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National
Research
Foundation



NRF
National Research
Foundation
SAEON
South African Environmental
Observation Network



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council



IORA
INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

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List of Acronyms

CPUT – Cape University of Technology

DAFF – Department of Forestry and Fisheries

DHET – Department of Higher Education and Training

DIRCO – Department of International Relations and
Cooperation

DST – Department of Science and Technology

HSRC – Human Sciences Research Council

IORA – Indian Ocean Rim Association

MSS – Maritime Safety and Security

NMU – Nelson Mandela University

NRF – National Research Foundation

NWU – North West University

SA – South Africa

SAEON – South African Environmental Observation
Network

SA IORAG – South African Chapter of the Indian Ocean
Rim Association Academic Group

SU – Stellenbosch University

UFH – University of Fort Hare

UFS – University of the Free State

UNISA – University of South Africa

WRC – Water Research Commission

INTRODUCTION

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), launched in 1997, has the broad objective “to promote the sustained growth and balanced development of the [Indian Ocean] Region and of the Member States, and to create common ground for Regional Economic Co-operation”.

South Africa assumed the chair of IORA in October 2017 under the theme “IORA: Uniting the peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through enhanced cooperation for peace, stability and sustainable development”, and will hold the chairship until October/November 2019. With the momentum from activities from previous chairs and the centenary celebrations of the late South African President Nelson Mandela in 2018, who many view as having provided the vision for IORA, South Africa’s chairship period has come at an opportune time to promote increased academic involvement within IORA.

One of the initiatives by the South African Government was to establish the South African Chapter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group (SA IORAG), as of 2016, through support from the Department of Science and Technology, as well as other government departments, agencies and national councils and facilities. The Secretariat for the SA IORAG is hosted at the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) Egagasini Node for Offshore Systems; SAEON is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

The broad objectives of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group (IORAG) are

- to service the needs of Government and Business;
- to promote intellectual dialogue amongst the participating Member States;
- to serve as a vehicle for the development and dissemination of the Indian Ocean Rim Concept; and
- to serve the region through coordinated and rigorous research.

The SA IORAG aims to give effect to these objectives within South Africa through focused research on the IORA priority areas of,

- Maritime Safety and Security;
- Trade and Investment Facilitation;
- Fisheries Management;
- Disaster and Risk Management;
- Academic Cooperation, Science and Technology;
- Tourism and Cultural Exchanges;
- Women’s Economic Empowerment (cross cutting issue); and
- Blue Economy (cross cutting issue).

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Towards expanding intra-Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) trade: a TRADE-DSM analysis of bilateral realistic export opportunities between Thailand and South Africa [1]

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Introduction

The broad objectives of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) include the promotion of sustained growth and balanced development of the region and of the member states and the creation of common ground for regional economic co-operation.

In this context a large and growing body of empirical research suggests that stimulating new exports is one of the most efficient ways of improving the capabilities of firms and consequently national economies.

When faced with international competitive pressures and increased demand for higher quality and larger markets, firms tend to grow, become more productive and invest in higher quality products. Trade and investment is an area that directly impacts on job creation, poverty alleviation and economic development, and contributes to the objective of promoting sustainable and balanced economic growth in the region. The IORA-AG (Academic Group) has identified trade and investment facilitation as one of the key streams required to assist in realising its regional objectives. Key to regional economic integration and growth is therefore for the other member states to also gain insight into and knowledge of realistic export opportunities currently existing, but not necessarily 'known' within the IORA members' regional import demand profiles. The IORA is working towards strengthening cooperation and information dissemination with the business community in order to accelerate intra-regional trade and boost Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows. Key areas of attention include trade facilitation, trade policy coordination options, harmonisation and simplification of procedures, and dissemination of information through appropriate arrangements, including trade fairs, business-to-business meetings and capacity-building workshops.

Fact-based analysis and methodologies to identify and stimulate realistic export opportunities will thus provide important inputs for IORA's research agenda and strategy formulation process.

TRADE (an acronym for Trade and Development) is a research entity at the North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus) specialising in the fields of international trade and economic development. TRADE also holds a Chair under the WTO Chairs Programme. TRADE's research activities are heavily geared towards export promotion and development, from identifying new and high-potential export opportunities for South Africa and other countries, to uncovering the keys to greater competitiveness and inward investment flows – all areas of great concern to economic policy-makers and decision-makers in business. TRADE has an experienced and committed team of researchers who are well connected in government and business circles, and continuously stay abreast of local and international developments in their areas of expertise.

[1] This report has been published in the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region: Susara J. Jansen van Rensburg, Wilma Viviers, Martin Cameron & Ali Parry (2018) Identifying export opportunities between IORA member states using the TRADE-DSM® methodology: a case study involving South Africa and Thailand, Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, DOI: 10.1080/19480881.2018.1521777

The TRADE research entity has, over the last 15 years, been developing and refining a market selection methodology and tool, the Decision Support Model (DSM), with the aim of streamlining the process of identifying realistic export opportunities, particularly at an intra-regional level. Covering both products and services, and adaptable to different countries' circumstances, the DSM simplifies market selection decisions by pinpointing both short- and longer-term business opportunities in high-potential sectors, while also exposing market access barriers that could warrant specific efficiency-enhancing interventions. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the DSM can be a valuable aid to trade facilitation.

The DSM is the only export opportunity market selection methodology that includes all possible product-country combinations in the world at an HS 6-digit product level. This is confirmed by the International Trade Centre (ITC): "To the best of our knowledge, the DSM is the only other approach that combines supply, demand and market access conditions in order to provide advice on export opportunities at a detailed product level" (http://exportpotential.intracen.org/media/1089/epa-methodology_141216.pdf).

The DSM approach incorporates a thorough screening process which facilitates systematic export market selection through the identification of realistic export opportunities for firms wanting to expand their sales reach into foreign markets. It also offers alternatives to exporters where they are facing saturated demand and/or declining growth prospects in their traditional markets.

The TRADE research entity was requested to fully demonstrate the DSM concept and the value of the approach used in the context of enlightening the IORA members about intra-IOA realistic trade opportunities. To do this would have required the construction of a model for each of the member countries, which is beyond the scope of this assignment. However, what this report does is demonstrate the DSM concept and its benefits for a regional grouping like IORA by making use of the existing models for South Africa and Thailand, respectively (see Cuyvers, 1997; Cuyvers et. al., 2012; Cameron & Viviers, 2017; and Cuyvers et. al., 2017).

