



Strengthening Academic Collaboration in Africa

INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

**South African Chapter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group
Strengthening Ocean Observing in Africa**

Background

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a dynamic inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 22 Member States* and 9 Dialogue Partners**.



*Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, [Maldives](#), Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen

**Japan, Germany, China, United Kingdom, America, France, [South Korea](#), [Turkey](#) and Egypt

Background

- SA took over the chairship of IORA in October 2017, with the UAE as Vice-Chair.
- This means SA representatives chair the various IORA structures and mechanisms (**Academic Group**/Trade and Investment Working Group/Business Forum).
- Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller (HSRC) is representing SA as Regional Chair of the IORA Academic Group.
- Prof Juliet Hermes (SAEON) is the Chair of the SA IORA Academic Group.



Background

IORA Priority Areas:

- Maritime Safety and Security
- Trade and Investment Facilitation
- Fisheries Management
- Disaster and Risk Management
- **Academic Cooperation, Science and Technology**
- Tourism and Cultural Exchanges
- Women's Economic Empowerment (cross-cutting)
- Blue Economy (cross-cutting)



INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

(VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS AND CORE GROUPS, SECRETARIAT, COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS)

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT
(DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT

NATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN RIM BUSINESS FORUM

NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON BLUE ECONOMY

NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY

NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

NATIONAL CORE GROUP ON TOURISM

NATIONAL CORE GROUP ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL ACADEMIC GROUP



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Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SAEON
South African Environmental
Observation Network

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NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

(DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT	NATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN RIM ACADEMIC GROUP	NATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN RIM BUSINESS FORUM	NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON BLUE ECONOMY	NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY	NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	NATIONAL CORE GROUP ON TOURISM
						NATIONAL CORE GROUP ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



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IORA Outcomes

First IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference, 2015 - Mauritius Declaration on Blue Economy

Principles to foster the sustainable development of the Blue Economy:

- The paradigm is founded on the **ecosystem approach, including science-based conservation** of marine resources and ecosystems
- Cooperation by IORA Member States on **data collection and development of environmental baselines** could ensure a strong foundation **for informed decision making and policy development**
- IORA Member States should attach higher importance on the sustainable development of the Blue Economy and be encouraged to **strengthen networking, the exchange of experiences and best practices** in relation to the development of the Blue Economy
- Member States and Dialogue Partners should be **encouraged to facilitate and allocate** the availability of **sufficient funding** from all sources to **promote mutual cooperation and technology transfer** with regards to the sustainable development of the Blue Economy
- **Improving research, networking, and promoting researchers' exchange programmes** among the Member States and Dialogue Partners is vital to ensure sustained development in the region: taking advantage of the upcoming UNESCO Indian Ocean Expedition II (IIOE-II) as endorsed by the 2014 Perth Communique
- The need to **set-up or revise existing regional regulatory frameworks and governance** with regard to development of the Blue Economy in the region, drawing upon existing case studies and experience where it exists

IORA Outcomes

Second IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference, 2017 - Jakarta Declaration on Blue Economy

Principles to foster the sustainable development of the Blue Economy:

- Should ensure the **sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems** to **avoid significant adverse impacts**, including by **strengthening their resilience**, and taking action for their **restoration** in order to maintain healthy and productive oceans, and achieve **inclusive economic growth** in the Indian Ocean region
- The development of IORA's Blue Economy **priority sectors** namely: **Fisheries and Aquaculture; Renewable Ocean Energy; Seaports and Shipping; Offshore Hydrocarbons and Seabed Minerals; Deep Sea Mining; Marine Tourism; and Marine Biotechnology, Ocean Observation, Research and Development**, should be carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner
- IORA Member States are encouraged to consider the full range of **technologically advanced solutions** as well as **local wisdom and traditional knowledge**, as appropriate, in the context of adaptation and mitigation strategy to confront climate change effects on societies

IORA Outcomes

(Cont.) Second IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference, 2017 - Jakarta Declaration on Blue Economy

Principles to foster the sustainable development of the Blue Economy:

- IORA MS, in collaboration with DPs, should **promote capacity building, including collaboration of ocean observation training and scientific capacities, and skills development** in the Blue Economy sector, through reinforcing **collaboration and networking with relevant regional/international organisations** and institutions in the Indian Ocean region;
- IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners should **enhance cooperation and collaboration** to promote: **research and development; networking; technology transfer; sharing of information, data and best practices; and exchange programmes and expertise**
- IORA Member States, in collaboration with Dialogue Partners, need to address challenges and key issues related to the Blue Economy, including **overexploitation of resources, marine plastics debris pollution and nutrient pollution, biodiversity loss, IUU fishing, illegal mining, climate change, and its impact on marine resources and ecosystems;**
- Cooperation among IORA Member States, Dialogue Partners and relevant stakeholders in: carrying out **marine scientific research; sharing, collecting, and managing data and information; and the implementation of concrete projects** on emerging ocean science and blue economy issues

First IORA Leaders' Summit, 2017 - Jakarta Concord

Strengthening academic, science and technology cooperation by:

- Increasing scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, among research and development institutions and academics;
- Increasing opportunities for accessible and affordable scholarships and capacity-building to further human development, with a particular focus on the challenges of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- Promoting sharing and collaboration in technology and innovation and in the implementation of e-Government and other Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) solutions in the region; and
- Strengthening the IORA-Regional Centre for Science & Technology Transfer (IORA-RCSTT) and the Fisheries Support Unit (FSU) to better perform their mandates.



Celebrate IORA anniversary



Special Fund

Objectives

The principal objectives of the Special Fund would be as follows:

- › to assist with the provision of funds needed for the implementation of projects and programs;
- › to assist with the preparation of projects;
- › to assist with the provision of technical assistance for preparation and/or implementation of projects;
- › to assist with pre-feasibility and feasibility project studies.

Strengthening research collaboration in the WIO region





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Higher Education and Training
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HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

DGSD

Democracy, Governance and
Service Delivery Research Programme



Thank you!

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