



EXERCICE POLMAR 2019

# PRESS KIT

## MASE POLMAR 2019

16-20 October 2019

**#MASE PROGRAMME**

*A strong partnership for a safe and secure maritime domain*



Funded by  
the European Union



## INTRODUCTION

The MASE POLMAR 2019 exercise is a pilot regional action led by the Indian Ocean Commission through the European Union-funded Regional Maritime Safety Programme.

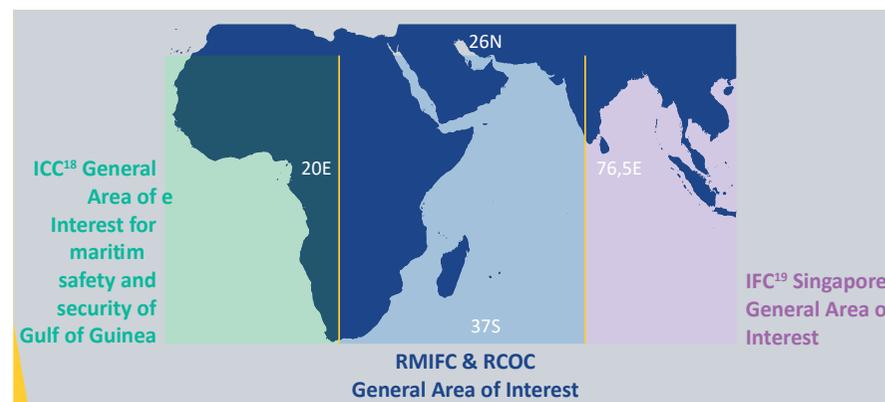
Held in Diego Suarez, Madagascar from 16 to 20 October 2019, the exercise, organised by the IOC in collaboration with the Organe de lutte contre la pollution marine (OLEP) of Madagascar, the Malagasy Ministry of the Environment and the National Navy, will host more than 60 participants from 7 countries, namely Comoros, Djibouti, France/Reunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Somalia.

The POLMAR exercise is part of the support for the operationalisation process of the regional centres and the implementation of a modus operandi to facilitate their coordination with the national centres.

As well as the MASE Table Top exercise (held last August in Mauritius), the MASE POLMAR exercise aims at a higher level to test the regional mechanism put in place. This is in order to better coordinate the various actions to respond effectively to regional challenges related to the preservation of the marine environment and fisheries resources.

This exercise will enable representatives of the signatory countries to present their national plans for combating marine pollution as well as to exchange their field experiences.

Representatives of the national and regional centres are fully involved and will be called upon to play their respective roles during the exercise. It will also be an opportunity to learn about the potential of the Maritime Awareness System (MAS) and of the SHAREPOINT - systems that will be made available in both regional and national centres.



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## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

With 14,000 kilometres of coastline and 10 million square kilometres of exclusive economic zones, the States of Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) generate \$176 billion in revenues each year according to the StableSeas Maritime Security Index. This figure, which is a priori substantial, is lower than the region's economic maritime potential. Until recently, Africa (from East to South) suffered from "sea blindness".

The continent's coastal countries have paid little attention to their maritime space and have done almost nothing to pursue their maritime potential. For example, in the ESA-IO region, with the outbreak of international concern over piracy off the Somali coast in 2009, an activity shock wave spread to eastern countries, resulting in extensive maritime security and law enforcement activity.

Maritime security is a major development challenge in Eastern and Southern Africa as it is directly linked to economic growth, employment and social and economic stability.

For international partners, maritime security in the Indian Ocean is also important: the main maritime routes for hydrocarbons and trade cross this ocean.

To address this cross-cutting issue, the European Union, in collaboration along with 4 regional organisations (IGAD, EAC, COMESA and IOC), has created the Regional Maritime Safety Programme (MASE).

## The ESA-IO coastal countries face undeniable facts

- *No Single States can effectively combat maritime crimes and threats in its territorial waters and its vast EEZ on its own*
- The maritime domains of the Western Indian Ocean have an economic value that is conducive to income and employment at the national and regional levels. Maritime piracy in the Western Indian Ocean is not the only threat the region is facing.

The fallout from the political conflicts in Yemen is contributing to the instability of the region, which has major impacts on the economies of East Africa, with a loss of \$1.4 billion in 2017. Although piracy attacks have decreased, other maritime threats and crimes remain a major challenge for regional States and other countries having a common interest in the region. For example, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Western Indian Ocean has caused a loss of about \$400 million per year according to FAO, which amounts to nearly \$1 billion in terms of dollars.

