartial and accountable manner (subject to resource constraints), thus intertwining both political and economic governance (World Bank, 2000; UNDP, 2003). A clear understanding of governance also entails detailed analysis of existing power-relations and inequalities in their historical and political contexts.

Different management regimes have been adopted for managing coastal and marine resources in the countries of the region. These include traditional management systems, collaborative management arrangements and enforcement of policies and laws through various regulatory mechanisms.

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http://www.hshr.org/hrpovertyresources.htm
mechanisms. Frequently these management regimes have been designed for achievement of short social, economic or political goals, and do not take sustainable societal and environmental development into consideration.

There are several characteristics that are critical for the legitimacy and efficiency of governance systems. These include: clarity and transparency of national and local laws and regulations, involvement of concerned stakeholders in decision-making processes, capacity and resources of government agencies, mechanisms for optimal use of knowledge and science in decision-making processes, clear regulations addressing obligations and rights, including tenure rights to the resources, access rights, and rights of users to devise their own institutions (that take into consideration traditional knowledge and customary law). Equally important for the build-up of strong regimes is to find incentives and sanctions, improve openness of governance, and form appropriate structures for implementation.

Research on management regimes and aspects related to them, is important for designing of systems capable of creating social and ecological sustainability.

Proposed research projects under this theme might include amongst others:

- An investigation of the importance of institutions in rural communities (democratically elected local government and traditional authorities) in ensuring sustainable and equitable resource use and how threats from outside may impact on these?
- Understanding the role of conservation agencies in coastal resource management in coastal rural communities by virtue of their proximity to communities
- Understanding the factors that constrain government agencies in providing appropriate governance that delivers healthy ecosystems and sustainable resource use, including organisational culture, lack of skills and capacity, lack of political support, lack of funding
- Investigation of mechanisms to ensure financial viability in MPA management
- Identifying workable mechanisms to strengthen fisheries management to meet both socio-economic and environmental conservation objectives through sustainable use of fish resources.
- Determining the influences of societal processes and dynamics such as governance, gender and food security, at local, national, regional and global levels, on coastal and marine ecosystems
- Assessing effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of policies and legislation of marine and coastal resources at all levels (village, municipal and national levels)
- Understanding society’s use of natural resources and how this has changed with increased and changed consumption patterns, emerging production systems, technology development, and political actions
• Certification of fish and fish products: who gains, who loses, and what are these gains and losses? What are implications for local fishers in the region.

• What types of incentives should governments put in place to encourage green growth?

4. Cross-cutting

Ecosystem service research. Ecosystem services research has come a long way in the past decade; however, key research gaps hinder the accuracy of policy recommendations derived from this research and limit the predictive ability of the findings; resulting in science and policy being reactive rather than proactive.

The majority of work into ecosystem services research to date has gone into quantifying, valuing, and describing patterns of ecosystem service provision. Whilst this provides critical baseline information, there is a need to move beyond describing patterns to describing processes.

Such an approach is interdisciplinary in nature and seeks to identify non-linearities, feedbacks and critical thresholds between multiple services and between social and ecological components of a system. Three main areas where a process based approach is needed for ecosystem service research are:

i) Understanding of the social and cultural processes underlying ecosystem service provision. This will increase the ability to predict social responses to policies. Such an approach would need an improved understanding of the drivers of human behaviour. This could be achieved through, for example, an investigation of how a propensity to cooperate with rules governing resource use is influenced by institutional and economic considerations, or alternatively, investigating the channels through which specific behaviour is developed and learnt.

ii) Greater understanding of the underlying ecological processes and structures, and how these influence regulating and supporting services as well as provisioning services. This will increase the ability to predict ecological responses to policies. This would need a greater understanding of the influence on ecosystem service provision, and human well-being, and of marginal changes in ecological function. This could be followed up by developing models that identify non-linearities, feedbacks and critical thresholds which can be empirically tested across sites.

iii) Understanding the interactions and feedbacks between multiple ecosystem services. This would allow for an understanding of the trade-offs involved in policy choices.

Further research is also needed on:

i) Exploring the scale effect of ecosystem service research. Valuation studies are generally conducted at a specific scale. However, benefits are received across scales. How can values obtained at one scale relate to values at a different scale? For example, what influence should community values have on national policy, or national values on community action? This question would involve exploring the ethical frameworks policy
recommendations that are based on how ecosystem services affect the well-being at a community level, and trade-offs and feedbacks on ecosystem services across scales.

ii) Payments for Ecosystem Services. This is a rapidly growing area of research and potential source of revenue for conservation and community projects. There is a need to establish the risks as well as the benefits associated with these approaches to conservation particularly in the Western Indian Ocean marine context.

