

CALL FOR CONCEPTS – German-African Partners for Ocean Knowledge

This is an open call to support your partnership project through the Initiative 'MeerWissen - German-African Partners for Ocean Knowledge'. As part of the first round of funding, you can apply by submitting a concept using the attached form (maximum 6 pages plus attachments) by 8 July 2018. Funding for partnership projects is expected to commence in October 2018.

This call for concepts is the first call of the 'MeerWissen' Initiative. The Initiative 'MeerWissen' requires and supports co-design of the cooperation arrangements between the partners involved in a partnership project. Co-design processes will take place after selection of concepts to give partners the opportunity to submit joint proposals. The co-design will be closely accompanied and funded through the initiative. Preference will be given to existing partnerships. New cooperation arrangements are possible but require clear indication of cooperation potential. Applications must entail an expression of interest (confirmation of cooperation) by the African partner institution.

Content

1. Background.....	1
2. Who can apply?	2
3. Framework conditions, requirements and funding criteria for the partnerships	2
4. Procedure: How to apply?	3

1. Background

Without the oceans, life on earth would not be possible in its present form. To preserve healthy marine and coastal ecosystems for future generations, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has stepped up its development cooperation in the marine realm with the [10-point Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries](#). For its implementation, BMZ seeks new cooperation formats with partners from science, as research provides decision-makers at both policy and management levels with the necessary knowledge to protect and sustainably use marine resources. 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. Moreover, strengthening marine research capacities "*to inform and support decision-making, and to promote knowledge hubs and networks to enhance the sharing of scientific data, best practices and know-how*" has also been a central element of the Call for Action from the UN Ocean Conference on SDG 14 in 2017.

Against this background, BMZ is seeking to facilitate partnerships between German and African research institutes, political decision-makers and practitioners with the Initiative 'MeerWissen - German-African Partners for Ocean Knowledge'. The main objective is to build bridges between German and African marine researchers and African decision-makers, improving the conditions for knowledge-based policy-making. The initiative will contribute to a solid and trusted knowledge base, which supports decision-makers in African partner countries to agree and implement effective actions for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The Initiative follows a strong partnership and co-design approach to ensure that priorities are jointly set, results meet local needs and are usable by both partners and decision-makers.

2. Who can apply?

It is required that a German academic institution submits the application. The partners' active commitment is a prerequisite for participation in our funding programme. Partnerships have to be based on equality among the partners (shared responsibilities, decision-making power in research cooperation projects, partner management capacity, and participation in planned publications and products). This entails the release of personnel or 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 as appropriate.

3. Framework conditions, requirements and funding criteria for the partnerships

The initiative seeks to support partnerships within the following thematic research areas:

- Protection of biodiversity (protected areas, ecosystem services, conservation and monitoring of vulnerable and ecologically valuable habitats such as mangroves,)
- Balancing conservation and sustainable use (governance, social dimension of conservation, integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture)
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Biodiversity and marine litter

The partnerships contribute to one or several of the following goals of the MeerWissen Initiative:

- Improving the data basis and access to data and information through digitalization, innovation, technology and infrastructure: using new technologies and new media such as smartphone apps, promoting open data, cross-institutional use of technological infrastructure (resource pooling).
- Capacity building for the collection, processing, analysis and presentation of data and information: trainings, internships, online courses, Floating Universities.
- Dissemination and transfer of knowledge for policy-makers and society: Information processing (maps and visualization, policy briefs for decision-makers, factsheets) and decision-support tools, monitoring systems, innovative dialogue formats, integration of classic and new media (blogs, online courses, webinars), involvement of civil society (citizen science) and the private sector.

Funding criteria:

“MeerWissen” supports partnerships of equals that are oriented towards the use of research results by decision-makers. The assessment of the applications will consider the following criteria:

High priority will be given to:

- **Relevance:** Projects that address questions based on a concrete need for policy development in the regional/national context jointly identified among partners.
- **Participation of decision-makers:** Projects that include decision-makers, primarily policy-makers but also marine resource managers or the private sector.
- **Contribution to capacity building:** Projects with the highest potential for capacity building among its participants and non-scientific actors.
- **Innovation:** Projects that follow an approach that is particularly innovative including new technologies, outreach material or exchange formats.

- **Quality of stakeholder participation in preparation of proposal and implementation plans:** Projects that propose a methodologically sound, strategic approach to interaction with relevant stakeholders (beyond the two partners).

Additionally, priority will be given to:

- **Use of already existing research:** Projects that build upon already existing research in the thematic field.
- **Dissemination of existing research results:** Projects that lay out clear steps for disseminating existing results for further use by policy and practice.
- **Building long-term partnerships:** Projects that build upon and/or contribute to a long-term partnership between the organizations involved
- **Quality of synergies with existing initiatives:** Projects that show the highest potential for synergies with relevant German development cooperation programs, existing activities of the bilateral scientific-technological cooperation, or other relevant programs.
- **Strategic communication approach:** Projects that include clear and precise procedures to disseminate results, especially to non-scientific target audiences.
- **Activities in the Western Indian Ocean Region** will be preferred, activities in other regions will be considered.
- **Gender equality:** Projects that pursue gender equality.

Further requirements:

- Solid justification of the budget
- Contribution (e.g. in-kind) from the German applicant
- Willingness to (pro-)actively interact with potential research users
- Cooperation with the Secretariat of the MeerWissen Initiative (managed by GIZ) for knowledge management and impact monitoring of the projects

Technical/commercial prerequisites:

In order to receive a subsidy agreement ('Zuschussvertrag'), the applicant organization must also fulfill commercial requirements:

- Both partner institutions must be legal entities
- The German partner institution with head office in Germany must be governed by public law or must have a non-profit-making status
- Definite legal regulations (German law) for the funding are:
 - the „Vorläufige Verwaltungsvorschriften“ (VV) zu § 44 BHO;
 - the „ANBest-P“ (Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen zur Projektförderung)

For more information on subsidy agreements, see the GIZ homepage [here](#).

Budget ceiling and funding duration:

Partnership projects may be funded with up to EUR 240,000 for a period of up to two years. If project are successfully implemented, follow-on funding may be applied for. To support the above-mentioned priorities the majority of funds should be spent on training costs, outreach and networking activities and travel expenses. To a limited extent, purchases of instruments and equipment may be funded. Payment of costs for personnel can be considered but must be justified.

4. Procedure: How to apply?

Please submit the concept by 8 July 2018 to MeerWissen@giz.de using the project application form (maximum 6 pages plus attachments).

Concepts are assessed along the criteria described above by the secretariat of the initiative (managed by GIZ) under consultation of German and African scientists and representatives from African regional organizations and then tabled to BMZ for selection. Confirmations will

be sent out by the end of August 2018. You will then have the possibility to co-design the proposals with your partner(s) and other relevant stakeholders.