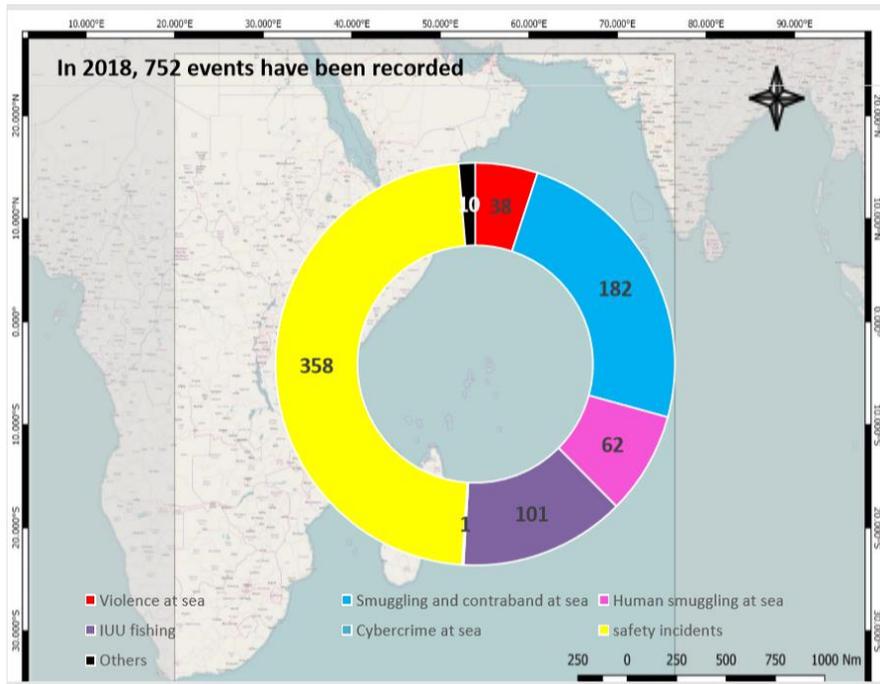
Problems related to drug trafficking, human trafficking or terrorist risk affect the peace and security of local communities. Not to mention the consequences of money laundering on formal financial circuits, marine pollution and its impact on the environment and the economy.

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Source: Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC)

## The Maritime Safety Program (MASE)

Funded by the **European Union** to the tune of **€42 million**, the MASE programme covers more than 22 countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) region and is implemented by four regional organisations, namely the Intergovernmental Authority on Development - IGAD, the East African Community - EAC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA and the Indian Ocean Commission - IOC with the collaboration of international agencies, FAO, UNODC and INTERPOL.

Divided into 5 outcomes, the MASE programme is a global response to maritime insecurity:

**Result 1 of the IGAD** : address the livelihood concerns of coastal communities against piracy in Somalia;

**Result 2 of the EAC** : strengthen legal, legislative and infrastructural capacity to combat piracy and other maritime crimes;

**Result 3 of COMESA** : dismantling financial networks linked to maritime crime and reducing their economic impact;

**Result 4 of the IOC** : strengthen and improve monitoring and control capacities at sea;

**Result 5 of the IOC** : promote and coordinate the exchange of maritime information.

Regional organisations work closely with various actors involved in development and security, including European missions, United Nations agencies (UNODC, FAO), INTERPOL...

*For more information about MASE, see the [online brochures](#)*

*About the European Union's actions against piracy, [click here](#)*

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## The Maritime Security Architecture for ESA-IO

As part of Outcomes 4 and 5, which focus on maritime security in the region and on strengthening surveillance and control capacities at sea, two regional centres have been established, namely:

- *The Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre – RMIFC*
- *The Regional Coordination of Operations Centre - RCO*

The two centres became regional in 2018 with the signing of the two MASE agreements on information exchange and joint action at sea.

7 ESA-IO countries have signed these agreements: Comoros, Djibouti, France/Reunion Island, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. Other countries in the region and organisations working in the maritime field are invited to join the mechanism.

The two centres are under the governance of a Steering Committee that includes the 7 signatory countries. The IOC manages the secretariat of this committee.

The decision-making bodies of the CRCO and RMIFC and the members of the Steering Committee will define the strategic orientations of the two centres and their positioning.

The activities of the two centres are of great importance in securing the maritime domain not only for the ESA-IO region, but also at the global level. They constitute an effective model of partnership that has already demonstrated its necessity in the interception of cases of maritime offences, through the exchange of information and reporting at the level of national authorities.

The presence of International Liaison Officers is also one of the key criteria for the operationalisation of the two centres. These ILOs, which come from the States that have signed the regional agreements and will act as relays between the centres and their countries of origin for the exchange of information, have also been gradually operational since 2018.

