

Regional Coordination Operations Centre



Capt Sam Gontier
Director RCOC

2018 - Initial Operational Capability

2019 - Full Operational Capability



#MASE Programme

A Strong Partnership Towards a Safe and Secure Maritime Domain



This project is funded by the
European Union



Our Mission

“To Coordinate missions of Regional Interest for state action at sea”

Regional Missions include.....

Combating Piracy

Combating organised crime & illegal conduct at sea

Protection of the Marine Environment against foreseeable threats

Assistance in Search & Rescue activities at sea

Participation in the Restoration of Safety & Security of Maritime Navigation



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the European Union

Steering Committee of the 2 Regional Agreements MASE





Our Mandate

“To Coordinate Missions of Regional Interest”

Prevent any threats that effect collective interest of Member States.

Prevent and stop foreseeable threats - Piracy, Organised Crime, Marine Pollution, Safety & Security of Member States maritime interests.

At request of Member States the RCOC assists in coordinating Regional Operations utilizing Member States Surface/Air Assets.

The costs related to the operation are borne by the EU through funds made available through the IOC.

ILOs provide a direct link to Member States and expedite all information relating to the success of coordinated missions.

RCOC through its legal cell and partnerships with UNODC legal can advise and assist Member States to ensure best possibility of legal finish.

