

## WIOMSA special session Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group















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## 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
- FisheriesManagement(includingAquaculture)
- **❖** Blue Economy
- Women's Economic Empowerment



https://www.iora.int/en





1. Overview of IORA

Structure of IORA (cont.)

Regional Centre for Science Transfer of Technology, Iran

Indian Ocean

IORA Blue Carbon Hub, Australia

**Working Group** on Women's Economic Empowerment

Working Group

on Science,

Technology &

Innovation

**Working Group** 

on Maritime

Safety and

Security

Government Officials (or delegated national institution)

Academia/Business representatives

Specialised Agencies

Centre of Excellence

Core Group on Tourism

Core Group on **Fisheries** Management

> Core Group on Disaster Risk Management

Working Group on Trade and Investment

**Working Group** on the Blue Economy

Forum

Secretariat, **Mauritius** 

**IORA** 

**Specialised** Agencies

Council of Ministers

(Ministries of Foreign Affairs)

Committee of Senior Officials

Functional Bodies: **Working Groups** and Core Groups

> **Fisheries** Support Unit, Oman



## 1. Overview of IORA

#### 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



#### **SA IORAG Steering Committee**

- Chair: DSI Director for Multilateral Cooperation
- DIRCO Director for IORA
- •NRF Director for Strategy, Planning and Partnerships
- •DHET Director for University Policy and Development Support
- •Former IORAG Chair
- •SA IORAG Core Group Chair
- Alternates



#### **SA IORAG Core Group**

- Chair
- Expert Group 1-8 Lead & Alternate
- SC members

Secretariat

Group

Group

Group

Group

Group

Group

Group

Group



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





## 3. What is the role of SA IORAG

science-policyindustry-civil society engagement platform

- 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!



