

## Press release

### Kenya, EU strengthen the maritime surveillance

**Maritime security is an enabler of the Blue Economy and requires adequate cooperation to control efficiently crimes and incidents at sea. As a response, the European Union (EU) carries out various initiatives with western Indian Ocean countries to improve maritime security. Today in Mombasa, the EU CRIMARIO project, implemented by Expertise France, is handing over a full coastal AIS system to the government of Kenya (December 18<sup>th</sup>, Mombasa Port).**

Maritime security with the future emphasis on the **Blue Economy** is at the top of the agenda of all the Indian Ocean (IO) countries. They benefit from the collaboration of several partners sharing the same objectives. Among them, the EU brings support in capacity building, maritime operations and development of tools for information sharing and surveillance at sea. Today the EU CRIMARIO project is officially handing over a full AIS coastal system to the JOC (Joint Operations Centre) under the authority of the Government of Kenya.

The transfer of ownership was officially done during a ceremony chaired by the Principal Secretary of State Department for Shipping and Maritime, Nancy Karigithu. The signature of the transfer of ownership documents was done between Julien Serre Deputy Director of Peace, Stability and Security of Expertise France and Dr Daniel Manduku, managing director of Kenyan Port Authority in presence of European Commission representative and CRIMARIO team.

The system includes transponders installed in 4 remote sites integrated into one central system based at Mombasa Port. Each site is connected to a main data centre at the Mombasa Port. The information feeds are processed by the JOC, which coordinates the maritime surveillance and operations at sea. The system was designed and installed by ELMAN Srl and the Kenyan company, Amiran, implemented by CRIMARIO project.

This ceremony was preceded by the closing event of CRIMARIO project attended by around 50 senior officials, and practitioners from the wide Indian Ocean region: the 5 partner countries (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles), western Indian Ocean and South East Asia countries (Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Malaysia, Somalia, Thailand).

The participants addressed the necessity for both continuing maritime dialogues and supporting the operational information sharing tools, including IORIS platform. The CRIMARIO II project will offer opportunities to finalise the transfer process of IORIS to the region.

## 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** and the **EU NAVFOR-Atalanta operation**.

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, with the most accurate maritime picture, whilst an effective and sustainable MSA enables maritime stakeholders to improve security, safety and environment of this domain.

To support this, CRIMARIO introduced various initiatives in the region such as a web based information sharing and incident management platform (**IORIS**), the strengthening of Kenya coastal AIS network, training & capacity building, and workshops aimed at enhancing interagency and regional cooperation.

The CRIMARIO project, managed by Expertise France and with a budget of €5.5 million, began in January 2015 and will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**Kenya and CRIMARIO collaborated closely**, especially with Kenya Port Authority (KPA), the recent Joint Operations Centre (with officers belonging to different agencies of maritime interest) and the Coast Guard Service. A training program has been established, focusing on maritime data processing and the training of trainers. IORIS, the web platform for information sharing and incident management at sea, is already running in the Joint Operations Centre. In addition, Kenya benefits from an AIS (Automatic Identification System) equipment to complement the coastal AIS network; the inauguration happened at Mombasa Port.

## More on CRIMARIO activities and IORIS

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Click to see [IORIS video on Youtube](#)

## More about KPA and JOC

Established in January 1978 under an Act of Parliament, KPA is mandated to manage and operate the Port of Mombasa and all scheduled seaports along Kenya's coastline that include Lamu, Malindi, Kilifi, Mtwapa, Kiunga, Shimoni, Funzi and Vanga. In addition, the Authority manages Inland Waterways as well as Inland Container Depots at Embakasi, Eldoret and Kisumu.

The **Joint Operations Centre**, hosted by Mombasa Port, was set up in 2017 to coordinate multi-agency maritime border operations.

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