



Press release

A stronger maritime cooperation in Madagascar and Comoros

The development of the blue economy requires the control of crimes and incidents at sea. As a response, the EU CRIMARIO project and the RMIFC advocate regional cooperation and interagency coordination, which are illustrated by two events: the end of the training cycle dedicated to maritime data analysis for 25 participants of Madagascar and Comoros; the signing of maritime information sharing agreements between the IFC Madagascar (national centre) and the agencies involved in the action of State at sea in Madagascar.

The EU CRIMARIO project has designed a complete training programme on maritime data analysis for the specialized staff of civilian and military agencies involved in the action of State at sea. Implemented in collaboration with RMIFC (Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre), this first cycle was attended by 25 participants from Comoros and Madagascar: it breaks down into six sessions on data visualisation and three on data analysis, delivered by a dozen European specialists during the year 2017. As a result of this cycle, six trainers on visualisation have been certified and some fifteen analysts have acquired trainer skills, which will further facilitate knowledge and practice updates.

During this last session (from 9 to 26 October 2017), participants were able to reflect on various potential situations such as the closure of Suez Canal and its impact on maritime traffic or the consequences of ship collision in Comorian waters. With this cycle, specialists working within the RMIFC and agencies involved in the action of State at sea have developed a collaborative spirit, favourable to the information sharing.

The end of this cycle was marked by the development of actions led by the MIFC (Maritime Fusion Centre of Madagascar) resulting in the signing of maritime information sharing agreements between the MIFC and the agencies working in the maritime domain (Prime Minister's office agencies, National Defence, Environment, Meteorology, National Gendarmerie, Internal Security, Scientific Research, National Hydrographical Institute, Fisheries Surveillance).

With these agreements, MIFC will be able to improve the interagency maritime information sharing and to provide an enriched analysis of the situation off Madagascar as well as decision-making and warning elements.

In the coming months, **maritime cooperation** will be enhanced with the construction by CRIMARIO of a web portal called **IORIS**, dedicated to maritime information sharing and incident management at sea and proposed to all the partner countries of the project. In the same way, RMIFC will ramp up progressively on a technical level and will welcome the liaison officers from the countries of the region, allowing the centre to monitor in real time any event at sea, detect anomalies and alert the competent authorities.



To go further

Why EU CRIMARIO ?

Responding to the challenge, the European Union supported the implementation of a regional mechanism, the **Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC)** - agreed in 2009 by 21 littoral states of the Western IO, amended in January 2017 in Jeddah - and initiated the **Critical Maritime Routes (CMR) programme**.

Under CMR, EU CRIMARIO aims to strengthen maritime safety and security in the wider IO region by supporting coastal countries in enhancing maritime situational awareness (MSA). **MSA is the sharing and fusion of data from various sources** to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the maritime domain, whilst an effective and sustainable MSA enables maritime stakeholders to improve security, safety and environment of this domain.

To support this, CRIMARIO will introduce various initiatives in the region such as a web based information sharing and incident management network (**IORIS**), the creation of a regional AIS network, training & capacity building, workshops aimed at enhancing interagency and regional cooperation, and will establish a set of standards for information sharing.

The CRIMARIO project, managed by Expertise France and with a budget of €5.5 million, began in January 2015 and will run until January 2019.

In **Madagascar**, CRIMARIO collaborates closely with RMIFC, the focal point focal being assured by Rear-Admiral Randrianarisoa, First Deputy of the Malagasy Naval Forces. A training program has been established, focusing on maritime data analysis and the training of trainers. Specific support for the RMIFC team is also underway in the area of information management.

RMIFC (Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre)

The RMIFC was initiated by the Malagasy authorities in 2013 in collaboration with the maritime security programme (MASE) to promote maritime situational awareness of the coastal countries of Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-IO). The RMIFC was confirmed by the **Djibouti Declaration on Maritime Security and Safety** signed on May 15, 2016 by the Ministers of the ESA-IO region.

In addition to the support of the Malagasy government, the RMIFC is supported by two European programs (MASE and CRIMARIO). The analysts of the centre are tasked with analysing suspicious navigation behaviour and then alerting operational agencies and decision makers. The response at sea will be coordinated by the Regional Maritime Operations Coordination Centre (RMCO) in Seychelles.

To know more about CRIMARIO activities

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