

**OPEN ENDED INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE STATUS OF
THE IOC REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN (IOCINDIO)
INTO AN IOC SUB-COMMISSION**

**Elements for establishing IOCINDIO
as an IOC Sub-Commission**

Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

31 March 2022
On-line; UTC 09:00 AM

Title

IOCINDIO or IOCIO?

Executive Secretary proposes keeping the abbreviation IOCINDIO because

- 1) it keeps the corporate memory,**
- 2) sounds better, and**
- 3) when pronounced, it clearly points to the Indian Ocean, while IOCIO does not hint of being related to**
- 4) the Indian Ocean.**

IOC Chair:

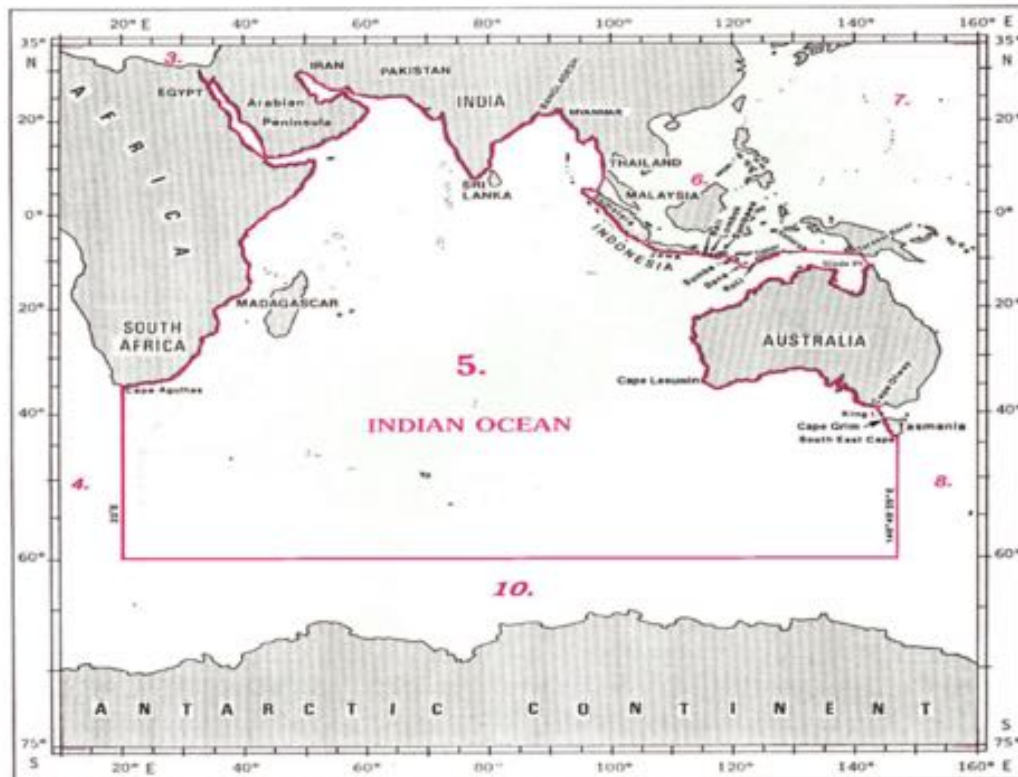
Retain IOCINDIO

1. Corporate memory
2. Clear
3. Intuitive

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Definition of the Indian Ocean limits by IHO S-23, draft of 2002

INDIAN OCEAN



The IOCINDIO area of responsibility will be the whole Indian Ocean defined within limits established by the International Hydrographic Organization in its standard-setting publication S-23, in its latest edition. Taking into account that interactions of the Indian Ocean occur beyond its geographic limits and that the Indian Ocean borders the Southern Ocean, all issues of relevance for the Indian Ocean and its global interactions can be considered through IOCINDIO.

Mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions (1)

Principle: maximizing value of work on issues of common interest and minimizing duplication.

It can be achieved by and will require cross-participation in the work of Governing Bodies of Sub-Commissions and, where appropriate, subsidiary bodies, such as working groups and task teams, or other activities.

Implementation plans of IOCINDIO, IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC will have to be coordinated as much as possible.

Regular consultations between Sub-Commissions' Chairs, Bureaux, and Secretariats will be held.

Mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions (2)

Activities of any of three Sub-Commission may involve Member States from the other two Sub-Commission or both of them.

Capacity development and training facilities and activities may be shared depending on their thematic and regional focus.

Depending on circumstances, Sub-Commissions may delegate coordination of some of their activities to the other Sub-Commission(s).

Particularly close cooperation and coordination will be needed for the eastern IOCAFRICA Member States and IOCINDIO Member States.

Mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions (3)

Potential specific collaborations may include

- **training of participants from IOCINDIO at:**
 - **the OceanTeacher Global Academy-2 centres in India, Indonesia, I.R. of Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, and Mozambique;**
 - **some of the WESTPAC Regional Training and Research Centres;**
- **IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC stronger involvement in IIOE-2 and Indian Ocean Observations.**

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

The IOCINDIO area of responsibility will be the whole Indian Ocean.

Taking into account that interactions of the Indian Ocean occur beyond its geographic limits and that the Indian Ocean borders the Southern Ocean, all issues of relevance for the Indian Ocean and its global interactions can be considered through IOCINDIO.

