



IORA Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) – Towards Sustainable Use of the Indian Ocean  
22 – 23 November 2017  
IORA Indian Ocean Conference

The IORA Indian Ocean Conference on Marine Spatial Planning was inaugurated by The Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Minister Mentor of Defence, and Minister for Rodrigues in Mauritius on November 22, 2017. In his inaugural address he stated that “the Ocean Conference on Marine Spatial Planning had become an imperative as there has been during recent years a sharp increase in economic activities throughout the Maritime Zones of most IORA countries, which has led to an increase in the demand for marine space.”

The Honourable Minister mentioned that “The Blue Economy now ranks high on the international agenda for sustainable development, for Small Island Developing States like Mauritius and other Member States of the IORA, sustainable exploitation of our marine resources is even more of paramount importance,” adding “that Mauritius, with an Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.3 million square kilometres, is committed to the establishment of the ocean economy an important industrial pillar sustaining economic diversification, job creation and wealth generation for the country.”

Her Royal Highness Princess Zenani Dlamini, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Mauritius and IORA Chair mentioned that “Through effective ocean governance we need to identify and manage interdependencies across socio-economic aspirations and environmental integrity”.

Dr C. Raja Mohan, Director at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (India), addressed distinguished guests by delivering a keynote address entitled “South Western Indian Ocean Conference” at the official MSP welcoming dinner. As a leading Analyst of India’s foreign policy focusing on South Asian security, great-power relations in Asia and arms control, Dr Mohan provided valuable insights to participants of the MSP Conference and distinguished guests.

The IORA Indian Ocean Conference on Marine Spatial Planning is jointly hosted by IORA and the Ministry of Defence and Rodrigues of the Republic of Mauritius. Participants from 15 IORA Member States, 3 Dialogue Partners and International Experts from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Carnegie (India), The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2 , India), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-Perth), Under Water Cultural Heritage (UWCH) – Stanford University, National Marine Functional Zoning Expert Committee (NMFZEC, China) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) attended the conference to discuss existing MSP developments within the Indian Ocean region. This is also a platform to explore and discuss the potential of MSP for IORA Member States.

The conference topics chosen for the *Marine Spatial Planning – Towards Sustainable Use of the Indian Ocean* included: Marine Spatial Planning and SDG14: Experiences and Best Practises from IORA Member States; Regional and global perspective on integrating Marine Spatial Planning and ecosystem-based approaches to the sustainable development of the Ocean Economy and Data collection and initiatives under the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE2).