The main objective of this research report is to illustrate the usefulness of the TRADE-DSM approach in guiding IORA members in the identification of new, realistic opportunities for increased intra-regional trade of goods which point to easy-to-access markets with low barriers to entry within the region. A case study of bilateral opportunities between Thailand and South Africa, informed by the TRADE-DSM approach, forms the basis of this analysis and offers strategic insights to guide the trade facilitation policy-making process.

The rest of this report is structured as follows: section 2 contains a contextual analysis of the need for information on trade opportunities at a more granular level, while section 3 demonstrates the need for information on opportunities in international trade. The methodology is discussed in section 4, which provides a high-level, non-technical overview of the TRADE-DSM approach, and how the approach is applied in the context of this analysis is covered in section 5.

Section 6 then provides a preliminary high-level analysis of outcomes obtained, with section 7 concluding with some initial observations and recommendations. Lastly, references are listed in section 8, while more detailed appendices on the method as well as some high-level HS 6-digit product outcomes appear in section 9.

Initial Observations and Recommendations

The case study as developed in this report focused on realistic export opportunities between Thailand and South Africa. As discussed and demonstrated by the World Economic Forum's Global Enabling Trade Report, the shortcoming surrounding information on international trade opportunities is very real and a 'virtual' barrier to trade with real-world, physical implications.

This report serves to demonstrate how the TRADE-DSM approach can be applied very pragmatically to help address this barrier by informing on bilateral realistic export opportunities between IORA members at a much disaggregated level. While in the interests of brevity this report only reported information aggregated by sectoral groupings, more detailed analysis of the outcomes, opportunities and implications can be conducted at the HS 6-digit level of detail.

Despite the constraints, illustrative outcomes demonstrate that high-level macro-indices of complementarity can be less useful for trade and industrial policy-making purposes, since unfortunately, the 'devil is in the detail'. Macro-economies do not trade with each other; nor do sectors trade with sectors. Rather, home market companies trade specific products with specific counterpart companies in partner countries. In this regard the TRADE-DSM considers more detail, allowing for bottom-up aggregation of outcomes to a sectoral level to help inform policy-making, based more on detailed facts than on macro-level aggregates.

While able to inform the strategic and policy-level debate, the approach also addresses, on a pragmatic and detailed level, the challenge that most exporters say represents one of their biggest headaches. The challenge of acquiring information on, and then identifying, realistic export opportunities remains a very real barrier to increased trade and, in turn, to economic growth and development.

On the micro-market level, the data currently do not contain detailed company-level information; yet the approach can accommodate and incorporate such information. Recommendations based on this initial work are therefore two-fold:

- a) Firstly, IORA members should consider more micro-level analysis to inform strategic-level debates. The TRADE-DSM approach can assist in tackling this challenge in a very pragmatic way.

b) Secondly, ensuring information availability, sharing and accessibility should be a key policy directive. Most, if not all, member countries have well-functioning customs institutions that collect and report the necessary trade data on an aggregated product level to the UN and other institutions. A recommendation arising out of this work is that the IORA members should aim to collaborate in pooling company-level international trade data for 'match-making' purposes. While the customs information on companies that are registered importers and exporters may not be perfect, it constitutes a very good and sensible place to start.

South Africa Most problematic factors for exporting

Source: World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey 2015

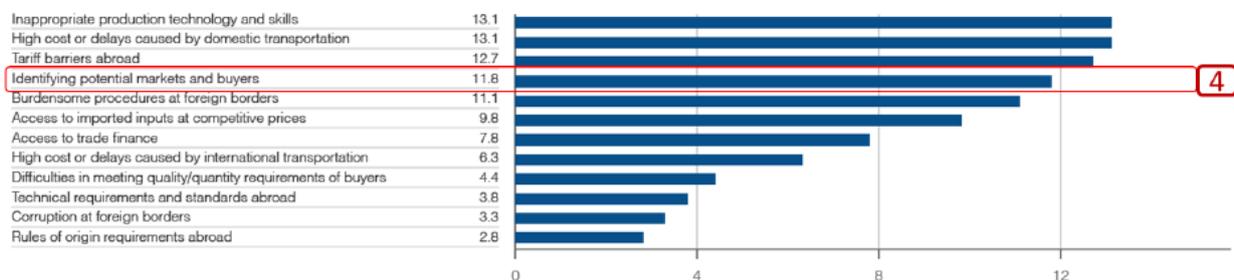


Figure 4: South Africa – most problematic factors for exporting

Source: World Economic Forum's Global Enabling Trade Report 2016.

Thailand Most problematic factors for exporting

Source: World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey 2015

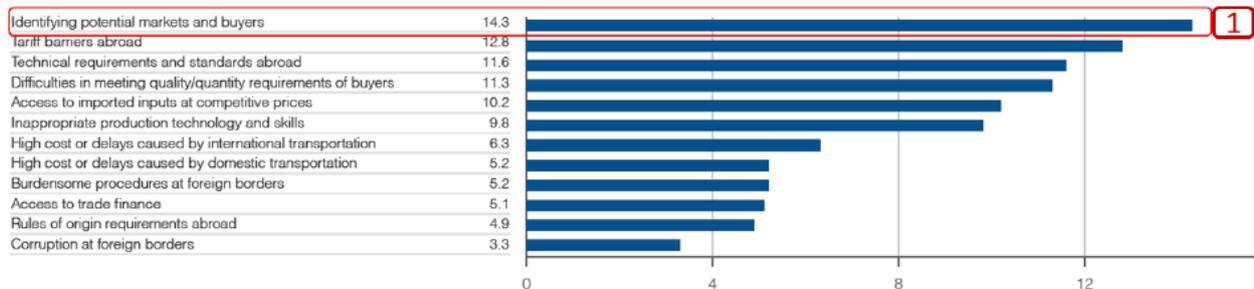


Figure 5: Thailand – most problematic factors for exporting

Source: World Economic Forum's Global Enabling Trade Report 2016.