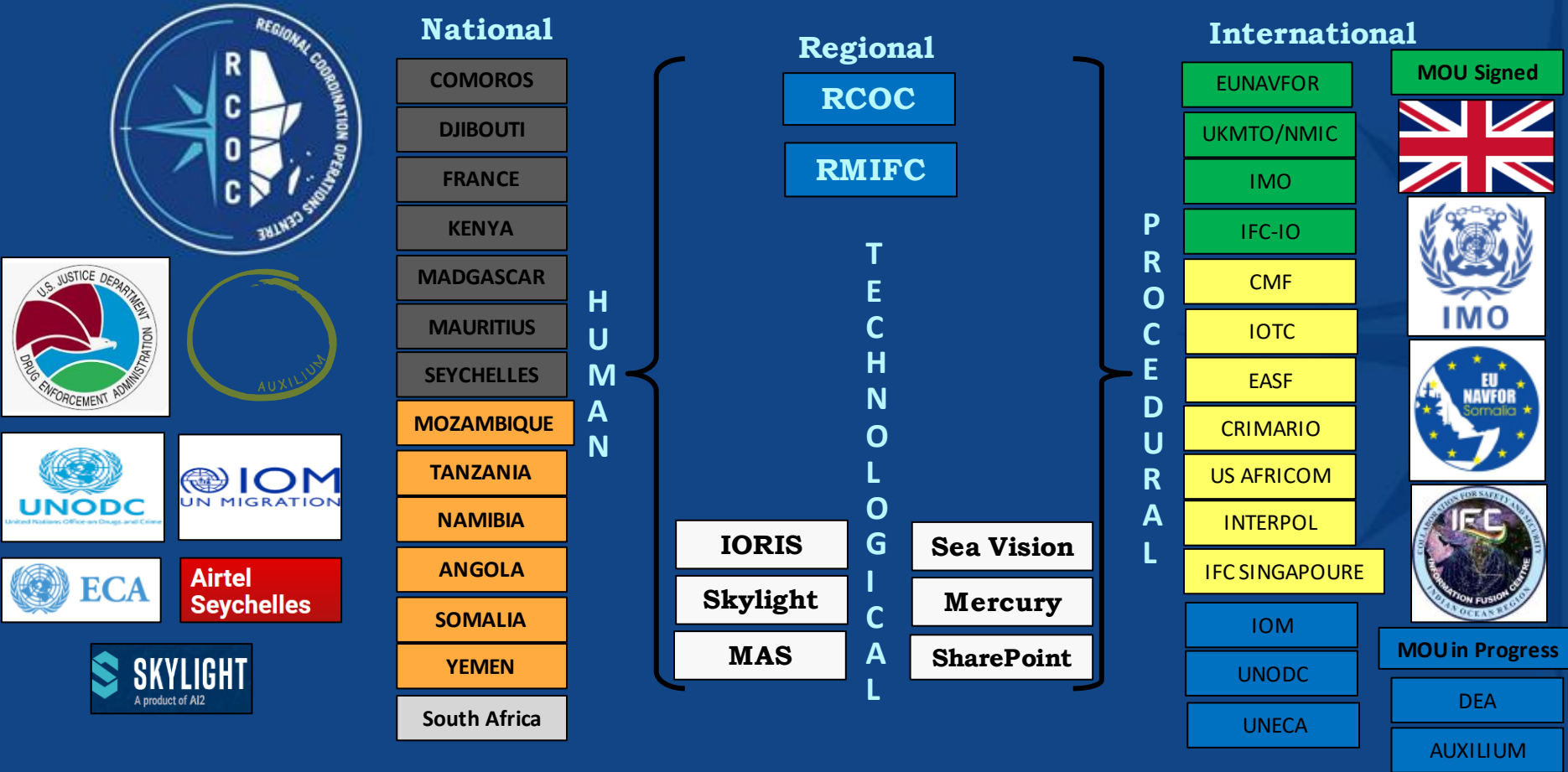


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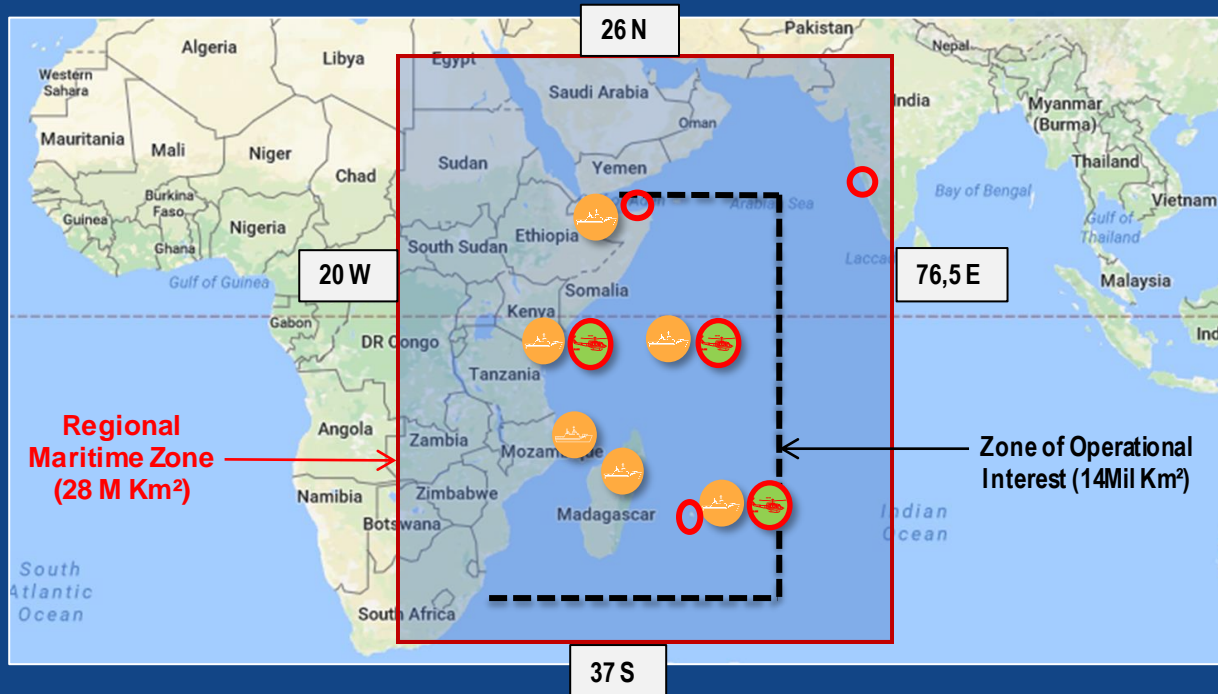
MASE Information Matrix





