

**IORA-GIZ Research Study on “COVID-19 and Climate Change:
Prospects for a “Green” Recovery in the Indian Ocean Region**

TENDER DOCUMENT

Tender Opening Date : To be launched at the IORA Day, 7th March, 2022

Tender Closing Date : 30th April, 2022

Research Study Duration: 15th June, 2022 to 15th December, 2022

Language : English

1. Introduction

Since February 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the whole world, and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is not exempted. The extent of impact however is different amongst countries and actors in the IORA region. So far little is known and documented on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the IOR not only with respect to health issues and mortality, or the economy of different Member States, but also with respect to the environment and climatic trends. It is important to examine the measures that various countries, especially the IORA Member States¹, have taken to ensure that the economic recovery does not just follow a business-as-usual scenario, but also allows for a better rebuild or a “green” recovery.

In this context the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) based on their existing MOU, are pleased to announce a scheme for commissioning a comprehensive academic research study on the relationship between COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, including prospects for a “Green” Recovery with a focus on the maritime and coastal space in the Indian Ocean Region, to a consortium of universities from IORA Member States, in cooperation with a university from an IORA Dialogue Partner country.

To undertake the study IORA-GIZ invites Research Project applications from a consortium of universities from IORA Member States, in cooperation with a university from a Dialogue Partner country².

¹ IORA Member States: Commonwealth of Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Union of Comoros, French Republic (by virtue of Reunion), Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Madagascar, Malaysia, Republic of Maldives, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Mozambique, Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Seychelles, Republic of Singapore, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Africa, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Kingdom of Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Republic of Yemen

² IORA Dialogue Partner Countries: People's Republic of China, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Germany, Republic of Italy, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States of America

2. About the Research Project

The objective of the Research Project is to strengthen the IORA in the area of Blue Economy, with a focus on the nexus between climate change and security. The project should serve to introduce new IORA mechanisms for regional cooperation and strengthen the institutional research capacity and coordination on Blue Economy related issues.

For conducting the research study, a lumpsum amount of one hundred thirty thousand Euros (€ 130,000) is offered and will be awarded on a competitive basis.

The **duration** of the project is time bound for a period of 6 months. IORA–GIZ would require a lead time of six weeks from the closing date of the tender for consideration of the proposals received, until the award and signature of the contract between the IORA Secretariat and the Lead University Consortium representative. With this, the actual research is envisaged to be conducted from 15th June, 2022 to 15th December, 2022.

3. Research Topics

The research study should, as much as possible, cover the following **areas of research**:

Socio-Economic Aspects:

- a. Socio-economic effects of COVID-19 on households (such as purchase of basic food items; access to medical treatment, access to home-based education, reduction in income, unemployment rate, and number of economically inactive individuals) before and after restrictions imposed due to the pandemic.
- b. Sustainable consumption and production: Sustainable consumption and production provide the overarching framework for transition to a cleaner, greener, low-carbon and inclusive development model. By adopting sustainable consumption and production trends, countries can pave the way for economic recovery based on innovative and green economy policies and business models. At the same time, they can accelerate the structural shift of resource- and carbon-intensive sectors onto greener trajectories, advancing the transition towards a greener and more resilient economy.
- c. Agriculture –The Covid-19 and the resulting nationwide restrictions in many countries have highlighted the importance of local food security aspects. Therefore, the study could focus on the need and potential to revalorize agricultural practices at household level and requirement for sustained food security.
- d. Tourism Industry - green technology innovation value chain, including the consideration of options for carbon off-setting of flights and cruise tourism.
- e. Energy generation and use.
- f. Volumes and management of wastes.

Natural Environment:

- a. Air quality and health (ambient air quality monitoring and incidence of respiratory diseases)
- b. Water quality of rivers and coastal waters, including mineral particulates of the coastal waters

- c. Wildlife and biodiversity
- d. Ecosystem Health
- e. Deforestation / reforestation of forest areas, including mangroves.

