

CONTACT GROUP

ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPSC) was created on January 14, 2009 pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1851. This voluntary ad hoc international forum brings together those stakeholders affected by Somali piracy: countries from the region, Western Europe, Middle East, Asia and the Americas, industry, seafarer's organisations and NGOs. The Contact Group coordinates political, military, and non-governmental efforts to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia, ensure that pirates are brought to justice, and support regional states to develop sustainable maritime security capabilities.

Message From The Chairman

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the CGPCS,

I have had the pleasure and privilege to recently participate in the African Union ministerial meeting on maritime safety and security that took place in Victoria, Seychelles. The meeting was co-chaired by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Ambassador Smail Chergui and Mr. Joël Morgan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Transport of the Republic of Seychelles. During the meeting many references were made to the good work and experiences built-up in the context of the CGPCS, the coordination of operational deployments through the SHADE-mechanism, the coordination of capacity building and the efforts to strengthen and improve information sharing arrangements and Maritime Situational Awareness. There was a strong sense to capitalize on our shared experiences in countering piracy off the coast of Somalia and making them available for other African partners.

A main outcome of the ministerial meeting was that the AU Member States agreed to convene a special, thematic high-level Summit dedicated to Maritime Security and Development, to be held in Lomé, Togo in November 2015. I find it encouraging to observe that the European Union and the African Union converge in their respective approaches on an integrated approach to maritime security and that maritime security is recognized, not only as a law enforcement and governance issue but also as a critical precondition for unlocking the growth potential and the development of the blue economy.

As CGPCS Presidency, the EU is getting ready to host CGPCS stakeholders in Brussels at the meeting on the High Risk Area in March and we look forward to the 18th Plenary Session, to be held in New York on 8 July 2015.

I wish you well and look forward meeting you soon.

Yours,

Maciej POPOWSKI

EU Naval Force Has New Force Commander From Royal Swedish Navy

On Friday 13 February 2015, Rear Admiral Jonas Haggren from the Royal Swedish Navy assumed command of Operation Atalanta's Force Headquarters (FHQ) during a ceremony held in Djibouti.

The new FHQ staff, which is embarked in Royal Netherlands Navy warship, HNLMS Johan de Witt, is made up from 15 European Union Member States.



Rear Admiral Haggren will lead the EU Naval Force at sea for three months and it is the second time that Sweden has led the EU's counter-piracy Task Force off the coast of Somalia.



New Force Commander From Royal Swedish Navy
Rear Admiral Jonas Haggren

"I am looking forward to this important role and am confident that we will do our very best to support the operation." Rear Admiral Haggren said. Rear Admiral Haggren assumed Force Command

from Rear Admiral Guido Rando (Italian Navy), and during the handover ceremony he stated his intention to continue the great work that Rear Admiral Rando and his staff achieved on board the Italian warship ITS Andrea Doria.

PIRACY STATISTICS		CURRENT NUMBER
	HOSTAGES HELD BY PIRATES	26
	VESSELS HELD BY PIRATES	It is believed that all vessels held by pirates have become defunct, have run aground and do not possess any oceangoing capacity

Source: International Maritime Bureau

"I want to thank and congratulate my predecessor and his crew. Guido, thank you for an enduring delivery towards this important mission."

Rear Admiral Rando had been Force Commander on board Italian warship ITS Andrea Doria since September 2014. At the ceremony he expressed his gratitude towards his own FHQ staff and crew.

"I want to give thanks to my staff and crew of ITS Andrea Doria and to all the personnel in the EU Naval Force. To be Force Commander has been my greatest honour and given me immense professional and personal pride."

The EU Naval Force, in co-operation with counter-piracy partners, has been highly effective in reducing pirate attacks. At the height of Somali piracy in January 2011, 736 hostages and 32 ships were being held by pirates. As of February 2015, no ships are being held.

"But we must not forget that 30 hostages are still being held in captivity by pirates and the threat from piracy remains." Rear Admiral Haggren concluded.



