

**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

24 May 2022
On-line; UTC 11:30 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
(thank you France!)**

1. Corporate memory
2. Clear
3. Intuitive

REFERENCE AREA

Bad initial proposal/Excellent discussion -> Ideas of Dr Srinivas, letter by Kenya, plea from Adm. Khurshed, leave the area the same as for current IOCINDIO

1. Kenya welcomes the proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO from an IOC regional committee into an IOC sub-commission. Kenya shall therefore continue to positively contribute to these efforts.
2. Kenya underlines the need for the potential IOCINDIO sub-commission to be established with the same geographical area of responsibility as at the time of its creation as a regional committee. There should be no overlaps with IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA).
3. Kenya therefore requests the IOC Secretariat to revise the text of the working document entitled "Elements for establishing IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission" to ensure that the role and scope of IOCAFRICA is not diminished. Any reference to IOCINDIO having a mandate over the entire Indian Ocean should be deleted.
4. Kenya stresses the importance of coordination with other sub-commissions including IOCAFRICA with a view of maximizing value of work on issues of common interest and avoiding duplication.

REFERENCE AREA

ANNEX 11 - IOCINDIO-1 Report

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Governing and Major Subsidiary Bodies



**IOC Regional Committee
for the Central Indian Ocean**

First Session

Islamabad, Pakistan, 3-7 July 1988

REFERENCE AREA

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Regarding geographical coverage, the Technical Secretary explained that, although it was not the practice of the Commission to draw hard and fast boundaries to the area to be covered by a regional subsidiary body, the proximity of two other such bodies made it necessary to consider the most convenient ones for IOCINDIO. To the west is the Regional Committee for the Co-operative Investigation in the North and Central Western Indian Ocean (IOCINCWIO) which, in practice, covers the waters between the southern border of Mozambique and the Horn of Africa, and offshore to the Seychelles and Mauritius. To the east is the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia are Member States of WESTPAC, but have coastal waters in the eastern Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The boundary between WESTPAC and IOCINDIO could be considered to cut across the Malacca straits. The above-mentioned Member States could therefore very well be members of IOCINDIO and WESTPAC. As to the southern boundary, the Technical Secretary proposed that this correspond to the northern boundary of the IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean; namely, the Antarctic Convergence, a natural but conservative circumpolar oceanographic feature.

REFERENCE AREA

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The IOC Guidelines on the Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission define eligibility for membership of a subsidiary body, and indicate the desirable conditions for such membership as follows: "Although membership of the Commission's Scientific and/or Technical Committees, Sub-Commissions and Regional Committees is open to all Member States, such membership will not be automatically assumed, but will be dependent upon a formal declaration of wish, by a Member State, to be a member of a particular subsidiary body and to participate actively in a particular programme, and this should be confirmed in practice by the nomination of a specific National Focal Point, to provide liaison between the national activities directly related to the given programme and the subsidiary body itself or the Secretary of IOC. Such declarations and nominations should be renewed at each ordinary session of the Assembly or whenever necessary as a result of a change in the National Focal Point. This will result in considerable economy and increased efficiency since documents for a session of a Scientific and/or Technical Committee, Sub-Commission or Regional Committee will not, normally, be sent to a Member State that is not a declared member of such subsidiary bodies. Nevertheless, invitations to all sessions of a given Scientific and/or Technical Committee, Sub-Commission or Regional Committee will be sent to all Member States initially". (IOC Manual, Part I, Section 5).

REFERENCE AREA

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The Regional Committee considered the following Member States to fall at present within the IOCINDIO region (reading roughly from west to east): Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, as well as the United Kingdom and France. It also noted that Member States from outside the region, but with specific marine scientific interest in the region, are entitled to be members. However, it stressed the value it attached to its regional character, and appealed to those regional Member States that had not sent delegations to the present Session (Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia) to do so for future sessions, and in any case to participate fully in its intersessional activities.

REFERENCE AREA

163 The Observer of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen suggested that the oceanographic characteristics of the Arabian Sea make it desirable to consider the inclusion of those African Member States bordering this sea within the geographical coverage of IOCINDIO, rather than IOCINCWIO as at present, if the concerned Member States were agreeable.

165 The Regional Committee therefore agreed that, bearing in mind the large-scale ocean phenomena in the region, and subject to the concurrence of the African Member States concerned, the geographical area to be covered by IOCINDIO be, in the west, from the southern boundary of Somalia eastward to 60°E then southward to the Antarctic Convergence (about 60°S), and, in the east, the western coasts of Thailand, part of Malaysia (if the boundary is put across the Strait of Malacca at, say, 4°N), Indonesia eastward to the longitude of 120°E, north and south of Australia down to the Antarctic Convergence. The Regional Committee so recommended to the Assembly.

