

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

Karolien Van Puyvelde, Mohammed Ali Sheikh, Nico Koedam, Mwanahija Salehe Shalli, Ann Vanreusel



Vrije  
Universiteit  
Brussel



# Oceans & Lakes

[www.oceansandlakes.be](http://www.oceansandlakes.be)



O C E A N S & L A K E S  
Master of Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management



# Oceans & Lakes

- **Inter-university** master programme at 3 universities in Belgium: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Universiteit Gent, Universiteit Antwerpen
- Provides strong **fundamental** and **applied** knowledge
- Prepares for an active role in **scientific research** and **management**
- **Multidisciplinary** approach integrating physical, chemical geological, ecological and societal aspects and including **biodiversity conservation** and **sustainable development**
- Trains students in becoming **critically minded, problem-solving** and **communicative**

# « Credentials »

## Master of Ecological Marine Management ECOMAMA (1998-2011)



- VUB-UA
- marine
- tropical systems
- ecosystem management (biological)
- development-oriented
- International Course Programme VLIR

## Marine and Lacustrine Sciences Marelac



- UGent
- marine & lacustrine
- temperate systems
- general (biological & geological)

## Master of Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management Oceans & Lakes

**NEW from 2010-11!**



Process InteGRADE –  
project development  
("genesis")

MSc Oceans & Lakes

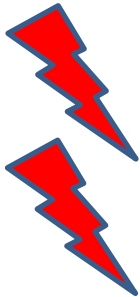


Graduates (alumni)

What is hampering  
further work ?

Limiting resources  
(funding)

Isolation

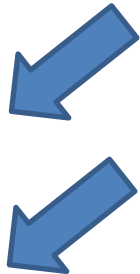


What could facilitate  
further work ?

Access to project  
application

Network integration

Updating skills and  
knowledge



Aligning with country  
and regional policy



Building a network  
through  
InteGRADE



Aligning with VLIR-UOS  
policy

**Management** of coastal and inland water resources and responses to global issues suffer from a **lack** of:

- **transboundary** approaches
- **flow of information** through scientific networks

Flanders (**VLIR-UOS**) has built capacity in relevant fields, often created nuclei in many countries:

- MSc Aquaculture
- MSc Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (Oceans & Lakes)
- MSc Human Ecology

Regional and international **South-South** scientific networking remain an untapped resource for valorization.

# InteGRADE

## *Identity card*

The South Initiative

‘**IN**ternational **inTE**nsive Southern training pro**GRA**mmes and network **DE**velopment for marine and lacustrine scientists (**InteGRADE**)’

- (1) build a **regional training network** of coastal, marine and continental water body scientists in WIO
- (2) organize a pilot event on basis of the network initiating the establishment of an international intensive southern **training programme**

InteGRADE : valorize earlier VLIR-UOS initiatives while supporting the scientific, educational and organizational skills at State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) in Tanzania.

- East Africa (EA) shares watersheds, coasts, marine resources and..... challenges
- Maybe EA can share solutions to the challenges
- This is why EA is a prime area for starting a regional training network under VLIR-UOS
- Bottom-up initiative (scientist network) rather than top-down process (government initiated)



# VLIR-UOS South Initiative (InteGRADE) Structure

First step

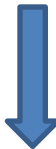
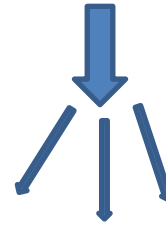
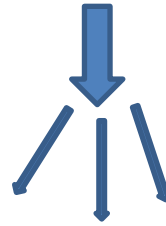
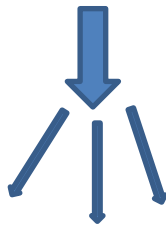
South:  
State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)  
University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)



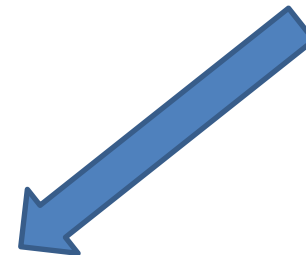
North:  
Universiteit Gent (UGent)  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)



Network contacts:  
• ECOMAMA and Oceans & Lakes alumni network  
• New contacts (team leaders, NGO collaborators,  
, human resources managers, researchers,...)



