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## Western Indian Ocean Pollution Regional Exercise (WIOPOLREX)

25 -27 July 2023

With the participation

#MASE signatory States



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# Introduction

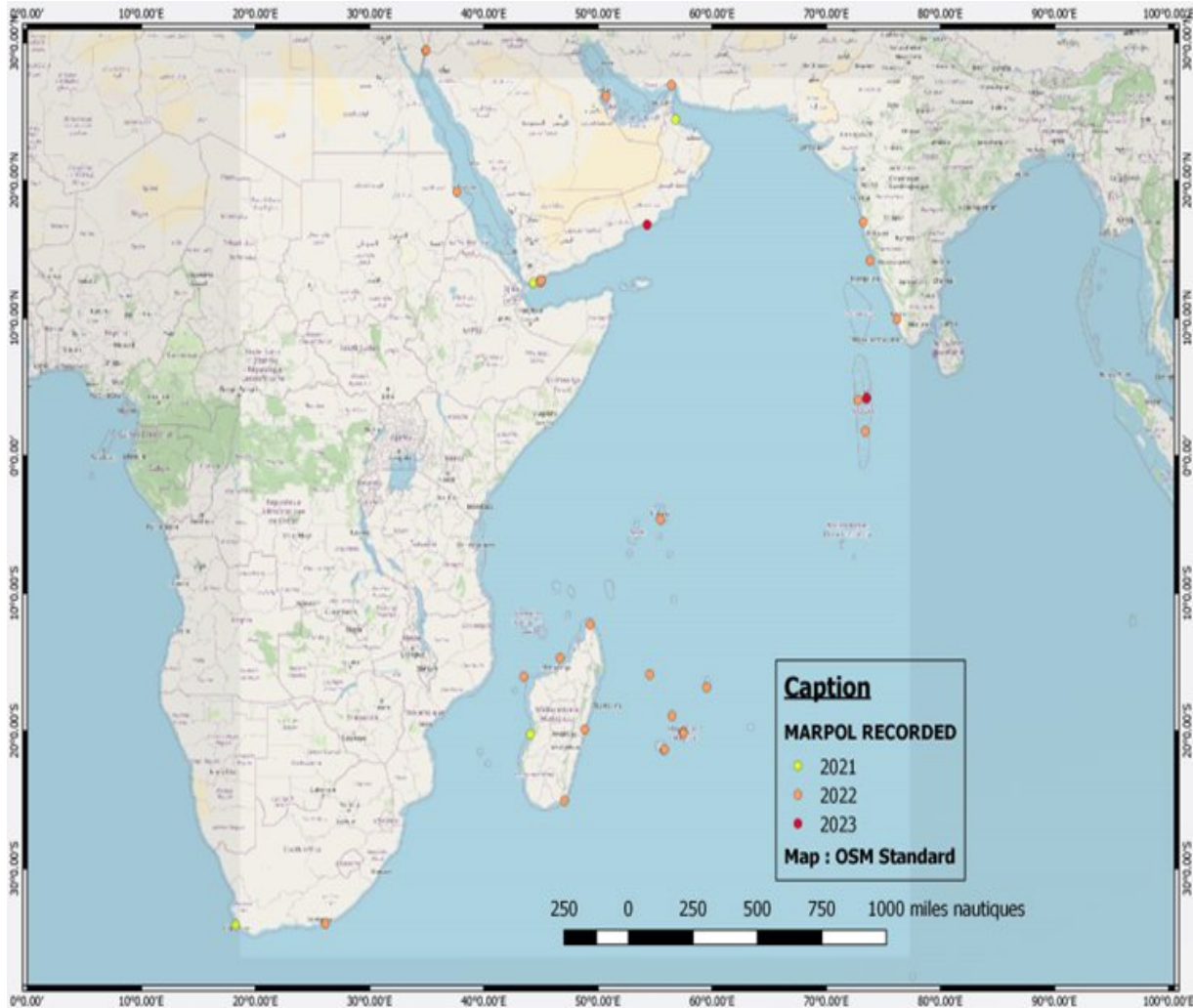
The **Regional Coordination Operations Centre** (RCOC) and the **Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre** (RMIFC), armed components of the Western Indian Ocean Maritime Security Architecture, established in 2018, are organising a regional simulation exercise on Marine Pollution from 25th to 27th July 2023.

