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One health for coastal communities: Improving the health of the people and the sea

Technical University of Mombasa



Institutional University Cooperation (IUC)

Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) will implement a One Health strategy integrating health, marine science, and engineering to address interlinked challenges in Kenya's coastal region. The AFYA MOJA IUC project strengthens institutional capacity through interdisciplinary research, inclusive education, and innovation ecosystems. By co-creating solutions with communities and stakeholders, it fosters resilience, equity, and sustainable development, ensuring no one is left behind.

Main Topics

- one health
- medical skills lab
- primary health care
- biomedical engineering
- molecular biology and bioinformatics
- sustainable marine ecosystems
- marine renewable energies
- technology transfer
- reverse engineering
- gender equity
- social inclusion



Health
Translational Research and Inclusive Medical Education

	Flemish Team Leader	Local Team Leader
	Piet Cools	Emily Rogena

Strengthens TUM’s new School of Medicine through a medical skills lab, and a diagnostics unit to strengthen healthcare education and research. Focuses on infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and reproductive cancers through gender-sensitive, community-oriented curricula and translational research. Builds partnerships with clinics and policy actors to improve health outcomes and embed One Health principles.

Blue Economy
Sustainable Marine Ecosystems and Livelihoods

	Flemish Team Leader	Local Team Leader
	Gudrun De Boeck	Cosmas Munga

Develops capacity in marine ecology, fisheries, and mariculture through MSc/PhD programs, genomic research, and hatchery infrastructure. Promotes climate-smart aquaculture, sustainable aquafeeds, and seaweed farming to enhance food security and coastal livelihoods. Engages communities via demonstration sites and fosters diversity, equity and inclusion in marine sciences.

Data & Technology
Innovation for Environmental and Health Resilience

	Flemish Team Leader	Local Team Leader
	Wim Deferme	Michael Saulo

Creates a Sustainability and Data Hub integrating molecular genomics, sensor-based monitoring, renewable energy systems, and equipment re-engineering. Supports SP1 and SP2 with shared infrastructure for diagnostics and marine genomics. Embeds interdisciplinary modules and student-led innovation projects to strengthen institutional resilience and evidence-based decision-making.

Gender, Mental Health & Inclusion
Institutional Transformation

	Flemish Team Leader	Local Team Leader
	Els Clays	Madiha Khamis

Mainstreams gender equity, mental health, and social inclusion across TUM’s policies, curricula, and support systems. Implements baseline surveys, policy reforms, and capacity-building programs. Develops mentoring networks and awareness campaigns to foster a safe, inclusive academic environment and guide gender-sensitive engagement in all sub-projects.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Valorization and Socio-economic Impact

	Flemish Team Leader	Local Team Leader
	Michael Doms	Mathew Egessa

Strengthens TUM’s Technology Transfer Office and establishes an innovation hub to translate research into products, services, and start-ups. Embeds entrepreneurship in curricula, supports spin-offs, and builds partnerships with industry and innovation hubs. Promotes inclusive business models and quadruple helix collaboration to generate jobs and sustainable economic growth.