



## Call for applications

### Regional Training Workshop on Environmental DNA (eDNA) for Marine Biodiversity Assessment, Monitoring and Management

The School of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Technology (SoAF), University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) invites applications for a training workshop on environmental DNA (eDNA) techniques for studying, monitoring, and conserving marine biodiversity. This workshop is supported by WIOMSA and will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 20th to 24th May, 2024.

#### What is eDNA?

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is not just a technique, it is a revolution in studying the ocean's diverse, elusive, and hidden inhabitants. eDNA comes from the traces of DNA that sea creatures leave in the water. This DNA can tell us what kinds of organisms are in that area without needing to see them directly, including rare or endangered species. It is a new, efficient, and gentle way for tracking and managing marine biodiversity. Despite its potential, eDNA technique is not widely used in the WIO region. Our goal is to broaden the use of eDNA in marine research within the Western Indian Ocean region by providing a comprehensive look into eDNA research and application.

#### What Lies Ahead?

Upon completing this workshop, participants will have the capacity to design effective eDNA research projects, with hands-on training in efficient eDNA sampling techniques and practical guidance through the stages of data analysis, result interpretation and reporting. Attendees will acquire not only knowledge but also the practical skills necessary to design studies that translate the complex language of the sea and weave narratives from its DNA.

#### Who Should Apply?

We are looking for professionals in aquatic sciences, marine biology, marine biodiversity, community ecology or related fields interested in applying eDNA methods to marine biodiversity research, assessment, monitoring, and conservation efforts. Candidates with foundational eDNA experience and are eager to enhance their expertise are also invited to apply. We particularly welcome applicants from the Western Indian Ocean region, whether you are associated with academic institutions, governmental bodies, research organizations, or NGO.

#### Financial Support:

Selected participants will receive financial support to attend the workshop.

#### How to Apply:

Please send us

1. A current CV.
2. A recommendation letter from your supervisor/Head of department.
3. A one-page motivational letter outlining your relevant background and how the workshop will aid in advancing our current work. Highlight your specific interests in eDNA and how the training will support your research or conservation efforts.

Send these documents as a single PDF file via email to Mr. James Lusana ([lusana.james@udsm.ac.tz](mailto:lusana.james@udsm.ac.tz) or [lusanaj@gmail.com](mailto:lusanaj@gmail.com)) with a carbon copy to WIOMSA ([secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)) by April 30, 2024.