Rear Admiral Guido Rando, Deputy Commander of the EU Naval Force Rear Admiral Paolo Pezzutti And The New Force Commander Rear Admiral Jonas Haggren

EU Naval Force Warship FGS Lübeck Completes Counter-Piracy Patrol off Coast of Somalia

EU Naval Force warship, FGS Lubeck, recently completed a four month counter-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden after handing over her tasking to German Navy frigate, FGS Bayern, on 10 February 2015. The handover ceremony between the two warships was attended by senior military officers from the German Armed Forces.

As part of the EU Naval Force Operation Atalanta, FGS Lubeck conducted patrols off the coast of Somalia and escorted World Food Programme vessels to ensure that vital aid arrived safely into port for the Somali people. She also visited Madagascar, the first visit to the port for a German warship since 1914.

Speaking about the deployment, FGS Lubeck's Commanding Officer, Commander Peter Christian Semrau, stated "I am extremely proud of my crew. They have worked extremely hard and helped to ensure that seafarers remained safe from pirate attack in the Gulf of Aden."

"During the entire period of her deployment, FGS Lübeck accomplished her mission in an exemplary manner." said the Deputy Commander of the Bundeswehr (German Army) Joint Forces Operations Command, Brigadier General Poschwatta.



The handover ceremony between the two warships was attended by senior military officers from the German Armed Forces

FV Prantalay-12 Hostages finally released



Free, at last. Source: Galmudug Counter Piracy Focal Point

On 25 February 2015, 1,774 days after being taken hostage by pirates off the coast of Somalia, the four remaining Thai crew members of the FV Prantalay 12 were finally released.

Originally seized on 18 April 2010, the Taiwanese-flagged

fishing vessel was used by pirates as a mother ship before it eventually capsized in July 2011, when the remaining crew members were moved on shore. Of the 24 original crewmen, 6 succumbed to illness while in captivity. Another 14 hostages from Myanmar were released before the vessel's capsizing in May 2011. The crew received medical and humanitarian support during almost 5 years in captivity. During this time, the UNODC Hostage Support Programme and various private donors were instrumental in providing the medical and humanitarian support that ultimately kept the crew alive until their release and served as the primary source of information to family members of the hostages.

The four crew members are being reunited with their families, relatives and friends. We wish them a speedy recovery from their ordeal and hope that they find the strength to rebuild their lives, possibly with the support of the Piracy Survivor Family Fund of the CGPCS.

The EU Chairman of the CGPCS, Mr. Maciej Popowski, issued the following message after the news of the release broke.

Message from the CGPCS Chairman

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the CGPCS,

It is with great relief and satisfaction that I welcome the release of the four remaining crewmen of the FV Prantalay 12 vessel, taken hostage at sea by Somali pirates on 18 April 2010. I salute the resilience of these four men who have endured the horrible ordeal of the longest period of captivity by any hostages of Somali pirates.

I congratulate and thank our colleagues from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), funded by the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, for their efforts in securing the release.

While the release of the hostages is welcome news, Somali pirates are still holding 26 more hostages, abducted from the FV Naham 3. I call, on behalf of all CGPCS stakeholders, for the immediate release of the remaining seafarers and urge all stakeholders to engage in initiatives to secure their expeditious and safe return, as well as tracing urgently the whereabouts of seafarers who went missing from Somalia while being held in captivity by pirates.

