



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION

Making the Indian Ocean

A Reference
for Sustainable
& Inclusive
Codevelopment



A region brimming with both challenges and opportunities

Challenges



Biodiversity

A hotspot for global biodiversity and the second-largest Coral Triangle in the world, under pressure.



Climate

A region vulnerable to climate change building mechanisms to prevent and reduce risks.



Maritime Security

States mobilized to safeguard sea routes, promote trade, combat crime, trafficking, and limit the risks of marine pollution.



Connectivity

Regional connectivity to be strengthened for the economy, innovation, food security, competitiveness, and knowledge sharing.

Opportunities



Cultural diversity

Languages, traditions, and sites to be valued as drivers of economic and cultural growth.



A region of recognized natural and cultural wealth, offering an innovative, diverse, and inclusive experience.



Blue economy

Opportunities in sustainable fishing, tourism, and renewable energy.



Innovation and entrepreneurship:

women, youth, and creative, innovative entrepreneurs committed to addressing the region's challenges.

What is the IOC ?

A regional intergovernmental organization established in 1982 and institutionalised in 1984 through the Victoria Agreement.

5
State
members



Comoros



Réunion Island (France)



Madagascar



Mauritius



Seychelles

7
Observers

European Union, China, India, Japan, United Nations, International Organization of Francophonie, sovereign order of Malta



Headquarter :
Ebene, Mauritius



Missions

Facilitate a diverse and inclusive collective action for the benefit of member states, while promoting their island-specific characteristics and shared interests.



Vision

A local organization based on solidarity and cooperation, dedicated to sustainable development.

In numbers

33

million inhabitants

5,5

million square kilometers of exclusive economic zones.

17

Sustainable Development Goals supported.

+300

million euros mobilized from ten partners.

+70

projects since its creation

Vision for the Indian Ocean Region: Strategic Development Plan 2023-2033



Make the Indian Ocean Region a model of resilience and sustainability.

- Strengthen the sustainable management of ecosystems and the protection of unique biodiversity.
- Commit to tangible actions linked to climate change, security, and peace.



Promote innovative economic integration.

- Foster the development of regional value chains (tourism, fishing, agriculture, blue economy, and digital economy).
- Enhance digital, maritime, and air connectivity between the islands and the world.



Enhance well-being and inclusivity.

- Prioritize education, health, culture, and youth mobility.
- Promote gender equality and support the empowerment of vulnerable groups.



Strengthen the institutional and partnership framework.

- Modernize governance tools and processes.
- Develop new partnerships with international organizations and observer states for expanded cooperation.

[Consult the SDP here](#)



A diversified and results-driven action.

Environment and climate

- A network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) established.
- A regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) protocol initiated by the IOC and adopted by the Nairobi Convention in 2023.
- The first regional report on the health status of coral reefs produced in 2018.
- Local initiatives for integrated management of marine and coastal environments (mangroves, marine parks, seagrasses, etc.).
- Networks of scientists and practitioners set up and supported on coral reefs, marine fauna, and coastal ecosystems.
- Equipment and training provided to national meteorological services, with continuous support for organizing Regional Seasonal Forecast Forums.
- Support for the African Island States Climate Commission and the negotiators of member states in preparation for the UN climate conferences (COPs).

Results: Enhanced knowledge, information sharing, and best practices contributing to biodiversity preservation, sustained climate advocacy, and the implementation of risk prevention and reduction actions.

Health

- A regional health cooperation network established in 2009 (the SEGA – One Health network).
- A regional health security strategy adopted in 2023.
- 273 trained field epidemiologists.
- Regular training sessions organized, and surveillance, diagnostic, and treatment equipment provided to human and animal health services, as well as to more than 40 laboratories.

Results : Strengthened health information sharing, improved surveillance, preparedness, diagnostics, and response to epidemic risks.

Digital Economy

- Support for the structuring and development of the region's most powerful digital cable project, METISS, led by six telecommunications operators from Mauritius (Emtel & CEBFiberNet), Réunion (Canal+, SFR, and ZEOP), and Madagascar (Telma).

Results : Improved digital connectivity with enhanced and secure internet access, and the deployment of new technologies (5G).

Maritime Security

- A maritime security architecture deployed.
- Strategic infrastructures established: a Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC) responsible for analyzing and sharing critical data on vessel movements, and a Regional Coordination Center for Operations (RCOC) dedicated to organizing maritime actions.
- Regional patrols organized, resulting in the rescue of tens of sailors, the seizure of over 3 tons of drugs, and a reduction in maritime crime risks in 2023-2024.
- Three maritime pollution simulation exercises held in Madagascar, Mauritius, and Kenya, along with a dozen tabletop exercises since 2020.

Results : Enhanced capabilities for surveillance, control, and suppression of maritime crimes and incidents (pollution, drug trafficking, etc.).

Fisheries and food security

- Implementation of a seasonal octopus (ourites) fishing ban in Rodrigues in 2012. The initiative has been replicated.
- 175,000 tuna tagged and over 30,000 recaptures, leading to a better understanding of fish stocks and the establishment of quotas for responsible fishing.
- Support for local environmentally-friendly agri-food production initiatives, awareness campaigns on nutrition, and assistance provided to agricultural laboratories in member states (seeds, equipment, etc.).

Results : Increased resources, revenues, and exports, with strengthened food security.

Entrepreneurship

- A boost and ongoing relationship with private sector associations: Cap Business océan Indien, Association of Ports of the Indian Ocean Islands, Vanilla Islands Association, Women Entrepreneurs of the Indian Ocean, Junior Chamber International, Synergie Jeune, and more.
- Support for around ten regional entrepreneurship competitions and forums.
- A circular economy action plan developed for the African Island States.
- 57 economic operators, including 34 women, supported to participate in international trade fairs on seafood in South Africa, cosmetics in France, and tourism in Greece in 2024.
- 243 beneficiaries of entrepreneurship training, including 108 women, in 2024.

Results : Economic operators networked, with a focus on youth, women, and the circular economy.

Culture

- A literary prize recognizing regional talent (already 3 award-winning and published novels).
- 125 grants awarded in 2024 to support creation, cultural events, mobility, and the professionalization of cultural operators.
- 40 podcast episodes produced to highlight cultural heritage.
- A platform created: Kiltir.org, a website offering news, opportunities, calendars, and thematic resources for cultural operators.

Results : Cultural heritage and regional talent are showcased.

More information
about IOC here



**Together for a united,
and committed Indian Ocean Region!**



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