Figure 1: These figures from the report on 'Towards expanding intra-Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) trade: a TRADE-DSM analysis of bilateral realistic export opportunities between Thailand and South Africa' depict the most problematic factors influencing exports for South Africa and Thailand. As can be seen from these figures, the identification of potential markets and buyers only ranks at number 4 for South Africa, while it ranks at number 1 for Thailand. The requirement to identify potential markets and buyers is one of the highest-ranking factors for improving trade across all respondents globally.



Assessing Multilateral Trade Cooperation Potential & Value Chains in the IORA Region

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Introduction

Trade and investment are important elements contributing to national and regional economic growth and job creation. For IORA in general, and South Africa and Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) IORA members, in particular, a key element in this goal is to promote a regional industrialization strategy to develop regional value chains that are viable, and that can interact with global value chains in areas in which the region can build on existing and potential capabilities. For example, identifying trade potential in region-specific value chains should be one of the main aims of the regional industrial strategy. In this regard, the SADC industrial strategy identifies the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialization related to the blue economy. The participation in trade of a number of emerging market and developing economies in Africa and Asia that are also Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) members provides an opportunity to develop industrialisation initiatives within IORA's overall policy objectives.

In 2017, the IORA region combined accounted for only 10 percent of the worldwide Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Indonesia Investments, 2017). Approximately 96 percent of trade is dominated by a few member states such as Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa. Intra-regional trade among IORA member states is about 25 percent of their total trade and a large amount of trade is among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and Australia (Rana, 2016). From US\$219 billion in 2004, the regional export increased to US\$619 billion in 2011 and then decreased to US\$473 in 2015 (Ahmed, 2016).

Countries in the Indian Ocean Rim vary in natural endowments, economic structure and level of economic growth and development. Such variations could create trade and investment opportunities within the region through comparative advantages and promoting intra-regional value chains. For example, trade and value chain activity could be an important catalyst for promoting small and medium enterprises in the region. India, Indonesia, and Thailand constitute significantly linked together in the footwear value chain allowing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) a competitive stake in the production of products for the regional and global markets. Of course, a precondition would be for other member states to overcome supply-side constraints such as inadequate export infrastructure or lack of credit facilities (Ahmed, 2016), and the threat of underdevelopment, inadequate investment and human resource capacity.

The main objective of the study is to propose a multilateral trade index to monitor the evolution of trade in the IORA region, and to assess the trade potential and relationships between regional and global value chains in the context of IORA and investigates value chain activity, including trade value, added, among a sample of IORA member states that include South Africa.

Conclusions

The analyses of trade, global value chain integration and multilateral trade integration in the IORA suggests that some IORA economies are more integrated than others. In the first instance, participation in regional value chains provides a valuable opportunity for learning by doing in order to be better equipped to participate in GVCs. There are lessons that can be learnt from the development of regional production networks in South and East Asia that could facilitate the growth, development, and industrialisation of the IORA region.

For the value chain component of trade and investment to become an important indicator further research is required for a breakdown of the sectoral composition of domestic and foreign VA, and forward and backward value chain participation. Once the sub-sectoral analysis is complete, policy recommendations could be made for IORA on key sectors for the development of regional value chains (RVCs). Furthermore, the MREII model needs to incorporate all the member states of the IORA and track and monitor their performance in trade and investment, and global value chain participation. In this regard, network characteristics such as the clustering coefficient should be computed at various intervals and their trends analysed over time.

A multilateral regional economic integration index (MREII) network approach shows the significance, developmental potential and usefulness of the trade and investment relationships among countries. However, there are certain limits to the application of the MREII in its current form. To become a useful instrument for the IORA the MREII must also be able to integrate and update the value chain dimension of trade to recent years. For further research, the GVC profile methodology can be used to develop a regional value chain (RVC) participation index, and such an RVC participation index could be further used as a variable in the MREII index developed in the study.