Maciej POPOWSKI

Deputy Secretary General

European External Action Service



Ready to depart. Source: UNODC

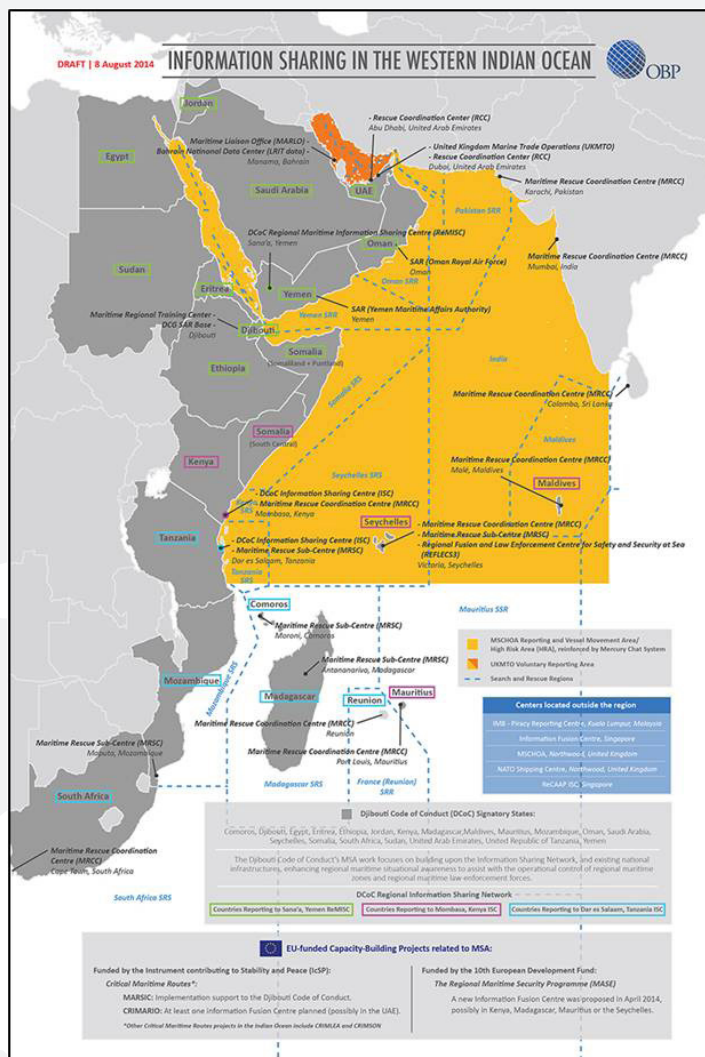


Going home! Source: UNODC

Oceans Beyond Piracy Facilitates Technical Sub Group on Maritime Situational Awareness

The CGPCS Technical Sub Group on Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) was established following the 15th plenary meeting of the CGPCS held in Djibouti in November 2013, which agreed that “a technical sub group of WG1 will consider future information sharing requirements in the maritime domain and present a paper on the anticipated challenges and potential solutions for discussion by WG1 in early 2014.” Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) agreed to convene this sub group and facilitate mapping of the issues. Three meetings were held in February, May, and September of 2014, resulting in two documents titled ‘Initial Findings’ and ‘Final Findings’, and a 2 page summary showing the current and planned information sharing framework in the Western Indian Ocean. At the 17th plenary meeting of the CGPCS held in Dubai in October 2014 the WG Counter Maritime Piracy and Mitigation Operations agreed that MSA should be included in the work plan of the WG. As part of its ongoing support to the CGPCS and with support from Chairmen of the WG Counter Maritime Piracy and Mitigation Operations, OBP organized the subject workshop in Brussels, Belgium on 29-30 January 2015. Approximately 30 representatives from governments, international and regional organizations, military agencies, the maritime industry, and civil society participated in the workshop. The workshop was funded by OBP, and was hosted by the CGPCS WG Counter Maritime Piracy and Mitigation Operations and OBP. Previous meetings of the sub group had identified three types of information, or building blocks, needed for a comprehensive MSA framework. These information types formed the foundation for discussions during the workshop: (1) Maritime Traffic Awareness; (2) Maritime Threat Awareness; and (3) Maritime Response Awareness.

The participants to the workshop concluded that the continuous efforts over the past six years from industry, national and regional authorities and the proactive synchronization of the three coalitions and independent deployers through the SHADE process have created “the world’s most comprehensive Maritime Response Awareness system” and that our common goal now is to create and ensure a comprehensive, sustainable MSA framework in the Indian Ocean. To achieve this goal, participants concluded, it will require the sustained commitment by Industry, International Community and Countries in the region; developing a better appreciation and understanding of regional aspirations and retaining the legacy (lessons learned) and expertise for an adequate MSA framework. The importance of adequate Maritime Situational Awareness cannot be underestimated. It is a central requirement to ensure free and



Mapping the MSA architecture in the Indian Ocean

safe shipping and a fundamental precondition for national and regional authorities, not only to counter-piracy, but for maritime security in general. But to establish and sustain a comprehensive MSA is positively challenging as it requires vision, long-term commitment and a combined and shared effort of a multitude of stakeholders. The work of the Technical Sub Group on MSA is in this regard of the utmost importance.

The full report of the Workshop will be available shortly through the CGPCS website www.lessonsfrompiracy.net.

