

From Tricase to the Indian Ocean: Coastal Safety at the Heart of International Dialogue

The safety of coastal communities remains a daily challenge for millions of people living by the sea. Fragile shorelines, extreme weather events, increasing pressure on marine ecosystems, and the growing frequency of emergencies all highlight the need to strengthen expertise, connections, and response capacities.

To address these needs in a practical manner, officials and technical experts from Comoros, India, Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka are gathering today at our site in Tricase for the third edition of the High-level Specialised Training Course dedicated to the safety of coastal communities across the Indian Ocean, funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Drawing on similar experiences helps to reduce geographical distances between regions that may differ widely. This exchange facilitates the pooling of practices, tools and approaches to face shared challenges together, and develop more effective firmly grounded responses while promoting a common language.

A programme shaped around community needs

The training programme commenced today with a welcome ceremony, bringing together local authorities, experts and relevant actors. It offered an opportunity to frame the course and gain insights into participants' motivations, expectations and experiences.

The programme—featuring interactive sessions, practical works and field visits—has been designed accordingly: to create a space for technical staff, officials and local representatives to observe effective practices first-hand and engage with peers from across the Mediterranean addressing similar challenges

Key topics will be explored, including environmental risk management, pollution monitoring, the design of nature-based solutions, participatory governance and climate planning. The programme will extend beyond theory, with visits to the Torre Guaceto Marine Reserve and local initiatives in the Alto Salento area, where projects focused on ecosystem restoration, community engagement and landscape protection are already delivering tangible results.

Knowledge transfer is not limited to the delivery of technical content; it involves building competencies together through dialogue between regions that, although geographically distant, share a common urgency to protect the sea and the coastal communities.

From sustainable coastal management to innovations in fisheries, from adaptation strategies to the contribution of local communities, each edition brings fresh perspectives and fosters new connections. This year, as in previous editions, the relationships built will be the greatest value, alongside the competencies shared and a shared vision for a safer future for those living by the sea.