



**AFRICA CENTER**  
**FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES**

## **Session 8: Maritime Safety and Security**

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# Africa's Maritime Environment

- **Abundant natural resources:**
  - **Significant fishing grounds**
  - **Growing interest in petroleum sector**
- **Accelerating foreign investment**
- **Growing commercial shipping**
- **Significant tourism potential**

## **Yet...**

- **Growing evidence of weak port security**
- **Poor policy and operational coordination**
- **Recent increase in maritime crime**
- **Significant losses to illegal fishing**
- **Maritime pollution at ports and harbors**

# THREATS: Examples Across Africa

Human Trafficking

Drug Trafficking

Trans-National Crime



Smuggling

Piracy

Poaching

Environmental

# A Development Perspective

- Fisheries and aquaculture provide livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people, about one-tenth of the world's population.
- Small-scale fisheries<sup>1</sup> are of particular importance to jobs in developing countries as they employ about 90 percent of the world's capture fishers, of whom almost half are women.
- Fisheries contribute to reducing poverty and food insecurity. Fish is an important source of protein, fatty acids and micronutrients that are fundamental to human development.
- Fisheries and aquaculture have important economic multiplier and spillover effects, and can generate government revenues when sustainably managed.
- Fish and fishery products are among the most-traded food commodities worldwide, and developing countries are major producers and exporters.
- Sustaining the capacity of world fisheries and aquaculture to provide food and jobs requires sensible and effective fish stock management and ecosystem preservation.

(OECD Fishing for Development Report 2014)

# Human Security Implications

## Earning potential:

Oil 4.4 mill bpd

Gas 21 bill cu meters

Fisheries \$2.7 bn (FAO est.)

## Other Factors

- Transportation of exports (agricultural, mineral ores). Less than 15% of exports are to African destinations.
- Trade. European Cocoa Association's June 2004 directive on port security.
- Employment. Fisheries alone employs 10 million across the continent.
- Tourism potential.

# Securing Africa's Maritime Environment



# Comparing Maritime Crime

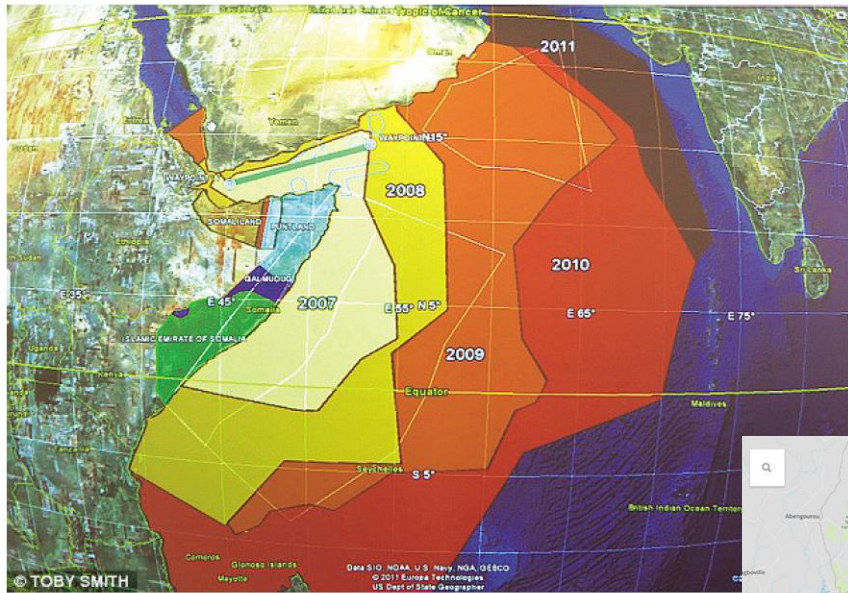
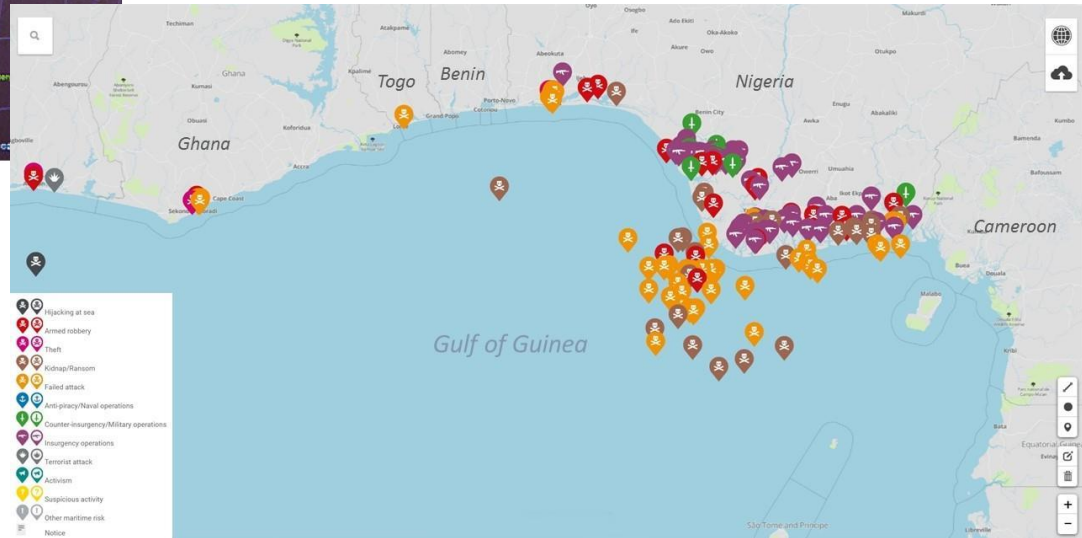


