

A Global Ocean Decade

Strengthening Regional Collaborations: A perspective from SA-IORAG

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The OCEAN and Ocean Boundaries

- The OCEAN – different socially constructed boundaries – to sustain all of humanity – now and future generations
 - **United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea Treaty**
- Constructs: to enable governance of ocean territories –
 - to sustain societies in state entities with competing interests and objectives
- The Ocean Decade is a **convening framework for diverse stakeholders to co-design and co-deliver solution-oriented research needed for a well-functioning ocean in support of the 2030 Agenda. (UNESCO)**
 - **How do we ALL, as diverse stakeholders co-design and deliver solution-oriented research in our areas of interest?**
- **A COMMUNITY of regional communities, and networks, in the OCEAN spaces**

The **INDIAN OCEAN**

- Indian Ocean remains at the centre of global politics – a region of geo-political significance
 - regional states and extra-regional interests
 - global trade and economic growth,
 - food and energy security
 - military and security interests

REGIONAL INITIATIVES > IORA VISION

- **Regional initiatives : a response to challenges of multilateralism**
 - **regionalisation** trend in global restructuring - a contemporary phenomenon
- IORA – Nelson Mandela – governance in the Indian ocean region
 - “the natural urge of the facts of history and geography should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic co-operation”
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APPROACHES: IORA

- OPEN REGIONALISM
- Collaboration with regional organizations on areas / issues of common interest

NB: Member overlaps in traditional and emergent regional blocs.

- Complementarity
- Information sharing
- Sharing of best practices
- Policy interphase

IORA PRIORITY AREAS -

- Maritime safety and security
- Trade and investment facilitation
- Fisheries management
- Disaster risk management
- Blue Economy
- Women's economic empowerment
- **Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation**

WIOMSA and IORA

- **WIOMSA**

- “share important updates on the marine and coastal environment of the WIO and beyond, share knowledge, news and information as well opportunities for development”
 - West Indian Ocean – strong research base in marine science research

- **IORA**

- Strong research base in Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IORA Objective) –
 - Marine Science
 - **Ocean Governance**
 - [Indian]Ocean account [System(s)]: the wealth of oceans’ ecosystems

- **Indian Ocean Region: area of interest: the ocean we want**

Complementarity: a deeper understanding of common challenges and working together towards solutions for common good – marine science.

GOAL

- Strengthen Collaborations to build the OCEAN that we want to sustain regional development needs.

Thank You

END.