



## **Cities and Coasts Project**

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) through the Cities and Coasts Project is inviting proposals for supporting the organization of training courses/workshops & publications

**Deadline for submission of proposals: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## CONTEXT

WIOMSA is implementing a five-year Cities and Coasts (C&C) Project (2018-2022) that aims to assist the countries of the western Indian Ocean (WIO) in achieving the 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (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. Although the C & C Programme focuses on SDG 11, it also responds to other SDGs that have links to this goal, such as SDG 14 and SDG 17.

The C & C Project aims to improve scientific knowledge and stimulate research directed at underpinning effective and efficient responses by coastal cities to current and foreseeable challenges they face through policy-relevant action research. The project also supports and facilitates capacity building in City planning, focusing on coastal cities and the transfer of knowledge and expertise to harness the potential of these cities. The capacity-building aspect goes beyond traditional training focusing on different levels (individual, institutional, creating enabling environment) and all phases of the knowledge generation and knowledge translation cycle. The C & C capacity development component has contributed to improving the individual capacity of professionals and consequently the scientific and management effectiveness of their organizations. In addition, WIOMSA has been supporting writing workshops that provide the opportunity to brainstorm on key research findings and develop the capacity of emerging scientists in terms of approaches to data analysis, information synthesis, access to data, and the best methods for disseminating information and results. Publications produced in writing workshops ensure that research findings are accessible for use in related studies and are thereby better translated into coastal environment improvement.

The C & C Project is inviting proposals to support training courses, writing workshops, and books/manuals. These proposals target different groups, including scientists, policy-makers, NGOs and local government representatives. Proposals should focus on key regional issues. They should aim to improve actors' capacity to contribute to and engage in coastal city planning processes. The proposals for training and workshops must be based on best practices that are most likely to lead to meaningful social and environmental changes and address knowledge gaps in coastal city planning. Writing workshop should aim to strengthen the skills and knowledge of WIO emerging research scientists in data analysis, information synthesis and publishing scientific research findings on coastal cities planning, policy and management.

Depending on the COVID-19 situation and the regulations of specific countries, workshops/training can be conducted in physical and/or virtual forms.

## SUGGESTED FOCUS

Proposals for the organization of training courses and writing workshops should involve different groups, including scientists, policy-makers and practitioners. Furthermore, 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 11 and facilitating the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the WIO Region**”, with particular emphasis given to the following, amongst other areas:

- Training courses and workshops aiming to strengthen practical planning and implementation of sustainable coastal cities plans. In addition, the training should support the establishment of a community of practice across WIO countries, providing a collaboration platform to be utilized beyond the event.
- Building the capacity to develop and use modelling techniques suited to coastal cities risk assessment, relationships between the cities and ecosystem function, and the prediction of environmental and social outcomes from influences such as environmental degradation, management strategies, and climate change;
- Writing workshops (where participants will bring their data) to synthesize information from multi-disciplinary projects and 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;
- Developing publications focusing on sustainable coastal cities development – i.e. integrated coastal city management and development planning; linking mega-projects and major infrastructural developments to coastal and marine spatial planning.

## POINTS TO NOTE

Experience from previous calls shows that many of the proposals submitted for grants to support the organization of regional training courses/workshops, and publication of books/manuals and writing workshops, were not successful due to several reasons, including:

- Lack of an articulated need for the proposed course/workshop. Such proposals did not identify gaps to be addressed or did not include a review of previous and ongoing courses/workshops on similar subjects, to highlight their differences to the proposed one.
- Limited regional coverage. Courses and workshops were not open to participants from all or most countries in the WIO region.
- Absence of course content or book/manual outline. Proposals did not include detailed course /book/manual outlines making it challenging to assess the relevance of the proposed concept.
- Combining courses/workshops with other activities. This call is limited to the organization of short-term courses and writing 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 this call for proposals, institutions are defined as government departments, research and academic institutions, NGOs, CBOs, or private companies. In addition, 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 an MSc or MA degree in a discipline(s) related to or relevant to the proposal's focus.
- ii) Trans- multi-disciplinary teams of researchers are encouraged.
- iii) The grant is specifically for Institutions from the WIO region. However, the applying WIO institution may involve other institutions or researchers from outside the region as appropriate and cover their costs from the grant funds. The involvement/participation of scientists from outside the region may not exceed one person-month.
- iv) The project leader(s) must be from the WIO region and work with a WIO-based organization.

## **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. In addition, they should have a different lead person and a significantly different team for any of the submitted proposals.

Proposals to organize workshops/workshops should strictly **NOT EXCEED 5 A4 PAGES** (excluding annexes) 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), and portrait orientation, and should contain the following information:

- i) A description of the training course/ workshop, its purpose, intended audience (and their anticipated number), and resulting product/output (which could be publications or follow-up activities)
- ii) Identification and demonstration of the need for the course/workshop.
- iii) Course outline and names of resource persons, their qualifications and responsibilities.
- iv) A timeframe for the implementation of the proposed activities.
- v) A specific budget detailing the exact nature of all anticipated expenses and a matching funding plan.

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE AND METHOD OF SUBMISSION**

**Proposals should be submitted by 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021.** The C&C Programme Committee will review the submitted proposals within one month, and applicants will be informed of the Committee's decisions immediately after that.

Applications should be completed, and support documents uploaded at [Cities Proposal Submission Page](#). Only those applications submitted via this system will be processed.

For further information contact **The Executive Secretary, Email:** [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org).