

Disaster risk reduction in the Indian Ocean: the Indian Ocean Commission and the Australian humanitarian agency "RedR" officialize their collaboration.

August 17, 2023 | Ebène, Mauritius – The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Australia humanitarian agency "RedR" have joined their efforts and expertise to strengthen regional capabilities to adapt to the natural disasters that affect the South-West Indian Ocean region.

During a ceremony at the IOC headquarters in Ebene (Mauritius), the two entities officialized their collaboration aimed at capitalizing on their expertise in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.

The ceremony provided an opportunity to discuss the way forward for the joint intervention in support of the Secretariat of the IOC and its Member States. *"Climate change is one of the main challenges impacting on the sustainable development of island States. It is important to build resilience of the communities in the region. Through this partnership with RedR Australia, we are looking forward to further strengthen the capacity of the member States of the IOC to prepare and respond to emergencies. It will complements the ongoing initiatives and existing partnerships of the IOC in climate change and disaster risk reduction", explained Mrs Gina Bonne, Head of department Environment and Climate at the IOC.*

This first partnership with the Australian humanitarian agency "RedR*" will focus on climate risks mainly linked to infrastructure and urbanization on the islands (flooding, etc.). RedR Australia will support the IOC in its efforts for the benefit of its Member States through technical support and by sharing best practices to improve disaster prevention and response.

This new agreement will allow The Australian Government to further increase its commitment to this environmental concern, by deploying expert personnel through the Australia Assists Program implemented by RedR Australia. Objectives: consolidate climate action plans, build community resilience, and integrate adaptation and mitigation into public policies on territorial development.

"Australia recognises the unique vulnerabilities of Indian Ocean islands to the impacts of climate change, particularly the increased risk of natural disasters. We are pleased this partnership between Australia's RedR and the IOC will strengthen the disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts of the IOC member countries.", said Ms Keara Shaw, Chargé d'Affaires of the Australian High Commission.

Indian Ocean region is the third region in the world most exposed to natural hazards leading to increasing impact on human health, food security and infrastructures...

This collaboration will further enhance the capacity of the IOC to address the increasing challenges and complements the ongoing initiatives of the IOC, notably the RDRM-IO project to reduce the risk of natural disasters in the Indian Ocean, supported by the European Union, and the activities of the epidemiological surveillance and alert management network : SEGA – One Health Network, a regional health cooperation platform supported by the Agence française de développement (AFD) and the European Union.

**More information about « RedR » : RedR is a leading international humanitarian agency that selects, trains and deploys technical specialists. Red implements the Australia Assists program funded by the Australian Government which aims to save lives and alleviate suffering by building resilience and responding to disasters and conflict.*