2. SCOPE OF THE FIRST CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

This first call for concept notes will include all four Thematic Areas (addressed separately or in any combination), for projects that will run for a 4-year period from early 2013 to end 2016.

The focus of the second call for concept proposals, which is scheduled for mid-2013, for 4-year projects ending in mid-2017, will be decided before the call is issued.

3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTION OF CONCEPT NOTES

The over-riding principle governing selection of projects for funding is that the concept note should have high scientific merit and demonstrate that its results will provide tangible (direct or indirect) applications.

Proposals should display:

- **Quality science.** The proposals should be innovative, have scientific merit and have clearly defined research questions and hypotheses. Proposals that will employ new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development are encouraged. Also they should be commensurate with current ongoing work in the relevant scientific fields.

- **Potential contribution to behavioural and social/environmental changes.** The proposed project should have a high potential to contribute to positive behavioural and social/environmental changes, through putting research into use which could be achieved by either demonstrating “proof of concept” or 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.

- **Ability to manage the project/s.** Institutions need to demonstrate that they are capable of managing the research project/programme from a scientific, logistic as well as a financial management perspective.

Furthermore, project selection will be guided by the following more specific criteria:
- **Participation of stakeholders:** The participation of either management authorities, private sector or communities in the project is mandatory, and projects should show clearly how their planned activities will lead to behavioural and social/environmental changes among stakeholders. It is important to demonstrate the degree to which users or potential users of the proposed research outputs and outcomes have been involved in project planning, will participate in its implementation, or will be targeted by project activities.

- **Regional relevance:** Proposals submitted should cover at least 2 countries OR for the single country-based projects, they should focus on issues of regional importance/relevance.

- **Scientific quality/merit.** The degree to which the proposed project/s will advance the state of the science or discipline through use of innovative and unique approaches/methodologies to solve the identified management problems and exploit opportunities in resource management.

- **Feasibility (methods, logistics, etc).** Proposed methods and analytical techniques should be cost-effective, feasible and environmentally friendly. Projects demonstrating complementarity with other on-going projects will be given more weight.

- **Networking established within and outside the region.** The degree/extent to which the applicant(s) establish collaboration with other experts/institutions from within and outside the region for the purpose of addressing all the technical matters the project entails.

- **Trans-disciplinarity.** Preference will be given to multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary proposals particularly covering more than one priority theme. However, good proposals from either social or biophysical sciences will be considered favourably.

- **Natural science/Social/humanities competence.** The degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed project; and the degree to which they possess good records of achievement derived from previous projects funded by other funding agencies.

- **Matching Funding.** Proposals need to demonstrate how the minimum level of matching funding (20% of project budget) will be secured or contributed. Innovative approaches to the challenge of providing real and tangible matching funds to the project will strengthen the proposal.

- **Science-to-policy dialogues.** Projects should include activities designed to transfer knowledge into action, either at local, national, regional or international levels. Projects incorporating science-to-policy elements will be favoured.
4. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Suitable project proposals falling into any of the four priority research themes, or a combination of them, are invited for submission. 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 Concept notes 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 Principal Investigator/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 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 the scientists from outside the region may not exceed three man-months annually.

iv) The Principal Investigator/s should be a scientist from the WIO region and be employed by an institution based in the WIO region.

v) MSc and PhD students as well as postdoctoral scientists may participate in the approved projects; some of their expenses including stipends as appropriate could be covered from the grants.

5. **SIZE OF GRANTS**

The size of the competitive grants has been increased to US$480 000 per grant over a 4-year period, with a mandatory minimum of US$ 120 000 contributed as matching funds by applicants to make a total maximum grant of US$600 000. This amount can be provided either as cash, or as 'in kind' funding (e.g. costs of staff time)

The grant will enable institutions to support researchers and postgraduate students in their research work as well as to purchase equipment, expendable supplies, literature, etc.

Institutions or Consortia are encouraged to submit one large project concept, or several linked projects under the umbrella of a research Programme, which together address a common overall research question.

A number of factors will be taken into account when considering whether to award the maximum amount or not:

i) Number of students and postdoctoral scientists involved;
ii) Number of countries involved or large geographical scope of the project;

iii) Number of field trips and facilitation meetings with stakeholders and communities;

iv) The amount of matching funds;

v) Multi-disciplinary teams; and

vi) Scope of work. For instance a high number of work packages and deliverables, indicating value for money.

