

Concept Note Template (Maximum 3 Pages)

Formatting:

- Arial or Times New Roman, 11 pt
- 1.15 line spacing
- 2.5 cm margins
- Maximum 3 pages (with references)
- Submissions exceeding 3 pages will not be evaluated

1. Title (Concise and Specific)

The title must indicate:

- Geographic focus
- Financing dimension
- Analytical approach

Example: Financing Structure and Management Capacity in Community-Managed Marine Areas in Northern Mozambique

2. Problem Definition & Structural Bottleneck (200–250 words)

Describe:

- The specific financing problem being addressed
- Why it persists (structural causes, not symptoms)
- Evidence that the problem exists (data, reports, site experience)
- Why this matters in the WIO context

This section must **demonstrate contextual understanding**, not general statements about funding gaps.

3. Research Question(s) (max 150 words)

State:

- One clearly framed primary research question
- 2–3 focused sub-questions

Questions must be analytical, measurable, and aligned with the thematic call.

Avoid broad or descriptive questions.

4. Institutional Context & Data Access Statement (max 300 words)

Applicants must specify:

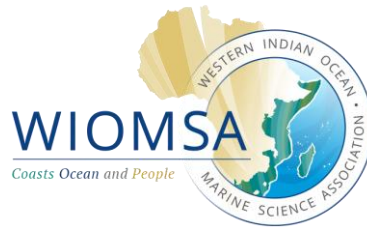
- Study site(s) or institutions involved
- Type of financial or governance data to be accessed
- Whether access has been discussed or confirmed
- Existing relationships with site managers or agencies (if applicable)

Proposals without clear data access credibility will score poorly.

5. Methodology & Analytical Design (max 400 words)

Describe:

- Data sources (e.g., budget records, revenue logs, interviews, IMET/METT scores, policy documents)
- Analytical methods (e.g., costing analysis, volatility modelling, regression, comparative institutional analysis, scenario modelling)



- Why the method fits the research question
- Feasibility within 6 months and USD 6,000

Applicants must demonstrate logical alignment between question, data, and method.

6. Feasibility & Risk (max 150 words)

Identify:

- Two key implementation risks
- Mitigation strategies

Examples: data access delays, seasonal constraints, institutional permissions.

Realistic risk awareness strengthens proposals.

7. Expected Contribution & Policy Relevance (300 words)

Explain:

- How findings will strengthen financing systems
- Who will use the results (site managers, ministries, trust funds, regional bodies)
- What practical recommendation or tool will emerge

Strong proposals demonstrate system-level relevance, not isolated case description.

8. Originality & Reflection (Maximum 150 words)

Respond briefly:

What assumption in current marine conservation financing do you believe is flawed or incomplete, and why?