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 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

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

Figure 1: The Expansion of Maritime Hijacking in East Africa (Daily Mail)
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.