MASE Assets within the Regional Zone of Operational Interest

	Surface	Aerial
COMOROS	02	00
DJIBOUTI	04	00
MADAGASCAR	02	00
KENYA	01	01
MAURITIUS	04	02
SEYCHELLES	04	02
TOTAL	17	05



Surface



Aerial



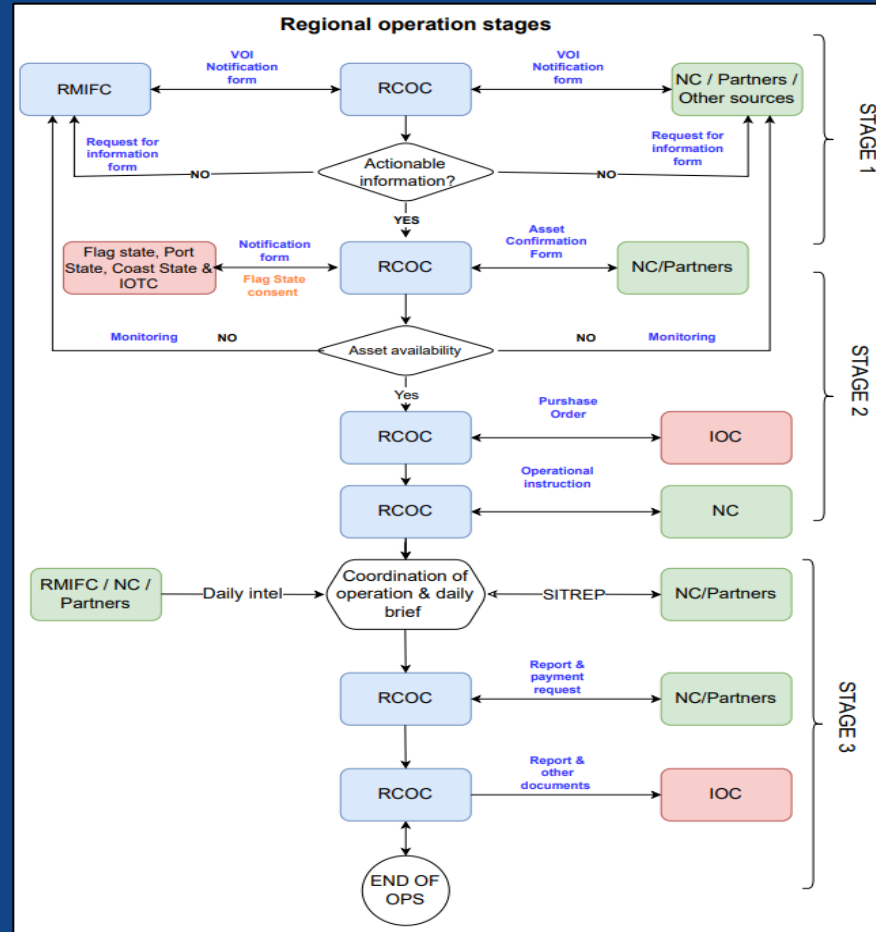
Not under MASE

Operational Structure & Stages of Operation



Four Operational Stages

1. Normal Watch
2. Reinforced Watch
3. Simple Coordination (IMT)
4. Coordination with MASE Assets



Recent Operations & Success Stories



Op Wakashio	Regional Coordinated Response	2020
Op Requin Bulldog	Anti-Narcotics	2021
Op Red Snapper	Preventative/Anti-Narcotics/IUU	2021
Op Sunfish	Preventative/Anti-Narcotics/IUU	2022
Op Marlin	Preventative/Anti-Narcotics/IUU	2022
Op Yellowfin	Illegal Unregulated Unreported (IUU)	2022
Op Drifter	Irregular Human Migration	2023
Op Auxilium 1	IUU Fishing – Repatriation	2023
Op Auxilium 2	IUU Fishing – Repatriation	2023
Op Paille en Queue	Anti-Narcotics	2023
Op Auxilium 2	IUU Fishing – Repatriation	2023
Op Riaka	Preventative/Anti-Narcotics/IUU	2023



