



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



**TOWARD THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIANOCEANIA:
THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC TO THE IOC**



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MESSAGE DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE LA COI

Chers amis,

Rendre hommage à la coopération de la Grèce avec la Commission de l'océan Indien est un devoir dont je m'acquitte aujourd'hui avec grand plaisir.

Neuf ans après la signature du protocole de don entre notre organisation régionale et le gouvernement de la République de Grèce, la Commission de l'océan Indien se devait en effet de signaler l'effort remarquable accompli par ce pays pour participer, coude à coude avec notre région, à l'effort global de développement durable dont notre planète a un impérieux besoin.

Il était également naturel que le gouvernement grec connaisse avec exactitude l'affectation de son don, qu'il puisse mesurer son apport à la réalisation des objectifs de la Commission de l'océan Indien et qu'il soit en mesure d'en faire état auprès de ses contribuables comme des diverses instances qui évaluent la qualité de la dépense publique. De fait, si notre organisation régionale mobilise aujourd'hui des moyens très conséquents au service de projets définis avec les bailleurs internationaux comme l'Union européenne, la Banque mondiale ou l'Agence française de développement, elle a aussi un grand besoin de renforcer ses propres moyens de conception, de planification et d'évaluation de nos politiques publiques. Conformément à l'esprit du protocole d'accord de 2009, le don de la République hellénique a donc permis au Secrétariat général de la Commission de l'océan Indien d'améliorer cette dimension indispensable à son action

au service direct du développement durable de toute notre région.

Enfin, je souhaite vivement que la Grèce puisse avoir une connaissance actualisée de notre organisation régionale, de ses politiques et des défis que nous cherchons à relever pour faire de nos îles de l'océan Indien un espace de paix, de croissance intelligente et de bonne gestion de nos immenses ressources naturelles, en particulier marines.

C'est tout l'objet de ce petit document d'information qui contribuera, je le souhaite, à faire reflourir bientôt l'esprit de partenariat qui a vu en 2009 la Grèce et la Commission de l'océan Indien allier leurs efforts pour avancer ensemble vers la réalisation des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement.

Hamada Madi

Secrétaire général de la Commission de l'océan Indien

ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΙΚΟΥ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΑ ΤΗΣ ΔΟΕ

Αγαπητοί φίλοι,



Με μεγάλη ευχαρίστηση εκπληρώνω το χρέος μου σήμερα αποδίδοντας τα εύσημα στη συνεργασία της Ελλάδας με την Επιτροπή του Ινδικού Ωκεανού.

Εννέα χρόνια μετά την υπογραφή του πρωτοκόλλου δωρεάς μεταξύ της περιφερειακής μας οργάνωσης και της Κυβέρνησης της Ελληνικής

Δημοκρατίας, η Επιτροπή του Ινδικού Ωκεανού οφείλει να επισημάνει την εξαιρετική προσπάθεια που κατέβαλε αυτή η χώρα για να συμμετάσχει, μαζί με την περιοχή μας, στην παγκόσμια προσπάθεια αειφόρου ανάπτυξης, την οποία ο πλανήτης μας χρειάζεται επειγόντως.

Επίσης, ήταν φυσικό η ελληνική κυβέρνηση να γνωρίζει επακριβώς πώς έγινε η διάθεση της δωρεάς της, για να μπορέσει να επιμετρήσει τη συμβολή της στην επίτευξη των στόχων της Επιτροπής του Ινδικού Ωκεανού και να μπορέσει να την γνωστοποιήσει στους φορολογούμενους της και στα διάφορα όργανα που αξιολογούν την ποιότητα των δημόσιων δαπανών. Στην πραγματικότητα, εάν η περιφερειακή μας οργάνωση κινητοποιεί σήμερα πολύ σημαντικούς πόρους για έργα που έχουν καθοριστεί μαζί με διεθνείς χορηγούς, όπως η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, η Παγκόσμια Τράπεζα ή ο Γαλλικός Οργανισμός Ανάπτυξης, έχει επίσης μεγάλη ανάγκη ενίσχυσης των δικών της