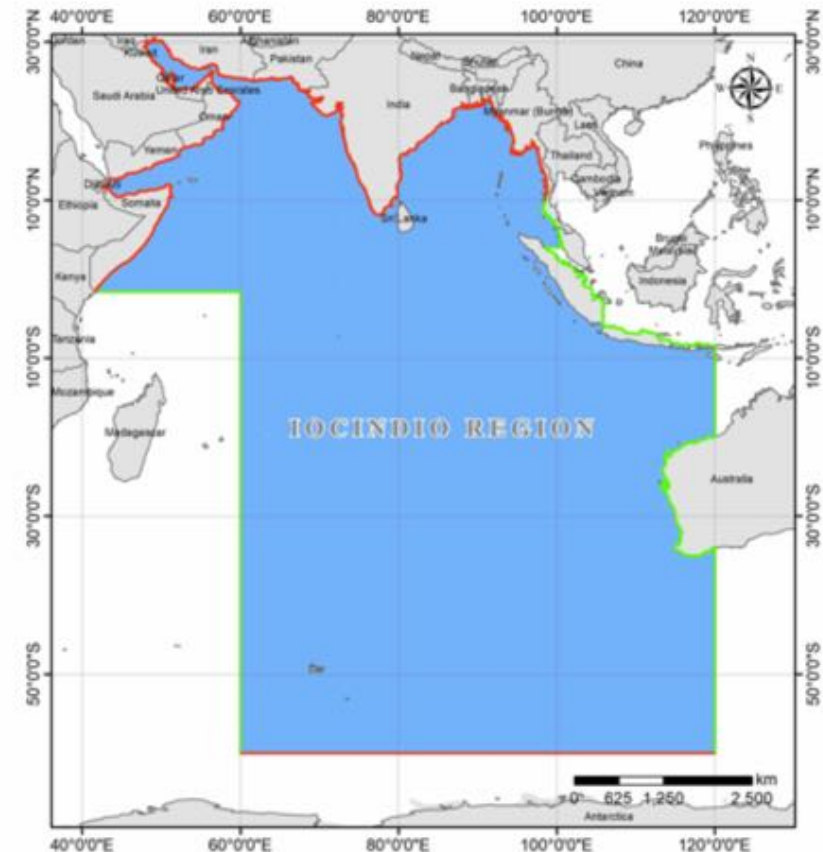
REFERENCE AREA

Bad initial proposal but excellent discussion -> Illustrations of previous ideas by Dr Srinivas and his team, letter by Kenya,

1. Kenya welcomes the proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO from an IOC regional committee into an IOC sub-commission. Kenya shall therefore continue to positively contribute to these efforts.
2. Kenya underlines the need for the potential IOCINDIO sub-commission to be established with the same geographical area of responsibility as at the time of its creation as a regional committee. There should be no overlaps with IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA).
3. Kenya therefore requests the IOC Secretariat to revise the text of the working document entitled "Elements for establishing IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission" to ensure that the role and scope of IOCAFRICA is not diminished. Any reference to IOCINDIO having a mandate over the entire Indian Ocean should be deleted.
4. Kenya stresses the importance of coordination with other sub-commissions including IOCAFRICA with a view of maximizing value of work on issues of common interest and avoiding duplication.

**plea from Adm. Khurshed not invent new things,
possibility of leave the area the same as for current IOCINDIO**

Illustration of the IOCINDIO boundaries as set up at the 1st 1988 meeting in Islamabad



REFERENCE AREA

Annex I: IOCAFRICA ELECTORAL GROUPS

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C
Angola Benin Cameroon* (Vice Chair) Congo Cote d'Ivoire DR Congo Gabon Ghana Guinea Namibia Nigeria Togo Sierra Leone	Comoros Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Mauritius* (Vice Chair) Madagascar Mozambique Seychelles South Africa** (Chair) Tanzania Somalia Sudan	Algeria Cape Verde Egypt* (Vice Chair) Gambia Guinea-Bissau Libya Mauritania Morocco Senegal Tunisia

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 wherever useful.

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.

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.**

Proposed ToRs of IOCINDIO

Mission

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) is a primary regional intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, focussed on the Indian Ocean, 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 ocean 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;**
- **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.