Overall impacts on climate change and opportunities for solutions

- a. Carbon emissions and trend projections;
- b. Possibilities and prospects for mitigation measures, including carbon sequestration at the local, national, and regional level;
- c. Possibilities and prospects for adaptation measures, including nature-based solutions for coastal risk reduction; and
- d. Investment needs and opportunities to conduct key climate change actions in the post COVID-19 era and in the context of the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement, including investments in skills and innovation (e.g. measures focused on training on skill development and on innovation that can drive sustainable job creation, notably in industries likely to be negatively affected, to ensure a “just transition”).

The **key questions** that the study is expected to cover are:

- a. What are climate-change related factors that are promoting the spread of a pandemic?
- b. What were the climate-change and environment related impacts resulting from the COVID-19 measures taken by the governments of the IORA Member States?
- c. What are the prospects for a greener socio-economic recovery, or a “blue” recovery, of IORA Member States?
- d. What has been the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on consumption and production patterns? The research should establish the link between the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and consumption and production patterns. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a change in behavior highlighting the fragility and vulnerability of value chains. Lockdowns and limited outings have seriously restrained consumption trends with people consuming differently and starting agricultural production for home consumption.

4. Eligibility

- a. The Consortium of universities applying for the tender should consist of not less than three universities from within the region (IORA Member States). Of these at least one should be from a Member State from among the Least Developed Countries (LDC)³ or a Small Island Developing State (SIDS)⁴.
- b. The consortium should include a university from a Dialogue Partner country, which may include Germany.
- c. The universities of the Consortium must be recognized by the government of the respective Member State or Dialogue Partner and should have well-established research support system for carrying out basic and scientific research.
- d. The universities should have prior research experience in the field of maritime studies in the Indian Ocean Region, especially Blue Economy.

³ LDCs: People's Republic of Bangladesh, Union of Comoros, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mozambique, Federal Republic of Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, and Republic of Yemen

⁴ SIDS: Union of Comoros, Republic of Maldives, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Singapore, and Republic of Seychelles

5. Guidelines for the Research Project Application

The research project application should elaborate on the following:

- a. Presentation of the Consortium, including division of tasks and responsibilities;
- b. Outline on the research topics, their significance, research questions, and the methodology to be adopted to undertake the study, with a timeline;
- c. The degree to which the study will cover how many and which of the Member States, as well as the topics of the study outlined above;
- d. The lead/focal point of the research project and the team members including their CVs. (The key researcher of each consortium partner to be involved in the project should hold a PhD or equivalent degree with experience in the area);
- e. The inclusion of early career researchers (including Master level students or PhD candidates) in the research teams is encouraged; and
- f. Proposed Budget distribution among the consortium partners in line with the distribution of tasks and responsibilities as per para. 7 below.

The text of the application outline should not exceed 5 pages (A4 with font size 12 and line spacing of 1 - 1.5), with 3 pages per CV of key researchers, plus maps or graphs as Annexures.

6. Evaluation Criteria and Process

The Evaluation Committee will be led by the Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) and will include academics and representatives with work or research experience on climate change in the region as voting members. To avoid conflict of interests, the members of the evaluation committee cannot be attached to a university which is participating in any of the consortia applying. The IORA Secretariat will act as Secretary to the Committee and GIZ as advisor, both with no voting rights.

The criteria to be applied by the evaluation committee (attached as Annexure A) for the selection of the preferred bidding consortium are the following (with maximum scores, up to 100 in total):

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| a. <u>Prerequisite</u> : formal composition of the Consortium in accordance with the eligibility criteria outlined above | 0 |
| b. Geographical coverage of IORA Member States, including LDC/SIDS | 20 |
| c. Coverage of research questions | 20 |
| d. Methodology and research approach proposed | 20 |
| e. CV of the lead/focal point researcher | 10 |
| f. CVs of the key researchers of the other universities | 20 |
| g. Inclusion of early career researchers, Master level students, and PhD candidates | 10 |

The evaluation committee will select the winning consortium based on the highest average scores for the evaluation criteria specified above, with the consortium with the second highest scores as alternative.

