



PROJECT COMPASS

Situation

A range of crimes from trafficking to piracy remain a threat to regional peace and stability across the East and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO). In addition to the security implications, these illicit activities have a negative impact on the socio-economic and political conditions in the region. A successful strategy to combat these threats requires an inherently collaborative and multilateral approach, bringing together a wide spectrum of stakeholders represented by regional governments and international organizations such as INTERPOL.

Most of the countries within the ESA-IO region are not appropriately equipped to effectively prevent and counter maritime- based crimes. Therefore the scope of this project is guided by the need to address the gaps that have been identified by INTERPOL during the implementation of other projects in the region.



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About the project

The overall goal of Project Compass is to improve investigations into maritime-based crimes in the EA-SA-IO region. The project focuses on Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, and Tanzania.

The project's three objectives are to improve:

- crime scene preservation and management capabilities - notwithstanding INTERPOL MTS delivering a number of activities designed to improve the capability to preserve and manage a crime scene, this area still requires further strengthening, as does building institutional capacities and training national instructors;
- interagency cooperation between the first responders, investigators, and justice sector officials in complex, maritime based crime cases;
- more effective regional and international cooperation: While there have been examples of improved regional cooperation around investigations of maritime piracy and other maritime based crime, joint cross-agency efforts within each country are required in order to make this the new normal, rather than an exception.

Project activities

The Project will deliver the following activities to support the objectives:

Training:

- An introduction to the international methodologies of crime scene preservation and management.

Timeframe: 2020-2024

Budget: USD 3.5 million

Donor: United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Funded by :



- Intelligence analysis techniques that will assist beneficiary countries to expand the focus of their investigations and prosecutions beyond the frontline perpetrators attacking the vessels at sea, to the organizers and financiers on land.

Mock crime scenes and trials:

- INTERPOL experts create scenarios, based on real cases that occurred in the region, and provide "evidence" for first responders, law enforcement officials and prosecutors to practise the application of the law.

Exchange visits and case coordination meetings:

- Officials from beneficiary countries work side by side with their colleagues in other countries and discuss cases of common interest or concern.

These activities will contribute to building national and regional networks of experts who are better equipped to exchange maritime-related information and to conduct successful maritime crime investigations and prosecutions.

Identified gaps

- Inter-agency cooperation and information sharing remain areas to be strengthened, albeit notable progress has been achieved to date.
- Need to create a sustainable model for in-region capacity building related to crime scene management and preservation of evidence.
- Investigations remain limited in scope and generally do not target the leadership structures of non-state actors.
- Gaps in critical infrastructure protection, i.e. ports.



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