



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

# **Maritime Security Lessons from West Africa**

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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**

# Securing Africa's Maritime Environment



# Comparing Maritime Crime

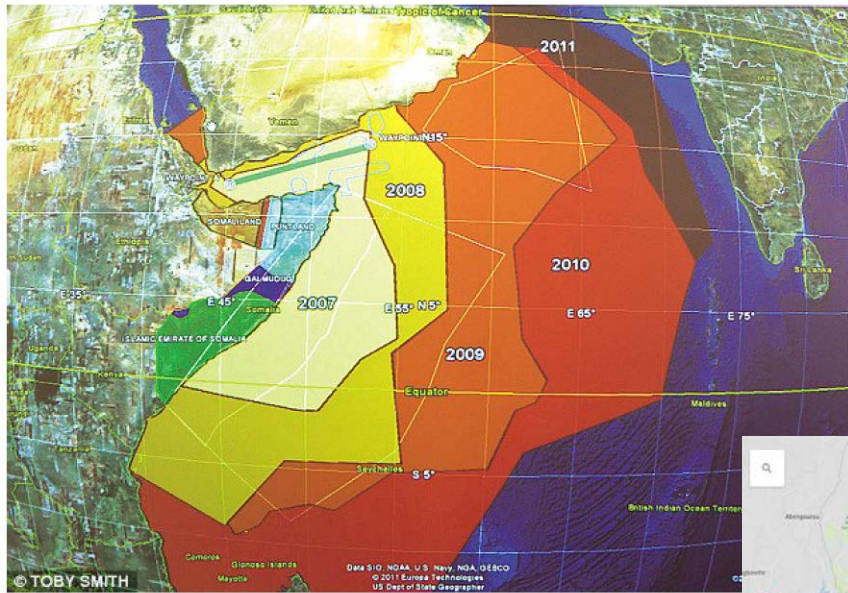


Figure 1: The Expansion of Maritime Hijacking in East Africa (Daily Mail)<sup>10</sup>



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.

# 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
- African Union's Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) 2050





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