The MASE Programme will end in 2022 for the O4 and O5, the two centres have recently received additional funding from the European Union to ensure the full operationalisation of the structures put in place. Both centres will have the technical support of INTERPOL and UNODC and the IOC will continue its work as coordinator until the centres become fully autonomous. Learn more about the regional mechanism, [click here](#)

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## MASE Regional Agreements - Overview

# MASE REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

2 Agreements led by the Indian Ocean Commission under the MASE Programme funded by the European Union

In April 2018 during the Ministerial Conference on Maritime Security in Mauritius

Union of Comoros – Djibouti – Madagascar – Mauritius – Seychelles

In November 2018 during the Blue Economy Conference in Kenya

France – Kenya

*The Regional Agreements signed by seven States in East Africa and the Indian Ocean establish an effective and appropriate regional maritime security architecture. This is based on a mechanism for the exchange and sharing of maritime information and a mechanism for the coordination of joint actions at sea. The operational implementation of these mechanisms is the responsibility of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre based in Madagascar and the Regional Operational Coordination Centre based in Seychelles, both established by these Agreements.*

### RMIFC: REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE BASED IN MADAGASCAR

- Deepen Maritime Domain Awareness by Parties
- Monitor maritime activities in real time to accelerate the planning and organization of control operations at sea
- Improve the capacity of Parties to appropriate maritime information fusion knowledge and technology
- Promote the culture of maritime information sharing and exchange in the ESA-IO region
- Encourage and ensure the sharing and exchange of marine information between RMIFC, national and regional centres

### RCOC: REGIONAL COORDINATION OF OPERATIONS CENTRE BASED IN SEYCHELLES

- Promote cooperation and coordination to conduct missions of regional interest in accordance with the provisions of the agreement
- Strengthen individual and institutional capacities (training)
- Organize joint and/or coordinated interventions at sea or in the overlying space
- Facilitate cooperation between States when an International or regional maritime security interest is affected in the area of operation
- Promote cooperation with agencies responsible for safety and security at sea

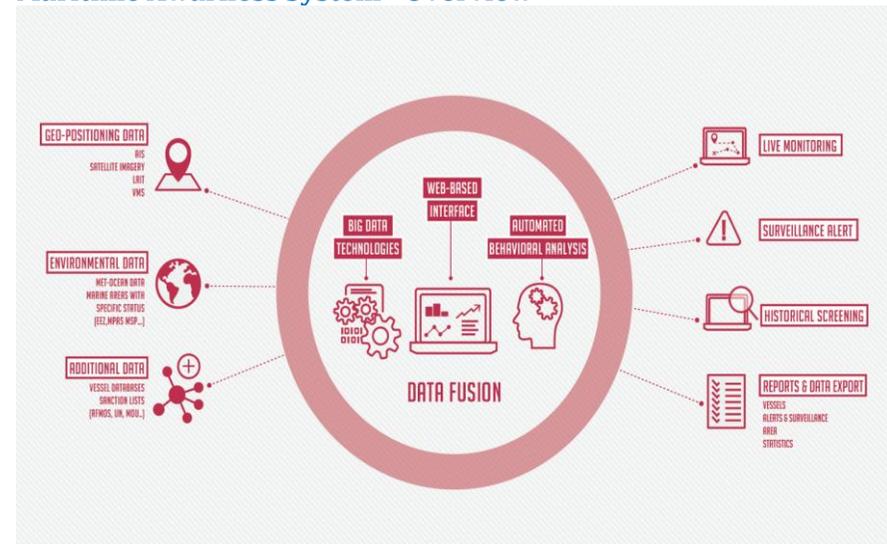
56

## What is the MARITIME AWARENESS SYSTEM (MAS)?

The regional mechanism of surveillance and monitoring implemented under the EU-funded MASE programme is based on a state-of-the-art technology called the Maritime Awareness System (MAS). Developed by the Franco-Mauritian consortium CLS (Collecte, Localisation, Satellite) /LCI (Leal Communications and Informatics Ltd), the tailor-made system for information exchange and coordination of offshore operations will be deployed in the regional centres (CRFIM and CRCO) and in the National Centres of the signatory countries to ensure interoperability among the centres.

Among other things, MAS allows data fusion and in-depth analysis based on reliable information to obtain a complete maritime view of vessel movements in the region.

## Maritime Awareness System - Overview



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## Who are the participants of the MASE POLMAR 2019 exercise?