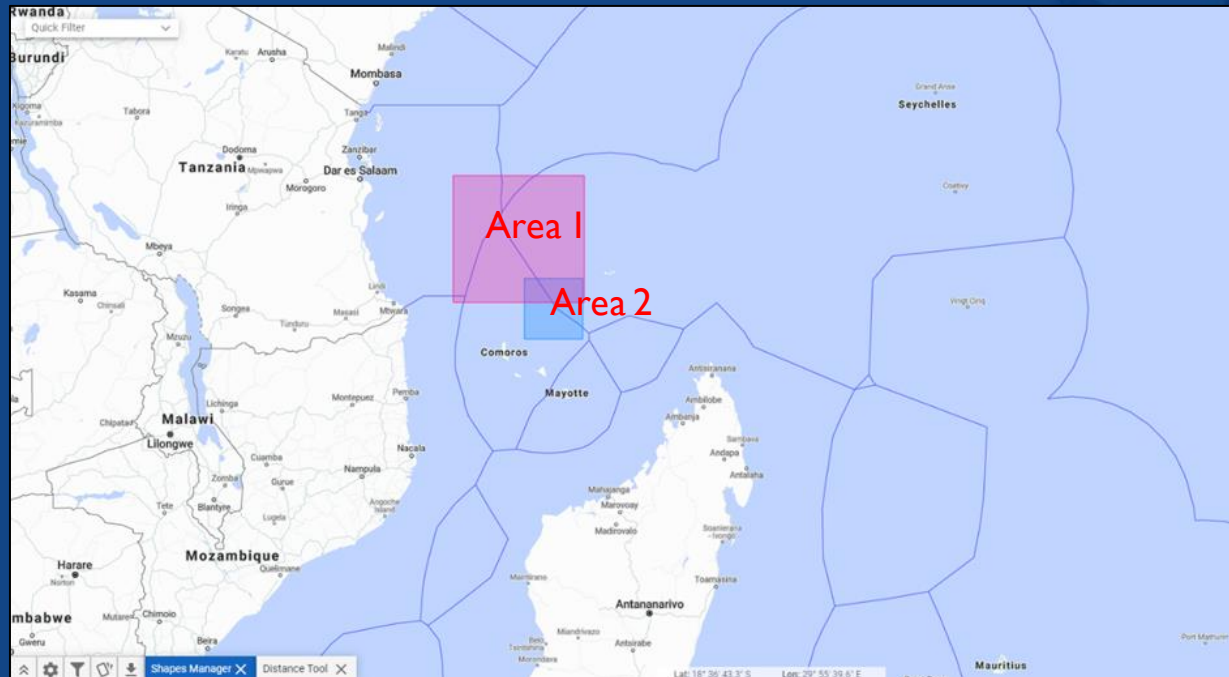
Regional Coordinated Response

Wakashio Panama Flag





OP Requin Bulldog– Nov 2020





OP Requin Bulldog– Nov 2020

Outcomes and Lessons Learnt

- Recognise current maritime traffics (02 CV, 01 TK & 01 FV on AIS and 01 FV with AIS OFF)
- Share the concept note as soon as possible to inform the different participants, even if it means sending updates afterwards
- Signatory states must inform the RCOC as soon as possible of the availability of the assets they intend to deploy for the operation
- The capabilities and limitations of the respective assets must be regularly communicated and updated by the RCOC, via the ILOs.





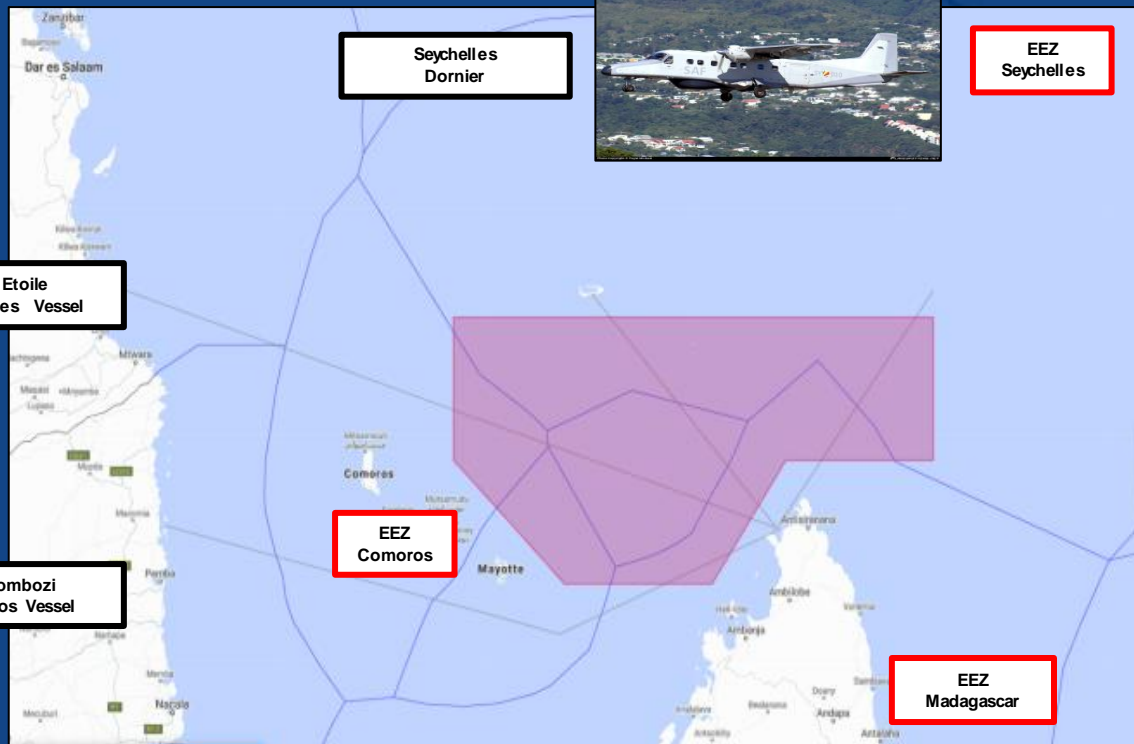
OP Red Snapper- 2021



**PS Etoile
Seychelles Vessel**



**M'Kombozi
Comoros Vessel**



**Seychelles
Dornier**



**EEZ
Seychelles**

**EEZ
Comoros**

**EEZ
Madagascar**



OP Red Snapper - 2021

Outcomes and Lessons Learnt

- Recognise current maritime traffics (06 FV, 01 CG, 01 TK & 03 SK)
- Practical implementation of the MASE architecture
- Confirmed the outcome of the research analysis (RMIFC) on illegal activities
- Provided a potential deterrent effects within the region
- Enhanced MDA within the area of interest
- Boosted the Monitoring, control and surveillance strategic
- Identify constraints, threats and challenges