5.1 Planning Grants

Proponents of the successful concept notes will be encouraged to apply for planning grants to support the development of full proposals through organization of meetings to bring together different stakeholders involved in their projects.

6. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Concept notes falling within any of the four priority Themes will be considered in this round. Only one proposal will be accepted from a particular institution, either on its own or as the lead Institution of a Consortium. However, in cases where an institution is included as part of another proposal submitted from a Consortium (and where it is not the lead Institution), additional proposals will also be considered.

Concept notes should strictly NOT EXCEED 10 A4 PAGES (excluding annexes) prepared as a WORD Document, using Times New Roman 11 pts, and should contain the following information:

i) Title Page, which should include the following:

- **Title**: The title should serve to identify the project. It should be as short as possible and sufficiently descriptive to reflect the nature of the proposed work.
- **Investigators**: List of names and affiliations of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project.
- **Project period**: Start and completion dates.

ii) **Summary**: A one-page concise summary of the Concept Note.

iii) **Background and rationale for the proposed project**: This section should present the reasons behind the proposal and should specify what will be changed or contributed to through the project. It should present the facts and evidence that support the need for inclusion of ‘proof of concept’ approach by way of a robust literature review, i.e. a comprehensive review of prior information clearly showing the gaps and value addition
that the project proposes to address through this approach. It is also a requirement that the proposed project should demonstrate complementarities and/or collaboration with regional programs and other existing efforts. This section should also show evidence of demand for the proposed project in the target sector and its potential to stimulate behavioural and social/environmental changes.

iv) **Project goal and objectives.** State the overall goal and the specific objectives of the study against which the progress of the project could be assessed.

v) **Methodology.** Details of the anticipated methods used to address the project objectives should be clearly presented, as well as a geographic description of project sites.

vi) **Outputs and outcomes.** Outline intended outputs and outcomes from the project that will contribute to behavioural and social/environmental changes. Outputs refer to the most immediate sets of accomplishments necessary, but not sufficient, to produce outcomes and impacts, while outcomes are intermediate observable and measurable changes that may serve as steps toward impact.

vii) **Workplan:** A Gantt chart showing objectives, activities and timeframes should be presented in the form of a table. This table should essentially provide a summary of the other descriptive sections of the proposal.

viii) **Monitoring and Evaluation plan:** Include a monitoring and evaluation plan; including a results framework with annual indicators of success, for monitoring progress of the proposed project towards results.

ix) **Dissemination/communication plans:** Provide a coherent plan for how the project outputs and results will be communicated to the public, policy makers, and potential end users.

x) **Matching Funding Plan:** Details of how the Institution/Consortium proposes to provide the required minimum of 20% matching funding to the budget. This amount can be provided either as cash, or as ‘in kind’ funding, as long as the monetary value of this funding is clearly demonstrated and a system of accounting for the value of these contributions is clearly demonstrated.

xi) **Indicative Budget.**

xii) **Annexes.**

- **Details of the Institution/Consortium of Institutions:** A description of the Institution submitting the proposal, including a motivation outlining the capacity of the institution to carry out the proposed work, and to manage the research activities from a logistic and financial perspective. In the case of a consortium, this motivation should be extended to all institutions that are part of the consortium, and a project management framework should be included in the proposal describing how the partners will work together.

- One page curriculum vitae (CVs) for the Principal Investigator (PI), co-PIs, and other senior project team members.
7. APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Concept notes should be submitted by email to reach WIOMSA by 15th December 2012. The MASMA Programme Committee will review the submitted concept notes and applicants will be informed of the Committee’s decisions within a period of two months. Concept notes should be submitted to:

The Executive Secretary
Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
P O Box 3298 Zanzibar
TANZANIA
Tel: +255-24-2233472,
Fax: 255-24-2233852,
Email: secretary@wiomsa.org

For further information on the priority research themes, reviewing process and other relevant information please visit the WIOMSA website, www.wiomsa.org or contact the Executive Secretary at the above address.
### Checklist

Before submitting your Concept Proposal, please check that each of the following conditions is met as any violation may result in disqualification of your proposal from this Call.

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<th>Condition</th>
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<td>Correct format of the concept note has been used</td>
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<td>Curriculum Vitae of the Principal Investigators and other senior team members are submitted as Annexes to the concept Note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of the proposed project does not exceed 48 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>The maximum amount requested is less than US$ 480 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>The amount of Matching funds is indicated</td>
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