



WIO-COMPAS

Western Indian Ocean • Certification of Marine Protected Area Professionals



“Thanks for your commitment to this professional certification programme – well done! It was a privilege to be amongst the first MPA PROs”

Janette De Touit, Programme Manager for the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve and Level 2 MPA PRO

Visit www.wio-compas.org to see profiles of MPA PROs, case studies and upcoming certification offerings!

TAKE ACTION!

MPA Authorities

- Encourage your staff to apply
- Recognise certification as one criteria for professional advancement
- Host certification events
- Formally endorse WIO-COMPAS

Donors

- Provide scholarships to this win-win programme
- Support certification of MPA professionals internationally

MPA Professionals

- Gain the recognition and support you deserve by applying

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Certification • Professional Development • Networking
Leadership • Innovation • Ethics

Certifying Bodies



COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER
University of Rhode Island

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What is WIO-COMPAS?

Western Indian Ocean Certification of Marine Protected Area Professionals

WIO-COMPAS is a certification programme that assesses and certifies marine protected area (MPA) professionals in the Western Indian Ocean region. It promotes competences based on internationally recognised good practices in MPA management, encourages professional growth, supports and develops leadership, and demands ethical conduct.

Certifying bodies for WIO-COMPAS are the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and the Coastal Resources Center at the University of Rhode Island. Trained and qualified independent assessors from the region conduct the assessments. WIO-COMPAS is the regional programme of the global MPA PRO network.

The Competences

WIO-COMPAS assesses proven work performance across seven core competence areas:

- Policy, Legislation and Compliance
- MPA Concepts and Establishment
- Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
- Financial Management and Fundraising
- Management Operations
- Biophysical and Social Environments
- Leadership and Ethics

Candidates for certification demonstrate competence through their portfolios, a case study on their MPA, field exercises and interviews. Those who successfully meet WIO-COMPAS standards join a growing regional group of certified MPA PROs!

Why?

WIO-COMPAS is changing MPA Management. It's defining the skills, performance and ethical standards that should guide those who operate and manage MPAs.

MPA PROs are Leaders. Certification recognizes them for their success and expertise, helps MPA programmes retain the "best of" staff, and signals that their work meets an industry-based standard for excellence!

Networking for Success. WIO-COMPAS knows the best learning comes from sharing experiences peer-to-peer. We bring practitioners together to do just that —learn from each other about the emerging issues facing our MPAs and share solutions.

Three Levels of Certification

WIO-COMPAS is open to MPA professionals of the WIO region and is offered in English, French, Portuguese and some local languages. Its three levels of certification are tailored to the experience and expertise needed to effectively carry out the different job functions of an MPA. Entry is based on years of experience in MPAs, academic achievement and competence.

Level	Competence Focus	Professionals
1	Marine Field Operations	Rangers and other field staff engaging with communities and enforcing laws
2	Site Management	MPA managers, wardens and section leaders with supervisory roles
3	Strategy, Policy and Planning	Agency directors and managers focused on regional policy and networking of MPAs