Linking maritime security with the surveillance of fishing

The APU-IOC experts held talks with Denis Reiss, Fisheries Attaché of the EU delegation in Mauritius on the 4th of November, 2014 in order to identify means of coordinating sea-going missions in the MASE framework with the fishing surveillance programme integrated in the second phase of the Smartfish programme of the IOC, funded by the EU.

There is in fact a real complementarity between the two projects. The IOC Smartfish programme includes the most positive elements of the IOC's regional plan for the surveillance of fishing (2007-2014), especially concerning the implementation of regional patrols and the installation of a regional Vessels Monitoring System.

Coordinated action may be envisaged concerning multi-mission patrols and data interchange between the regional VMS and the regional centre for the fusion of maritime information. This will not only permit a rationalisation of the cost of maritime surveillance but will also provide the most complete amount of information possible on maritime issues by integrating information on ships involved in illegal fishing provided by the Fishing Monitoring Centres of all the coastal states involved in the regional action plan for fisheries surveillance coordinated by the IOC.



Plans are being made to set up joint regional actions for the surveillance of fishing and maritime security.

Maritime and Transnational Organised Crime Programme (Indian Ocean)

As part of the U.S. funded Counter-trafficking in Persons Project in Kenya, UNODC has collected information from the National Police Service on data collection, crimes reporting and recording procedures and data analysis to develop an understanding of crimes data management in Kenya. UNODC also hosted consultations between the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions and the National Police Force of the Republic of Kenya to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on prosecution-led investigations for investigating trafficking in persons offence under the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act of Kenya.

In Mauritius a hearing has been scheduled for 15 May to hear the appeal against the acquittal of 12 Somali men apprehended by EUNAVFOR on suspicion of piracy and transferred to Mauritius for prosecution.

In Seychelles, the Supreme Court rejected a submission by the defence that there was no case to answer in the Torm Kansas piracy trial. Closing arguments are scheduled for 16 February.



Donation included a prison transport van and protective clothing, educational equipment recreational equipment and kitchen appliances

A new Prison Mentor from The Netherlands Prison Service assigned to Seychelles Prison Service started duties at the Montagne Posee prison on 3 February 2015. UNODC facilitated all arrangements for the deployment of the Prison Mentor. Construction materials being provided by UNODC to build dog kennels and a guard house at Montagne Posse Prison, Seychelles, have been delivered.

'For The Record' court recording equipment has been provided to the Seychelles Supreme Court as part of a US funded project to improve case management. A large array of furniture has also been provided for the new Supreme Court Annex building constructed by UNODC, which is expected to be officially opened in March.

A consignment of prison equipment including a prison transport van, protective clothing, educational equipment, recreational equipment and kitchen appliances donated by the Netherlands Prison Service to Seychelles Prison Service has been delivered. UNODC covered the cost of shipping the consignment from the Netherlands to Seychelles.

Indian Ocean Commission's dynamism praised at first steering committee of MASE programme

The first steering committee meeting of the "Programme to Promote Regional Maritime Security" (MASE programme), funded by the European Union (EU) up to 37.5 million euros, was held on the 1st and 2nd of December in Brussels. It provided an opportunity to take stock of the results achieved by the four regional organizations of the Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) responsible for the programme. The dynamism shown by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in carrying out



Members of the steering committee of the MASE programme after their first meeting in Brussels on the 1st and 2nd of December 2014.

activities related to results 4 and 5, dealing respectively with "Regional and national capacity for maritime tasks and support functions" and "Regional coordination and information exchange", for which it is responsible, was praised by participants, in particular the EU.

The validity of the recommendations and the decisions taken by the IOC was confirmed, especially those concerning the creation of a regional centre for maritime information fusion. It may be recalled that at the Moroni summit on the 23rd of August, 2014 the Heads of state and of government of the IOC expressed their "satisfaction with the coordination provided by the IOC concerning the setting up of a regional fusion centre with the aim of improving risk detection, and of a regional centre for the coordination of maritime activities to enable joint maritime operations to be implemented".

