

# *MARINE SCIENCE FOR MANAGEMENT (MASMA) PROGRAMME*

## **COMMISSIONED RESEARCH: INVITATION TO SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL ON**

### **“What are the critical factors that ensure coastal and marine ecotourism activities in the WIO provide environmental and socio-economic benefits?”**

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) through the Marine Science for Management (MASMA) programme has launched the “Commissioned” research grant programme to support priority research that is innovative, catalytic, and that provides information that could be used for management purposes.

MASMA was established in the light of the predominantly narrowly focused natural science research currently taken place in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, which is characterized by limited emphasis on interdisciplinary research and limited attention to the critical links between science and the larger societal issues in the region. Consequently, MASMA seeks to strengthen **applied and interdisciplinary** research on both the **natural and social science aspects** of coastal environmental issues for the purpose of advancing knowledge that is directly **relevant to society and resource management**.

Under the “Commissioned” research grant programme, proposals are invited from experts from within and outside the region.

## **BACKGROUND**

Tourism is one of the largest global industries, much of it focusing on the attractions of relatively pristine coastal and marine environments. Although lagging behind some parts of the world, the WIO is also seeing a rapid growth in coastal tourism, and increasingly this sector is being oriented towards *ecotourism*. Common definitions of ecotourism are: “Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well being of local people” or “environmentally responsible travel to relatively undisturbed natural area - in order to enjoy and appreciate nature and any accompanying cultural features - that promotes conservation, has low visitors negative impact, and provides for beneficially active socio economic involvement of local populations”. Environmental and sustainable development projects are thus interested in it because of its potential role in contributing to poverty alleviation, because it should have less environmental impact than mass tourism, and because it can potentially have a direct benefit on biodiversity, and/or provide revenue for conservation activities.

The use of ecotourism to protect biodiversity as well as generate livelihoods is both more widespread and better studied in the terrestrial environment, where there are now many programmes involving community-based tourism operations and development of a professional

capacity for ecotourism management. In sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, ecotourism is estimated to be the fastest growing segment of the travel industry. Although it remains a relatively small travel segment, 'ecotourists' are usually willing to pay a relatively high cost to visit pristine environments and experience native wildlife. The value of large marine species such as turtles and cetaceans as ecotourism attractions is increasingly being recognised and in many countries projects are being developed to promote their 'viewing' as a livelihood activity for local communities. Diving, snorkelling, mangrove viewing and a range of other activities are dependent on healthy ecosystems such as reefs and mangroves and can potentially generate revenue for their management. However, there is also much potential for negative impact and many opportunities for abuse of the term 'ecotourism'; it is not unknown for products and/or activities to be marketed as "ecotourism", when they are neither environmentally friendly nor of benefit to biodiversity.

During the 2002 International Year of Ecotourism, the World Tourism Organisation identified the need to "disseminate methods and techniques for ecotourism planning, management, regulation and monitoring to ensure its long term sustainability", and to "promote minimum quality standards, as well as trustworthy and comparable certification systems for eco-tourism suppliers". However, in order to do this, a better understanding of the impact of ecotourism on the ground is needed, so that clearly defined policies and plans can be developed, along with appropriate guidelines and participatory management mechanisms, that will ensure that the benefits outweigh the problems, that maximum value is obtained with minimum impact and that visitor carrying capacity is not exceeded.

There is substantial literature globally providing guidance on sustainable tourism, as well as codes of conduct and international schemes that give recognition to tourism initiatives adopting high environmental standards but little thought has been given as to how these could be applied in the WIO. In the WIO, there have been very few studies on the impact of coastal and marine ecotourism activities and thus there is a paucity of solid evidence to demonstrate the benefits and constraints of such initiatives in relation to both biodiversity and local communities, and to identify the key factors that lead to a positive impact.

The results of this research study will thus be of value to policy makers, government tourism and environment departments, NGOs and other organisations involved in the promotion of ecotourism and the management of coastal areas for tourism. It will contribute to the information needed for a clear ecotourism policy framework, will guide future development in the sub-sector and ensure that ecotourism developments minimise negative impacts on the natural and socio-cultural environment and contribute to the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

It is recommended that the proposal be centred on the aspects mentioned below. The planned study should aim at developing a typology of different coastal/marine tourism activities, assessing a sample to identify those that result in more sustainable development and effective marine conservation, and identifying critical success factors for these. It is envisaged that the results of study would give policy-makers a range of options in terms of how coastal tourism can be developed/managed and will allow them to identify specific measures/ incentives to promote the types of tourism that benefit their constituency the most.

