



WIOMSA special session

Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group



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Nicole du Plessis and Juliet Hermes
iora.ag.sa@gmail.com

1. Overview of IORA

IORA is an inter-governmental organisation, established in 1997, which seeks to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial co-operation through a consensus-based, evolutionary and non-intrusive approach

Priority Areas and Cross-cutting areas:

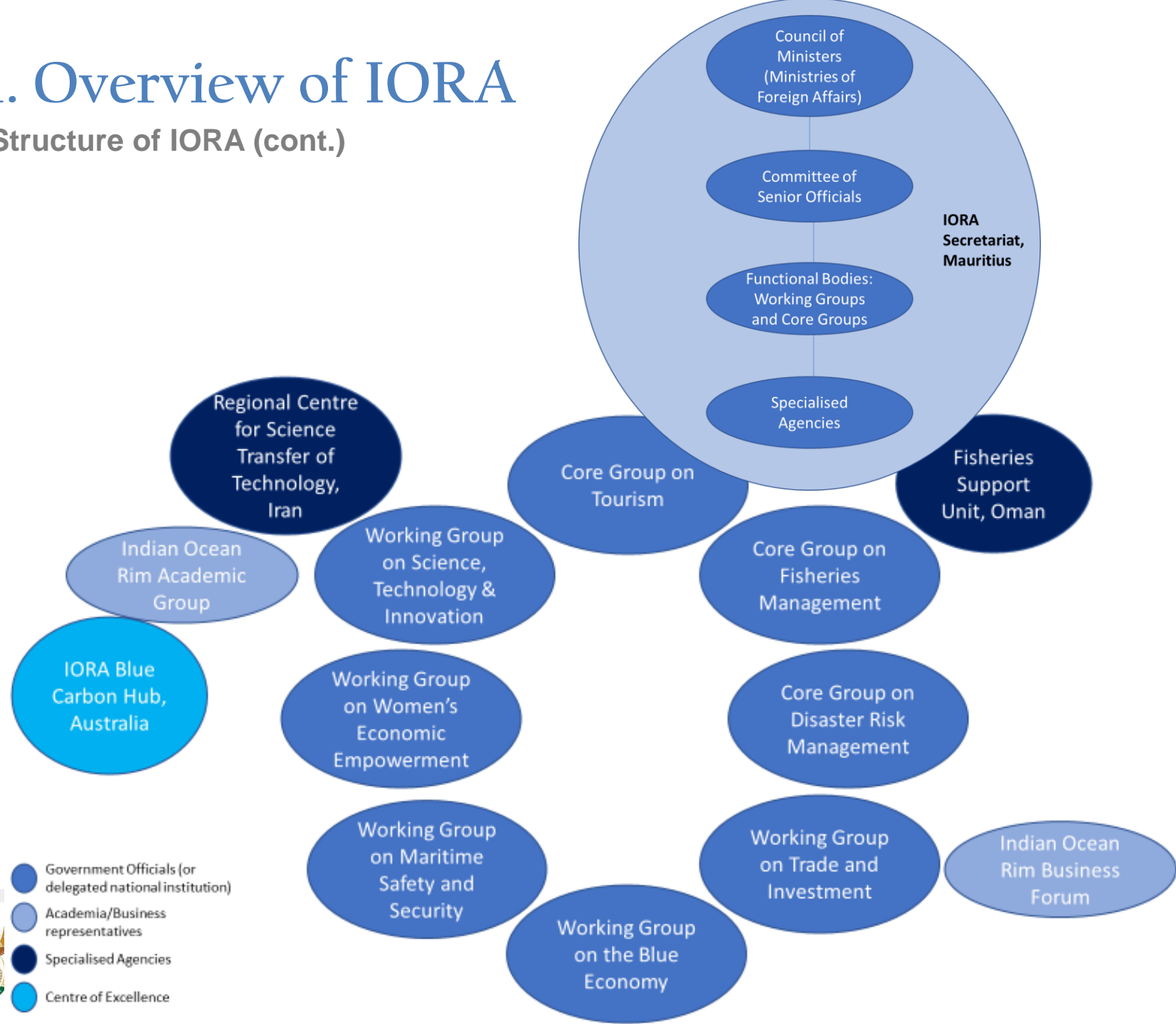
- ❖ Maritime Safety and Security
- ❖ Trade and Investment Facilitation
- ❖ Tourism and Cultural Exchanges
- ❖ Academic Cooperation, Science and Technology
- ❖ Fisheries Management (including Aquaculture)
- ❖ **Blue Economy**
- ❖ **Women's Economic Empowerment**



<https://www.iora.int/en>

1. Overview of IORA

Structure of IORA (cont.)



