Maritime Security Lessons from West Africa

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• 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)\(^1\)

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