1. Develop a typology of the different marine and coastal tourism activities in the WIO, with particular attention to those labelled as 'ecotourism' or responsible tourism enterprises
2. Select a number of enterprises/activities from the major groups of the typology for further analysis with sufficient representation of all enterprises/activities labelled as 'ecotourism' or responsible tourism enterprises. The choice of activities for further analysis should take account of the following points:
  - Data (or a baseline survey) should be available to show the status of the species and ecosystems with which the ecotourism activity interacts, and the socio-economic status of communities, before the programme started;
  - Monitoring/assessment data should be available to show changes to biodiversity, livelihoods and local economy as a result of the programme or activity, for example economic impacts on the rural and fishing activities;
  - A range of different ecotourism activities should be selected e.g. whale/turtle watching, community-managed eco-resorts, diving and snorkelling operations etc.
3. Carry out an analysis to show to what extent the different types of coastal tourism have contributed to:
  - a) Positive changes in ecosystem and species health
  - b) Improved livelihoods of local communities
4. Using the results of (3), identify the critical factors that contribute to the success of ecotourism initiatives in terms of improving livelihoods and benefiting coastal and marine ecosystems and species.
5. Make recommendations for changes in policy and practices to ensure that tourism provides maximum environmental and socio-economic benefits.

The study should be undertaken in collaboration with relevant institutions in the region involved in social science, economic analysis and tourism research, and should contribute to building the capacity of social scientists, economists and their students for studying tourism and making recommendations for the application of the results in coastal resource management. A workshop at the conclusion of the study, to disseminate the results and promote follow-up should be considered.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Principal Investigators and members of their teams should meet the following criteria:

- a. Demonstrable credibility and capacity to conduct research on the selected topic.
- b. Educational background: The Principal Investigator should have attained an education level of at least MSc or MA degree in a discipline related to marine sciences<sup>1</sup>.
- c. The grant is specific for individuals and/or research teams from the WIO region. However, individuals and/or research teams may involve scientists outside the region as appropriate,

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<sup>1</sup> Marine science here includes both the social, cultural, economic and natural sciences

- 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<sup>2</sup> annually.
- d. The Principal Investigator should be from the WIO region and be employed by an institution (governmental or non-governmental) in the region. The institution is expected to provide salaries, working space and basic research facilities.
  - e. Evidence of potential/existing collaboration with appropriate experts and institutions that are competent in the technical matters that the proposed project entails.

## **DURATION AND FUNDING**

The maximum duration for activities supported under “Commissioned” research grant programme is two (2) years. The total funds request should not exceed US\$ 150,000. However, proposals for less that amount are encouraged.

## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

A full proposal based on the elaboration of the above-mentioned issues should be submitted by fax, email or ordinary mail by **31 July 2006**. The proposal should be prepared according to the format provided in Annex I.

The proposal and CVs of the members of the team should be submitted to:

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](mailto: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](http://www.wiomsa.org) or contact the Executive Secretary at the above address.

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<sup>2</sup> One man-month is defined as the working days on a month, which are 20 days.

# **ANNEX I: FORMAT FOR PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED**

All pages should be single-spaced, typewritten (computer or typewriter) in at least a 12-point font, and printed on A4 (210 mm x 297 mm OR 8.5" x 11") paper. The entire proposal should not exceed 25 pages, including illustrative materials like tables, figures, charts etc. Applicant(s) should note that all the necessary information for reviewing the proposals should be included in the 25 pages, with only the reference letters and CV(s) allowed as annexes. Each proposal must include the following items; applicants should carefully read and understand the specified guidelines on each item. Proposals failing to meet the provided guidelines will not be considered for review.

## **1. Title Page**

This should be a separate (cover) page, with the title of the research proposal and name(s) and contacts (address, telephone, fax, e-mail) of the applicant(s). The title should identify the project, be as short as possible, and be sufficiently descriptive to reflect the nature of the proposed work. In case of more than one applicant, the principle investigator (or contact person) should be clearly indicated.

