



**CRIMARIO II**  
INTERCONNECTING  
THE INDO-PACIFIC

## CRITICAL MARITIME ROUTES INDO-PACIFIC PROJECT



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**CRIMARIO is an EU-funded maritime capacity-building initiative** established in 2015, in the western Indian Ocean, with the ambition of supporting like-minded partners better govern their maritime spaces through information sharing initiatives, capacity building and training, with a focus on **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**. In 2020, the project was extended for four more years to also cover Asia, and with the launch of the EU Indo-Pacific strategy, in 2021, it was extended across the Pacific to Latin America.

**CRIMARIO II** enables the EU's Indo-Pacific partners and organisations to better govern their maritime spaces by promoting cross-sectorial, interagency, and transregional cooperation in the areas of **maritime security and safety** and, to a lesser extent, supporting authorities in addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries. The philosophy behind the **CRIMARIO** concept is that through this cost-effective approach all like-minded partners, and the EU, will benefit from safer and more secure trade routes, and fisheries will become more sustainable.

The project focuses on enhancing cooperation and complementarity amongst regional Information Fusion Centres (IFCs), Information Sharing Centres, Joint Operations Centres, national Maritime Operations Centres, regional organisations (IMO/DCOC, UNODC, IOC, IORA, PIFs), fora (such as IONS) and currently over 45 countries, including the Pacific islands.

**CRIMARIO II** goes about its tasks by mentoring and advising in fields related to maritime safety and security, through courses and exercises, focusing its efforts on the **IORIS** neutral and secure information-exchange platform. Through these processes it builds the IORIS Community of users, now institutionalised through the IORIS Steering Committee. This is, in effect, bridging all navies, maritime authorities and agencies with common interests, which is accomplished by supporting partners create and activate IORIS Community Areas (CA) at the national and regional levels. These CAs are the virtual grouping of countries/agencies by organisation, geography and/or theme to facilitate intra/inter-regional information exchange and operational coordination at sea.

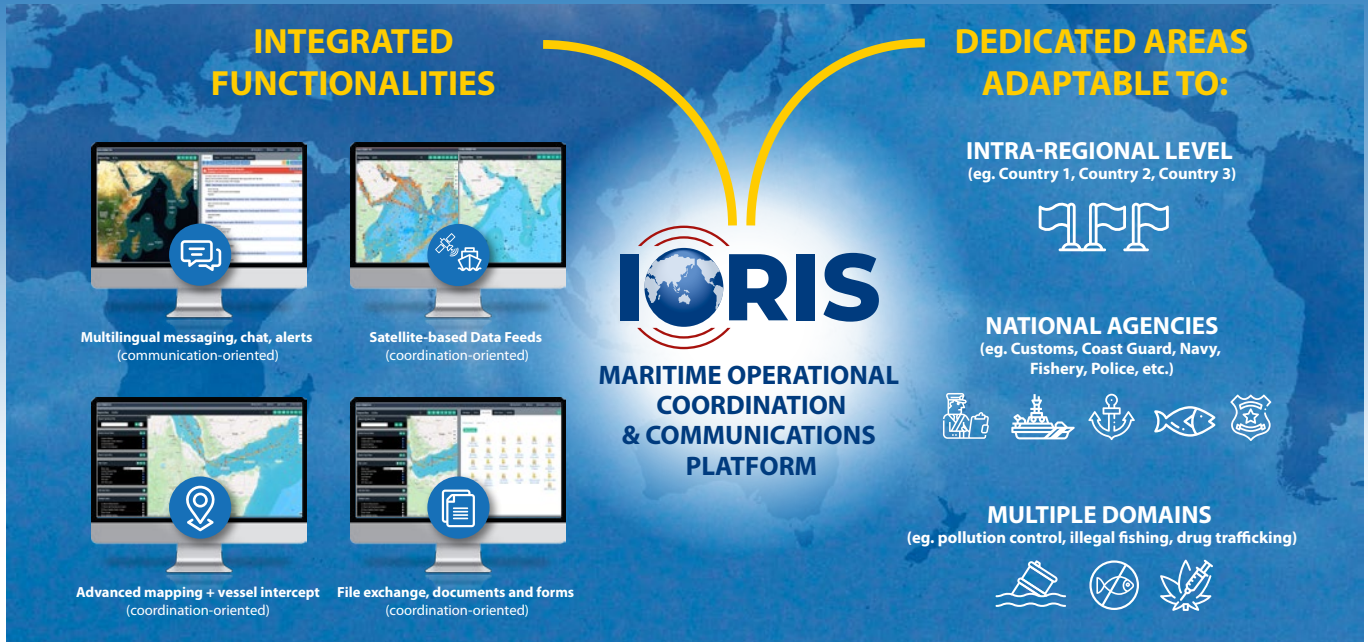
A second initiative, being conducted in partnership with UNODC, aims to bridge to those partners already operating established information-exchange system through the **SHARE.IT** Interoperability Framework, which are primarily Information Fusion Centres now expanding to like-minded States with interests in the region.

Since its inception, **CRIMARIO II** has rapidly expanded, due to its benevolent ambitions and the win-win deliverables it offers its partners, the essence of its success being the project's ability to build trust and confidence with its counterparts.

# INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING (IORIS) PLATFORM

IORIS is a neutral and secure Maritime Coordination & Communications platform that enhances interagency collaboration and regional cooperation. Its functionalities integrate messaging chat and alerts; advanced mapping, vessel intercept, markers; file exchange, forms and document archiving; and the provision of satellite AIS data.

IORIS is today used by 100 civilian and military agencies from over 50 countries and organisations across the Indo-Pacific including Pacific islands. An ongoing training programme, delivered by a pool of certified instructors, ensures a smooth deployment of the platform. Since May 2023, the IORIS Steering Committee was established, being composed of regional partners to facilitate the platform's transition towards a regional governance framework in the coming months. The structure will be comprised of Policy, Legal, Operations and Technical Working Groups, which will guide on the future of the platform and reporting back to the IORIS Steering Committee.



## THE SHARE.IT INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK

Whilst IFCs and MOCs in the Indo-Pacific region are already operating information-exchange systems, there is currently no technical framework which facilitates the flow of information between these centres. In order to plug this gap, CRIMARIO II, in partnership with UNODC and Indo-Pacific IFCs, has established the SHARE.IT interoperability framework, to develop maritime situational awareness. This is being accomplished by setting up a community of stakeholders with the ambition of developing a common technological solution, to be able to link existing information-exchange systems together, digitally and securely.

## ENHANCING MARITIME CAPACITIES THROUGH EXERCISING

CRIMARIO II is both organizing and participating in maritime exercises with the objective of enhancing and exercising interagency collaboration and regional cooperation. The IORIS platform is often used as the primary communications tool during the exercises in conjunction with other tools.

These events offer the EU's Indo-Pacific partners the opportunity to exchange expertise and experience with one another, and identify gaps in their national systems, in terms of resource deficiencies and procedural matters.

CRIMARIO II is also partnering in multinational exercises involving several countries and initiated by the key partners of the region (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, France and the EU's Coordinated Maritime Presence).

## MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MARITIME SAFETY TRAINING

CRIMARIO II offers its partners in the Indo-Pacific the option to receive tailor-made training packages designed to meet the specific needs of individual countries. These could be in the fields of law enforcement, addressing operational maritime law, evidence compilation, forensics amongst other topics; and maritime safety, primarily addressing search and rescue and tackling marine oil pollution incidents.

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