



Flanders Marine Institute

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**KENYA MARINE AND FISHERIES RESEARCH
INSTITUTE (KMFRI), MOMBASA, KENYA**

and

**FLANDERS MARINE INSTITUTE (VLIZ)
OOSTENDE, BELGIUM**

[Partnership for Research, Technology and Education]

October 19th, 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, hereinafter referred to as KMFRI, is a government institution in the Republic of Kenya. It was established in 1979 by an Act of Parliament, CAP 250 of the laws of Kenya. KMFRI's mission is to "contribute to the management and sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources and thus alleviate poverty, enhance employment creation and food security through multidisciplinary and collaborative research in both marine and fresh-water aquatic systems".

The Flanders Marine Institute, hereinafter referred to as VLIZ, was established in 1999 by the Flemish Government (Kingdom of Belgium), the province of West-Flanders and the Fund for Scientific Research - Flanders. VLIZ's mission is to support the marine and coastal sciences in Flanders. It is the central coordination and information platform for marine scientific research and serves as an international point of contact. VLIZ does not perform research itself, but it is representative for a multidisciplinary network of close to 1,500 marine scientists in the country.

KMFRI is structured and strategically located to undertake multidisciplinary research in six programmes, namely: Marine and Freshwater Fisheries, Aquaculture, Marine Environmental and Ecological Research (including Physical, Chemical and Geological Oceanography) and inland waters Limnology, Fish Post Harvest Handling and Natural Products, Socio-economics and Information and Data Management. The Institute has three research centers at Mombasa for Marine and Coastal Research, Kisumu for Inland Fisheries Research and at Sagana for Aquaculture Research; and ten research stations located country wide.

VLIZ is located on the InnovOcean site in Oostende and has the following strategic objectives: Promoting Flemish marine scientific research and associated coastal research and education, Serving as catalyst and contact point – also internationally - in the marine scientific field, Promoting the international impact and visibility of Flemish marine scientific research and education, Promoting the visibility of Flemish marine scientific research to the public at large by means of popularization and sensitization, and Providing scientific information on the sea to policy makers so that they can use this information to develop their policy with regard to marine affairs. To realize these strategic objectives the VLIZ gives priority to the following activities: Supporting marine scientific research logistically, by operating research vessels and research equipment and infrastructure for common use, Data and Information Management, Networking of marine scientists and other persons concerned by offering a platform, organizing meetings, congresses and conferences and releasing publications, Information and Communication Services that provide objective scientific information to scientists and policy-makers in Flanders and abroad as well as to teachers, students and interested citizens in Flanders. A core task of the VLIZ is to map expertise in Flanders on a permanent basis and to present this expertise both in Belgium and abroad.

Now therefore, KMFRI and VLIZ recognizing their common interests in developing

bilateral relations and convinced that partnership and collaboration between institutes of higher learning contributes to scientific and cultural enrichment, scientific progress, and the consolidation of friendship between countries, agree to establish the following Memorandum of Understanding, hereafter referred to as MoU.

This agreement will promote partnership in the following areas:

- Development and execution of collaborative research projects between (1) KMFRI and its marine and coastal science network in Kenya, and (2) VLIZ and its marine and coastal science network in Flanders, Belgium.
- Undertaking joint field work, research expeditions, experiments, monitoring and observation programmes.
- Exchange of expertise and exchange of (1) faculty, research and academic staff, (2) technical experts (ICT specialists, data and information managers, marine technicians, nautical experts, communication specialists, etc.) and (3) students.
- Capacity building for research, technology development (including research vessels and navigational and sampling equipment), data management, and education.
- Exchange of data and information.
- Jointly producing derived product from research, data and information (e.g. joint scientific publications, communication and outreach products like websites, books, posters, multimedia etc.).

- I. An action plan to achieve these goals has been agreed upon by both parties and is added to this MoU as an annex. The action plan is a non-limitative and informal list of possible action points. It serves as a source of ideas for future collaboration and will be revised and updated annually.
- II. Specific mechanisms for the implementation of particular collaborative and partnership activities shall be established and described in writing by the responsible authority of each institution prior to the initiation of any particular program, research project or activity
- III. All activities developed under this MoU will comply with the procedures, policies, and practices, of each Institution as well as the law and regulations of the host, including applicable portions of the Kenyan and Belgian Export Controls Acts.

Both Institutions acknowledge that the visit by faculty staff and students from one institution to the other shall be subject to the entry and visa regulations of Kenya and Belgium and shall comply with the regulations and policies of KMFRI and VLIZ.

- IV. This Agreement is established for a period of five years, effective on the date of signing.

In order to enhance the efficacy of their partnership and collaboration activities, KMFRI and VLIZ agree that it shall be possible to introduce amendments and / or modifications to the MOU by means of mutually agreed upon additional written clauses.

At the end of each five-year period, this MoU will be automatically renewed by mutual agreement for an additional five year, unless either party provides written notification of a decision of non-renewal prior to the expiration date. A minimum period of six months notice will be required from either party wishing to terminate the MoU. In the event that the MOU is terminated, all commitments to students participating in the programmes and on-going projects under the MOU shall be honored by relevant parties to their full time and completion.

For the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Mombasa, Republic of Kenya.

**Prof. Peninah ALOO-OBUDHO, Ph D., EBS
Chairman, KMFRI Board of Management.**

Signature: _____

Date: 19/10/2012

**Prof. James KAHINDI, Ph D
Chairman, Scientific & Technical Committee,
KMFRI Board of Management.**

Signature: _____

Date: 19th Oct 2012

**Dr KAZUNGU, Johnson M., Ph.D., MBS.
Executive Director KMFRI**

Signature: _____

Date: 19/10/2012

For the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Oostende, Kingdom of Belgium.

