



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS IN THE EMERGING COASTAL TOWNS IN THE WIO REGION

Submission deadline: 25th September 2021.

#### About the training

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), in collaboration with South Eastern Kenya University, Machakos University, Kenyatta University, The University of Nairobi, Centre for Marine and Environmental Research of the University of Algarve and ERACOMA, are organizing a Regional Training Workshop on “**Building Capacities of Local Practitioners for the Assessment of the Dynamics of Ecosystems in the Emerging Coastal Towns in the WIO Region**”, that will be held in **the coast region of Kenya** from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The training course is sponsored by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Scientists Association (WIOMSA), through its Cities and Coasts Programme.

#### Background

Growth of coastal cities and the entire urbanisation process not only have complex linkages with biophysical and ecological processes but the associated human activities are causing fundamental and often irreversible changes to the planet's diversity. In recognition of the current disconnect existing between marine ecosystem managers/researchers and city planners, this training aims to bridge the gap by helping relevant practitioners appreciate ecosystem services alongside development.

The Cities and Coasts project aims to support and facilitate capacity building of relevant practitioners with a view to improve their ability to perform their core functions. One of the areas of capacity strengthening is in Ecosystem Services (ES) valuation taking cognisance of the fact that environmental,





economic and social changes associated with urbanization can alter how people relate to nature and value ES.

In light of the foregoing, KMFRI and partners plan to convene an ES capacity building workshop on the assessment of ecosystem dynamics in the emerging coastal towns in the WIO region. The main resource material for this workshop will be the implementation of research toolkit TESSA based on the findings of the TEEB study (TEEB, 2012) and existing manuals (particularly Ranganathan et al. 2008; WBSCD 2011 and TESSA).

This training aims to equip coastal conservation practitioners, urban planners, natural resource managers, landscape architects and decision makers with knowledge, skills and tools for identifying, classifying, and quantifying ecosystem services (ES) in their jurisdiction, especially in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. This will be done by advocating for the use of site-based approaches in ES assessment, thus enhancing environmental ethics, address conflicting interests, and build the capacity of various relevant practitioners to appreciate the relationship between the coastal cities and the ocean as an economy and possess moral responsibility towards them. It will also help the participants understand how development decisions made at their respective institutions impact on marine and coastal ecosystems.

### **What the training will cover**

Topics to be covered will include:

- Linkages between marine and coastal ecosystems and the respective ecosystem services
- Contribution of ecosystem services to economic and other aspects of human well-being
- Impacts of cities/urban development on coastal and marine ecosystems using the DIPSIR framework



- Assessment and valuation methodology of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and contribution to sustainable marine and coastal development
- Qualitative and quantitative techniques of conducting ecosystem assessment and valuation
- The various monetary and non-monetary values that are attached to ecosystems by communities
- Planning and supporting stepwise processes of conducting biophysical assessment and valuations, and how to integrate them into decision making using the TESSA toolkit
- Process of accessing open-source satellite images (from Sentinel-2 and Landsat missions) and software's (e.g. Sentinel Application Platform (SNAP) for mapping

Because of the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, the training will be organized as a hybrid workshop where a limited number of participants will attend in-person and selected individuals from the rest of the WIO region will participate virtually. The training will be interactive through talks and case studies. Participants will be given a package of learning materials that include PowerPoints, case studies, photos and references. By the end of the training, it is expected that participants will have obtained increased understanding of identifying, classifying, quantifying and valuation of ecosystem services, and to have a clear strategy to apply the new knowledge and skills in their fields of work.

### Criteria for selection of participants

1. Participants must be early or mid-career city/urban planning practitioners and managers; as well as landscape architects marine and coastal resource managers from the WIO region (Comoros, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, France (Reunion), Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Somalia);
2. Participants should have considerable working knowledge of natural resources conservation and social sciences, so they can work together to mainstream ecosystem services assessment





through quantification and valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services into urban planning and decision-making.

3. Participants must be available to complete ALL days of the training;
4. Participants should demonstrate a desire for ecosystem services assessment;
5. Participants with a relevant Bachelor's degree and above and are involved in site management, city and urban planning or are practitioners,
6. Applicants must have their application endorsed by their management authority, organization and government.

The training is free for the selected participants. Additionally, in-person participants will be provided with transport, accommodation and meals in or near the venue for the training.

Training will be conducted in English, so trainees must have working proficiency in the English language

### **Commitment to the training**

Successful applicants must be able to devote enough time to completely engage in the training and then implement what they've learnt in the workplace.

### **How to apply – application deadline 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Training slots are limited, and participants will be selected through open competition based on their application form and to ensure representation across the WIO region. If you would like to be considered for the training, please read and fill the application form and send to **Judith Okello** ([jokello@kmfri.co.ke](mailto:jokello@kmfri.co.ke)) and **Margaret Owuor** ([info@eracoma.net](mailto:info@eracoma.net)), with a copy to WIOMSA ([v.ochanda@wiomsa.org](mailto:v.ochanda@wiomsa.org)) and [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org) by the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

