Building a regional training network of coastal, marine and continental water body scientists in the WIO region - *InteGRADE*

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Oceans & Lakes

• **Inter-university** master programme at 3 universities in Belgium: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Universiteit Gent, Universiteit Antwerpen

• Provides strong **fundamental** and **applied** knowledge

• Prepares for an active role in **scientific research** and **management**

• **Multidisciplinary** approach integrating physical, chemical, geological, ecological and societal aspects and including **biodiversity conservation** and **sustainable development**

• Trains students in becoming **critically minded, problem-solving** and **communicative**
« Credentials »

Master of Ecological Marine Management
ECOMAMA (1998-2011)
- VUB-UA
- marine
- tropical systems
- ecosystem management (biological)
- development-oriented
- International Course Programme VLIR

Marine and Lacustrine Sciences
Marelac
- UGent
- marine & lacustrine
- temperate systems
- general (biological & geological)

Master of Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management
Oceans & Lakes
NEW from 2010-11!
Process InteGRADE – project development (“genesis”)

MSc Oceans & Lakes

What is hampering further work?
- Limiting resources (funding)
- Isolation

What could facilitate further work?
- Access to project application
- Network integration
- Updating skills and knowledge
- Aligning with VLIR-UOS policy
- Aligning with country and regional policy

Building a network through InteGRADE
Management of coastal and inland water resources and responses to global issues suffer from a lack of:

- **transboundary** approaches
- **flow of information** through scientific networks

Flanders (VLIR-UOS) has built capacity in relevant fields, often created nuclei in many countries:

- MSc Aquaculture
- MSc Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (Oceans & Lakes)
- MSc Human Ecology

Regional and international **South-South** scientific networking remain an untapped resource for valorization.
InteGRADE

Identity card

The South Initiative
‘INternational inTEnsive Southern training proGRAmme and network DEvelopment for marine and lacustrine scientists (InteGRADE)’

(1) build a regional training network of coastal, marine and continental water body scientists in WIO

(2) organize a pilot event on basis of the network initiating the establishment of an international intensive southern training programme

InteGRADE : valorize earlier VLIR-UOS initiatives while supporting the scientific, educational and organizational skills at State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) in Tanzania.
• East Africa (EA) shares watersheds, coasts, marine resources and..... challenges

• Maybe EA can share solutions to the challenges

• This is why EA is a prime area for starting a regional training network under VLIR-UOS

• Bottom-up initiative (scientist network) rather than top-down process (government initiated)
VLIR-UOS South Initiative (InteGRADE)

Structure

South:
State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)
University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)

North:
Universiteit Gent (UGent)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Network contacts:
- ECOMAMA and Oceans & Lakes alumni network
- New contacts (team leaders, NGO collaborators, human resources managers, researchers,...)

External fundings:
- WIOMSA
- ACP
- EuropAid
- ...?

First step

Second step

Every two years: International intensive southern training programme for MSc students from North and South
InteGRADE core project
VLIR-UOS
2 years
2014-2016
(start 1 December 2014)

Process InteGRADE – for the programme sustainability

VLIR-UOS funding

Initiation workshop, training, preparation in Zanzibar, 5 days

VLIR-UOS funding

First training workshop in Zanzibar, 2 weeks

Programme calls, funding agencies

Series of workshops, 2 yearly in Zanzibar

External and diverse funding

Series of workshops, 2 yearly in Zanzibar

Workshops in other countries, adopt and adapt format

Series of workshops, 2 yearly in Zanzibar
Process InteGRADE – for a **scientist - graduate**

- **MSc Oceans & Lake**
- **Graduates (alumni)**
- **Return to country, re-integrate**
- **Participate in InteGRADE workshop(s)**
- **Network North-South, South-South**

**Submit project**

**Programme calls, funding agencies**

- **Money raising, funding for participation (limited grants)**
- **Other scientists (other programmes with an interface)**
Objectives

• catalyze **regional collaboration** for local and **transboundary challenges** and their environmental application (linking up scientists and common projects)

• offer a **sustainable format for training programmes** with adapted and up to date teaching skills, to follow the project in a 2-yearly frequency, supported by the network and based on new partnerships, also in funding

• strengthen the academic performance of the hub of the network and the training programme, i.e. **State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)**
Action points

(1) Indicating network development and training programme objectives and themes
- Defining scientific, management and governance theme
- Listing lecturers, academics, scientists, NGOs and alumni
- Screening relevant local and regional organizations

(2) Workshop (5 days) with core team and network partners
- Work out different aspects of pilot training programme
- Work out a funding strategy to allow continuity of training programme series post project

(3) Organization of a pilot 2-week training programme in 2015
- Providing training for the network contacts and local students
- Evaluation of the format for improvement to be implemented in the post project 2-yearly training series.
Opportunities

- **Network** of international collaboration between South and North based research groups

- The pilot project in Tanzania will create possible close collaboration with:
  - VLIR-UOS listed regional partners, such as South Africa and Kenya (since 2015)
  - non listed countries such as Mozambique
  - land locked countries which are part of the regional network in the aquatic science and management (African lakes) such as Malawi, Uganda
  - countries which are as yet beyond reach but must be integrated into operational scientist networks, because of their basin linkage (South Sudan – Nile basin) or coastal continuity (Somalia)

- **WIOMSA** is a strong, well organized and well known organisation in WIO, its endorsement is a major opportunity, while other organizations must be explored when the network evolves, e.g. the ACP organisation, EuropeAid ...
Challenges

• Continued **financing** is necessary for the series of 2-yearly training programme to continue.

• **Continuity** of the network scientist community: the balance between turnover and continuity should be such that the series of 2-yearly training programmes rests on people with experience and enthusiasm.
Alumni positions in WIO

A selection:

• Jared Bosire: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Kenya

• Harifidy Olivier Ralison: Marine Programme Officer, WWF Madagascar & West Indian Ocean Programme, Antananarivo Madagascar

• Mohamed Omar Said Mohamed: Research Officer, Coastal Division Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Mombasa, Kenya

• Kairo James: Principal Scientist, KMFRI, Kenya

• Hajaniaina A. Ratsimbazafy: Research and Project Director, Environment and Human Harmony, Antananarivo Madagascar

• Cyrus Rumisha: Researcher and lecturer, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Alumni positions

Further on South-South collaboration through an alumni network

Legende:

ASOCARS: Asociación de Corporaciones Autónomas Regionales y de Desarrollo Sostenible
CORDIO: Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean
KMFRI: Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
KWS: Kenya Wildlife Service
NaFIRRI: National Fisheries Resources Research Institute
SWIOFP: South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project
TAFIRI: Tanzania Fisheries research Institute
WIOMSA: Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

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Zanzibar, Tanzania