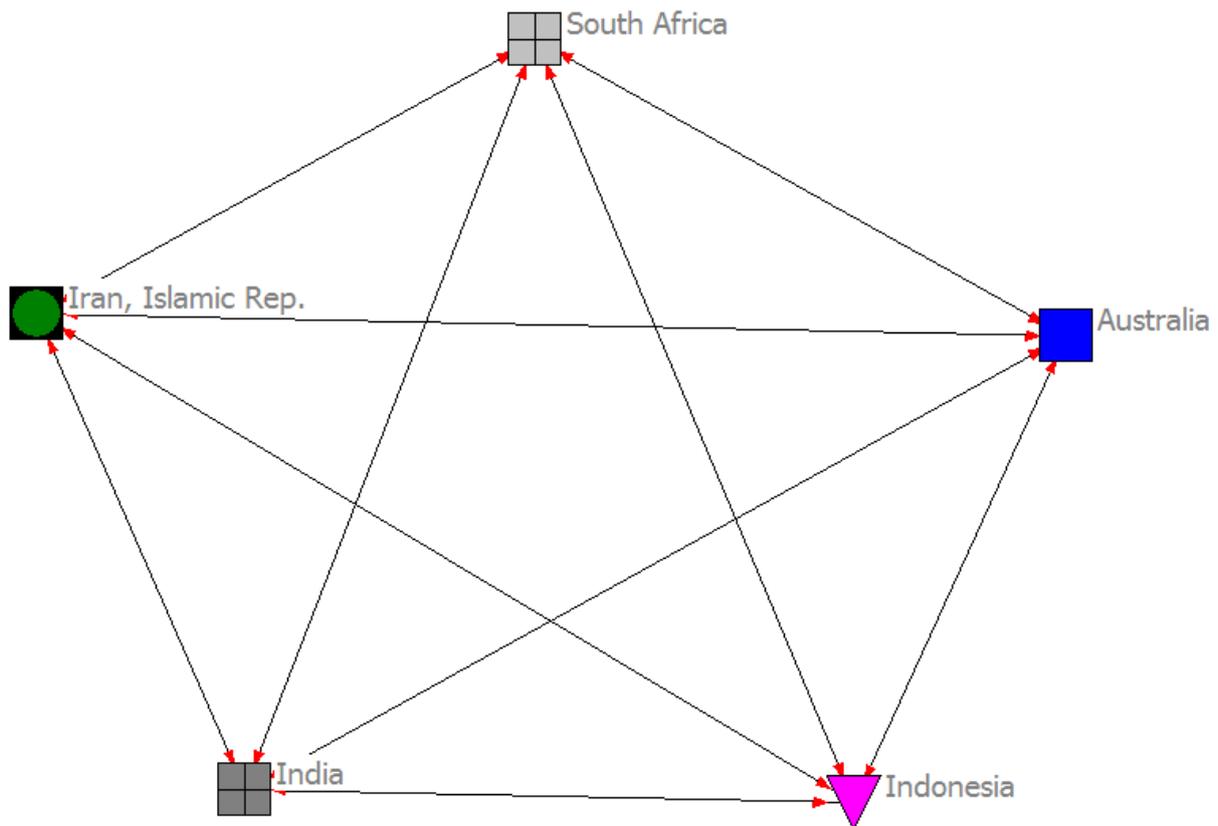


Figure 2: This 'Network Diagram' from the report 'Assessing Multilateral Trade Cooperation Potential & Value Chains in the IORA Region' indicates the connectedness of countries in the region. A highly clustered network occurs when many countries are linked to each other, and a poorly clustered network occurs when the network does not form the triangle, that is, country A is only connected to country B and not to any other country. In the case of the five countries used in this example, the network is highly clustered because all the nodes are connected to each other. The exercise indicates that the IORA region has significant potential for multilateral trade within the network since numerous bilateral trade linkages already exist in the region. Source: Computed by Ucinet using World Integrated Trade Solution Data.



An Assessment of the State of Gender in IORA for a Future Research Agenda[2]

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Introduction

Gender equality is high on the global political agenda. This much is evident in the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as various other global policy directives advancing the need for women's empowerment and gender equality. A large body of scholarship highlights a positive correlation between gender and development (Jones and Perry, 2003; True, 2003; Esquivel, 2016; Cornwall, Harrison and Whitehead 2007). Scholars have highlighted the positive impact increased women's economic participation has on gross domestic product through prioritizing women's access to education, health care, and opportunities for micro-finance for entrepreneurial activity (Jones and Perry, 2003; Cornwall, Harrison and Whitehead, 2007). Yet, for some the notion of women empowerment is too narrowly interpreted, merely focusing on the symptoms as opposed the root cause of gendered patterns of inequality (True, 2003; Esquivel, 2016). At the heart of women empowerment, or transformative gender practice, should be the notion of power and how one restructures power relations for a gender equal society (Esquivel, 2016). The United Nations notes that while significant progress has been made towards a gender equal world and women empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals, gender discrimination and violence persist (United Nations, 2015a). For Sachs (2012, 2207), a key set of challenges for sustainable development relates to the idea of social inclusion in economic life or "fairness in the world's economies". To this effect, he stresses that wage and income equality ballooned in an era of globalisation, which impacts on longstanding inequalities, including gender (2012, 2207 – 2008). Thus [t]he goal of gender equality between men and women and boys and girls (MDC 3) has not yet been met worldwide, even though some progress has been made on girls' school enrolment and women's participation in business and politics. Minority groups (ethnic, religious, racial) continue to endure hardships in all countries. Longstanding discrimination against indigenous populations is stark and in many places intensifying as a scramble for jobs, water, and arable land increases (Sachs, 2012, 2207 – 2208). Esquivel asserts that power analysis should be at the heart of assessing transformative gender practice in gender policy (2016: 9). Here she highlights the centrality of skewed power relations founded in systems of patriarchy that undermine the full realization of women's rights globally. Economic exclusion and marginalisation, as well as violence and gender discrimination based on patriarchy and cultural structures, persist as lived experiences for many women, but most notably for poor women in the developing world (Jones and Perry, 2003).

[2] This report has been published in the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region: Joleen Steyn Kotze & Narnia Bohler-Muller (2018) 'Let's talk about sex': the state of gender in IORA for a future agenda, Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, 14:2, 130-151, DOI: 10.1080/19480881.2018.1461995

Thus, as long as one is advancing ‘womenomics’ without sufficiently addressing skewed power relations, the goals of women empowerment and a gender-equal world may remain elusive. We know that gender discrimination and inequality continue even though 143 countries globally committed to strengthening gender equality and the social progress of women (United Nations, 2015b). This report presents a baseline analysis on the state of gender within the IORA region from the perspective of power, spatiality and transformation. When unpacking transformation dynamics in any given policy context, a key awareness of the concept of power necessitates a discursive analysis of the quality of gender policies. At the heart of this analysis is the political imaginary that shapes the political rationale for various transformative policies, as well as reshaping those socially determined categories and unpacking the dynamics of dominant and often male-centred ideologies (Robinson 2002: 285). The political imaginary and public sphere become important as we “contest material inequality associated with gendered difference in employment, in institutional representation, in households and in personal relations” (Robinson 2002: 285).

It is in this light that this report unpacks the gender dynamics that shape policy directives within the IORA grouping. Drawing on the United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Index (2016) and the World Bank’s Women, Business and Law Index (2016), the report analyses the baseline of gendered difference within IORA in light of its commitment to advance gender and transformation as a policy theme across all critical areas. The paper focusses on economic inclusion, political representation, and laws for a transformative gender agenda expressed within the IORA grouping. This baseline study is an essential first step towards facilitating a research agenda for transformative gender practice within IORA.

Transforming society with a view to facilitate gender equality is a highly political project. It economic inclusion for gender equity, increasing the political power of women through appointments to high level decision making structures for voice and presentation, and facilitating economic inclusion of women for sustainable development. Thus, gender and transformation is focused on changing power dynamics to facilitate inclusion, representation, voice, and empowerment of women. This renders changing power relations a central component to advance a socio-political and socio-economic agenda for gender equality. It speaks of a political imaginary of changing power dynamics for transformative politics for women empowerment and autonomy.

The report first presents an overview of the gender and global policy and the discursive approach to gender policy analysis, focusing on the notions of power, change, and transformation. It then engages IORA’s approach towards policy statements on gender and transformation; following which, an overview of the state of gender within IORA is presented. The report concludes with recommendations for a future research agenda for gender and transformation in IORA.