OP Sunfish - September 2022

- OPS Area 1&2 - 108,000 km²
- Flight time – 07hrs
 - Seychelles Dornier 228: 07hrs
 - Helicopter (Royal Navy): 00hrs
- Maritime patrol time: 70:33hrs
 - HMS MONTROSE (Royal Navy): 24:33hrs
 - Ps Etoile (Seychelles): 46:00hrs
- Monitored Vessels: 30
- VOI Boarded : 00





OP Sunfish - September 2022

Outcome

Seizure of crystal methamphetamine by HMS MONTROSE from a dhow **after** leaving the area of operation

The drugs totaled 870kg when counted, worth around £15.5m wholesale value in the UK according to the National Crime Agency

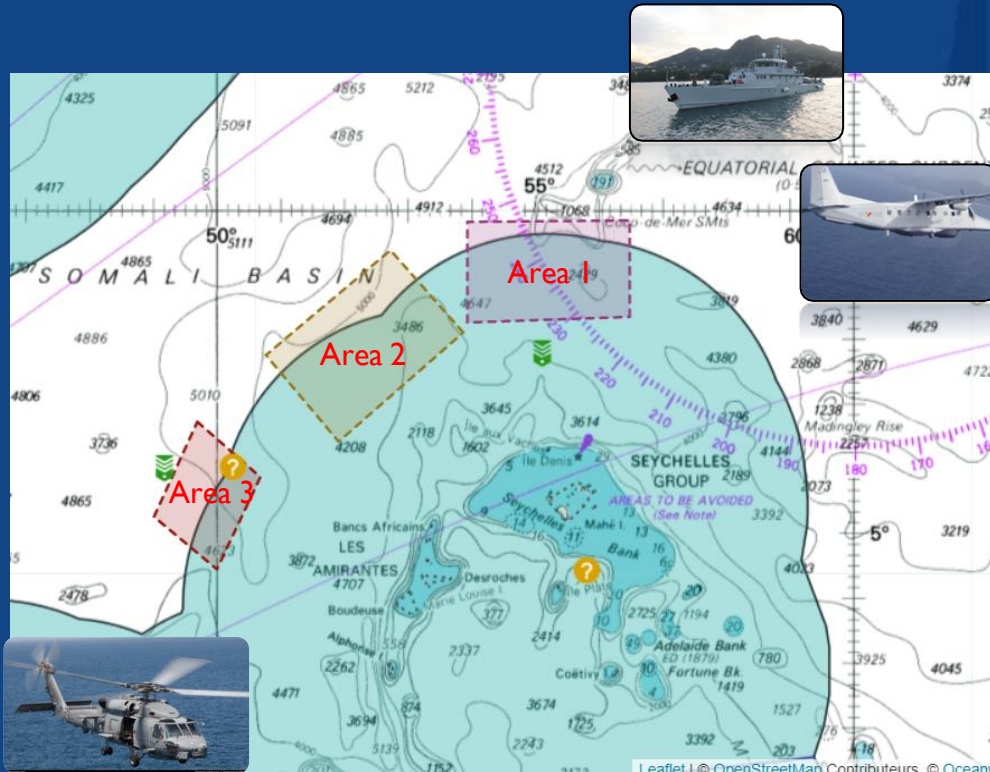
Successful boarding's like this help to deter people from using the sea for criminal purposes