External fundings:  
WIOMSA  
ACP  
EuropAid  
...?



Second step

Every two years: International intensive  
southern training programme for MSc  
students from North and South

InteGRADE  
core project  
VLIR-UOS  
2 years  
2014-2016  
(start 1 December 2014)

Process **InteGRADE** –  
for the **programme  
sustainability**

Initiation workshop,  
training, preparation  
in Zanzibar, 5 days

First training workshop  
in Zanzibar, 2 weeks

VLIR-UOS funding

VLIR-UOS funding

Programme calls,  
funding agencies

External and diverse  
funding

Series of workshops,  
2 yearly in Zanzibar

Series of workshops,  
2 yearly in Zanzibar

Series of workshops,  
2 yearly in Zanzibar

Workshops in **other  
countries**, adopt and  
adapt format

Process InteGRADE –  
for a **scientist - graduate**

MSc Oceans & Lake

Graduates (alumni)

Return to country, **re-integrate**

Participate in  
InteGRADE workshop(s)

Network North-South,  
South-South

Submit project

Programme calls,  
funding agencies

Money raising,  
funding for  
**participation**  
**(limited grants)**

Other scientists  
(other programmes  
with an interface)

# Objectives

- catalyze **regional collaboration** for local and **transboundary challenges** and their environmental application (linking up scientists and common projects)
- offer a **sustainable format for training programmes** with adapted and up to date teaching skills, to follow the project in a 2-yearly frequency, supported by the network and based on new partnerships, also in funding
- strengthen the academic performance of the hub of the network and the training programme, i.e. **State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)**

# Action points

- (1) Indicating network development and training programme objectives and themes
  - Defining scientific, management and governance theme
  - Listing lecturers, academics, scientists, NGOs and alumni
  - Screening relevant local and regional organizations
  
- (2) Workshop (5 days) with core team and network partners
  - Work out different aspects of pilot training programme
  - Work out a funding strategy to allow continuity of training programme series post project
  
- (3) Organization of a pilot 2-week training programme in 2015
  - Providing training for the network contacts and local students
  - Evaluation of the format for improvement to be implemented in the post project 2-yearly training series.

# Opportunities

- **Network** of international collaboration between **South and North** based research groups
- The pilot project in Tanzania will create possible close collaboration with:
  - **VLIR-UOS** listed regional partners, such as **South Africa** and **Kenya** (since 2015)
  - non listed countries such as **Mozambique**
  - **land locked countries** which are part of the regional network in the aquatic science and management (African lakes) such as **Malawi, Uganda**
  - countries which are as yet beyond reach but must be integrated into operational scientist networks, because of their **basin linkage** (South Sudan – Nile basin) or **coastal continuity** (Somalia)
- **WIOMSA** is a strong, well organized and well known organisation in WIO, its endorsement is a major opportunity, while other organizations must be explored when the network evolves, e.g. the **ACP organisation, EuropeAid** ...

# Challenges

- Continued **financing** is necessary for the series of 2-yearly training programme to continue.
- **Continuity** of the network scientist community: the balance between turnover and continuity should be such that the series of 2-yearly training programmes rests on people with experience and enthusiasm.