μέσων σχεδιασμού, προγραμματισμού και αξιολόγησης των δημόσιων πολιτικών της. Σύμφωνα με το πνεύμα του πρωτοκόλλου συμφωνίας του 2009, η δωρεά της Ελληνικής Δημοκρατίας επέτρεψε στη Γενική Γραμματεία της Επιτροπής του Ινδικού Ωκεανού να βελτιώσει αυτή την απαραίτητη διάσταση της δράσης της για την άμεση εξυπηρέτηση της αειφόρου ανάπτυξης ολόκληρης της περιοχής μας.

Τέλος, ελπίζω ειλικρινά ότι η Ελλάδα θα έχει μια επικαιροποιημένη γνώση της περιφερειακής μας οργάνωσης, των πολιτικών της και των προκλήσεων που έχουμε να αντιμετωπίσουμε για να καταστήσουμε τα νησιά του Ινδικού Ωκεανού ένα χώρο ειρήνης, έξυπνης ανάπτυξης και καλής διαχείρισης των τεράστιων φυσικών μας πόρων, ιδιαίτερα των θαλάσσιων.

Αυτός είναι ο σκοπός αυτού του σύντομου ενημερωτικού εγγράφου το οποίο, ελπίζω, ότι θα βοηθήσει στην αναζωπύρωση του πνεύματος της εταιρικής σχέσης που είδε το 2009 την Ελλάδα και την Επιτροπή του Ινδικού Ωκεανού να ενώνουν τις προσπάθειές τους για να προχωρήσουν μαζί προς την κατεύθυνση της επίτευξης των Στόχων της Χιλιετίας για την ανάπτυξη.

Hamada Madi
Γενικός Γραμματέας της Επιτροπής του Ινδικού Ωκεανού

INDIANOCEANIA: OUR ISLANDS, OUR IDENTITY

The geographers have forgotten us.

The absence of a place-name for our region, in the southwestern Indian Ocean, is in many ways the expression of a denial: scattered off the coast of eastern Africa, our islands have not been considered during a long period a coherent geographical entity, unlike the Caribbean, Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia or Macaronesia.

Fortunately for us, a few poets and writers have addressed this shortcoming.

The Mauritian writer Camille de Rauville first expressed the idea of "indianoceanism" in Antananarivo in the early 1960s. By this, he meant "the climate, the psychic miscegenation common to the countries and mixed races that are the bedrock of the islands of the southern Indian Ocean; and that is manifested through the intermingling of their ethnicities, their customs, their thoughts and beliefs, and their literature".

For Camille de Rauville, the southwest Indian Ocean presents "characteristics peculiar to these lands, connected as an archipelago for the past two or three centuries, whose differences in no way belie their similarities".

The Indian Ocean Commission has built upon this literary concept to give our islands in the southwest Indian Ocean a collective name: Indianoecania. The term is a fitting description of who we are: a community of proudly insular men and women, connected by both geography and

history, by intertwined genealogies, sharing cultural influences and common destiny.

Yes, Indianoecania has its own unique identity. Perhaps we haven't been sufficiently

aware of it before to tell the world. That is why the IOC organized its first conference on

"Indianoecania, the foundation of and springboard for our future" in 2013. The aim was to promote regional cooperation and highlight Member countries' unique attributes and commonalities.

This regional event marked the start of an incredible project that has brought together some fifteen researchers from our islands and a hundred people on the ground.

Today, Indianoecania is less a concept than an increasingly widely accepted term, used to name our region or signify belonging to it. It is a term that the IOC will continue to advocate for, and which represents our region's legitimate desire for recognition. Perhaps, one day, it will appear in the dictionary ... and on geographers' maps.



