


 GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS	Regional (21 Signatory States in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden)
 DONOR	The DCoC multi-donor trust fund (key donors: Japan, the Kingdom of Denmark and the Republic of Korea)
 PROJECT DURATION	Ongoing
 WEBSITE / CONTACT	www.dcoc.org dcoc@imo.org

Enhancing maritime security in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden



THE ISSUE

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and Gulf of Aden region encompasses Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. This area hosts critical maritime trade routes, offering significant opportunities for economic development. However, illicit maritime activities undermine the resilience of local communities, state institutions, economies, and regional stability. While maritime threats are varied, coastal countries in the region face similar challenges, including piracy, illicit trafficking, irregular migration and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Groups behind these activities exploit jurisdictional and law enforcement gaps and weaknesses, as well as a lack of coordination among actors at strategic and operational levels. This increases the insecurity of waters in these regions, jeopardizing sustainable development and the rights of local communities.

OUR SOLUTION

The Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) (signed in 2009) established a framework for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Building on its success, the signatory states adopted the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA) in 2017 to extend its effective methodology to other maritime crimes and security threats, including human trafficking and smuggling; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances; arms trafficking; illegal trade in wildlife; crude oil theft, and illegal dumping of toxic waste. The DCoC/JA emphasizes “security for a purpose,” aiming to create the secure conditions necessary for maritime development in line with UN Agenda 2030 and SDG Goals

IMPACT

- ✓ Significant progress in implementing the IMO “whole of Government approach” to maritime security.
- ✓ Enhanced regional cooperation and coordination through DCoC National Focal Points Network.
- ✓ A functional Information Sharing Network with National Maritime Information Sharing Centres and links to regional centres.
- ✓ Regional training coordination mechanism, with nearly 2,000 students trained
- ✓ Greater awareness of the need to enforce national laws in the maritime domain, including national laws against piracy.