

PRESS RELEASE

Integrated Marine Debris Observing System

13 November 2025- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Geo Blue Planet, organized a two-day Online Workshop on the Integrated Marine Debris Observing System (IMDOS) on 5–6 November 2025. The workshop aimed to strengthen monitoring and data on marine debris in the Indian Ocean and to support more informed decision-making on marine litter.

The workshop brought together representatives from IORA Member States, Dialogue Partners and international organisations, including experts from regional and global initiatives working on ocean observation and marine debris. Participants exchanged experiences on marine debris monitoring, citizen-science initiatives and data platforms, and discussed good practices and remaining challenges for monitoring marine debris in the Indian Ocean region.

This initiative forms part of the implementation of the [IORA Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris](#) (2022), which aims to promote knowledge sharing on marine debris monitoring, and to strengthen regional cooperation in addressing this issue in alignment with global frameworks.

Over the two days, the workshop helped to improve understanding of existing and emerging components of the Integrated Marine Debris Observing System, to identify opportunities to harmonise monitoring methodologies, to promote data sharing, and to explore synergies with regional and global initiatives. Discussions also highlighted the importance of building capacity in Member States to collect, analyse and use data on marine debris, and of strengthening links between the scientific community and policy-makers.

By fostering dialogue between science, policy and practitioners, the workshop contributed to a more coordinated approach to marine debris monitoring in the Indian Ocean. The outcomes will help inform future regional cooperation on marine debris under IORA, including follow-up activities to support Member States in advancing their monitoring systems and in contributing to global processes on plastic pollution.
