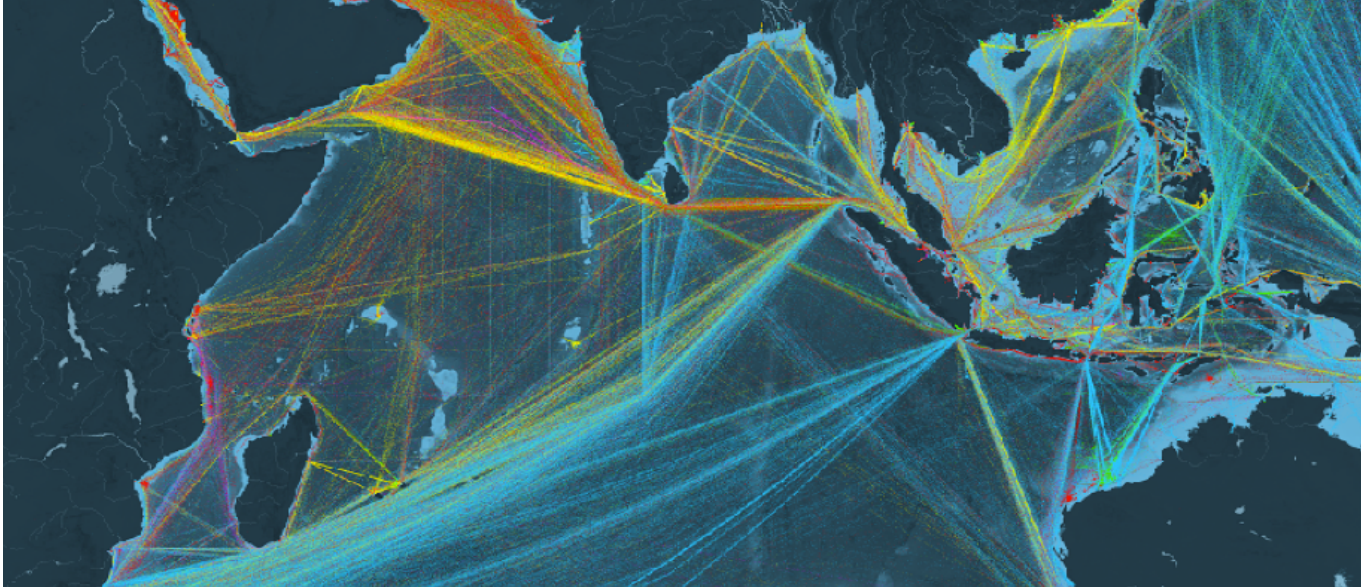




A MARITIME CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT



Map © shipmap.org by Kiln.digital, with data from UCL and ExactEarth

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 to also cover **Asia, the Pacific and Latin America** in line with the 2021 EU Indo-Pacific strategy.

A new 30-month phase begun in August 2025, aiming to expand the project's reach to **additional countries in South and Central America** along the Atlantic and possibly extend its engagement to partners in the **Caribbean**, further **strengthening international cooperation on maritime security and information sharing**.

CRIMARIO enables the EU's global 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 supporting authorities in addressing **illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries**.

The philosophy behind the CRIMARIO concept is to foster safer and more secure lines of communication, by enabling partners to better govern their maritime spaces. This is deemed to be a cost-effective approach to facilitating trade, which is to everyone's benefit.

The project focuses on enhancing cooperation and complementarity amongst regional Information Fusion Centres (IFCs), Joint Operations/Coordination Centres, national Maritime Operations Centres from over 50 countries, and regional organisations such as the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Indian Ocean Commission, such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.

CRIMARIO goes about its tasks by mentoring and advising in fields related to **maritime domain awareness**, through **courses and exercises**, basing its efforts on the neutral and secure **IORIS information-exchange platform**.

The project's efforts have led to the creation of the **IORIS Community of users**, now institutionalised through the IORIS Steering Committee. This builds bridges amongst navies, and maritime authorities and agencies with common interests, accomplished through the creation of autonomous, online, IORIS groups called Community Areas (CA) at the national and regional levels. Such CAs group partner organisations by country, geography, or theme to facilitate intra- and inter-regional information exchange and operational coordination at sea.

Since its inception, CRIMARIO 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 win the trust and confidence with its counterparts.

THE IORIS PLATFORM

IORIS is a neutral and secure Maritime Cooperation, Coordination, and Communication (MarCo3) platform designed to strengthen interagency communication, foster collaboration, and enhance regional maritime 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 has today been used by over 150 civilian and military navies, authorities and agencies from over 50 countries and organisations across the Pacific and soon the Atlantic. 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, composed of regional partners, tasked to facilitate the platform's transition towards a regional governance framework in the coming years.

The structure is comprised of a Policy Board, and Legal, Operations and Technical Working Groups, which work on the future of the platform, reporting back to the IORIS Steering Committee.

INTEGRATED FUNCTIONALITIES



Multilingual messaging, chat, alerts
(communication-oriented)



Satellite-based Data Feeds
(coordination-oriented)



Advanced mapping + vessel intercept
(coordination-oriented)



File exchange, documents and forms
(coordination-oriented)



**MARITIME OPERATIONAL
COORDINATION,
COLLABORATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS
PLATFORM**

DEDICATED AREAS ADAPTABLE TO:

INTRA-REGIONAL LEVEL
(eg. Country 1, Country 2, Country 3)



NATIONAL AGENCIES
(eg. Customs, Coast Guard, Navy,
Fishery, Police, etc.)



MULTIPLE DOMAINS
(eg. pollution control, illegal fishing, drug trafficking)



THE SHARE.IT INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK

A second initiative, being conducted in partnership with UNODC, aims to bridge IORIS to those partners already operating a national information-exchange system through the SHARE.IT Interoperability Framework. This concept is developed around the building of a common software which allows partners to send selected pieces of information to partners, through a common technological solution. This initiative includes the standing Regional Information Fusion Centres as key components.

ENHANCING MARITIME CAPACITIES THROUGH EXERCISING

CRIMARIO is both organizing and participating in maritime exercises with the objective of enhancing and exercising interagency collaboration and regional cooperation, with IORIS often used as a main collaboration tool in conjunction with other MDA tools.

These events offer the EU's global 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 also partners in multinational exercises involving several countries and initiated by the key partners of the region (Djibouti Code of Conduct, Indian Ocean Commission, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, France, Germany, etc.)

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