Map of the Indian Ocean by J-N Bellin, 1746

THE IOC AT A GLANCE

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) was founded in 1982 and became a regional institution in 1984. It is an intergovernmental organisation consisting of five Member States: The Union of the Comoros, France by way of Reunion Island, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

The IOC is the only regional organisation in Africa to represent a group of islands. It defends the interests of its Member States in Africa and internationally. The islands are particularly vulnerable to external shocks, whether of an economic, financial, climatic and ecological, food or energy-related nature. The IOC's mission is to unite Member States' forces and pool their resources, raise awareness of the special challenges that developing islands face and promote Indianoceanica as a region of unique human, cultural and natural diversity.

The IOC benefits from the active backing of a dozen international partners who finance and support its

cooperation projects. Projects implemented by the IOC cover a wide range of sectors: climate change, fisheries, maritime safety, connectivity, food security, education, culture, public health, etc.

Thanks to over three decades of experience, the IOC has become a key sustainable development player with recognized expertise in many different areas, including marine and coastal resource management. The IOC embodies the collective will of a region, Indianoceanica, which, though inherently vulnerable, nonetheless remains ambitious.

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT



The IOC Team

The IOC General Secretariat, based in Ébène, Mauritius, is the heart of the regional organization.

Responsible for turning the ambitions and decisions of its Member States into practical action, the General Secretariat coordinates day to day regional cooperation, monitors the implementation of development projects and interacts with regional and international organizations and partners.

The General Secretariat is headed by H.E. Mr. Hamada Madi, former Head of State and Prime Minister of Comoros, who in July 2016 became the organization's seventh

Secretary-General. He is supported by the General Secretariat's Director, Mr. François Vuillemin, who has been in office since July 2013. Five Programme Directors are responsible for different areas of intervention. These Programme Directors, appointed by each Member State, are in turn supported by project-specific technical teams and country coordinators.

The IOC's activities are guided by a Strategic Development Plan (SDP), which is divided into four main areas of focus. The last strategic plan expired in 2016. A new SDP for the period 2017-2020 will be proposed to the next IOC Council of Ministers in 2018.

OUR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- **Strategic Axis 1 - A political and diplomatic force for human development**
Area of Intervention 1 - Stability and Diplomacy, Health, Gender and Mobility
Programme Director: Mrs Koulthoum Djamadar
- **Strategic Axis 2 - A secure region that promotes smart economic growth**
Area of Intervention 2 - Economic Area and Regional Infrastructure
Programme Director: Mr Raj Mohabeer
- Area of Intervention 3 - Blue and Green Regional Growth Centers, Specialization and Economic Development
Programme Director: Mr Luc Ralaimarindaza
- **Strategic Axis 3 – Resilient and Sustainable Island and Ocean Environments**
Area of Intervention 4 - Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change
Programme Director: Mrs Gina Bonne
- **Strategic axis 4 – Promoting Indianoceanian and Its Identity**
Area of Intervention 5 - Indianoceanian Identity and Development of Human and Natural Resources
Programme Director: Mrs Véronique Espitalier-Noël

IOC GOVERNANCE

The IOC is at the service of its Member States. It embodies their willingness to cooperate on issues of common interest.

The Council of Ministers, which meets once a year, is the IOC's final decision-making body. It brings together the Foreign Ministers of each of the Member countries. The current IOC Council President is the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius.

The IOC's Permanent Liaison Officers Committee is responsible for ensuring that decisions made by the Council of Ministers are implemented. The Committee works in close collaboration with the General Secretariat. A summit bringing together Heads of State and Government takes place every four years. The IOC's strategic course and political positioning are decided upon during this event. The last IOC Summit was held in August 2014 in Moroni, capital of the Comoros.



Handing over of the chairmanship of the IOC Council Presidency between H.E. J.M. Le Guen, former French Secretary of State, and Hon. V. Lutchmeenaraidoo, Mauritian Minister of Foreign Affairs

OUR PROJECTS

The IOC currently implements ten cooperative projects. Some of them, particularly those relating to fisheries and maritime safety, go beyond the geographical boundaries of the IOC's Region. In these instances, the IOC works closely with regional organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa namely the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East Africa Community (EAC).

