



C-RISe Coastal Risk Information Service:

Trip Report - WIOMSA 10th Scientific Symposium, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania: 30th October – 3rd November, 2017

1 Introduction

This document reports on the participation on members of the C-RISe Team at the WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association) 10th Scientific Symposium, held at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre, Dar Es Salaam, from 30th October to 3rd November 2017.

2 WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association)

WIOMSA is an international organisation established for 25 years with the aim:

“To advance regional co-operation in all aspects of coastal and marine sciences (including socio-economic and management sciences) and management, and to support sustainable development in the Western Indian Ocean Region, while promoting interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches.”

WIOMSA holds a scientific symposium every two years, bringing together scientists from across the West Indian Ocean region and further afield.

3 Symposium Overview and Purpose of Visit

The WIOMSA 10th Scientific Symposium had over 40 scientific sessions run over 3 days, with a wide-ranging number of topics, including: Coral Reefs; Mangroves; Fisheries and Mariculture; Marine Protected Areas; Threatened Marine Species; Estuarine Processes; Physical and Meteorological Processes; and Climate Change Impact and Processes.

There were other events before and after the symposium, in the form of project meetings, Kick-Offs, Workshops, etc; to take advantage of the presence of scientists and experts. One of these sessions, not attended by the CRISe team, was a workshop on Remote Sensing Applications for Forested Wetlands: Inventory and Assessment.

The C-RISe team attended the WIOMSA Symposium in order to present the C-RISe project to this important regional forum, to gain a better understanding of the scientific priorities of marine scientists working in the region, and also to investigate the possibility to engage new partners, either into the current project, or for a possible project extension.

4 Observations and Summary.

The main interest and focus of sessions in the meeting was in the field of marine and coastal ecosystems and their effective management. In the Western Indian Ocean region many coastal populations make a living from the sea at a subsistence level, so effective co-management of the coast and ocean ecosystems is critical. For example, if areas need to be protected through the creation of Marine Protected Areas, because they contain rare and/or vulnerable marine ecosystems, then it is vital that the local populations are part of this process and alternative ways of making a living are provided.

The impacts of climate change were a concern, primarily in terms of temperature rise and salinity change and how that will affect marine ecosystems.

Most relevant to C-RISe, were two sessions on Physical and Meteorological processes, which included presentations on physical oceanography, tropical cyclones and sea level changes.

C-RISe was presented through a poster, which is available for download on the project website (<http://www.satoc.eu/projects/c-rise/>). There was good interest in the poster and the climatological products that we will deliver, and a number of contacts were made that are being followed up, with a view to possible future involvement, either in the current project, or in a planned extension.

The International Partnership Programme was also promoted, and IPP Call 1 booklets, which included information on C-RISe, were handed out to interested organisations.

5 Recommendations, Future Plans.

We would recommend participation in future WIOMSA Symposiums for UK projects that are involved in Marine Science/Mapping in the Western Indian Ocean Region. It is an event attended by most of the active marine scientists in the region, and so is an opportunity to meet them and understand the current priorities for science, and key requirements for EO based data and information.

The C-RISe team is tentatively planning to request a specific session at the next WIOMSA symposium (which would be held in 2019, venue to be determined) as a showcase for the C-RISe project outcomes, focussing on the findings from the Case Studies, and presenting the plans/business case for a long term C-RISe service. The intention is to approach the WIOMSA secretariat once the C-RISe Case Studies are in place, so we can provide a clear overview of the applications and users involved.