***This regional exercise will bring together several stakeholders, including:***

- The signatory countries of the MASE regional agreements, namely Comoros, Djibouti, France/Meeting, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles,
- The Indian Ocean Commission
- The European Union
- The International Liaison Officers of the two regional centres resulting from the MASE agreements, in particular the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre - **RMIFC** and the Regional Coordination of Operations Centre - **CRCO**.
- National liaison officers of the MASE agreements SIGNATORIES COUNTRIES
- A representative of the European Naval Forces - EUNAVFOR
- OLEP representatives from Madagascar
- Representatives of the Malagasy Navy
- Representatives of the Malagasy Ministry of the Environment
- Representatives of the Mauritian Coast Guard

### **Note :**

As part of this regional exercise, buildings will be deployed to make the exercise as real as possible:

- Le Dornier - Mauritius' military aircraft will make the trip
- Malagasy Navy ships will also be used;

## The organisers

### The Indian Ocean Commission

Created in 1982, the IOC is an intergovernmental organisation that brings together five Member States: the Union of the Comoros, France (Reunion Island), Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles. As the only regional organisation entirely composed of islands, it defends the specific characteristics of its Member States on the continental and international scene. With the active support of a dozen international partners, the IOC is strengthening regional cohesion through various sectoral cooperation projects, including maritime security. Strongly committed to sustainable development, the IOC has been leading an ambitious but vulnerable joint regional action for more than thirty years in Indianoceanica.

Follow us: Facebook [@commissionoi](#) and Twitter [@MASE\\_program](#) Visit [our website](#)

### The MASE programme

The MASE program

The Regional Maritime Safety Programme (MASE) is a comprehensive response to maritime insecurity in the Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region. Funded by the European Union to the tune of €42 million, this programme is implemented by four regional organisations (IGAD - the coordinator, EAC, COMESA and IOC). Divided into 5 outcome areas, this programme also has the technical support of FAO, UNODC and INTERPOL.

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## The European Union

As the leading contributor to international development support, the European Union is actively involved in maritime security initiatives in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-IO). This political and operational commitment is described in the form of military and civilian missions ([EUNAVFOR Atalanta](#), EUCAP Nestor - completed in 2015) and other cooperation programmes.

The MASE programme is fully in line with this partnership between the European Union and the ESA-IO countries for a more secure maritime and land area. Implemented by IGAD, EAC, COMESA and IOC, the MASE programme is funded by the European Union to the tune of 42 million euros. EU support enables partners at national and regional level to combat regional maritime security, i. e. piracy. Website of the [EU delegation](#)

Follow the EU in Mauritius on Facebook [EU in Mauritius](#) and Twitter [@EUAmbMauritius](#)

## The Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre - RMIFC

Based in Antananarivo, Madagascar, the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre or RMIFC has the following mission:

- Collect, merge and analyze marine information;
- Establish a knowledge of the regional maritime situation;
- Interact with the Regional Coordination Operations Centre;
- Produce reports and studies related to regional maritime safety and security and the maritime domain in general.

Follow us on Twitter : [@RMIFCenter](#) and [Facebook](#). Website of the [RMIFC](#)

## The Regional Coordination of Operations Centre - RCOC

Based in the Seychelles, the Regional Coordination of Operation Centre (RCOC) has the following mission:

- Conduct coordinated missions of regional interest;
- Strengthen individual and institutional capacities through training and exchange of experience;
- Organize joint and/or coordinated interventions at sea;
- Enable facilitation and support between the parties;
- Promote cooperation with other agencies operating in the field of maritime safety

Follow us on Twitter : [@RCOC.Center](#)

## The Malagasy Ministry of the Environment

The mission of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) is to safeguard and enhance our environment and natural resources for the well-being of the Malagasy population and the country's sustainable development. With a large number of endemic species present in Madagascar, the environmental and sustainable management of our natural resources on the island is therefore more than essential not only for our time, but for the benefit of our future generation. "Covering Madagascar with forest" is the vision set by the State and it is expected that 80 million young plants will be reforested each year.

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One of our priorities is the conservation of the Environment to ensure the sustainable management of the environment, while combating deforestation and all forms of illegal exploitation that the Resources on our lands could face.

### **The *Organe de Lutte contre la Pollution Marine (OLEP)* of Madagascar**

The body to combat marine oil pollution incidents (OLEP) was created by Decret No. 2004-994 of 26 October 2004, whose main mission is to prepare and coordinate operations to combat pollution incidents in the marine and coastal environment.

OLEP is under the technical supervision of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

#### **MAIN ACTIVITIES**

- Develop, implement and update control plans;
- Coordinate oil spill response operations;
- Organize simulation exercises;
- Organize training for local actors in the 15 OLEP storage sites

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## CONTACTS

### MASE COMMUNICATION

- **Pascaline Alexandre**, Communication Officer of the MASE programme : (+230) 57 56 52 67 / [pascaline.alexandre@coi-ioc.org](mailto:pascaline.alexandre@coi-ioc.org)  
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### Regional Maritime Information and Fusion center

- **Jean Edmond Randrianantenaina**, Director : (+261) 34 05 414 05 / [directeur.general@cfimmadagascar.org](mailto:directeur.general@cfimmadagascar.org)  
Communication Department: (+261) 34 05 414 12 / [servicecommunication@crfimmadagascar.org](mailto:servicecommunication@crfimmadagascar.org)  
Website: [www.crfimmadagascar.org](http://www.crfimmadagascar.org)
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