Conclusions

Gender justice is a politically sensitive issue for some members states within the IORA grouping, which may necessitate a more nuanced approach to begin to mainstream gender within IORA. It may thus be for this reason that the key policy directive advancing gender justice within IORA is getting women to work and in schools to bring women into development. It could also see the development of scholarship on creating the necessary policy directives and narratives on gender justice as women's economic empowerment by stressing the benefits of women's participation in development. To this effect, for example, one notes scholarship beginning to advance the policy narratives highlighting the beneficial role women play in economic development in line with more liberal thinking on achieving gender justice (Harris-Rimmer, 2017; Chacko 2017). These are necessary scholarly conversations to begin advocating for gender mainstreaming within the legislative and policy spaces of gender governance.

While economic empowerment and advancement is central to achieving some form of agency and authority, there is also a need to engage the notion of transformation and changing mind-sets for gender equality and transformation within IORA for voice and autonomy. Gender equity in economic terms may not necessarily result in women empowerment. We need to consider factors of time, capacity, access, and support in addition to economic redress. In many countries, women still remain the primary caregiver and carry the main responsibility for child care, resulting in less time to pursue additional education or entrepreneurial activities (Johnsson-Latham, 2007). Other barriers include lack of education, illiteracy, unpaid care work, access to productive resources, legal barriers, and precarious, underpaid and segregated work (Harris-Rimmer, 2014). One also cannot ignore ideology, values and culture in shaping gender identities, and by virtue what can and cannot be done by women.

More importantly, we need to challenge mind-sets that reinforce patriarchal attitudes and work towards promoting gender justice and eliminating discrimination in both private and public spheres. Ideology, narrative and structure attest to values and principles that reproduce gender inequality and consequently marginalise and discriminate against women, maintaining patterns of gender injustice. They also undermine the (re)creation of a commitment to gender justice as a fundamental human right. Therefore, in addition to facilitating redress of policy instruments to advance gender economic equity, one also has to pay attention to gendered power relations in social, political, educational and economic spaces. It is here that a conference for the Women of IORA may be particularly valuable as it could create a space for policy makers, political leaders, and ordinary women engaged in gender justice to engage on creating the political imaginary of a gender-just IORA. While the focus on economic inclusion and empowerment is an essential first step, there is a need to build collaboration and transnational feminist and women's networks within the IORA structure to build the narrative and experience of gender (in)justice in the region. This would in turn lay the foundation for the policy narratives when mainstreaming gender in key decision-making spheres to bring the feminine into those masculine spaces (Robinson, 2002).



Figure 3: This figure from the report on 'An Assessment of the State of Gender in IORA for a Future Research Agenda' indicates the expected years of school for boys (blue) and girls (red). Harris-Rimmer (2017) and Chacko (2017) argue that increasing women's participation in education (including higher education) to enhance skills development and level the proverbial skills playing field could yield a massive boost in terms of development and increase in gross domestic product. Source: Human Development Report 2016, Statistical Annex. Available online: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr_2016_statistical_annex.pdf.



Tourism and cultural exchanges in the Indian Ocean Region[3]

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Introduction

The Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) report, *The impact of culture on tourism*, in 2009, has focused global attention on the global attractiveness and competitiveness of destinations through cultural resources, experiences and education (OECD, 2009). As an example of cultural exchange, cultural tourism has significant economic and development potential (Smith & Richards, 2013: 63). In recognizing the significance of tourism and cultural exchanges (IORA, 2017a), the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Action Plan 2017-2021 has identified tourism and cultural exchanges within the Indian Ocean Region a strategic priority (IORA, 2017b). Apart from social integration that these cultural exchanges can foster tourism to and within the region can contribute significantly to the economic development of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Twenty one of the 36 littoral states of the Indian Ocean are members of the only pan-Indian Ocean organization, IORA, which comprises Australia, Bangladesh, the Comoros, India, Indonesia, Seychelles, Somalia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen. Besides these members, IORA also has several Dialogue Partners, namely China, Egypt, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom (UK). The Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG) and the Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation (IOTA) are Observers accredited to IORA. Each IORA member has a unique historical experience, and contemporary realities and challenges. Despite these differences, IORA members have committed themselves to closer economic cooperation as states sharing the Indian Ocean and historical interactions. Besides economic cooperation, IORA members have also set intra-regional trade, diplomatic cooperation, and exchanges as some of its objectives. IORA members have since its establishment in 1997 identified six priority areas, namely maritime safety and security, trade and investment facilitation, fisheries management, disaster risk management, academic, science and technology cooperation, and tourism and cultural exchanges (IORA, 1997). Tourism and cultural exchanges are of strategic importance of the IORA.

However, according to IORA, The lack of regional cooperation [on tourism] inhibits tourism development in the Indian Ocean region (IORA, 2017a).

A preliminary review of scholarship on the Indian Ocean Region suggests a strong focus on maritime security and lesser focus on tourism and cultural exchanges. Whereas IORA members do receive tourists, and participate in regional tourism conferences, academic research and academic exchanges on tourism and cultural exchanges remain under-researched. A lack of knowledge and analysis of tourism and cultural exchanges may undermine the achievement of the short, medium, and long-term objectives outlined in the said Plan of Action.

[3] This report has been published in the *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*: Jo-Ansie van Wyk (2018) Tourism and cultural exchanges in the Indian Ocean region, *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*, 14:2, 255-269, DOI: 10.1080/19480881.2018.1473090

A lack of scholarship on tourism and cultural priorities may undermine the achievement of the short, medium, and long-term objectives outlined in the IORA Plan of Action. Therefore, the study intends to achieve five main objectives, namely to,

- Conceptualise tourism and cultural exchanges,
- Situate and compare tourism and cultural exchanges in the Region in global developments in these sectors,
- Survey and compare the national governance of tourism and cultural exchanges in each IORA member state,
- Provide empirical evidence of existing tourism and cultural exchanges,
- Propose improvements through policy recommendations in the scope and depth of tourism and cultural exchanges in the Region.

The report proceeds as follows. The next section addresses the lack of the conceptualization of tourism and cultural exchanges in the IORA context. Hence, the report proceeds to define tourism as an example of a cultural exchange. The report proceeds to analyse IORA's share of global tourism and cultural exchanges by focusing on selected tourism indicators in the Indian Ocean region. It also refers to the tourist attractiveness of IORA members compared to other tourist destinations. Hereafter the report focuses on the governance of tourism and cultural exchanges in IORA members to reveal the impact of the region's diversity on its identity, interests and ambitions. Finally, the report concludes with an assessment of tourism and cultural exchanges in IORA and its individual members, as well as offering recommendations for improvement.

