

2nd CALL FOR CONCEPTS

MeerWissen - African-German Partners for Ocean Knowledge

This is an open call to support partnership projects through the [MeerWissen Initiative](#). With this call, MeerWissen seeks to support partnership projects that contribute to strengthening marine biodiversity conservation in sustainable blue economy approaches in Africa. You can apply by submitting a concept to meerwissen@giz.de using the attached templates (proposal, budget and confirmation of cooperation) by 15 September 2019. Funding for partnership projects is expected to commence in December 2019.

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1. MeerWissen

Without the ocean, life on earth would not be possible in its present form. Given the growing pressure on our ocean, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) steps up its activities to ensure that future generations will be able to benefit from healthy marine and coastal ecosystems. The [Ten-point Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries](#) brings together all activities BMZ is engaged in with relation to the ocean. To successfully implement the Plan of Action, BMZ supports a growing number of projects in partner countries and regions and in cooperation with international partners. Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda - including Sustainable Development Goal 14 (“Life below water”) - requires enhanced global partnerships that bring together multiple actors to mobilize all available resources and capacities. A close collaboration with marine research is key to provide decision-makers at both policy and management level with up-to-date information to effectively protect and manage marine resources. In many African countries, however, this information and data is often unavailable, inaccessible or outdated. MeerWissen has been developed against this background and addresses the challenge of lacking data and limited science to policy transfer. To this end MeerWissen supports partnership projects between African and German research and scientific organizations.

MeerWissen aims at improving the conditions for knowledge- and science-based policy-making for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean in selected African countries by...



Learn more at www.meerwissen.org.

2. Objectives of the second Call for Concepts

With the partnership projects funded from this 2nd Call for Concepts MeerWissen seeks to contribute to discussions and ongoing policy developments aimed at building sustainable blue economies in African partner countries.

The **thematic focus** of this 2nd Call therefore is:

Strengthening biodiversity conservation in sustainable blue economy approaches in Africa

Society now depends on the ocean more than at any time before. Ocean economies are among the most rapidly growing in the world, providing benefits to many sectors of great economic value, such as fisheries, transport, biotechnologies, energy production, seabed resources exploration, tourism and many others. However, our ocean is increasingly exposed to stress due to human activities, resulting in reduced biodiversity and the degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems and the services they provide. In response to the need for building sustainable pathways for ocean economic development the concept of a sustainable blue economy has emerged and is discussed at international, regional and national levels. The vision of the **African Union's "2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy"** (2012) is "to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner." In November 2018 the first [Global Blue Economy Conference](#) took place – hosted by Kenya – and brought together many high-level government representatives from Africa and around the world. Nations' leaders used this opportunity to pledge their commitments to implement a truly sustainable blue economy and achieve a balance between protection and use of marine living resources.

Science and research are essential pillars of the blue economy. Ocean science allows us to understand ocean processes and identify solution-oriented applications. The newly gained knowledge can support societal actors in reducing pressures on the ocean, preserving and restoring ocean ecosystems and safeguarding ocean-related prosperity for generations to come while still contributing to economic growth, sustainable production and consumption, and social inclusion. Ocean science, observations and capacity development as well as the co-creation and transfer of knowledge between science and both policy and the private sector can enable African coastal nations in developing economic activities that are in balance with the

long term capacity of ocean ecosystem to support and remain resilient and healthy. More and more coastal nations in Africa are developing strategies to implement a sustainable blue economy. This stresses the **need for new, innovative ocean science to build the basis for informed policy decisions for the protection and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources.**

MeerWissen seeks to support partnership projects that contribute to:

- Understanding marine and coastal **biodiversity and ecosystems and their functioning**
- Documenting the **current status of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems**
- Identifying **areas of high biodiversity and ecosystem value and vulnerability**
- Measuring, Assessing and Evaluating **ecosystem services**
- Observing and understanding **environmental change and the impacts of economic activities in different sectors on marine biodiversity, ecosystems and socio-ecologic systems**
- Predicting the **potential impacts of economic activities** in different sectors on marine biodiversity, ecosystems and socio-ecologic systems

Partnership projects should be linked to or make their results available to decision-makers responsible for the conservation of biodiversity and environmental protection in policy and planning processes underpinning the development of a sustainable blue economy such as marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone planning, but also single-sector or multi-sector economic development plans.

3. Your Concept

3.1. Eligible organisations and partnerships

MeerWissen supports partnerships of at least one German and one African academic institution. It is, however, required that a **German academic institution** submits the application. The German institution will receive the grant and will forward resources to the partnering institution(s).

In order to receive funding all organizations (German and African) must fulfill legal and commercial requirements:

- The contracting German partner institution with head office in Germany must be governed by public law or must have a non-profit-making status
- All partner institutions receiving forwarded funds must be legal entities and have public-benefit or non-profit status.
- Contribution (e.g. in-kind) from the German applicant

Definite legal regulations (German law) for the funding are: the „Vorläufige Verwaltungsvorschriften“ (VV) zu § 44 BHO and the „ANBest-P“ (Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen zur Projektförderung)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are precluded from funding.

