



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

TRAINING COURSE ON STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL CAPACITY FOR MARINE LITTER MONITORING IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

Background

Marine litter is a growing problem linked to the ever-increasing population, rapid socioeconomic development, changing consumption patterns and income, rapid urbanization, inadequate urban planning policies, resources and financing of waste management sectors. Over 80% of marine litter originates from land. Once in the ocean, they negatively impact many facets of life including, environment, health and economy. The amount of litter leaking to the ocean is further projected to increase given that nearly half of the coastal populations are expected to live in urban areas.

To address marine litter and its impacts, adequate and well-coordinated efforts are needed both upstream and in the marine environments. The coastal counties and municipalities have enacted laws meant to guide solid waste management in addition to the national government-imposed bans on single-use plastics in a number of countries in the WIO region.

Reducing and minimizing marine litter requires addressing waste leakage and disposal into rivers and oceans. The planning and operational management of solid waste collection and disposal services require reliable information which must be provided in a timely manner to the relevant authorities. Information is required to establish appropriate solid waste management goals and targets for the planning period, evaluate future resource mobilization and make decisions on resource investment for solid waste collection and disposal services. Despite the important role that information plays in planning, designing and operating solid waste management services, it has not received adequate attention from most authorities responsible for solid waste management making it difficult to identify changes of volume of waste, seasonal variations, type of waste and so on. There is therefore a need for collaboration among countries, government authorities, County governments, municipalities and local authorities, researchers and other volunteers together in defining data needs and in understanding how data is generated, analysed and interpreted for planning and management of solid waste.

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in cooperation with WIOMSA, wishes to invite qualified participants to apply for the marine litter monitoring training course. The training will be hosted by KMFRI, on 22nd to 30th November 2021. The training will include both classroom sessions and a series of field visits to conduct marine litter sampling in dumpsites, beaches, estuarine environment, mangroves area and floating litter).

Course Objectives

The objective of the course is to provide an in-depth understanding of harmonized protocols for inland and marine litter survey and assessment in order to standardize data collection and analysis. The specific objectives of the training course are:

1. To build capacity on the use of harmonized methods for inland and marine litter surveys for the generation of uniform planning data.
2. To promote the use of harmonized methods for inland and marine litter monitoring methods on coastal and counties drained by rivers discharging into the Indian Ocean.
3. To promote the use of standardized data analysis tools to ensure comparability of marine and land-based litter data.
4. To encourage reporting for SDG indicators 11.6.1: Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities; 12.5.1: National recycling rate, tons of material recycled; and 14.1.1: plastic debris density.

At the end of the course participants are expected;

- 1) To have an in depth understanding of inland and marine litter quantification and monitoring in coastal cities including streets, dumpsites, beaches, sea surface rivers and critical habitats (mangroves, seagrass and corals)
- 2) To be conversant with the harmonized methods for marine litter quantification and monitoring
- 3) To be conversant with the standardized data analysis tools.
- 4) To be able to establish/ design a programme to monitor and assess the distribution and abundance of plastic litter in their context.

Target participants

This training targets city planners, local governments NGOs, academicians and policy makers from coastal towns/cities of Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania who are involved in waste management. They should demonstrate technical competence in one of these fields: urban planning, waste management, ocean sciences, marine resource management and environmental science. They should have frequent interaction with marine litter and solid waste management.

Participants should have a minimum academic requirement of a diploma in town and city planning/environmental planning and science, marine/coastal resources management or related fields. Higher academic qualification will be an added advantage. Trainees should be residents of Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique or Tanzania and should be nominated by the designated agencies in their countries.

Application procedure

Applicants should submit their applications by 30th Septemebr 2021 to secretary@wiomsa.org and copied to director@kmfri.go.ke, v.ochanda@wiomsa.org and eokuku@kmfri.go.ke.

Applicants should provide the following;

1. A CV (maximum 3 pages) detailing academic and professional achievements with supporting certificates.
2. Proficiency in MS Office applications i.e., Word, Excel, PowerPoint and a good working knowledge of the English language.
3. A motivation statement (max 2 pages) stating the applicant's knowledge on the issue of marine litter and nation/ regional/international initiatives that are ongoing, how the training in inland and marine litter management and planning will help achieve their career goals, how they will utilize the gained knowledge.
4. A letter of support/ nomination from the employer detailing how the acquired skills will be utilized to manage marine litter and evidence of sustained capacity building at parent/host institute.

For more information, please contact

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