Conclusions and recommendations

IORA has succeeded in binding together states that share some common historical experiences. Despite this, the members of IORA are diverse, a matter that may explain the slow progress on regional integration and intra-regional tourism, cooperation, investment and development. Some of these diverse characteristics are located in

- Different colonial and post-independence experiences, and state formation.
- Ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and unresolved ethnic, cultural and religious conflict.
- State fragility, decay and collapse, and varied levels of tourism attractiveness.
- Diverse levels of socio-economic development, and tourism's contribution to the economy.
- Different types of states and political systems. Australia, Tanzania, the UAE and Somalia, for example, are federal states. The UAE consists of several emirates, whereas Tanzania, for example, includes Zanzibar.
- Diverse levels of tourism policy and infrastructure development.
- Diverse tourism and cultural exchanges offerings.

Despite these differences, IORA has managed to achieve some regional cohesion, which may be termed 'open regionalism' and 'soft institutionalism' (Wagner, 2015: 14).

The report set out to conceptualise tourism and cultural exchanges. It outlined IORA member states' position in a global context by focusing on IORA members' attractiveness and tourism related indicators. It showed that tourism contributes significantly to states' GDP and employment figures. It also showed that national governance of tourism and cultural exchanges in IORA member states differ due to identified factors. However, despite these differences, commonalities exist and have been outlined. The report concluded that

- IORA and its individual members recognise the importance of tourism and cultural exchanges but does not define it.
- Intra-regional tourism remains under-developed.
- IORA has adopted tourism and cultural exchanges as priorities and flagship projects but fails to institutionalise and operationalise its priorities, projects and proposals.

Against the aforesaid, the study recommends the following.

1. Conceptualise tourism and cultural exchanges

IORA does not have a single working definition of tourism and cultural exchanges.

2. Audit of tourism and cultural exchanges

As tourism and cultural exchanges in IORA remain under-researched, and a lack of knowledge and analysis of tourism and cultural exchanges may undermine the achievement of the short, medium, and long-term objectives outlined in the IORA Plan of Action, it is recommended that IORA commission an audit of tourism and cultural exchanges. Evidently, the Grant Thornton tourism feasibility study commissioned a number of years ago proved insufficient and unacceptable by some members of the Association. The final report of the study was sent to all Member States for their views in May 2015. Malaysia, Seychelles, and South Africa provided their comments which were sent to the Consultant, Grant Thornton, who revised the report. This update was sent to all Member States. Again, Malaysia and South Africa provided comments which were again conveyed to Grant Thornton – namely, to highlight the first set of inputs were not incorporated. A copy of the comments are attached for information below from the CSO in May 2015.

The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), of the Sultanate of Oman, informed the Secretariat that they have not received any feedback from the Consultant in 2015. Since Grant Thornton appeared unwilling to undertake any further additions to the Study, the report was considered as a non-official document of IORA (IORA Secretariat, 2017).

3. Operationalize existing priorities, projects and proposals

Table 6 contains a summary of short-, medium and long-term strategies. These could be complemented by IORA considering the allocation of sectoral responsibilities to member states, or the rotation of these responsibilities among members. Besides this, the establishment of a cross-cutting high-level tourism and cultural exchange mechanism at Ministerial or Summit level should be considered.

Table 1. IORA tourist indicators: a selection (2017) (WEF, 2017: 87-344)

	Arrivals	Expenditure by tourists (US\$ million)	Percentage of GDP	Percentage of national employment
Australia	7,444,400	28,871.8	2.8	4.4
Bangladesh	125 000	148.4	2.4	2
India	8,027,133	21,012.7	2	5.5
Indonesia	10,406,759	10,761.0	3.3	2.9
Iran	5,237,000	3,483.0	2.5	1.9
Kenya	1,114,100	723.0	3.8	3.5
Madagascar	244,321	574.0	4.8	3.8
Malaysia	25,721,251	17,597.1	4.4	4.2
Mauritius	1,151,252	1,431.7	11.6	11.1
Mozambique	1,552,000	192.8	3	2.4
Oman	1,897,000	1,539.7	2.5	2.7
Singapore	12,051,929	16,743.4	4.8	4.2
South Africa	8,903,773	8,234.7	3	4.5
Sri Lanka	1,798,380	2,980.7	4.6	4.2
Tanzania	1,104,000	2,230.6	4.1	3.4
Thailand	29,923,185	44,552.7	9.3	6.3
United Arab Emirates	14,200,000	16,038.1	4.2	5.7
Yemen	366,700	100.0	4.4	2.9

Figure 4: This table from the "Tourism and cultural exchanges in the Indian Ocean Region Report" outlines that tourism is a considerable contributor to the GDP of IORA members, contributing to as high as 11.6% to Mauritius' GDP, 9.3% to Thailand's, and 4.8% to Madagascar and Singapore IORA tourist indicators: a selection (2017) (WEF, 2017: 87-344). Australia, India, Malaysia, Thailand, the UAE and Singapore have benefitted handsomely from these developments, which contributed to the tourism sector being a significant percentage of national employment figures; especially in Mauritius, Thailand, the UAE, and India. Source: The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2017. Paving the way for a more sustainable and inclusive. Geneva: World Economic Forum.



Competitiveness within Indian Ocean Rim region as a cultural heritage tourism destination

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Introduction

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is made up of twenty one countries spreading across Africa, Asia, Middle East and Australia. The region has prioritised tourism and cultural exchanges as a focus area that must be further explored by academics in the Region. At the IORA Workshop held in Mauritius in May 2017, member states recommended the implementation of the sustainable tourism indicators endorsed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and Global Sustainable Tourism Council. These indicators would enhance the quality of tourism in the IORA region by making it more competitive, sustainable and attractive as a destination of the future. In addition, UNWTO states that the destinations of the Indian Ocean Region are forecasted to receive 179 million international tourists in 2020, thus recording an annual growth rate of 6.3% over the period 1995-2020. (<http://www.iora.net/en/priorities-focus-areas/tourism-and-cultural-exchange>). IORA is further encouraged to capitalise on the diversity of culture and heritage within the region as culture is a significant daily activity influencing people's daily lives, identities and values. It is important to acknowledge the diverse cultures and heritage of the Indian Ocean Rim and how they can be useful for its growth, development and competitiveness.