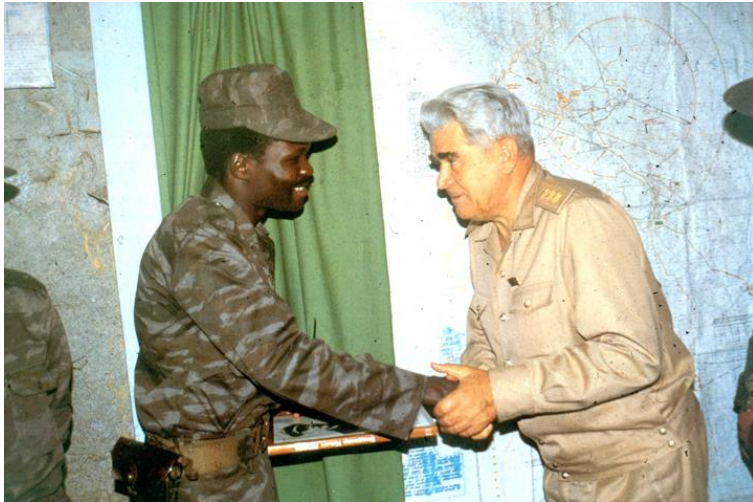
Figure 1: The Expansion of Maritime Hijacking in East Africa (Daily Mail)<sup>10</sup>



Piracy and maritime security incidents in the Gulf of Guinea (Ivory Coast to Gabon) in 2016. (MaRisk by Risk Intelligence)

# The Burden of Legacies

Inherited relationships from earlier patrons are often not well suited to contemporary needs



**Also true of more recent patrons!**



# The “Patron” Problem

The **Patron** offers what he wants to give. . .



. . .the **Partner** brings what is needed.

# What is Being Done?

- **Improving Maritime Domain Awareness**
  - Greater sub-regional focus (to include AIS and Unmanned Vehicles)
  - Regional Coast Guards/ Commissions
- **Enacting Laws and Conventions**
  - UNCLOS
  - Djibouti Code of Conduct vs Yaoundé Declaration
  - Domestic ratification and implementation
- **Harmonizing Policies and Procedures**
  - Regional Initiatives??
  - International “sound practices”; ISPS Code

# What is Being Done? (contd.)

- **Sharing Information and Intelligence**
  - Regional/Continental databases
  - Information-sharing and coordination center
  - Regional law enforcement --- INTERPOL
- **Building Human and Institutional Capacity**
  - IMO bilateral and regional initiatives
  - APS and US Coast Guard missions
- **Garnering Political Will**
  - Africa Sea Power meetings
  - Regional Ministerial commitments
  - US maritime safety and security initiative

# 2050 Africa's AIM Strategy

- **2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy**
- **Threats/Vulnerabilities**
  - i. Transnational Organized Crimes in the maritime domain;
  - ii. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing - IUU Fishing - and overfishing, and Environmental Crimes;
  - iii. Natural Disasters, Marine Environmental Degradation and climate change;
  - iv. Strategic Communications Systems;
  - v. Vulnerable legal framework;
  - vi. Lack of and/or poorly maintained aids to navigation and modern hydrographic surveys,
  - vii. Up-to-date nautical charts and maritime safety information in a number of AU Member States.

# 2050 Africa's AIM Strategy (cont'd)

- **Vision**

- The overarching vision of the 2050 AIM Strategy is to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner.

- **Goals**

1. A comprehensive understanding of existing and potential challenges, including allocation of resources to identified priorities over a pre-determined time-frame.
2. A comprehensive, concerted, coherent and coordinated approach.
3. A common template to guide maritime review, budgetary planning and effective allocation of resources,.
4. A comprehensive technical/ financial business plan that specifies milestones.

# 2050 Africa's AIM Strategy (cont'd)

- **Key Challenges**

- Broad vision: A blessing and a curse
- Weak supporting infrastructure at regional and national levels
- Significant human resource gaps
- Donor alignment and coordination challenges
- Financial resources
- The political-economy challenge

# Key Elements of Strategy

## 1. Political Dimension

- Strong **political will** and national ownership.
- Willingness to cede sovereignty concerns to advance **regional solutions**.
- Inclusive and participatory **long-term engagement**.

## 2. Operational Dimension

- **Appropriate equipment and technology** for maritime domain awareness.
- Communication and **information sharing** (domestic and sub-regional).
- Monitoring, detection, apprehension and **enforcement**.

# Key Elements (contd.)

## 3. Resource Dimension

- Commitment of **adequate domestic resources** in national budgets.
- **Leveraging and coordinating appropriate assistance** from bilateral and multilateral partners.

## 4. Regional Dimension

- Promoting **regional initiatives** to strengthen maritime capabilities.
- **Harmonize** regulations and legislation.
- Yaoundé Declaration; Djibouti Code of Conduct



# Connecting the Dots

- **Maritime safety is a “public good”**
  - **Benefits of the regions abundant resource endowment could be derived through collective action and unwavering commitment**
- **Challenges to maritime safety and security are shared concerns with far-reaching implications.**



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