

WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MARINE
SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (WIOMSA)

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5th October 2018

Department of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries,
University of Dar es Salaam,
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Dear: Dr. Daniel A. Shilla,

RE: Assessment of the Ecological Aspects of Microplastic Pollution in Dar Es Salaam, Zanzibar and Mombasa Coastal Marine Environments (MICROMARE)

Reference is made to your MASMA proposal submitted to the Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (WIOMSA) for consideration for funding through the MASMA Project. We thank you for showing interest in the MASMA programme by submitting your proposal

The MASMA (PC) met on 6 and 7 September 2018 to review the submitted full proposals. As a procedure, each proposal was reviewed by at least two reviewers.

The Committee found that the proposal is well written and well conceptualized with a good team from Tanzania and Kenya, with scientists from Denmark. Research is coherent and the various methods are logical and hierarchical in addressing presence, pathways, fate and implications of microplastic pollution. The proposal addresses a vital and timely issue for the region.

We are therefore pleased to inform you that your proposal has tentatively been approved. This approval is conditional pending your satisfactory response to the comments raised on your proposal including:

- **Literature review.** The proposal should also consider and incorporate studies such as

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- Ogonowski, M., Gerdes, Z. and Gorokhova, E. (2018) What we know and what we think we know about microplastic effects – A critical perspective. *Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health* 1:41–46. DOI: 10.1016/j.coesh.2017.09.001
- Kosore et al 2018. Occurrence and ingestion of microplastics by zooplankton in Kenya’s marine environment: first documented evidence, *African Journal of Marine Science* 2018, 40(3): 225–234
- And other studies conducted in the region in micro-plastics
- **Description of methodologies/approaches**
 - Study sites in Kenya and Tanzania have not been identified or criteria that will be used to identify the sites are not provided.
- **Involvement of stakeholders**
 - It is not clear if stakeholders have been involved in the design, more explicit linkages are needed between different groups of beneficiaries and results/policy materials or activities
- **Relationship and differences between the outcome, results, and outputs**
 - The proposal would benefit from more nuance in terms of linking beneficiaries, how they will benefit and be linked to research results (i.e. the last 3 columns of Table 2). It could have been better if research results specifically packaged for different groups of beneficiaries, rather than the same text copied across each row of the table.
 - The quantification of outputs could be improved, which would assist the future management of the project.

You are requested to provide a detailed response to the above comments preferably not later than **30 October 2018**. Comments on the budget will be sent once the response has been received. You are also invited to meet the Committee and present your project and responses to the Committee’s comments. The meeting is planned to be held in **early November**, you will be informed of the dates soon. Each project is allowed to be represented by a maximum of three members. Please send the names by **12 October 2018**.

If you need further clarification about the comments do not hesitate to contact us.

Looking forward for your response to the comments provided as well as.

Sincerely,



Julius Francis
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY