



GMES  
AND AFRICA

MarCOSIO



WIOMSA

Coasts Ocean and People



© Deepeeka Kaullysing

# CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS: WIOMSA Marine Research Grant (MARG I), and the GMES and Africa MarCOSIO Grant.

Deadline for submission: **18th October 2023 11.59 p.m. EAT.**

## BACKGROUND

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and **Marine and Coastal Operations for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (MarCOSIO)**, are pleased to offer the Marine Research Grant (MARG I) and the GMES and Africa MarCOSIO Students Grant. Early career researchers MSc and PhD students can apply for the grants. Successful research proposals receive funds through competitive selection.

## Marine Research Grant (MARG I)

Since its inception in 1995, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programme has sought to increase the capacity of scientists in the WIO region to conduct research contributing to various aspects of marine science. The **MARG I Grant aims to provide opportunities for early-career researchers, such as MSc and PhD candidates, to conduct well-defined research projects in their home countries/institutions.** The research projects can be on any topic related to marine and coastal ecosystems management, from across the research spectrum of lab, translation, implementation and policy, and should take up to one year. Projects that are aligned with the strategic directions identified by the **WIOMSA Strategic objective (2021-2025)** and the **nine Priority Future decade Actions (Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap)** are encouraged. The MARG I Grant will also include special funding for Seagrass research projects that promote and strengthen the contributions of Seagrass to socio-ecological resilience and blue economy development in the WIO region. Seagrass projects will be funded through a joint Seagrass project between WIOMSA and the IUCN, with funding from the Le Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial (FFEM). Seagrass projects that assess carbon storage potential, seagrass restoration, spatial connectivity between seagrass beds and other adjacent ecosystems, threats, pressures and management responses are encouraged.

## GMES and Africa MarCOSIO Students Grant

The GMES and Africa MarCOSIO grant aims to provide competitive funding for MSc and PhD research in relevant fields. The goal is to contribute to training and capacity building using Earth observation (EO) data and technologies in South and East African marine and coastal domains. Projects must use Earth observation tools and develop satellite services and products relevant to the marine and coastal environment, as well as inland lakes. Students with topics such as remote sensing, oceanography, climatology, geography, hydrology, hydrogeology, environmental risk management, geoinformatics, computer science, artificial intelligence, or other related fields are encouraged to apply. Applicants pursuing Masters and Doctoral degrees and with qualifying topics can apply for a MarCOSIO Student Grant of up to US\$ 2400 to cover or supplement their living and research costs.

## Award and Eligibility Criteria *(read carefully)*

1. MARG I is only open to young and upcoming scientists from the **Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region countries** (Comoros, France (Reunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, and the Republic of South Africa).
2. The award amount for MARG I will be up to a maximum of **US\$ 6000**, and the proposed duration for which support is requested must not exceed 12 months.
3. The following countries in Southern and Eastern Africa are eligible for the GMES and MarCOSIO student grant: (Angola, Namibia, Comoros, France (Reunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and the Republic of South Africa. Masters and doctoral students interested in Earth Observation (EO) research can apply for the MarCOSIO grant (up to **US\$ 2400**)
4. MARG I applicants from South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Kenya studying Earth Observation (EO) in MSc and PhD programs can apply for the MarCOSIO student grants for subsistence in addition to the MARG I.

## REVIEW PROCESS

Applications for MARG I funding should be submitted online at this [LINK](#). Proposals are pre-screened at the Secretariat before being evaluated by a specially assembled review team. Applications not including copies of all required supporting documents by the deadline will be considered incomplete and disqualified.

The reviewers will assess the applicant's qualifications, the scientific quality and feasibility of the proposal, the financial requirements, and the importance of the anticipated results.

Applicants requesting partial support, as well as high-quality proposals from MSc and PhD students who meet the criteria, will be given Priority.

Women researchers and scientists from WIO countries are encouraged to apply, as are those whose working language is not English.

## PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

In addition to submitting a final report, MARG I grantees must make their research findings easily accessible by:

- i) Publishing the results of their research in an international or regional peer-reviewed journal, and
- ii) Submitting to the Secretariat during their research projects short summaries (one to two pages) of their preliminary results or lessons learned for publication in the WIOMSA Newsbriefs, the WIOMSA website, and social media.

## TRANSFER OF FUNDS

MARG grant funds will be routed through applicants' institutions. As a result, the applicant must provide proof of institutional support.

## SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Please note that applications will only be accepted via the online application system. Only applications submitted through this system will be considered. **Applications and supporting materials must be uploaded to the WIOMSA website via this [LINK](#). Please note that applicants will need to register and create an account to submit an application.**

Please read the instructions carefully before completing the relevant form.

**The deadline for submission of MARG I applications is 18th October 2023, 11.59 p.m. EAT.**

For any information contact, the Executive Director, Email: [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)