CRIMARIO
CRITICAL MARITIME ROUTES INDO-PACIFIC

CONTEXT

In recent years, the complex maritime security landscape in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia has led to a considerable escalation of pirate activities and acts of armed robbery at sea in terms of geographical spread, number of incidents reported, level of violence against seafarers, period of detention and ransom payments. Accordingly, several countries in the regions have heavily invested in national defence spending and increased their hard security assets.

Nevertheless, strengthening the capacities to improve maritime domain awareness (MDA) and developing a common information sharing environment would further assist coastal nations in their efforts to improve the knowledge of the maritime domain, particularly through the use of new technology in this field.

In 2014, CRIMARIO I was formulated to enhance MDA in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), laying important ground work for maritime data information exchange through the development of IORIS – information sharing and incident management platform.

CRIMARIO II builds on the experience of the first phase by expanding the geographical scope of the project towards South and Southeast Asia with a view to contributing to safer sea lines of communication with the EU, through cross-sectoral, inter-agency and cross-regional cooperation. While enhancement of maritime information exchange remains one of the main pillars of CRIMARIO, the scope of the new phase is enlarged to include also law enforcement support to Asian countries.

The EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific (2021) aims to encourage the consolidation of information-sharing mechanisms, including through IORIS, and foresees CRIMARIO to be extended to the Pacific.

AMOUNT
Phase I: €5.5 million
Phase II: €7.5 million

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
Expertise France

DURATION
Phase I: January 2015 – December 2019
Phase II: May 2020 – May 2024

COUNTRIES COVERED
Phase I: Western Indian Ocean
Phase II: Indian Ocean region including Southeast Asia.

CONTACT
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OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Enhance maritime security and safety through cross-sectoral, inter-agency and cross-regional cooperation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance information exchange and analysis, and crisis/incident management
2. Strengthen inter-agency cooperation in maritime surveillance, policing, investigation and judicial matters *(applicable only for South and Southeast Asia)*

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Development and launch of IORIS in September 2018. IORIS is a web-based platform created for a secure real-time exchange of maritime information among different agencies both within countries (to enhance national inter-agency cooperation) as well as regionally. Its purpose is to improve coordination and responsiveness too incidents at sea. IORIS is currently used by a growing number of countries and organisations in the Western Indian Ocean, including EUNAVFOR Atalanta. IORIS aspires to become the official communication tool of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) countries, thus creating a single information sharing environment in the Western Indian Ocean region. CRIMARIO also intends to use IORIS for potentially connecting the different maritime information fusion centres across the Wider Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.
- Support provided for the operationalisation of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar and the Regional Centre for Operational Coordination (RCOC) in Seychelles, through trainings and the provision of IORIS.
- 54 capacity-building activities including crisis response trainings and exercises, gathering 879 participants from East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean region.