



## **FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), the University of Mauritius, and the Nairobi Convention are pleased to announce the Eleventh WIOMSA Scientific Symposium which will be held in Mauritius in July 2019.

**SYMPOSIUM DATES:** Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The week is divided into the following components:

- **1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019** - The main part of the Symposium. This component will include: keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations and 'Mini-Symposia'. The structure of the Symposium has been adapted to allow the poster session to run from 14h00 to 16h00 from Monday to Thursday. In addition, a new feature of the Symposium, i.e. 'Mini-Symposia', will be scheduled from Monday to Thursday from 16h00 to 17h40.
- **5<sup>th</sup> July 2019** - Specially convened sessions and roundtable discussions.
- **6<sup>th</sup> July 2019** - Excursions and tours to different places of interest.

**SYMPOSIUM VENUE:** University of Mauritius.

**THEME:** "People, Coasts and Oceans: Opportunities for a changing future"

### **SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES:**

The Symposium will bring together practitioners, academics, researchers and students to share knowledge, experience and solutions to the challenges experienced in our coastal and marine environment. The specific objectives of the symposium are to:

- Present current knowledge on disciplines related to the theme of the symposium, as detailed in the General Guidelines for Abstract Submission;
- Provide a forum for discussion, exchange of information and experiences on coastal and marine science issues in the Western Indian Ocean region;
- Promote interaction among social and natural scientists in order to strengthen multi- and trans-disciplinary research for sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment;
- Identify gaps and priority research areas for improved management of the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean region.

Contributions from all relevant scientific disciplines are welcome at this multidisciplinary symposium.

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:**

Abstracts are invited on any topic related to the coastal and marine environment of the WIO region. Priority will be given to multi-/trans-/inter-disciplinary abstracts. Abstracts must be written in English which is also the official language of the Symposium. The abstract should not exceed 2 pages (authors and title included, A4 prepared as a WORD Document, using Times New Roman 12 pt, single spacing, normal margins (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins), portrait orientation with justified alignment). Submitted abstracts must contain the following information: title, name(s) of author(s); affiliation; postal and e-mail addresses. It should also clearly state the preferred mode of presentation (oral or poster). Download additional [guidelines on abstracts here](#).

Abstracts should provide a brief statement of the problem, the methodology, the results and the conclusion of the study. The abstract should be submitted in plain text only, without the inclusion of tables, graphs, images, etc.

All abstracts will be reviewed for merit and relevance. Abstracts must be received by WIOMSA by no later than **31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**. Confirmation of acceptance for oral or poster presentations will be communicated to authors by **29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**. Abstracts should be submitted online via <http://abstract.wiomsa.org/>.

### **CALL FOR ‘MINI-SYMPOSIA’:**

The organizers invite submission of proposals to convene ‘Mini-Symposia’ within the general scope of the Symposium. Mini-symposia should focus on presenting and discussing issues of regional importance with the intention of coming up with syntheses on the current status of knowledge, furthering research and policy recommendations, and/or introducing novel perspectives and approaches. These Mini-symposia should also aim to establish connections with other research communities within and outside the region. Conveners should plan their sessions with a view of producing publications (manuscript, policy brief, position paper, etc.) from the presentations delivered. Abstracts submitted for mini-symposia will be peer-reviewed much in the same way as submissions to the regular sessions. However, the conveners will be responsible for undertaking the initial reviews of the submitted abstracts from the invited potential presenters.

Mini-Symposia proposals should be submitted to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org) by **15 February 2019** and should include: title of the mini-symposium; name of convener(s); email of the main contact person; a short one-paragraph biography of the convener; brief description and motivation of the topic, highlighting the novelty/impact of the topic (maximum of 300 words); mini-symposium structure; expected outputs (s); and list of potential presenters.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the scientific quality of the proposal, the importance of the topic, the track record of the conveners and the expected output(s) of the session.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

A limited number of travel grants will be provided to participants from the region whose abstracts have been accepted. Students from the region, whose abstracts have been accepted, will be given special consideration. Depending on how abstracts have been ranked, support will be in the form of a return ticket, or accommodation, or both. Applications for the travel grants should indicate details of the support required and should be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> March 2019** to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org).

### **REGISTRATION FEES:**

A registration fee of US\$ 200 for non WIOMSA members, US \$ 150 for WIOMSA members, and US\$ 100 for students will be charged to help cover some of the costs of the symposium.

#### **EXHIBITIONS:**

Space will be available for exhibits by organizations, programmes, projects and commercial companies. Please contact the WIOMSA secretariat ([secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)) for more details. The deadline for confirmation by institutions wishing to participate in the exhibition opportunities is **31 March 2019**.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Abstract submission opens	1 December 2018
Deadline for submission of abstracts	31 January 2019
Notification of abstract acceptance	29 March 2019
Deadline for application for travel grants	15 March 2019
Deadline for confirmation by institutions wishing to participate in the exhibition opportunities	31 March 2019