MeerWissen seeks to support **partnerships of equals**. All partners' active commitment is a prerequisite for participation in the MeerWissen funding programme. Applications therefore include an expression of interest by the African partner institution(s) (confirmation of cooperation). Concepts have to reflect equality of all partners (e.g. through shared financial resources, shared responsibilities in project management, joint decision-making, joint participation in planned publications and products). This entails the release of personnel or a contribution to financial or other resources to be invested in the partnership. Grant recipients

commit to undertake regular exchange and joint reviews of project progress together with their co-submitting partners, involving the secretariat of the MeerWissen Initiative for broader knowledge exchange and results monitoring.

MeerWissen fosters a strong partnership and co-design approach to ensure that priorities of projects are jointly set, results meet local needs and are usable by all partners as well as decision-makers. Co-design processes – facilitated and funded by MeerWissen - will take place after selection of concepts to give partners the opportunity to refine their concepts and enhance the partnership approach in their proposals.

In this Call for Concepts, MeerWissen will fund a maximum of one project per German institution.

3.2. Eligible countries

MeerWissen supports partnership projects in the following African coastal states that are cooperation countries of official German Development Cooperation:

Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania.

- In case of equal rating of concepts based on content, priority will be given to projects in countries which do not yet receive funding through MeerWissen (see www.meerwissen.org)

3.3. Evaluation criteria

Concepts will be evaluated and selected according to the quality with which the following criteria are addressed:

Required:

1. A clear **contribution to the thematic focus and objective of this 2nd Call** (see 2. above):
 - Partnership projects address questions based on a concrete need for policy development with the aim of strengthening biodiversity conservation in the field of developing a sustainable blue economy in the regional/national context jointly identified among partners (**political and social relevance**).
2. A clear contribution to the main objectives of MeerWissen:
 - **Access to data and information:** To support knowledge-based decision-making measures and activities contribute to improved access to data and information, to an enhanced data basis and/or promote the harmonization of data.
 - **Dialogue and Transfer at the science-policy interface:**
 - a. **Participation of decision-makers:** Projects propose a methodologically sound, strategic approach to interaction with decision-makers, primarily policy-makers but also marine resource managers or the private sector.
 - b. **Dissemination of results:** Projects include clear and precise procedures to disseminate results for further use in particular by policy and, if useful, also by practice, especially to decision-makers and non-scientific target audiences, creating user-oriented knowledge products.
 - **Capacity Development:** Projects build capacities on the institutional and personal level among their partners and non-scientific actors through specific measures.

3. **A clear reflection of a partnership of equals** (see also 3.1. above): Activities and measures are developed together by all partners, responsibilities are shared among African and German scientists in decision-making, project management and implementation and the distribution of the budget reflects a partnership of equals. We highly welcome if coordinators of activities and measures are based in the African partner country.
4. **Gender equality:** Projects pursue gender equality in project steering and project activities.
5. **Plausibility of project logic:** Concepts describe a clear strategy for achieving the projects' stated objectives. Measures, activities and outputs are linked to project outcomes and objectives in a coherent way.

Desirable:

6. **Sustainability of project outputs:** Securing results and products beyond project duration at partner institution in Africa
7. **Building long-term partnerships:** Projects build upon and/or contribute to a long-term partnership between the organizations involved
8. **Synergies with existing initiatives:** Projects show concrete potential for achieving synergies with relevant German development cooperation programs (such as MeerWissen, the Blue Action Fund or bilateral projects), existing activities of the bilateral scientific-technological cooperation, or other relevant programs.
9. **Innovation and digitalization:** Projects follow an approach that is particularly innovative, fostering new technologies and digital solutions.
10. **Use of already existing research:** Projects build upon already existing research in the thematic field.

1.4. Budget ceiling and funding duration

Partnership projects may be funded with up to EUR 240,000 for a period of up to two years. MeerWissen requires a solid justification of the budget. To support the above-mentioned priorities, a large part of the funds should be spent on activities with regard to capacity building, outreach, networking, stakeholder involvement and knowledge transfer. Funding of staff costs and purchases of instruments and equipment can be considered to a limited extent, but must be well justified. If projects are successfully implemented, follow-on funding may be applied for.

4. Application and selection process

The application procedure consists of two stages. In the first stage, please submit the concept by 15 September 2019 to meerwissen@giz.de using the project application form (maximum 6 pages) as well as the cooperation agreement.

Only concepts that meet the eligibility criteria (see 3.1. and 3.2.) will be assessed. Such concepts will then be evaluated along the criteria described above (see 3.3) by the secretariat of the initiative (managed by GIZ) with the support of external, international experts and then tabled to BMZ for selection in mid-October. If evaluated positively and selected by BMZ, interested parties will be invited to submit a full proposal in a second stage of the procedure. You will then have the possibility to co-design the proposals with your partner(s) and other relevant stakeholders. For this you will be invited to a Co-Design Workshop in late autumn 2019.



5. Contact

meerwissen@giz.de

6. Annexes

Template for the concept (includes budget template)

Confirmation of Cooperation