## **2. Abstract**

The abstract should not exceed 1 page. This is a very important part of the proposal, giving a summary of the entire work. It should present a precise description of the research being proposed, including objectives, methodology and expected results.

## **3. Background**

In this section, the applicant(s) should give background information of the proposed research, which may include: i) current state of knowledge; ii) how the proposed work will impact on the theme in question; iii) justification of the proposed research (i.e., why conduct the research); iv) possible applications of the knowledge generated, expected institutional impact and other potential benefits of the project/workshop/training course.

## **4. Goals and Objectives**

The applicant(s) should clearly state the main goal of the work, and give specific objectives to be achieved by conducting the proposed research. Furthermore, it should include a framework of analysis defining the conceptual framework, and theoretical frame of reference that will guide the research. Hypotheses, theories, and research tasks, etc. should be appropriately formulated.

## **5. Methodologies**

In this section, the applicant needs to discuss how each of the proposed objectives will be achieved, and questions answered in the most rigorous way possible. This includes the materials and methodology; the timeframe for completion of the work; and the roles and responsibilities of each investigator.

## **6. Approvals**

The applicant(s) should mention whether relevant national/local approvals and research permit have been sought or granted and by which agencies. The names and addresses of the agencies should also be given

## **7. Gender Considerations**

State whether gender consideration constitute an important dimension of the project in defining the important relationships of the problem or in data collection. The applicant should show explicitly how the methodology will address gender issues.

## **8. Risk Analysis**

Possible problems, difficulties, and/or factors that could prevent timely completion and/or implementation of the project/workshop/training course

## **9. In-Country Collaboration**

The applicant(s) should identify and describe any collaborators and partners in-country who would be involved in the research and who could ensure the sustainability of the work and /or national/local stewardship as relevant. Other stakeholders should also be identified.

## **10. Results and Dissemination of Research Findings**

Expected major outputs of the project/workshop/training course should be defined. The likely use of the results from the proposed activity, and beneficiaries of activity should be discussed. Furthermore, the means of communication of results to users and decision makers should be explained

## **11. Literature Cited**

All literature materials cited in the text must be listed in this section.

## **12. Budget and Budget Justification**

Annex IV should be completed as a summary of the budget. The budget to be included in the proposal should be clear, complete, and well explained such that the rationale for each figure is given in sufficient details and the roles and responsibilities of each investigator should be clearly defined. This will enable the reviewers to evaluate the relevant application of the funding requested.

## **13. Available Resources**

It is important that the applicant provided information on financial and material support, for this proposal, from other sources. Applicant should specify the staff, facilities, equipment and supplies that will be available for the project, from the institution to which the applicant is affiliated. If relevant, specify the time schedule for research training involved in the project.

## **14. Curriculum Vitae**

The CV for each investigator may not exceed two (4) pages. It should include peer-reviewed publications related to the subject of the proposed research.

# REFEREE'S FORM TO SUPPORT APPLICATION FOR A RESEARCH GRANT

Applicants should give this form to a referee to be completed as part of the grant application. This form will be treated as confidential and should be sent directly to the secretariat by the referees. The form should be type-written (computer or type-writer)

Please provide us comments on the: Applicant's general character; academic record; prospects and ability to conduct the proposed research; relevance of the proposed research; the duration you have known the applicant and under what capacity; and any other relevant information. *Please attach additional sheet if the need arises.*

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Name ..... Signature .....  
Institution ..... Date .....  
Address ..... Tel: .....  
..... Fax.....  
..... **E-mail** .....

## BUDGET FORMAT

**An example of the format in which budget items should be submitted is as follows:**

Research title	Country	Project No (WIOMSA)
Responsible for the accounts	Institution	Budget period

Local currency

Local currency code	Exchange rate/SEK (on budget date):
	Exchange rate/USD (on budget date):

Bank		Account No.	
Bank address		Title of account and name	
Payment date preferred	1 <sup>st</sup> :	2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Final:
Amount in local currency/USD			

### Planned Expenditure

Account No (WIOMSA)	Expenditure (titles of Accounts at WIOMSA)	Total	Proposed Payment Schedule		
			1 st Install- ment	2 nd Install- ment	Final Payment
<b>Total</b>					

<b>Signature of Project leader</b>
Place and date: Signature: Name (capitals)

**NOTE: If duration of project is greater than one year, please attach additional information (as above) on the budget items for subsequent years.**