Conclusion

The study has indeed confirmed that the Indian Ocean region is endowed with unique culture and heritage resources which make it a competitive destination. In general terms, all destinations in the Indian Ocean region are competitive if endowed resources were the only measurement of competitiveness. They have the natural and cultural resources to attract tourists to the region. However, as explained by Dwyer and Kim (2003) supporting and situational conditions are the enabling conditions to enhance tourist experience. For example, tourists travel to destinations which are easy to access and provide them with accommodation, internet services and transport and offer competitive prices. In this regard, the most competitive destinations in the Indian Ocean rim are Australia, Thailand, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Mauritius and Malaysia. The least competitive destinations are Yemen, Iran, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Madagascar.

Destination competitiveness indicators show interesting results. In Island countries tourism is the mainstay of the economy making a significant contribution to both GDP and employment. Thailand is an exception. The destination is the development stage in the tourism life cycle.

The study has shown mixed results as far as the improvement of quality of life of the local communities was concerned. There is therefore a need to develop these resources both for the growth of the industry and for the improvement of the livelihoods of communities in the region. Sustainability as stated in IORA communications is the ultimate goal of tourism development. This can only be realised if tourism leads to meaningful improvement in livelihoods of local communities.

Barriers to community participation are serious obstacles to local community participation in tourism development. IORA governments can mitigate these barriers. For example, governments can capacitate communities through skill development training and financial help. Secondly, education about tourism can play a meaningful role in tourism management and development. The private sector can also play a meaningful role in capacitating the local community through internships, so they acquire the necessary skills to enable them to run a tourism business. Giampiccoli & Hayward (2012) also note that tourism in the IORA region is at the early stages of development and cannot therefore be the main livelihood for communities in the region.

The study is the beginning of academic discussions on competitiveness of IORA as a culture and heritage tourism destination. Joint studies across the region should be undertaken which continuously explore the factors outlined in Dwyer and Kim's framework to inform policy making in the region. Governments in the IORA region should share information on how the region as a whole can be a competitive cultural and heritage tourism destination through benchmarking with competitive destinations.

Table 3: Price competitiveness and safety and security IOR ranking 2017.

Country	Safety and Security regional ranking	Safety and Security and score	Price competitiveness regional ranking	Price competitiveness score
Australia	4	6.10	18	3.82
Bangladesh	18	3.69	14	4.66
Comoros	Not ranked			
India	12	4.12	5	5.85
Indonesia	9	5.06	3	6.00
Iran	8	5.17	1	6.66
Kenya	15	3.45	13	4.83
Madagascar	11	5.02	12	5.03
Malaysia	6	5.75	2	6.06
Mauritius	5	5.88	17	4.13
Mozambique	12	4.57	16	4.63
Oman	2	6.49	8	6.48
Seychelles	Not ranked			
Singapore	3	6.45	15	4.65
Somalia	Not ranked			
South Africa	15	3.93	10	5.25
Sri Lanka	7	5.53	7	5.55
Tanzania	10	5.05	9	5.35
Thailand	14	4.00	6	5.61
United Arab Emirates	1	6.60	11	5.02
Yemen	17	2.80	4	5.92

Sources: Competitiveness index (2017: 41)

Figure 5: This table ranks the IORA countries on various situational factors. From this it can be seen that countries which perform well in terms of safety and security of tourists are United Arab Emirates, Oman, Singapore, Australia and Mauritius; while the cheapest destinations are Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, Yemen and India. Source: Competitiveness index (2017: 41)



IORA and Disaster Risk Management: Fostering Collaboration with Existing International Bodies[4]

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Introduction

DRM is included in the Indian Ocean Rim Association IORA charter as one of its six focus areas. At the international level governments have adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action and its successor, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework). Regionally, IORA's policy approach to DRM is to focus on knowledge sharing and capacity building within the region, and places an emphasis on the importance of the 'collection, compilation and dissemination of relevant knowledge and information on hazards, vulnerability and capacities'.

The policy approach of IORA towards DRM further highlights the multidisciplinary nature of DRM and the involvement of a range of stakeholders from all spheres of government and nongovernmental organisations, as well as cooperation between regional and international partners both in the public and private sector. DRM is further strengthened by IORA's encouragement of partnerships between institutions, the development of joint training programmes, and regional insurance schemes.

In April 2015 the IORA Sustainable Development Programme (ISDP) convened an expert meeting on 'Exploring Pre-emptive Disaster Risk Management Measures to ensuring Community Resilience'. The main objective of the DRM discussions was to 'prepare IORA Member States to respond to various disasters through proper guidelines and objectives'.⁹ The Deputy Permanent Secretary (Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Tanzania) also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation for better DRM approaches.

One of the objectives of this expert meeting was for IORA to consider the establishment of a Regional Disaster Coordination Mechanism in the Indian Ocean Rim region to 'facilitate the sharing and exchange of information between Member States and to encourage mutual help and assistance between Member countries for disaster response and early warning systems'. It was further noted that this proposal was to be presented at the next meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of IORA to be held in Mauritius on May 2015 for their consideration. Correspondence with the IORA secretariat indicated that this proposal was not discussed during the meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

In March 2017 the heads of States of the IORA member states signed the Jakarta Concord, committing them to enhancing DRM in the region by various specific objectives.¹¹ Further to this, the IORA Action plan was adopted, calling for 'Improving resilience and response to disaster risk management'.

[4] This report has been published in the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region: Ernesta Swanepoel (2018) IORA and disaster risk management: fostering collaboration with existing international bodies, Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, 14:2, 237-247, DOI: 10.1080/19480881.2018.1473093

Its short-term flagship initiative envisages that cooperation is enhanced with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and other multilateral organisations and agencies. Medium-term initiatives include exploring the possibility of creating an IORA Centre of Excellence for DRM for sharing information, expertise and best practice and to implement training and capacity building programs. The IORA action plan also includes building resilience through early warning systems, regional exercises, and training for coordinated disaster risk reduction as a long-term initiative.