OP Marlin - September 2022

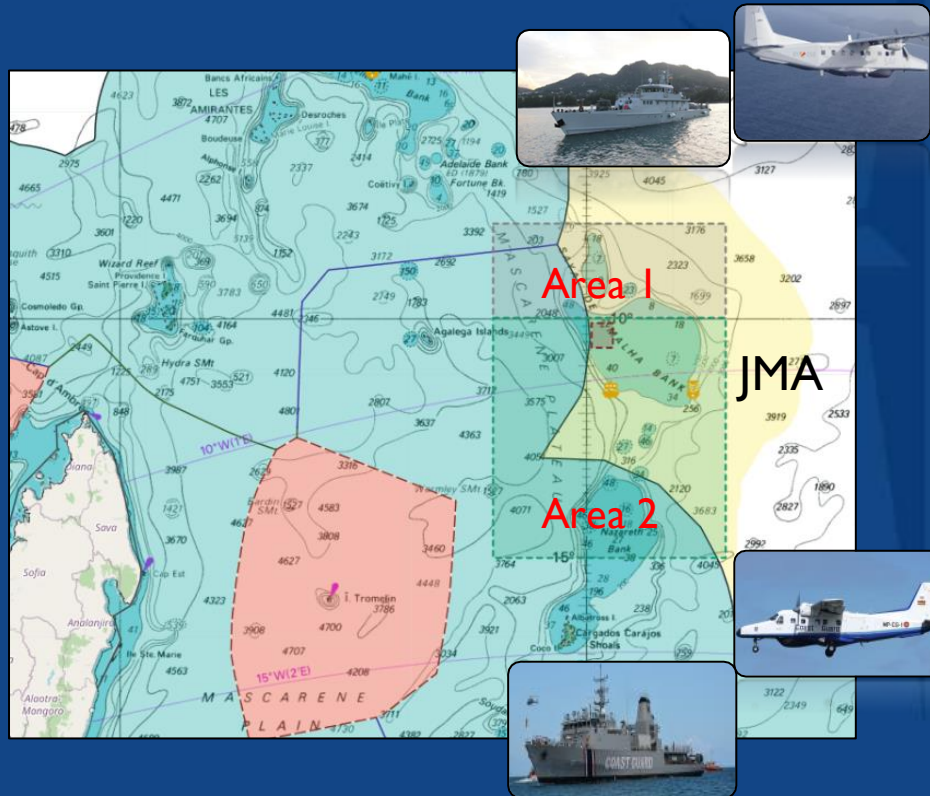
- OPS Area 1, 2 & 3 – 150,000 km²
- Flight time – 35:37hrs
 - HE Dornier - 11:07hrs
 - UAV (EUNAVFOR) – 07:30hrs
 - Helicopter (EUNAVFOR) - 05:00hrs
- Maritime patrol time: 131:33hrs
 - Numancia (EUNAVFOR) 2 days 15hrs 33mins
 - PS Etoile (Seychelles) 2 days
- Monitored Vessels: 20
- VOI Boarded : 0





OP Yellowfin - November 2022

- OPS Area Seychelles & Mauritius – 424,287 km²
- Flight time – 28:35hrs
 - Seychelles Dornier 6:30hrs
 - Mauritius Dornier 22:35hrs
- Maritime patrol time: 70:33hrs
 - NCG Baracuda (Mauritius) 9 days 17hrs
 - PS Etoile (Seychelles) 7 days
- Monitored Vessels: 08
- VOI Boarded : 1 - Ruey Chien Tsai 168Taiwan Flag – unauthorized use of Mauritian flag





OP Yellowfin - November 2022

Outcome

The fishing vessel RUEY CHIEN TSAI 168 was intercepted during Operation Yellowfin for flying the Mauritian flag without being registered in Mauritius.

The boat was escorted to Port Louis by the Mauritian Coast Guard for further investigation before possible prosecution.

The fish was transferred to the refrigerated boat YA CHIO with the authorisation of the ministry in charge of the blue economy, marine resources, fishing and shipping.





OP Drifter - January 2023

Information received

4th January 2023 - 2x Sri Lankan fishing vessels suspected to be engaged in human trafficking left Sri Lanka intended destination of La Reunion.

Vessels of Interest (VOI's)

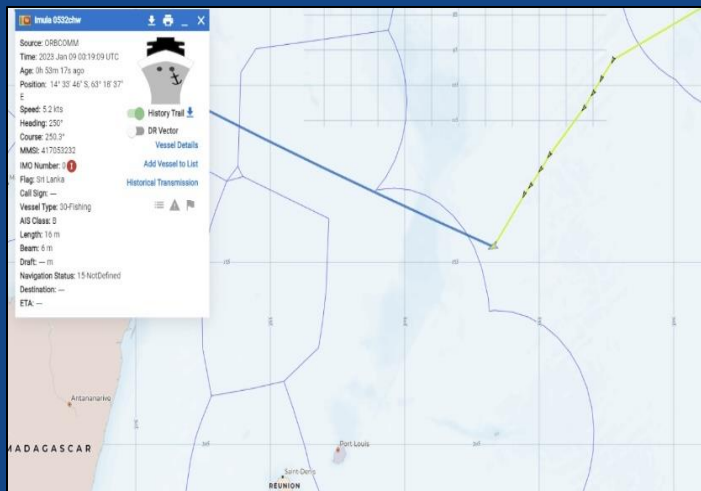
- IMULA 0532 with 72 pax
- IMULA 0454 with 54 pax

Concerns & Considerations

- Loss of life at sea
- Involvement of illicit activity
- Involvement in Irregular Human Migration/Human Trafficking
- Search & Rescue Operation

