FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), the Sustainable Seas Trust (SST), and the Nairobi Convention are pleased to announce the Twelfth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, which will be held in Port Elizabeth in October 2022 as a hybrid virtual/in-person Symposium.

SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES:

The Symposium is the premier regional scientific event on the coastal and marine environment. It will showcase insightful and inspiring presentations on the latest research results and key developments in the Western Indian Ocean region. The event will bring together practitioners, academics, researchers and students to share knowledge, experience and solutions to the challenges experienced in our coastal and marine environment. The specific objectives of the Symposium are to:

- Present current knowledge in disciplines related to the theme of the Symposium as detailed in the General Guidelines for Abstract Submission;
- Provide a forum for discussion, exchange of information and experiences on coastal and marine science issues in the western Indian Ocean region;
- Promote interaction among social and natural scientists to strengthen multi- and trans-disciplinary research for sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean;
- Identify gaps and priority research areas for improved management of the coastal and marine environment of the western Indian Ocean region.

Contributions from all relevant scientific disciplines are welcome at this multidisciplinary Symposium.
**SYMPOSIUM VENUE:**
Sun Boardwalk Hotel and Conference Centre, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

**SYMPOSIUM DATE:**
The Symposium will be held on Monday, 10th – Saturday, 15th October 2022. The week is divided into the following components:

- **10th to 11th October 2022 & 13th October 2022** – The core part of the Symposium. This component will include keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations and ‘Mini-Symposia’. The Symposium structure has been adjusted so that the poster session can run from 14h00 to 16h00 from Monday to Thursday. Also, ‘Mini-Symposia’, are scheduled from Monday to Thursday from 16h00 to 17h40.
- **12th October 2022** – The Sixth WIOMSA General Assembly from 08h30 – 14h00. Mini-symposium and poster sessions from 14h00 to 17h40.
- **14th October 2022** – Specially convened sessions.
- **15th October 2021** - Excursions and tours to different places of interest.

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:**
Abstracts are invited on any topic related to the coastal and marine environment of the WIO region. Priority will be given to multi-/trans-/inter-disciplinary abstracts. Abstracts must be in English, which is the official language of the Symposium. The abstract should not exceed 2 pages (authors and title included, A4 prepared as a WORD Document, using Times New Roman 12 pt, single spacing, normal margins (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins), portrait orientation and justified alignment. Submitted abstracts must contain the following information: title, name(s) of the author(s); affiliation, postal and e-mail addresses. It should also clearly state the preferred mode of presentation (oral or poster). Download additional Abstract Submission Guidelines.

Abstracts should provide a brief statement of the problem, the methodology, the results, and the study’s conclusion. The abstract should be submitted in plain text only, without tables, graphs, images, etc.

All abstracts will be reviewed for merit and relevance; however, abstracts on research from outside of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) will be rejected without review. Abstracts must be received by WIOMSA by no later than 22nd April 2022. Confirmation of acceptance for oral or poster presentations will be communicated to authors by 3rd June 2022. Abstracts should be submitted online via [http://abstract.wiomsa.org/](http://abstract.wiomsa.org/).

**CALL FOR ‘MINI-SYMPOSIA’:**
The organizers invite submission of proposals to convene ‘Mini-Symposia’ within the general scope of the Symposium. Mini-symposia should focus on presenting and discussing issues of regional importance to come up with syntheses on the current status of knowledge, furthering research and policy recommendations, and/or introducing novel perspectives and approaches. These Mini-symposia should also aim to establish connections with other research communities within and outside the region. Conveners should plan their sessions to produce publications (manuscript, policy brief, position paper, etc.) from the presentations delivered. Abstracts submitted for mini-symposia will be peer-reviewed much in the same way as submissions to the regular sessions. However, the conveners will be responsible for undertaking the initial reviews of the submitted abstracts from the invited potential presenters.

Mini-Symposia proposals should be submitted to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org) by 22nd April 2022 and should include: title of the mini-symposium; name of convener(s); email of the main contact person; a short one-paragraph biography of the convener; brief description and motivation of the topic, highlighting the novelty/impact of the topic (maximum of 300 words); mini-symposium structure; expected outputs (s); and list of potential presenters.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the scientific quality of the proposal, the importance of the topic, the track record of the conveners and the expected output(s) of the session.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**
A limited number of travel grants will be provided to participants from the region whose abstracts have been accepted. Students from the region, whose abstracts have been accepted, will be given special consideration. Depending on how abstracts have been ranked, support will be in the form of a return ticket, or accommodation, or both. The applications for the travel grants will open once notifications of accepted abstracts have been sent to participants. The email request for funding must indicate the support required and should be submitted by 1st July 2022 to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org).

**REGISTRATION FEES:**
Registration fee will be charged to help cover some of the costs of the Symposium. The registration fee structure will be as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>In-person attendance (US$)</th>
<th>Online attendance (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-members</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIOMSA members</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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Registration will open on 4th January 2022. Payment instructions will be on the Symposium website.

**EXHIBITIONS:**
Space will be available for exhibits by organizations, programmes, projects and commercial companies. Please contact the WIOMSA secretariat ([secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)) for more details. The deadline for confirmation by institutions wishing to participate in the exhibition opportunities is 9th September 2022.