7. Deliverables and Disbursement of Funds

The research teams from the selected university consortium will be responsible for the actual undertaking of the study, as well as the presentation of the approach and findings. The study will be funded by the Dialogue Partner Germany through a Financing Contribution Agreement between GIZ and the IORA Secretariat - still subject to the extension of the cooperation project (suspense clause). The IORA Secretariat will manage the funds and will make the disbursement of tranches in accordance with the submission of specific deliverables, as follows:

- a. Upon evaluation and signing of the contract with the Secretariat, the selected consortium will receive 20% of the overall contract amount as a compensation for submitting the winning proposal which will be disbursed in full to the consortium lead, to be forwarded to the other consortium members in line with the agreed upon budget distribution.
- b. Four weeks after signing the contract, the consortium will submit an **inception report** on the foreseen implementation of the study, which will be presented and discussed at an initial 'research validation virtual workshop' with the evaluation committee. Upon acceptance of this report by the evaluation committee, another 30% of the overall amount will be disbursed.
- c. The **draft final report** shall be provided to the IORA Secretariat after another 4 months. Upon its submission and preliminary acceptance by the evaluation committee, another 30% of the contract amount will be disbursed.
- d. Upon incorporation of comments and presentation of the **final report** in an IORA workshop in-person (if possible), tentatively 6 months after the start of the project, the final tranche of 20% will be paid.
- e. The costs for the special IORA Workshop on the research results will be funded separately under the German – IORA partnership. They are not part of the contractual obligations of the successful consortium.

8. Submission of the Proposal:

Interested universities should register with the IORA Secretariat until 25th March, 2022, by mail to the following email addresses: hq@iora.int and copied to gareth.rees@iora.int and Kritika.nuckchady@iora.int. This expression of interest should mention the official name of the University, country, and full name, title, and email address of the designated lead researcher for this university. While this registration is not a prerequisite for participating in the tender, it will be used for further communication and information on the ongoing tender. The list of universities who have expressed their interest until this date will also be communicated to all registered universities by email, and may thereby help to form balanced consortia.

Any questions with respect to the ongoing tender must be sent by email before 8th April, 2022, to the addresses specified above. Without naming the author of the question, all questions will be answered in writing, with answers sent to all registered universities by 20th April, 2022.

The consortia of universities must submit their research project application as a single consolidated PDF file, including a scanned submission letter with the signatures of the representatives of all consortium partners, at the latest by 30th April, 2022, to the following email addresses: hq@iora.int and copied to gareth.rees@iora.int and Kritika.nuckchady@iora.int .

ANNEXURE A: Explications on Evaluation Criteria:

Item	Category	Score	Evaluation criteria guidelines
a.	Prerequisite: formal composition of the Consortium in accordance with the eligibility criteria - If any criteria are not met, the application will not be further evaluated.	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not less than three universities from within the region (IORA Member States). • At least one Least Developed Countries (LDC) or a Small Island Developing State (SIDS). • Should include a university from a Dialogue Partner country. • Universities of the Consortium are recognized by their respective governments. • The universities have a well-established research support system for carrying out basic and scientific research. • Universities, especially the lead university, have prior research experience in the field of maritime studies in the Indian Ocean Region, especially Blue Economy.
b.	Geographical coverage of IORA Member States, including LDC/SIDS	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum requirement: The geographical scope of the study must focus on not less than three IORA Member States.
c.	Coverage of research questions	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundness of research premise and degree of innovative thinking in the approach. • Clear objectives to address a well-defined problem statement aligned with indicated research focus area, and aligned to the Blue Economy.

d.	Methodology and research approach proposed	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound technical approach to achieve the objectives and deliver clearly defined outputs. • The research plan is realistic, with clear links between roles and responsibilities, resources, timelines, and the budget. • There is potential for uptake of the project outputs/outcomes by IORA MS
e.	CV of the lead/focal point researcher	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PI produced research and or technology outputs that are internationally recognized and aligned with the proposal. • The university is well regarded in the field of maritime studies in the Indian Ocean Region, especially Blue Economy.
f.	CVs of the key researchers of the other universities	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of multi-disciplinary and/or collaborative approach. • The gender balance of the research team has been considered
g.	Inclusion of early career researchers, Master level students or PhD candidates	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum requirement: At least one early career researcher is identified as part of the research team. • 1 point for each Master level student to be included, 2 points for each PhD candidate, and 3 points for each postdoc/research associate included (less than 5 years since obtaining PhD) up to 10 points in total.