

Abstracts Submission: *General Guidelines*

- Abstracts should contain new information that has not been presented previously.
- We strongly discourage the submission of abstracts that contain incomplete data and/or analysis.
- All abstracts must be submitted in ENGLISH.
- You should explain each of your abbreviations the first time it appears in the main text. After the first appearance of the abbreviation, the abbreviation should always be used in the rest of the text instead of the complete term.
- Check abstract thoroughly for spelling and grammar.
- Abstracts on research from outside of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) will be rejected without review. For a definition of the WIO countries included, see the [WIOMSA website](#).
- Each symposium participant is limited to submitting one abstract as the primary author but may be listed as a co-author on an unlimited number of abstracts

All Abstracts MUST include:

TITLE:

- Maximum 125 characters

AUTHORS:

- Full name, email address and affiliation(s) are mandatory for each author.
- Indicate the presenting author.
- Indicate if the first author is a student

BODY OF ABSTRACT:

- Maximum 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.
- Abstracts must be structured and submitted under the following heading:
 - **Background:** study objectives, the hypothesis tested, or description of the problem.
 - **Methods:** method used, or approach taken.
 - **Results:** presented in summarized form, must include data and/or important information about results, but do not include tables, graphs or pictures.
 - **Conclusion:** description of primary outcomes of the study.
 - **Do not include references.**

TOPICS/SUBMISSION THEMES:

- **Oceanography: understanding the physical processes of atmosphere-ocean interactions:** includes research on sea/air interactions, upwelling mechanisms, modelling of physical and geological processes, shoreline changes, and trends and projections of extreme events and major oceanographic processes.
- **Pollution: source, fate and social and environmental impacts:** the focus is on the effects of physical, chemical, and biological contaminants on marine ecosystem function and human well-being. This section will also focus on plastic pollution.

- **Capacity in Ocean and Coastal Governance** the focus is on research on the effectiveness of capacity development, public awareness, education and outreach initiatives, communicating science to different audiences, and the involvement of the public in policymaking and influencing changes. Innovative ways of building capacity-the people, the institutions, and technology and tools needed to manage ocean resources.
- **Ocean and society: *The social dimension of ecosystem services*:** this theme focuses on social, cultural and economic characteristics of coastal communities of the WIO region. It includes research focusing on traditional uses of the ocean (such as fishing, tourism and shipping) and new uses (such as hydrocarbon extraction, coastal mining) and their impacts on coastal communities, countries as a whole, and the environment. It also covers the valuation of the material contributions of marine ecosystems to human wellbeing.
- **Climate, ocean acidification, and the changing oceans:** this theme focuses on research on the impacts of climate change and climate variability on the coastal and marine environment. It covers environmental changes in key ecosystems, effects of environmental changes on key marine species and understanding past environmental changes to predict the future. The theme also includes research on climate change mitigation, adaptation, resilience and vulnerability. We encourage interdisciplinary presentations, combining earth and life sciences to study the response of ecosystems and model species to the drivers of global change.
- **Marine resources: *Sustainable use in a changing world*:** under this theme, we invite the scientific community to submit any topic directly or indirectly related to the sustainable use, conservation or restoration of marine resources, economic activities associated with the use of marine resources, mainly fisheries and aquaculture, and bioprospecting which is understood as the search for new species or their derivatives for commercial and industrial purposes.
- **Marine Biodiversity:** this theme covers modeling marine species and habitat distributions and oceanographic connectivity, including genetic biodiversity hotspots. We invite holistic approaches to the ecology and biogeochemistry of benthic ecosystems, how they function, and how they respond to their environment. This theme also covers new topics, e.g. deep-sea science. Also, included in this theme are threatened, declining or otherwise species in need of special attention or protection.
- **Ocean Governance and Policy:** research on different management regimes that have been adopted for managing coastal and marine resources at different governance levels. These include traditional management systems, collaborative management arrangements and enforcement of policies and laws through various regulatory mechanisms. Research on approaches/tools such as Integrated Coastal Management, Marine Spatial Planning, Ecosystem-Based Management, and MPAs also fall under this theme.
- **Ocean science technology:** this theme focuses on the use of different technologies such as drones, remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs), remote sensing, and ICT in coastal and marine management. This theme also includes the application of different DNA-based methods to support conservation, showcase the cutting-edge molecular-based techniques applied in the region for better understanding of marine biodiversity and functioning (e.g., variability patterns of reef-associated organisms from genes to communities), investigate the potential of molecular tools to enhance ecosystem resilience (e.g., marine probiotics), and discuss the future direction on molecular-based marine research.
- **Marine Data and Information Systems:** This theme will focus on big and open data in the ocean. Presentation can focus on data services and tools in ocean science, technical developments by the use of marine information and data management, marine environmental infrastructures for observation data (data management and access) and data products, information and knowledge etc.
- **Participatory Science:** this theme focuses on resource management and conservation, local communities, and civil society play a key role and where mechanisms such as collective action and bottom-up schemes have shown effectiveness in the fair and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems or resources. Presentations can focus on community participation (lessons and challenges), use of traditional knowledge and multi-stakeholder approaches to the management of marine and coastal systems or resources, citizen science etc.