At the end of March 2017, the South African Chapter of the IORA Academic Group (SA IORAG) held a combined Maritime Safety and Security and Disaster Risk Management focus areas workshop to determine a universal theme of research relevant to all IORA countries. The DRM focus area proposed 'Needs, opportunities, gaps, barriers and the way forward to achieve resilience and responses to DRM' as a possible theme. It was further decided that relevant international frameworks, in particular the Jakarta Concord, should guide this research. In addition, it was also proposed that a desktop study be undertaken to identify opportunities for collaboration between existing undertakings, as well as possible gaps and opportunities for further research. While this report is a result of the aforementioned workshop, it focuses on possible opportunities to achieve resilience and responses to DRM with emphasis on paragraph 16(d) of the Jakarta Concord.

In order to further contribute to the understanding and effective implementation of paragraph 16(d) of the Jakarta Concord and to contribute to the improvement of resilience and response to DRM, this report sets out to determine whether or not there are grounds for collaboration between the IORA and the UNFCCC, more specifically with the WIM, to further enhance and strengthen DRM within the Indian Ocean Rim region

In summary the report will:

- provide a brief overview of the existing disaster risk management structures within certain IORA countries;
- discuss the implications of paragraph 16(d) of the Jakarta Concord;
- examine the relevant decisions taken by the UNFCCC as well as the provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular Article 8(1) (3) (4) and (5) and its relevance to the work undertaken by IORA; and
- make recommendations for opportunities to incorporate the work undertaken by the WIM.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In addition to countries' responsibilities under Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, there are also clear overlaps between IORA's policy approach in addressing DRM and the function of the WIM in addressing L & D. In particular, both aim to foster co-operation through capacity building, sharing of knowledge, information and best practices. Notably IORA has as one of its main objectives to strengthen regional disaster preparedness and DRM while the WIM includes emergency preparedness as one of the areas of cooperation and facilitation. As member states to the UNFCCC, all IORA member states should enhance their understanding, action and support with respect to the L & D associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The aforesaid can, where appropriate, be achieved through the Executive Committee of the WIM on a cooperative and facilitative basis.

It is therefore strongly recommended that IORA consider the possibility of collaboration with the Executive Committee of the WIM, as well as facilitating processes for member states to incorporate the work undertaken by the WIM. This co-operation can be strengthened by presenting it to the Council of Ministers to include in its formulation of policies or for consideration during decisions on new areas of co-operation in terms of its mandate with regard to the IORA charter. A possible institutional vehicle to facilitate this process could be the Regional Disaster Coordination Mechanism recommended during the expert meeting in 2015. This cooperation will also fulfil the objectives of the short-term initiative of the Action Plan. It is further recommended that IORA member states form a loose coalition within the UNFCCC negotiation process. This would enable Member States to develop a common negotiating position with regards to issues related to DRM, and in particular to loss and damage issues within the region and/or sub-regions with commonalities that they wish to pursue during the UNFCCC negotiations.

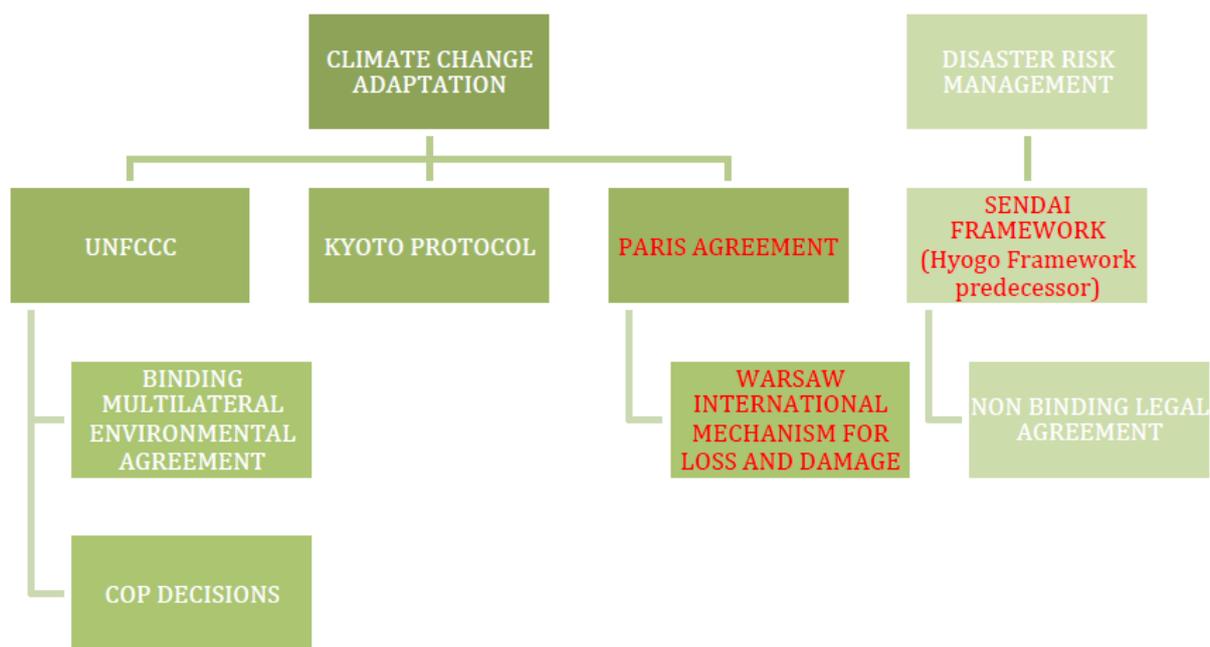


Figure 6: This diagram from the report on ‘IORA and Disaster Risk Management: Fostering Collaboration with Existing International Bodies’ provides a broad outline of the most relevant elements of the international approach towards climate change adaptation (in this instance the loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change) and DRM. In addition to these two separate international agreements it is important to observe that traditionally, countries often approach climate change adaptation and DRM separately.



Lecture Series on Maritime Security
Governance off Africa – Jointly presented by
the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
(Global Maritime Crime Programme, Kenya)
and the Security Institute for Governance and
Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) of Stellenbosch
University.[5]

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