Presentation of Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre by Lieutenant Said LAVANI Comoros ILO Date: 22/11/2022

#MASE PROGRAMME
A strong partnership for a safe and secure maritime domain
- ORIGIN OF THE MASE REGIONAL AGREEMENT
- INTRODUCTION TO DCoC/JA AND ISC
- RMIFC GENERAL OVERVIEW
ORIGIN AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

• 2010 & 2013: Eastern and Southern African and Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) Ministerial Meeting on Piracy and Maritime Insecurity which lead to “Program for the promotion of Maritime Security in ESA-IO” (MASE), thereby establishing the RMIFC and RCOC.

• The program is piloted by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and funded by the EU.

• The IOC took the responsibility to set up the RMIFC and RCOC for the benefit of all ESA-IO countries.

• As part of MASE Program, RMIFC and RCOC support the objectives of:
  - Djibouti Code of Conduct and Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA)
  - African Union Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIM 2050)
  - Lomé Charter on Maritime Safety And Security And Development in Africa
INTRODUCTION TO DCoC/JA

The Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) concerning the repression of acts of maritime piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden was adopted in Djibouti on 29 January 2009 and the Jeddah amendments of 12 January 2017.

3 Information Sharing Centres (ISC) have been decided by the signatory states:

Sana’a ISC (Area North)

Mombasa ISC (Area Central)

Dar es Salaam ISC (Area South)
DCoC/ISC

Area North
- Jordan
- Oman
- Saudi Arabia
- Egypt
- U.A.E.
- Djibouti
- Somalia (North)
- Eritrea
- Yemen
- Ethiopia
- Sudan

IMO
ReCAAP ISC
NATO SC
MSCHOA

INFO

Area Central
- Mauritius
- Maldives
- Kenya
- Seychelles
- Somalia (South Central)

Area South
- Comoros
- S. Africa
- Reunion (France)
- U.A.E. Tanzania
- Madagascar
- Mozambique

Mombasa ISC
Dar es Salaam ISC
THE REGIONAL MECHANISM

7 SIGNATORY STATES → 2 MASE REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

Steering Committee governing the centres

Sharing and exchange of Maritime Info.

Regional Mechanism of surveillance and control of the Western Indian Ocean

Coordinate Joint Operations at sea

Regional and International Community
- Funders
- Technical support (training)
- Cooperation (exchange of information and operations at sea)

NATIONAL CENTRES OF THE 7 SIGNATORY STATES

Exchange and coordinate at national levels

2 NLOs** per signatory country

*International Liaison Officer
**National Liaison Officer

The agreements are opened to other countries of the region
MASE: A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR A SAFE AND SECURE MARITIME DOMAINE

RMIFC & RCOC
General Area of Interest

ICC General Area of Interest for maritime safety and security of Gulf of Guinea

IFC Singapore/ India General Area of Interest

Funded by the European Union
MISSION OF THE REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION AND FUSION CENTRE

- To collect, fuse, and analyse maritime information
- To produce reports and studies related to maritime safety and security as well as the maritime field in general.
- To maintain a recognized maritime picture (RMP)
- Provide operationally significant maritime information to National Maritime Information Fusion Centers (NMIFCs) and the Regional Coordination Operations Center (RCOC)
- To establish regional Maritime Situational Awareness
The operational cells - each cell is under an ILO
INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE – THE INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER

International Liaison Officers (ILOs) based at the RMIFC serving as facilitators for information flow to relevant agencies in each country.

