



#MASE Programme

*A Strong Partnership Towards a Safe and Secure Maritime Domain*

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***The MASE Programme: Handover of computer equipment to the Maritime Information Fusion Center (MIFC) and the Malagasy Navy***

**Antananarivo (August 27, 2020)**

The Regional programme for the promotion of Maritime Security (**MASE**) handed over computer equipment and materials to the **National Maritime Information Fusion Centre (MIFC)** of Madagascar and the **Malagasy Navy** on Tuesday 25 August 2020, under the chairmanship of Captain RAMAROZATOVO Andriamiharisoa, the malagasy Steering Committee member for the governance of RMIFC and RCOC and National Focal Point of the MASE Programme. The official Handing over ceremony was held at the Malagasy Navy Headquarters in the presence of the Commander in chief of the Malagasy Navy, Captain GA Jacquy Honoré, the Chargé d'Affaires of the European Union in Madagascar, Mr. Sergiusz WOLSKI, the Permanent Liaison Officer of the IOC, Ms Alice NDIAYE and the General Director of the MIFC, Captain RAZAFINDRAIBE Franck Aimé.

This initiative is part of the process of standardization of technical capabilities for the national centres to facilitate interaction with the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) and the Regional Operations Coordination Centre (RCOC). Implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission through the EU-funded MASE programme, the RMIFC focuses on the exchange and sharing of maritime information while the RCOC organises and coordinates joint actions at sea. Complementary structures, the two regional centres, with the effective participation of the national centres of the Signatory States of the two MASE agreements, form the Regional Maritime Security Architecture for the Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region (ESA-IO).

#### **Strengthened Technical capability**

Madagascar, represented by the MIFC and the Navy, is thus the second country, after Comoros, to receive state-of-the-art computer equipment and materials. The equipment which includes desktop computers, tablets and cameras, will be used to strengthen the technical capacities of the centres and improve interoperability between structures. This will also enable the MIFC to connect and interact permanently with the two regional centres.

In addition to the delivery of the equipment, the MASE programme will also organize training and exercises for national and regional Liaison Officers to familiarize them with the new tools and test their coordination.



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It should be noted that the process of operationalizing the maritime surveillance and control mechanism for the region is under way. The handover of computer equipment and materials is being carried out gradually in the signatory countries and should be finalized in the coming months.

### [About the MASE programme](#)

The Regional Maritime Security Programme (MASE) is implemented by the regional organizations of Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, namely IGAD (general coordinator), EAC, COMESA and IOC.

MASE is funded by the European Union to the tune of 42 million euros and started in 2013. Other partners of the programme include the European missions, UN agencies (UNODC, FAO), Interpol.

The programme has five result areas:

- Result 1, coordinated by IGAD: Promotion of alternative livelihoods, with specific support on learning and advocacy against piracy and strengthening maritime coordination mechanisms in Somalia.
- Result 2, coordinated by EAC: Strengthened legal, legislative and infrastructural capacity to combat piracy and other maritime crimes;
- Result 3, coordinated by COMESA: Dismantling financial networks linked to maritime crimes and reducing their impact;
- Result 4 coordinated by IOC: Improved national and regional capacity for action at sea;
- IOC Coordinated Result 5: Promotion and coordination of maritime information exchange.

For more information on [the Maritime Surveillance and Control Mechanism](#)

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