

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

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The South Initiative 'International inTensive Southern training proGRAMme and network Dvelopment for marine and lacustrine scientists (InteGRADE)' is intending to (1) build a regional training network of coastal, marine and continental water body scientists in the Western Indian Ocean region (WIO) and to (2) organize a pilot event in the South on basis of the network initiating the establishment of an international intensive southern training programme (on research capacity, new scientific developments, governance and policy,...) within the disciplines of marine and continental water body research and management. The concept is to involve lecturers, academic scientists, managers, NGO collaborators and students at an international, intensive training programme in the South. There is an emphasis on valorizing alumnus involvement.

Problems in management of coastal and inland water resources and responses to global challenges are often related to the lack of transboundary approaches and flow of information through scientific networks. Flanders has built capacity in relevant fields, often created nuclei, yet regional and international South-South scientific networking remain an underutilised resource for valorization.

Through collaboration between the different stakeholders on themes such as climate change, water and coastal management, sustainability of utilization of marine resources by coastal communities, sustainable tourism including eco-tourism, coastal ecosystems in WIO, resources from freshwater and continental water bodies, with as a target and hub the Zanzibar archipelago, it is expected to provide a training with innovative approaches and tools in specific fields of marine and lacustrine science and management in a multiplication strategy (valorizing alumni / graduates and providing a training format to the network with a multi-disciplinary approach, which can be continued post project).