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Mission

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) is a primary intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, and its purpose is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services, and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the Indian Ocean and its coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States.

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Objectives:

The Sub-Commission shall:

- **Promote international cooperation and coordinate activities agreed by governing bodies of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in the Indian Ocean;**
- **Make recommendations to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on issues and areas of its competency;**
- **Prepare a plan for implementation of the agreed activities;**
- **Offer a platform for identifying regional problems and solutions to them based on international cooperation;**
- **Cooperate with relevant organizations, agencies, and institutions; and**
- **Cooperate with other subsidiary bodies and programmes of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on matters of common interest, in particular with the IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC.**

(Observation) Policies and Standards

According to the IOC Manual, regional and thematic subsidiary bodies are not expected to develop their own policies and technical standards. It is IOC itself that has the norm- and standard-setting role.

IOCINDIO will adhere to all existing and potential new IOC policies and standards as applicable to IOCINDIO activities.

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Structure:

The Sub-Commission will include:

- **Member States;**
- **Officers;**
- **Thematic or subregional working groups or task teams, as required; and**
- **Secretariat.**

Member States

Sub-Commission will include the IOC Member States that appropriately informed the IOC Executive Secretary about their adherence to the Sub-Commission. IOCINDIO membership will not be limited to Member States geographically attached to the Indian Ocean. IOC national focal points for IOCINDIO Member States will be the same as for IOC.

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Structure:

The Sub-Commission will include:

- **Member States;**
- **Officers;**
- **Thematic or subregional working groups or task teams, as required; and**
- **Secretariat.**

Officers

The Bureau of the Sub-Commission will comprise the Chair and **two Vice-chairs elected by the Member States Sub-Commission and shall serve in accordance with the Guidelines for Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IOC.**

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Structure:

The Sub-Commission will include:

- **Member States;**
- **Officers;**
- **Thematic or subregional working groups or task teams, as required; and**
- **Secretariat.**

WGs and TTs

The Sub-Commission will establish its subsidiary working bodies as required and in accordance with the Guidelines for Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IOC.

(New) As needed, joint subsidiary working bodies, especially with IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC, will be established.

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Structure:

The Sub-Commission will include:

- **Member States;**
- **Officers;**
- **Thematic or subregional working groups or task teams, as required; and**
- **Secretariat.**

Secretariat

The IOCINDIO Secretariat will operate as a part of the IOC Secretariat under the authority of the IOC Executive Secretary, capitalizing on UNESCO representation in the Indian Ocean region. (MoU???)

UNESCO field reform

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Meetings

IOCINDIO Member States will meet regularly, at least once in two years, preferably in the first part of the year of an IOC Assembly and well in advance of that Assembly to ensure quality statutory reporting.

Governance of and reporting by IOC programmatic activities in the Indian Ocean region

Reports of IOC programmes of relevance for the Indian Ocean will be included in the agenda of IOCINDIO meetings.

Regional components of IOC global programmes, e.g. for tsunami warnings, will continue to be coordinated and governed by their dedicated intergovernmental bodies.

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Programme and budget

IOCINDIO budget will comprise regular programme budget and extra budgetary contributions, consistently with the funding for all IOC Sub-Commissions.

The Sub-Commission will explore opportunities for raising additional resources for implementation of its programmes including in-cash and in-kind contributions by its Member States and other sources.

Steps for the establishment of the IOCINDIO (1)

Two parallel and interacting processes will have to be pursued on the way to the new IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission.

The first process relates to the formal intergovernmental design of IOCINDIO: determining its ToRs, preparing the resolution and the process leading to the its endorsement and adhesion of Member States. (This is what we are doing now)

Steps for the establishment of the IOCINDIO (1 continued)

Draft resolution on IOCINDIO

IOC Member States wishing to become Members of the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission are invited to propose, within statutory deadline, a corresponding resolution to be considered by the 32nd Session of IOC Assembly to be held in mid-2023. If such a resolution is endorsed by the IOC-32, the Regional Committee of IOCINDIO will be dissolved and a Sub-Commission of IOCINDIO will be founded.

Steps for the establishment of the IOCINDIO (1 further continued)

Adhesion of IOC Member States to IOCINDIO

In case IOC-32 adopts the resolution on the new status of IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission, IOC Member States wishing to join the new Sub-Commission will be expected to officially notify IOC Executive Secretary of their adhesion.

The Sub-Commission will be considered established after at least three (4,5,?) letters of adhesion of IOC Member States are received by the Executive Secretary.

Steps for the establishment of the IOCINDIO (2)

The second process relates to IOCINDIO function.

It should involve identification of issues and problems, opportunities in the Indian Ocean that IOCINDIO will be meaningfully addressing, leading to interest and genuine commitment of Member States.

It is imperative to start filling the agenda of emerging Sub-Commission with such items already now.

Otherwise, there is a risk that the Sub-Commission will be established but will have no meaningful program of work.

The Ocean Decade provides a unique and major opportunity to mobilize actors in the region. IIOE-2 is a resource. IIOSC 2020 was great.

The OEIWG should start thinking of what IOCINDIO has to achieve, beyond formal establishing itself, and how, and where to start the work.