- Present in RMIFC
- Not yet appointed
- Requested Future ILOs
RMIFC’s CURRENT STAKEHOLDERS

Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) States

Signatory States of MASE Agreements

Non ESA-IO States

Maritime Industry

Regional and International Organisations, and Partners
MoU with partners

Six Protocols (MoU):

1. UK & RMIFC/CRCO (signed)
2. EU NAVFOR Atalanta & CRFIM /CRCO (signed)
3. IMO & CRCO (signed)
4. IFC IOR (India) & CRCO (in progress)
5. OIM & RMIFC/RCO (in progress)
6. UNECA & COI (in course)

Partners without MoU

AFRICOM - UNODC - CRIMARIO - CMF - VOLCANO
THE GROWING NETWORK OF THE RMIFC
Purpose - achieve early warning of maritime threats by:

- **Information sharing and cooperation** with maritime stakeholders through training, exercises and capacity building in order to create and raise collective regional awareness, and

- **Providing actionable information** including specific triggers, VOIs, and analytical products through collective research and information reconciliation.
CATEGORISATION OF EVENT

MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Violence at Sea - VAS
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing - IUU
- Smuggling & Contraband at sea
- Cyber Criminality
- Weapon Proliferation & Security initiative - PSI
- Human trafficking at sea
- Maritime Incidents
- Natural Event – HADR
- Others

BLUE ECONOMY

- Maritime Critical Infrastructure
- Yachting and Maritime Tourism

MARITIME ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

- Marine Environment
REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE

FINAL TREATMENT OF DATA

RMIFC

Analysis
Performed for weekly/monthly report;
Put them in perspective with historical data; and
Put data in perspective with the background

Define trends
Confirm/Invalidate/Define (new) hot spots
Confirm/Invalidate/Define new routes; and
Confirm/Invalidate/Define modus operandi/seasonality/Hubs of activity

Build up expertise knowledge
Criminality databases;
Mapping of activity;
Unusual behaviour detection; and
Base for new network connections

FINAL PRODUCT IS AN ACTIONABLE INFORMATION
EXECUTION OF MARITIME OPERATIONS
in their territorial waters or EEZ

FROM INFORMATION TO OPERATION

National Maritime Information Fusion Centres

ACTIONABLE INFORMATION

REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE

ACTIONABLE INFORMATION

REGIONAL COORDINATION OPERATIONS CENTRE

COLLECT, ANALYSE, FUSE & DISSEMINATE
maritime information

COORDINATION
Of multi-national maritime operations
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS (2)

Organization of exercises on table to test SOPs

1. One (1) FTX POLMAR with COI
2. Six (06) TTX organized by the CRCO with the collaboration with RMIFC, which covers IUU fishing, drug trafficking, piracy, cash trafficking
3. Two (02) TTX CRIMASREX with CRIMARIO/COI which covers SAR and POLMAR
4. Three (03) TTX/FTX CUTLASS EXPRESS (CE19, 20 & 22) with US AFRICOM
5. One (01) TTX MARIX with IFC SINGAPORE
6. One (01) TTX SIMEX Immigration with OIM
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Organization of preventive operations

1. **Participation in operations without deployment of MASE resources**
   - Fisheries monitoring with PRSP
   - SAR operation on a Comorian ship

2. **Operations MASE**
   - Bulldog shark ops: French & Seychellois means (2020)
   - Ops Red Snapper: Comorian & Seychellois Means (2021)
   - Ops Marlin: UNAVFOR & Seychellois assets (September 2022)
   - Ops Sunfish means UK and Seychellois (September 2022)
   - Ops YellowFin: Mauritian and Seychellois medium in preparation
OVERCOMING GAPS TO ACHIEVE FULL MARITIME OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

RMIFC

NETWORK
Building a network of IFC/ISC for Indian Ocean/Pacific

- Officialisation of partnerships (MoU/Agreements), develop SOPs
- Establish common environment / dialogue to promote info sharing (TTX, FTX, conference, trainings)

INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY
Adequate regional framework

- Agreement ratification at national level
- Development of National Strategy and MARSEC National Committee
- State support (ILOs)

LEGAL FINISH
Adequate legal framework

- Harmonisation of laws by regional states
- Legal finish: Admission at court of evidence and actions

REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE
THANK YOU!
For more information on our activities:

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