Entitled **Western Indian Ocean Pollution Regional Exercise** (WIOPOLREX), the event which will be held both online and face-to-face at the RCOC headquarters in Seychelles, will bring together over 15 regional States to test their level of preparedness and responsiveness with regards to any accidental pollution event (oil, hazardous and noxious substances, etc).

Key international partners will also provide technical and technological support during the Table Top exercise.

This initiative is supported by the Indian Ocean Commission through the EU-funded MASE programme.

# Context



This tabletop exercise (TTX ) WIOPOLREX is part of the overall action plan of the regional centres to improve their capacity to coordinate and response to maritime incidents, together with riparian States.

Lessons learnt from the oil pollution incident involving MV WAKASIO on 25th July 2020 off the South-eastern coast of Mauritius (where approximately 1,000 metric tonnes of oil was spilt at sea) and other grounding and/or drifting situations occurred in Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles and Reunion, clearly show that a country on its own cannot tackle all levels of marine pollution.

Regional and international cooperation and coordination are key to address effectively and timely these types of incidents.

# Main Objectives of the WIOPOLREX



Strengthen regional and international Cooperation in responding to marine pollution incidents

Enable participating States to examine their marine pollution preparedness and strategy as well as their ability to share information and implement responses as per their respective National Contingency Plan

Contribute to the review of the regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan proposed under international instruments, in particular, the Nairobi Convention

Examine the ability of the RCOC and RMIFC to support regional coordination in the event of accidental marine pollution incidents while avoiding duplication

Identify gaps and test inter-agency coordination at a regional and international level during oil pollution response operations

Take stock of the equipments related to oil pollution responses both at national and regional levels.

# Participants of the WIOPOLREX

Organised by



Supported by

#MASE Programme  
*A strong partnership for a safe and secure Maritime Domain*



## MASE signatory States

- Comores
- Djibouti
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Seychelles



## Other regional States

- Maldives
- Mozambique
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Yemen
- India
- United Kingdom
- USA



## Other regional and international partners

- International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- Nairobi Convention Secretariat
- South African Maritime Security Authority (SAMSA)
- United Nations on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)
- Indian Ocean Rim Association
- Information Fusion Center Indian Ocean Region (IFC IOR)
- Italian Coast Guard
- US AFRICOM
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations
- European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
- European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR)
- Auxilium Worldwide
- Seavision/Crimario