The opposite map illustrates the IOC's projects by area of intervention and location.

MAP OF IOC PROJECTS IN 2016



© Partner / associate countries not in receipt of funding or financial benefit

CONCRETE RESULTS

Figures show the concrete contribution of the Indian Ocean Commission to the sustainable development of Indianoceaania thanks to the support of its partners. Here are presented some results achieved by the Indian Ocean Commission in the fields of sensible management of natural resources, fight against climate change, disasters risks reduction or preservation of coastal ecosystems.



Climate Change Impacts

on fish production and ecosystems



THREAT TO THE ECOSYSTEM REEF

DISAPPEARANCE OF IMPORTANT SPECIES FOR DEPENDENT COASTAL FISHING COMMUNITIES

OVERFISHING

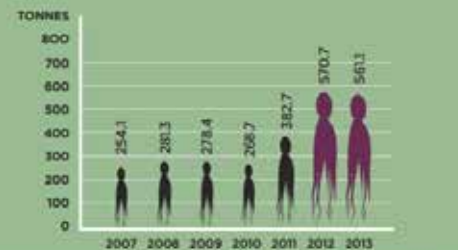
ACTIONS

IOC-SmartFish promotes sensible management of coastal fisheries such as the octopus with a view to reducing the impact of direct human pressure and thus increase the **resilience of these species to climate change**

OCTOPUS MANAGEMENT



2-MONTH OCTOPUS CLOSURE ENSURES AN INCREASE IN PRODUCTION



RESULTS OF 2-MONTH OCTOPUS CLOSURE PER YEAR IN RODRIGUES

Sensible management of natural resources leads to economic growth at community level
A success now replicated on the whole territory of the Republic of Mauritius as well as in Zanzibar!

Climate Change Impacts

on fish production and ecosystems



ELEVATION OF SEA LEVEL

COASTAL EROSION

SHELL-BORNE ORGANISMS SEVERELY AFFECTED



Madagascar **MANGROVES** represent **25%** of **African mangroves**

ACTIONS

IOC- SmartFish promotes the use of fishing techniques less harmful for mangrove crab



LEGISLATION
BE RESPONSIBLE:
OUR RESOURCES FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS



POST CAPTURE
BETTER TRANSPORTATION



BAD FISHING METHOD
WITH HOOK



GOOD FISHING METHOD
USING BALANCE



IMPROVED STORAGE

www.ioi-loc.org

Natural
disasters in the
Indian Ocean
Commission's
Member States



Natural disasters have caused damages of more than 2.8 billion dollars over the past 30 years

ACTIONS

30,000 young people sensitised to natural risks

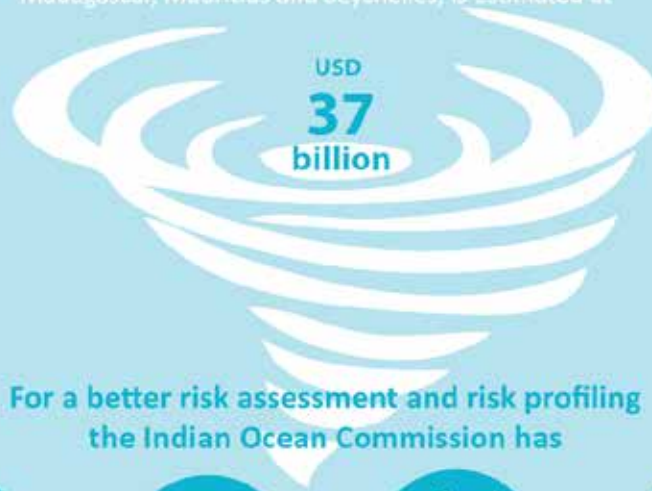
Creation of a **Risk and Disaster Management Centre / Fire Station** in Comoros

Enhancement and **networking** of national **Public Safety Agencies**

Creation of **Emergency Shelters Prototype**

With climate change, more extreme weather events in future are likely to increase the number and scale of disasters.