**Mr. DECALUWE, Carl.
President VLIZ and Governor,
West-Flanders.**

Signature: _____

Date: 19/10/2012

**Prof. Dr JANSSEN, Colin R.,
Ph. D., Vice-President and
Chairman of the Scientific
Committee, VLIZ.**

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Prof. Dr. MEES, Jan P., Ph D.
Executive Director, VLIZ**

Signature: _____

Date: 19/10/2012

ANNEX

Action plan

List of collaborative activities proposed during the preparatory meeting on the MoU held in Oostende, Belgium on 23-27 January, 2012.

Coordination

- Annual meeting between delegations of KMFRI and VLIZ physically or over the internet.
- Annual report on and update of the action plan.
- Drafting of an annual work plan based on the action plan/list of ideas.
- Liaise with IOC/UNESCO for regional actions and data management and data products issues.

Exchange of expertise, mobility

- Define topics for internships, student exchange programmes, M Sc and PhD thesis work.
- Look for funding opportunities to exchange academic and technical staff and students.
- Explore possibility for Kenyan attendance of annual VLIZ Young Scientist's Day and Flemish attendance of KMFRI Annual Science Conference.

Collaborative research projects

- Elaborate VLIR TEAM Proposal with Flemish universities (call expected early 2012).
- Start preparing VLIR IUC proposal (call expected 2015).
- Submit pre-proposal to JRS Biodiversity Foundation.
- Submit final proposal to JRS Biodiversity Foundation.
- Explore possibilities / lobby for Belgian and Kenyan funding of collaborative research.
- Explore possibilities / lobby for EU funding of collaborative research.

Research infrastructure

- VLIZ to provide support for the design of the KMFRI research vessel (liaise with FLEET division): concept and programme, tender, design spiral, construction phase, scientific equipment.
- VLIZ and FLEET Division to provide training for nautical and technical crew and scientific staff on board of research vessel Simon Stevin.
- VLIZ to install the MIDAS database on KMFRI research vessel and in the institute for cruise planning registration, data acquisition and analysis. And provide training.
- Explore possibilities for exchange of sampling and monitoring equipment.
- Explore possibilities for exchange of samples and biological material.
- Explore possibilities for joint field work and marine observations.
- Explore opportunities for international networking on ocean observations.

Data management

- KMFRI will help in providing data and information to fill the gaps in the relevant databases archived at VLIZ concerning Kenya. VLIZ will coordinate the capacity building for KMFRI staff on data management.
- Make an inventory of existing datasets based on the literature. Data rescue is especially needed on the level of student work and master theses. These data files are often forgotten.

- The existing datasets and other information already described in International Marine Information System (IMIS) should all be translated in English so the metadata can be made available in Kenya as well.
- KMFRI to explore the benefits of the use of the VLIZ information system to describe datasets for their institutes.
- Action will be taken to update the Marine Species Database of East Africa (MASDEA) biogeography/taxonomy database of marine species in the Western Indian Ocean/East Africa. VLIZ invites KMFRI to be part of the taxonomic editorial board of WoRMS. KMFRI to make suggestions on people to contact.
- The boundary between the Kenya and Somalia EEZs as shown in the Marine Boundaries (MarBound) database should be corrected.
- KMFRI interested in online availability of data within a project context.
- VLIZ proposes the use of the VLIMAR Gazetteer in a project of KMFRI on Coastal Zone Management.
- There is a JRS call aiming at a closer cooperation between European and African institutes on marine biodiversity. KMFRI and VLIZ will submit a proposal on data rescue and availability online. ICZM Atlas.
- Explore how the Marine Data Archive can be used within KMFRI.

Information management

- Explore how the IMIS database of VLIZ can be used for information management in KMFRI.
- Jointly make a bibliography of the scientific output of the Kenya-Belgium project in marine science and later collaboration.
- Include all grey literature in this exercise, incl. non-Belgian and non-Kenyan theses on the Kenya coast (e.g. Dutch, Italian, Swedish, Tanzanian, etc.).
- Make all these publications permanently available in full text in an open archive context.
- Make sure that publications and documents that are only available in Dutch are (partly) translated into English.
- Integrate knowledge: document the history of the Kenya-Belgium collaboration in marine science and its scientific output. Incl. baselines and gap analyses for Kenya coast.
- Provide information management training for KMFRI staff (liaise with IOC Project office for International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange - IODE), combined with internships in the VLIZ library.

Communication and outreach

- KMFRI needs a communication and outreach strategy. VLIZ can assist in the drafting and implementation process ('learn from best practices')
- A long list of possible, joint communication and outreach initiatives (high potential and added-value):
 - o Coffee-table book on Kenya coast & 30-year collaboration Kenya-Belgium on marine science. VLIZ to check opportunities with commercial publishers; KMFRI to explore additional funding through Kenya Development Community Programme (KDCP)
 - o Poster series on Kenyan marine and coastal life, e.g. "Mangrove species", "Life in sea grasses", "Coral reef fishes". VLIZ to look into funding of printing, layout and photography.
 - o Calendar with a mix of Belgian and Kenyan coastal landscapes or wildlife + produce this in different languages.
 - o A dedicated website for the collaboration.
 - o Video about activities KMFRI research and relevance.
 - o Collection and archival of pictures in a photo-gallery.

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- Reconstruction of a timeline of collaboration, incl. capturing anecdotes.
- Explore possibility of digital newsletter (exchange of professional info between Kenyans and Belgians).

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