Response

- RCOC Watch standers used Sea Vision to identify location IMULA 0532 with 72 pax
- RCOC Watch standers monitored movement and relayed information & activity
- RCOC ILO's communicated to allow for clarity and alignment on operational coordination
- UK ILO confirmed location of IMULA 0454 with 54 pax Diego Garcia





OP Drifter - January 2023

Response from Mauritius

- Mauritian authorities deployed a Dornier to investigate
- Dornier confirmed that there was in excess of 30 pax on the main deck
- Reported that communication has been attempted but there was no response

Response from France (La Reunion)

- 13/01/2023 IMULA 0532 position showed that she is on course for La Reunion
- ILO France informed the relevant authorities
- Prepare to receive approximately 70x migrants
- Prepare to cover SAR as the vessel was expected to be in dark hours



Arrival in La Reunion

- At 23:00 the IMULA 0532 entered La Reunion Territorial Waters
- Proceeded west on the northern part of the island
- Entered port near Saint-Paul in the early hours of Saturday morning at 04:40
- Established that 69 people including 7x women and 6x children on board
- The 69 migrants were taken in charge by the department of Fire and Rescue Service and State Services
- Majority of persons onboard repatriated to Sri Lanka





OP Auxilium - April 2023

Information received

19th April 2023 - 4x Malagasy fishing vessels suspected to be engaged in IUU were spotted near Farquhar and Providence Island.

Vessels of Interest (VOI's)

- Saint Cecile
- Talina

Response

- **PS Zoroaster** Identified one of the VOI's involved in IUU at position 10 54.120'S
- SCG boarded VOI
- 11x crew cross decked 7x crew remained onboard
- SCG towed vessel back towards Seychelles EEZ
- Whilst being towed the VOI began to fall apart – 7x crew cross decked to PSZ
- PSZ arrived at Farquhar at 17:00 Thursday 20/04/2023





OP Auxilium - April 2023

Sequence of Events - 21/04/2023

Response from PC Malaky – 17:00 positioned in area of Nosy Bay at position she would be able to RV

Response from Saya de Malha

- 17:35 SDM from Port Victoria towards Farquhar - ETA 15:00 23/04/2023
- Intention to transfer 18x pax from PSZ to SDM – SDM transfer 18x pax Malagasy EEZ
- 21:00 23/04/2023 SDM arrived at Farquhar
- 08:30 24/04/2023 SDM transfer 18x pax – Note daylight hour transfer for safety
- 08:30 SDM from Farquhar towards Malagasy EEZ – ETA at RV loc 08:00 25/04/2023
- 07:00 25/04/2023 SDM arrived at RV loc with PC Malaky
- 18x pax issued life jackets and transferred from SDM to PC Malaky
- SDM from Nosy Bay towards Port Victoria – ETA 22:00 28/04/2023

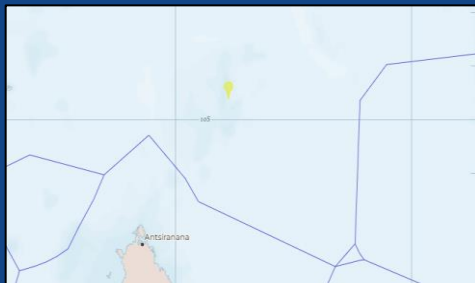




OP Auxilium 2 - April 2023

Initial Intel

- 08:00 25/04/2023 SDM from Malagasy EEZ towards Port Victoria
- Morning of 26/04/2023 SDM identified 2x VOI in vicinity of Providence
- 56 Malagasy crew were onboard and both vessels were stateless
- SCG boarded both vessels and found +600 sea cucumber
- Channels of communication were established between RCOC/RMIFC/NISCC/MIFC