# Alumni positions in WIO

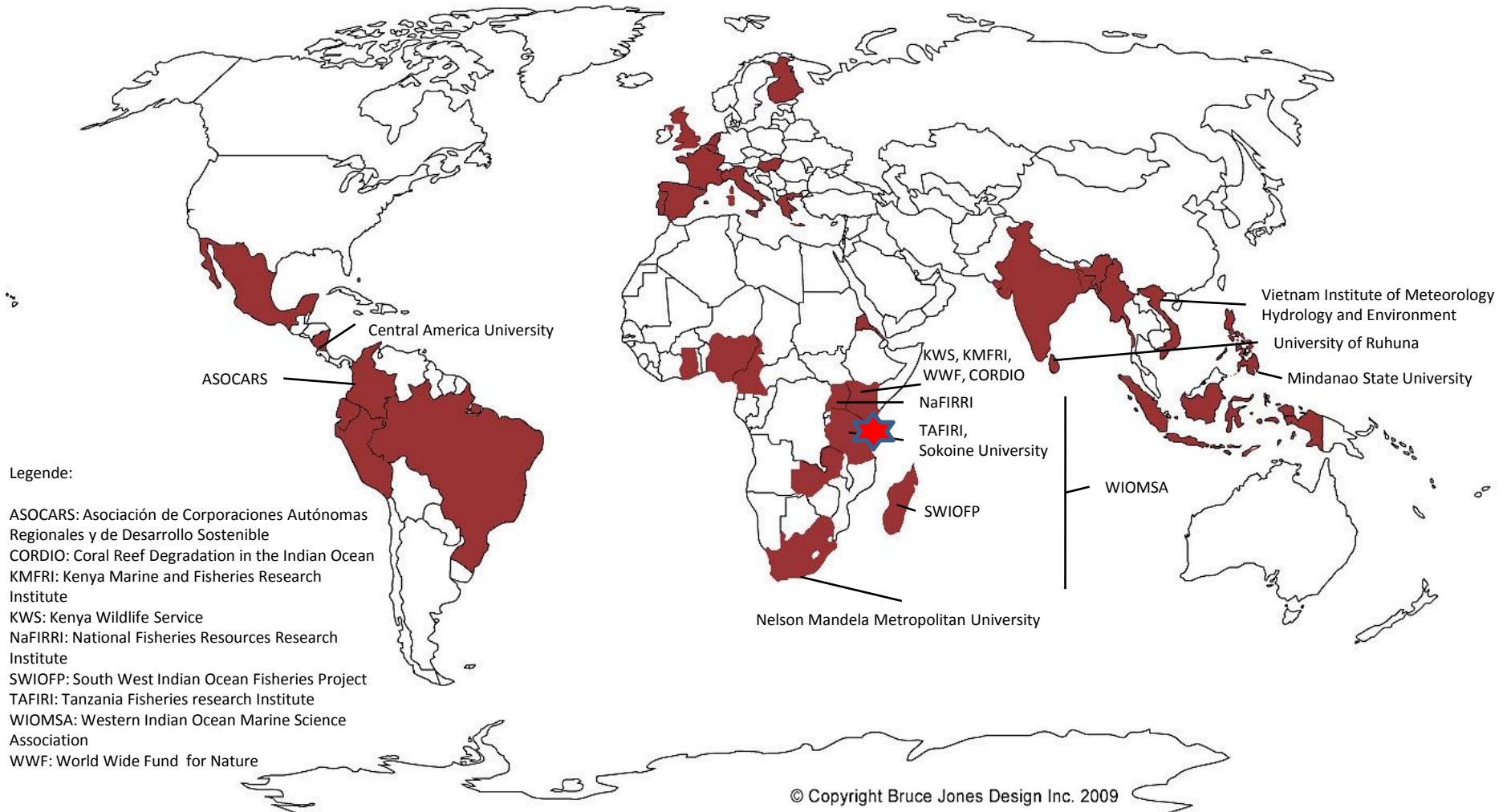
A selection:

- Jared Bosire: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Kenya
- Harifidy Olivier Ralison: Marine Programme Officer, WWF Madagascar & West Indian Ocean Programme, Antananarivo Madagascar
- Mohamed Omar Said Mohamed: Research Officer, Coastal Division Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Mombasa, Kenya
- Kairo James: Principal Scientist, KMFRI, Kenya
- Hajaniaina A. Ratsimbazafy: Research and Project Director, Environment and Human Harmony, Antananarivo Madagascar
- Cyrus Rumisha: Researcher and lecturer, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



# Alumni positions

Further on South-South collaboration through an alumni network



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Zanzibar, Tanzania