# About the two regional centres

## The Regional Coordination 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 security and safety

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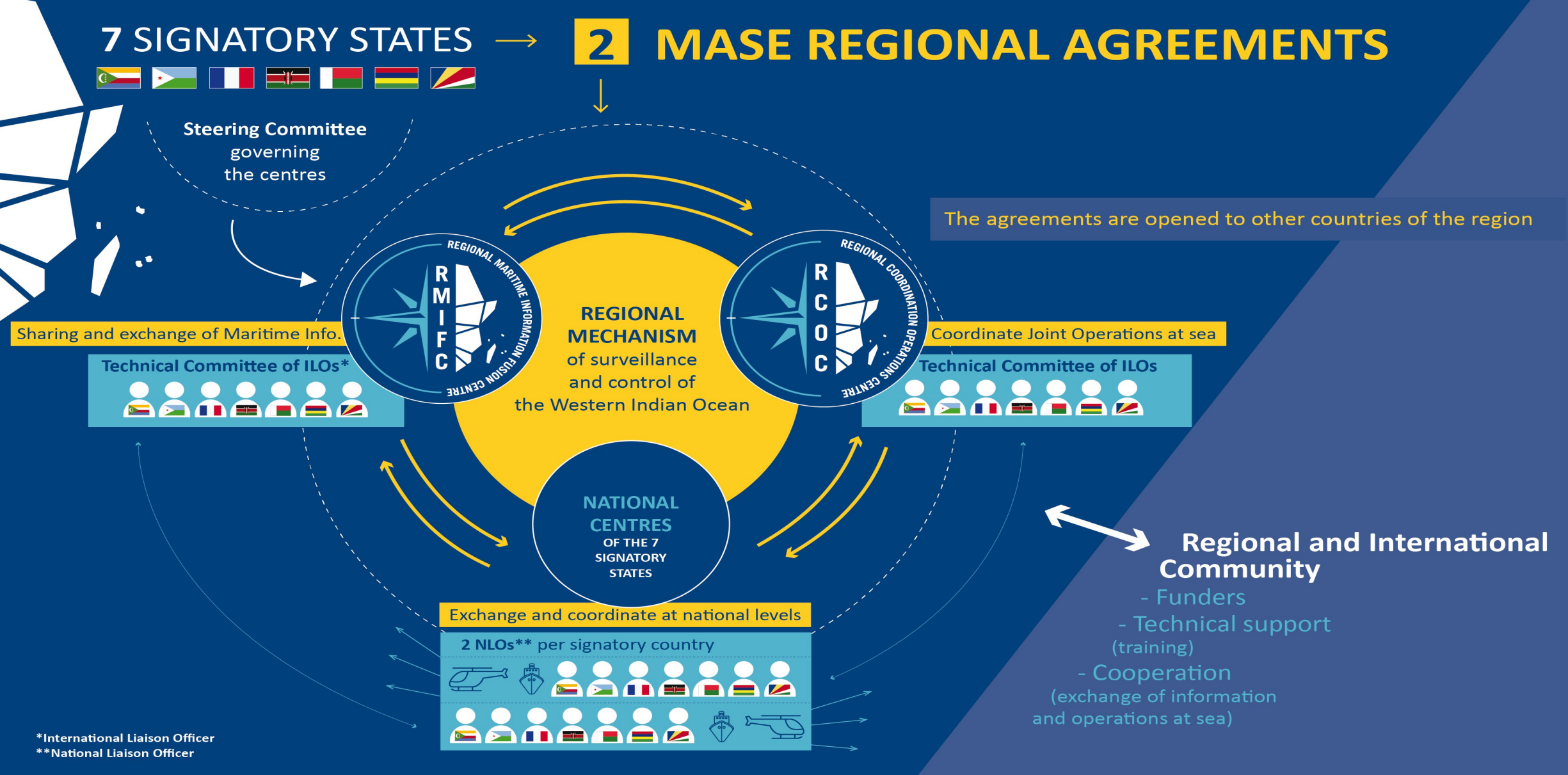
## The Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre - RMIFC

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

- Collect, merge and analyse maritime 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.

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# About the Maritime Security Architecture for Western Indian Ocean



# About 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 the Indian Ocean region.

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## The MASE programme

The Regional Maritime Security 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 result areas, this programme has also the technical support of FAO, UNODC and INTERPOL.

The IOC has been implementing Results 4 and 5, consisting of the development of Maritime Security Architecture for information exchange and joint operations at sea for the Western Indian Ocean Region

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## European Union

As the leading contributor to international development support, the European Union is actively involved in maritime security initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region. This political and operational commitment is described in the form of military and civilian missions ([EUNAVFOR Atalanta](#), EUCAP Somalia, Port Security Programme, CRIMARIO) and other cooperation programmes.

The MASE programme is fully in line with this partnership between the European Union and the Western Indian Ocean countries for a more secure maritime domain. 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](#)

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# CONTACT



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With the participation of

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