

PROJ/Ken

To Elisabeth, this is the 'preamble' I gave to Max

9/12/1999

Draft for an IOI Action Plan for The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region

The International Ocean Institute has the mission to carry out research training and education as regards the ocean in order to enhance ocean governance and sustainable development of ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of all, and under the guiding Principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind.

The IOI is a non-governmental international organization incorporated in the Netherlands. Its mission statement and current profile, or shared mission, are attached to this communication, with some background.

The IOI has 12 Operational centres and is active in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions and in the Western and Northern Indian Ocean regions, as well as elsewhere as is clear from the profile attached herewith. The IOI Headquarters is situated in Malta.

In the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region a UNEP Regional Seas Programme Action Plan has been established. The associated regional body referred to as PERSGA, is charged with the implementation.

This body cooperates with relevant United Nations bodies, and with the Global Environment Facility. A regional GEF supported programme addressing the environmental problems of the region is initiated.

However, there is no supplementary or complimentary regional effort on the socio-economic and sustainable development aspects involved with the management of the marine and coastal resources.

The International Ocean Institute has initiated several related activities in other regions at local, national and regional level. These include coastal community work, awareness creating actions, regional seminars, leadership seminars addressing the key issues and priorities at the regional level. The IOI is active in the regions close to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region. The inter-regional exchange of information and the regional cooperations are key channels in developing environmental awareness and local participation in this development .

This is a necessary condition for a sustainable success. Thus it is proposed that a regional consultation seminar be convened through the IOI and hosted

in Dubai. The aim of this seminar would be to identify the priority needs as regards socio-economic aspects of marine affairs at the regional to local level and specify the possible role of the IOI in helping address these needs. This would have to be achieved through participation of local experts as well as in advanced preparatory work.

A second objective would be to specify the terms of reference for a possible IOI Operational Centre in the region if considered feasible. This would have to be based also on the interest of a potential host institution, possibly in Dubai. Subsequently there will have to be consultations to specify actions with respect to the IOI system and the interests of the host institution. The cost of the regional seminar would be preparatory costs, the seminar itself and the follow-up. An estimate for all is about USD 20,000 – 30,000.