

RV Mtafiti scientific strategy for sustainable research in the Kenyan and WIO waters

Wakwabi Enock, Charles Magori, Edward Kimani and Cosmas Munga

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute (KMFRI), Mombasa, Kenya
E-mail: enock.wakwabi@yahoo.com or ewakwabi@kmfri.co.ke

The RV Mtafiti, formerly RV Zeeleeuw from Belgium was widely used for oceanographic research surveys in the North Sea. Following renewal of the cooperation framework in marine science signed between the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) for the Flemish Government and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) for Kenya Government on 19 October 2012, the two institutions embarked on activities agreed in the memorandum (MoU), among them, capacity building and benchmarking for research. Hence the offer to transfer RV Zeeleeuw to KMFRI was made towards fulfilling the need and wide gap that was seen to exist in Kenya. The vessel was therefore christened RV Mtafiti and prepared for relocation to Kenya.

In this paper, we present the strategy we have laid out for sustainable research on RV Mtafiti.