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Structure of IORA (cont.)

IORAG

- Think tank of IORA
- Mobilise and coordinate academic involvement within IORA
- Undertake research as identified by CIOS/ARC
- Approve Special Fund research project applications
- Generate knowledge (with CIOS/ARC) as per focus areas and identifying new areas that IORA should consider

Chair in Indian Ocean Studies/Academic Research Coordinator (based at the IORA Secretariat)

- Work with Secretariat to identify training and research needs within WGs
- Initial assessment of Special Fund research applications and provide comment to IORAG on relevance
- Represented on WGSTI/IORAG

RCSTT

- Implement Science and Technology transfer activities
- Represented on WGSTI/IORAG

FSU

- Support Fisheries related activities
- Implement projects where identified
- Represented on IORAG

CoEs

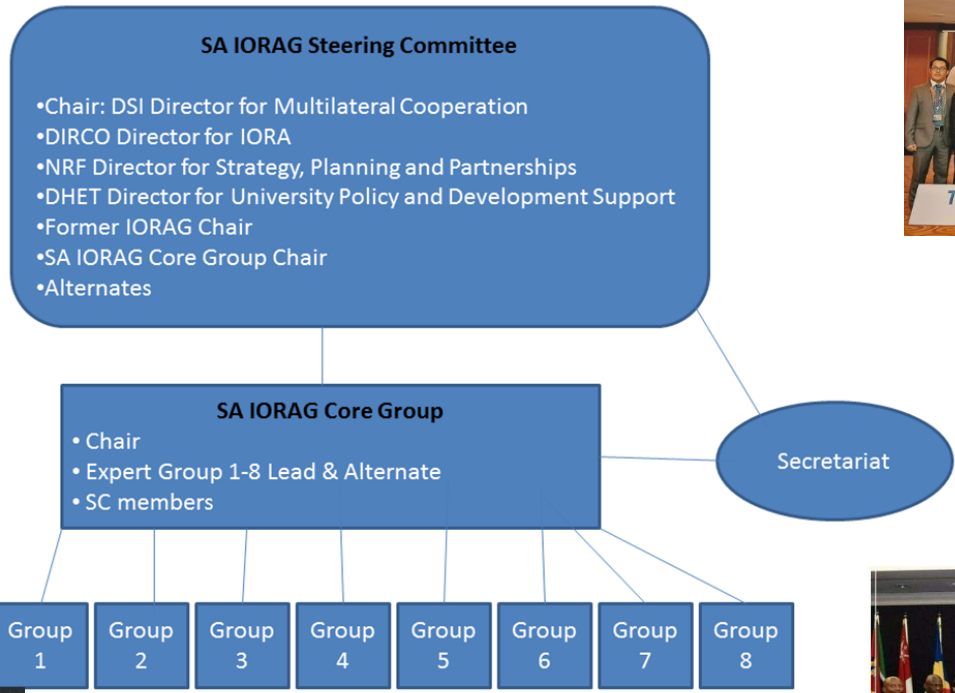
- Knowledge repositories of IORA
- Offer capacity building activities to MS in area of expertise
- Represented on IORAG

Indian Ocean Dialogue

- Policy discussion platform bringing together government officials, academia and private sector

2. Feedback on activities of the SA IORAG Secretariat

South African Chairship of IORA 2017-2019 – Establishing the SA IORAG
Chairship again 2022-2023 – completed the IORAG reform and growing the IORAG community



<https://iora-sa.saeon.ac.za/>

3. What is the role of SA IORAG

science-policy-
industry-civil society
engagement platform

1. Establish the SA IORAG as a national science-policy engagement platform
 - 1.1. Strengthening the relationship of the SA IORAG with other National Departments participating in IORA Functional Bodies
 - 1.2. Development of the SA IORAG research agenda (4-5 themes to focus on in the short-medium term)
 - 1.3. Supporting early career academics and participation in the SA IORAG
 - 1.4. Establishing synergies with relevant Research Chairs, Communities of Practice, Centres of Excellence to support SA participation and contributions within IORA
 - 1.5 Supporting other national priorities and programmes
2. How can the SA IORAG Secretariat assist with IORA activities having greater impact nationally?
3. How can SA IORAG support your work, finding additional collaborators through IORAG networks, enhancing the policy uptake, applying for IORA special funds, etc.

THANK YOU!



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NRF
National Research
Foundation

SAEON
South African Environmental
Observation Network