The total value of infrastructures at risk of disaster in Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, is estimated at



For a better risk assessment and risk profiling the Indian Ocean Commission has

developed
3,235
disaster data
cards

developed
5
country risk
profiles

gathered
220
participants in the local
capacity building
sessions

made available
5
disaster information
management
& analysis
tools

AN ACTION CONSISTENT WITH THE GLOBAL AGENDAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The action of the Indian Ocean Commission fits naturally into the international Agendas to which its Member States subscribe. It is in this sense that the IOC has carried out projects since the beginning of the 2000s in line with the Millennium Development Goals, and more particularly with the Objective 7 aiming at preserving the environment. IOC has gained experience and expertise in the sustainable management of natural resources and environments, particularly in the field of fisheries and coastal ecosystems. To that end, the IOC has benefited from the support of its development partners, first and foremost the European Union, which have funded environmental projects that also contribute to economic growth, human well-being and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

At the same time, the Indian Ocean Commission has strengthened its internal capacity to develop, implement and monitor sustainable development projects. This capacity-building was even more necessary as the IOC portfolio of projects expanded considerably; and at the same time, global imbalances weighed more heavily on the developing islands whose specific needs were recognized by the international community at the Mauritius Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in 2005 and reiterated at the Samoa Conference in 2014.

The Hellenic contribution was part of the regional dynamic promoted by the Indian Ocean Commission for a truly sustainable development in line with global and continental agendas.

Today, the action of the Indian Ocean Commission translates the priorities of the new global Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level. To achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, the Indian Ocean Commission is widening and deepening its partnerships with Development Partners as well as its areas of intervention that cover all the SDGs. The IOC's Annual Report 2016 highlights the organisation's practical contributions towards achieving the SDGs in its Member countries.

The 2016 IOC Annual Report can be viewed and downloaded from the IOC website www.commissionoceanindien.org.



THE HELLENIC SUPPORT



Following negotiations held in New York with the Permanent Representation of the Hellenic Republic to the United Nations, a Memorandum of Understanding between the IOC and the Greek Government was signed on 18 September 2009. This five-year agreement allowed Greece to support sustainable development actions carried out by the IOC, particularly in the fight against the effects of climate change as well as in the strengthening of networks and regional capacities.

Moreover, the Greek grant directly contributed to the capacity building of the IOC General Secretariat as a collective tool dedicated to building and running cooperative projects shaping the sustainable development of Island States of the South-West Indian Ocean. It enabled the IOC General Secretariat to organise and participate to regional and international events on climate change effects. The IOC has conveyed the voice of its Member States, highlighting their environmental and economic vulnerability to the effects of climate change. In this regard, the IOC strongly advocated for differential treatment for Small Island Developing States by the international community. This IOC plea was heard: it has been integrated into the 2014 Samoa Pathway and the IOC has gained the European Union's support which led to the IOC-EU Joint Declaration on Climate signed during the COP21.

The contribution of the Hellenic Republic also participated to the improvement of the IOC's communications and sensitization activities as well as the organisation of major political meetings, such as the IOC Heads of State and Government Summit in 2014, that gave a new impetus to the regional momentum on specific issues regarding the sustainable development of Indianoceanica and the concrete responses to be carried out.

Major international and regional events on sustainable development, resilience and climate change

- **UN Conference on Sustainable Development, RIO+20 (2012):** the IOC advocated for the recognition of Blue/Ocean Economy as a major leverage for sustainable development in SIDS.
- **IOC Heads of State and Government Summit, Moroni – Comoros (2014):** the IOC Heads of State and Government adopted a Declaration entitled "Indianoceanica, a future to build together" that underlines their commitment to the organisation as an efficient tool to promote and shape sustainable development in the region.
- **UN Conference on SIDS, Apia – Samoa (2014):** the IOC advocated for a specific treatment for SIDS by the international community. This strong position also recalled that the SIDS represent a special case for sustainable development in view of their vulnerabilities. The Samoa Pathway integrates this position of the IOC.
- **UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai – Japan (2015):** the IOC showcased

its projects and results in disaster risk reduction in Indianoceanica considered to be a "model to replicate" by the then Head of Civil Prevention and Preparedness Unit of the European Union.