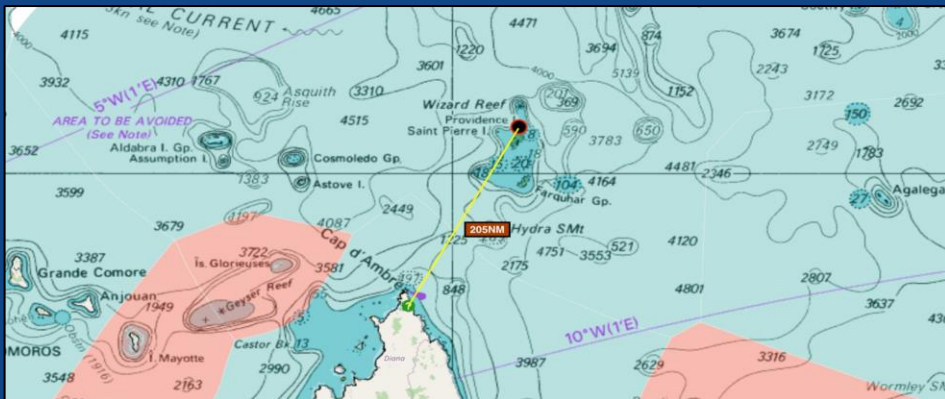




OP Auxilium 2 - April 2023

Sequence of Events - 04/05/2023

- Response from Saya de Malha – 19:00 SDM from Providence towards Diego Suarez ETA 15:00 04/05/2023
- 08:00 05/05/2023 SDM confirmed 16:00 ETA 05/05/2023
- 56x safely transferred from SDM to PC Malaky early evening





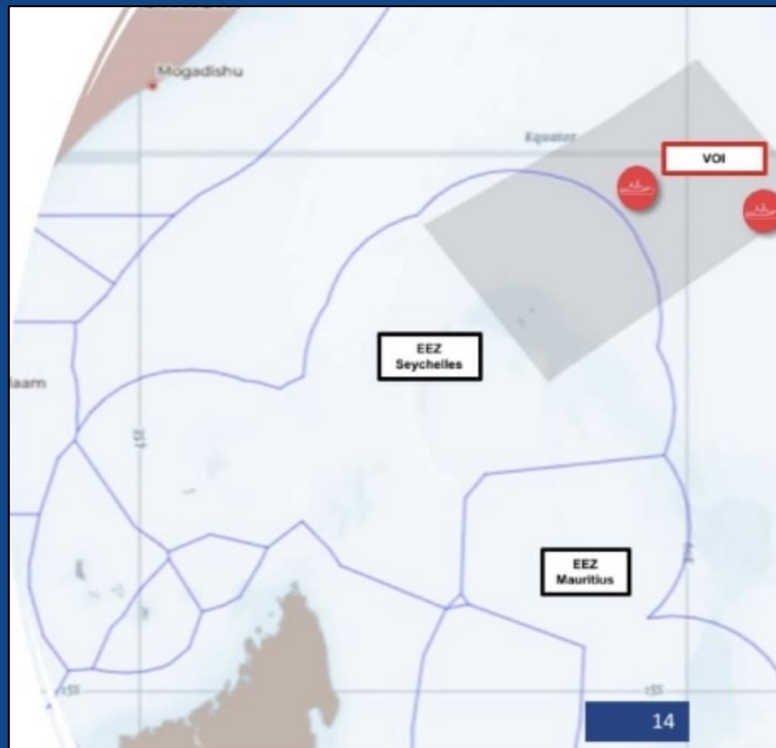
OP Paille en Queue - April 2023

25th April 2023 Intelligence reported 2x Iranian Dhows delivering narcotics in the region.

The RCOC requested Seychelles to deploy a Coast Guard Vessel to intercept (**confirmed and deployed**).

The RCOC requested an Ariel asset from Mauritius to assist in locating the 2x Iranian Dhows (**Asset not confirmed**).

RCOC requested Satellite imagery through RMIFC.





OP Paille en Queue - April 2023





OP Auxilium 3 - July 2023

Initial Intel

- Morning of 24/07/2023 SDM identified 1x VOI in vicinity of Ile Cerf Providence
- 46x Malagasy crew were onboard and 2x skiffs
- SCG boarded both vessels and found sea cucumber and 40x large bags of salt
- Channels of communication were established between RCOC/RMIFC/NISCC/MIFC



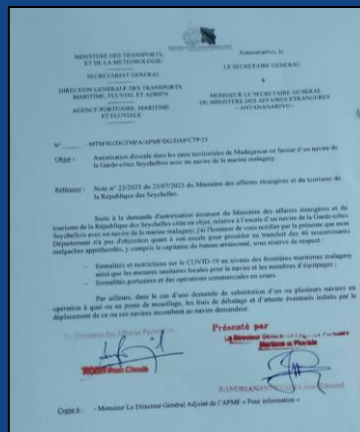


OP Auxilium 3 - July 2023

Sequence of Events - 28/07/2023

Response from Seychelles

- 18:26 28/07/2023 Madagascar gave Official approval for the SDM to repatriate 46x Malagasy Fisherman
- SDM confirmed 07:00 ETA 30/07/2023
- 46x safely transferred from SDM to Malagasy Authorities.





RCOC's Future Vision

Develop Satellite Acquisition support networks



Regional Disaster Response Coordination Center (RDRCC)



Develop relationships with Private Sector to modernize and enhance operations





Thank You

Any Questions/ Comments/ Clarifications/ Inputs

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