**Border Management**

In June, a multilateral consultation took place among the actors that will participate in the multi-stakeholders Coordination Centre at the Ivato International airport.

[Read more about it](#)

**Migration and Development**

The Government of Mauritius has adopted its National Migration and Development Policy on 1st June 2018, following the strategic vision of the government to deal with challenges and opportunities related to migration in a holistic and proactive way.

**Displacement Tracking Matrix**

Population displacement from southern Madagascar is attracting increasing attention because of the perceived related social tensions and environmental impacts the inflow of internal migrants generates in the communities of destination.

**Regional Director Conducts First Official Visit to Comoros**

Between 27 and 30 May, the IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region, based in Pretoria – South Africa, Mr Charles Kwenin conducted his first official visit to the Union of Comoros. During his visit to Moroni, the Regional Director accompanied by the Chief of Mission to Madagascar, Mr Daniel Silva y Poveda, held various meetings with senior government officials including the Vice-President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Interior; the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team, and other IOM partners in Comoros, to discuss migration challenges and opportunities in the country.

The visit of the Regional Director is the highest level official visit to date by IOM since Comoros became a Member State of the Organization in 2011 and manifests IOM’s rapidly increasing engagement to support the governments’ efforts to achieve its national development agenda.

IOM has opened an Office in Moroni in January this year, and currently implements a diaspora engagement initiative. IOM also continues to expand reintegration activities in Comoros for beneficiaries of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes.

**Southern Madagascar: Displacement Indicators Call for Attention**

The recurrent drought in the southern Madagascar continues to generate discussions. After a brief period of calm during 2017, owing to a significant volume of humanitarian and development assistance and generally good rainfall, the population of the South seems to be again edging closer to difficulties due to the poor rainfall under the 2017 – 2018 rainy season.

During the first quarter of 2018, IOM documented concerning outward migration and displacement trends through the DTM’s fourth report, with displacements taking place earlier into the year than usual mobility patterns from the area; and in volumes almost equivalent during a mere three months to the overall numbers of displaced for the full past civil years. In those communities most vulnerable to migration, IOM continues to implement community stabilization activities, with a view to ensure that those for whom migration is not their first choice have the means and capacities to stay where they currently reside.
Counter-Trafficking

The IOM Counter-Trafficking Project has begun its series of regional refresher training sessions on national law punishing trafficking and on victim identification and assistance. In parallel, direct socio-economic support continues to be provided to about fifty victims of trafficking who have returned from Kuwait and China.

Strengthening State Authority in Southern Madagascar

The project RAES has been formally launched on the 31st of May in Betroka in the presence of the UN Resident Coordinator and the Malagasy Prime Minister.

Malagasy Women’s Struggles in Kuwait

Malala is one of the dozens of Malagasy women who returned from Kuwait to Madagascar in the last few weeks. As many others, Malala ran away from her employer’s house as a result of the regular physical abuses she was suffering. During her stay in Kuwait, she also had to work for more than twenty hours a day, seven days a week, as a domestic worker. Malala did not even get appropriate food or medical assistance after she got blood pressure problems.

Once she got back to Madagascar, Malala started receiving urgent post-return and reintegration assistance by IOM. She was taken to a temporary shelter until her family was able to help her to find a place to live, and she received medical care. She is determined to find a job as a translator using her knowledge of Malagasy, French and English, and she hopes to be able to run her own business.

Western Indian Ocean Nations Position Themselves on Migration, Environment and Climate Change

Migration, environment and climate change (MECC) are closely interrelated; environmental degradation and disasters can cause migration just as the movement of people can also significantly affect surrounding ecosystems. The scale of such internal and cross-border flows is expected to rise as a result of accelerated climate change, which is fundamentally redrawing the map of where – and how – people can live. This is particularly true in the Western Indian Ocean.

On 24 May, IOM Mauritius launched and disseminated the Migration, Environment and Climate Change; Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) project research documents and the MECC Policy Paper and Action Plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. Some 30 stakeholders identified priority actions within the frameworks of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other relevant policies in place during a follow-up dialogue and agreed that these had to be implemented through a coordination mechanism.

On 5 and 6 June, delegates from the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles, accompanied by representatives from the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Secretariat, attended the IOM-facilitated first Regional Policy Forum on MECC in Pretoria – South Africa. The Forum was attended by 38 policy makers and practitioners of MECC from 13 countries of the SADC and IOC Regions, and enabled the Western Indian Ocean nations to discuss findings from country-assessments conducted recently in Madagascar and Mauritius; as well as debate and develop a regional policy-guiding document that establishes priorities and stimulates cooperation amongst States on MECC.

Read more about it here!