- **UN Climate Change Conference (COP21), Paris – France (2015):** the IOC recalled the specific needs of SIDS due to their strong vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change and advocated for a facilitated access to the resources and funding for adaptation and mitigation. The IOC also signed a Joint Declaration with the EU that recognized the need for a special treatment by international donors and development partners.
- **FAO 29th African Ministerial Conference on Agriculture, Abidjan – Ivory Coast (2016):** the IOC presented its Regional Project for Food Security that addresses the impact of climate change on food production and agriculture development.



Official photo of the 4th IOC Heads of State and Government Summit, in 2014, Comoros. © Government of Comoros

Sensitization on sustainable development Goals

- **Support to SIDS AIMS Youth Hub – SYAH (since 2012):** as part of its actions of sensitization, the IOC has supported the creation of a Youth-led NGO that gathers youngsters committed to sustainable development in African and Indian Ocean Islands. The IOC General Secretariat hosts the office of SYAH and is still supporting its activities of environmental education, youth capacity building, cleaning campaigns...
- **“30 years of actions for the sustainable development of Indianoceanica” (2014):** series of activities in Mahe, Seychelles, with civil society, especially youth, academics, political and social leaders of the IOC Member States.
- **Annual Reports:** the IOC’s Annual Reports are key documents that present its activities to a wide range of stakeholders engaged in sustainable development and/or development aid at national, regional and international levels. It is also a useful publication for advocacy.



SYAH camp in Mauritius with representatives from all African Island States

High-Level Dialogue with EU in Brussels

- **Monitoring and Evaluation of EDF Projects:** the increasing involvement of the EU cooperation in the financing of IOC public policies makes all the more important and necessary high-level consultations to outline priorities and measure results and achievements.
- **Post-Cotonou Dialogue:** for the coming years, the future of EU-ACP Partnership after 2020 is a major concern for the IOC. The organisation advocated for a constructive approach that take into consideration the specific needs of Island Developing States.
- **Dialogue on Peace and Security in the Indian Ocean with EEAS:** due to the crucial role of the Indian Ocean in the international trade, the security and stability of the whole Indianoceanic area is a shared priority of IOC and EU. The IOC is strongly committed in fighting all maritime crimes and threats.



Hamada Madi, IOC Secretary-General, with Stefano Manservigi, Director-General of the Directorate for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission



Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service, receiving Hamada Madi, IOC Secretary-General

Regional consultations to shape political consensus and commitment on governance and environmental challenges

- **Institutional capacity building and monitoring in Madagascar and Comoros:** the IOC dedicates a special attention to the promotion of good governance in its Member States, in particular in Madagascar and Comoros. To do so, the IOC works closely with national institutions, members of Parliaments and political leaders at the highest level.
- **ACP-IOC consultations on Post-Cotonou and on avenues of cooperation in the field of adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects in SIDS:** with four out of five Member States that are also member of the ACP Group, the IOC needs to maintain a close collaboration and dialogue with the ACP Secretariat to ensure an adequate consideration of the specificities of Island States, especially regarding climate change challenges.



Meeting in Antananarivo between HE Hery Rajaonarimampianina, President of the Republic of Madagascar, and Hamada Madi, Secretary-General of the IOC

Capacity building of IOC General Secretariat toward EU Contribution Agreement and Green Climate Fund's Master Agreement

The IOC General Secretariat is in charge of the implementation of the regional public policies decided by its Member States. Its portfolio of projects has considerably widened in the last ten years paving the way for an institutional evolution of the organisation into a Community of States. This evolution must be accompanied by a crescent administrative structuration to obtain, among others, the EU Contribution Agreement and the GCF Master Agreement. To do so, the IOC is reinforcing its capabilities in several sectors:

- Finance and Administration
- Audit
- Communications



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