Taking into account the expertise acquired by the IOC in coordinating the overall programme, the steering committee proposed that it should play a supporting role to the Inter-governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). The latter will thus benefit from the support of the IOC in two areas: coordination of the regional ministerial platform and communication. It is to be noted that the IOC has presented a strategy and a communication plan for results 4 and 5. The steering committee has therefore entrusted the IOC with the responsibility of setting out a harmonized communication and visibility strategy for the whole of the programme.

The members of the steering committee also referred to post-MASE groundwork. They dealt in particular with the involvement of member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the need to harmonise maritime security activities undertaken by the regional organizations of ESA-IO under MASE with those carried out by the Maritime Organisation of Western and Centre Africa (OMAO) which deals with maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Swedish Fast Assault Craft Conduct First Mission with EU Naval Force

Two Royal Swedish Navy CB90 Fast Assault craft that are currently embarked in the EU Naval Force flagship, HNLMS Johan de Witt, have carried out their first tasking since joining the EU Naval Force Operation Atalanta in February.

One of their key roles is to conduct surveillance operations along the Somali coastline where pirates have previously been known to operate. The craft will also be used to conduct friendly approaches with local fishermen and if required, boarding operations against vessels suspected of being involved in piracy.

Extensively used by Swedish Forces in their own waters, this is the first time that the CB90 Fast Assault Craft has been used as part of Operation Atalanta.

Prior to deploying to the Indian Ocean, the CB90s and their crews went through an extensive period of operational sea training.



One of their key roles is to conduct surveillance operations along the Somali coastline where pirates have previously been

Maritime Crime Programme (Horn of Africa)

UNODC's Engineering and Policing mentors have spent the past two weeks in Bosasso starting up programming there. After meetings with the Director General of Bosasso Port, an inspection was carried out on the boats currently being used by the Port Police as well as the Port itself with the Port Police Commander. Currently the Port Police only have one small boat operational. It was agreed that UNODC would work to have 4 additional boats operational by the end of 2015.

During their time in Bosasso, Mentors have also been delivering initial training to Port Police personnel; 10 Police Officers received training in Basic Outboard Engineering, and 10 Officers received training in Basic Port Security. Certificates were handed out by the Port Police Commander and MTCP HoA Mentors in a small ceremony.

A large consignment of heavy weaponry was discovered last week in Berbera when port staff were unloading the vessel MV Shaakir. After being alerted of the discovery, the Coastguard carried out a search in the hold and took control of the concealed armaments. As the consignment was not on the ship's manifest, it was deemed an illegal shipment in breach of the arms embargo. Government authorities alerted relevant international agencies and invited the UN monitoring group on illegal armaments on board the MV Shaakir on Thursday 29th January to view the shipment. UNODC MTCP HoA Mentors also completed an inventory of the consignment with the Coastguard at the request of another agency.

MTCP HoA delivered communications equipment to the Coastguard base in Berbera last week including 3 solar panels, 9 waterproof hand held radios, and 5 shore based hand held radios. All equipment will be installed at the end of March by a communications mentor who will also be delivering training in the use of the equipment.

Finally in Berbera this week, a training session is being delivered to the Senior Officers of the Berbera Sector of the Somaliland Coastguard. The session deals with 'Operational Readiness' and 'Standard Operation Procedures'. This weekend delivery of the 'Maritime Operational Skills Course (Basic)' will resume for a further 3 vessel crews; 15 officers in all.

In Mogadishu, UNODC MTCP Mariner Mentors have been delivering the first round of Assistant Instructors training. This is a "Training of Trainers" course delivered to the six officers that graduated from the advanced coxswain course in December. These officers will be assisting with the delivery of crewman ship training for 25 new recruits to the Maritime Police Unit from the 12 April- 21 May. Ultimately the aim is for these trainers to deliver training to newcomers independently with Mentors in an observing capacity only.

Finally, UNODC MTCP HoA and UNSOM have carried out a joint assessment of Kismayo port this week in support of the design of our programming there.



Police Officers received training in Basic Outboard Engineering and Basic Port Security

www.lessonsfrompiracy.net

CGPCS Website migrates to www.lessonsfrompiracy.net

Stakeholders were informed at the last Plenary in Dubai that the CGPCS's own website (thecgpcs.org) would be discontinued. The Government of the Republic of Korea has generously funded and managed the CGPCS website since its inception in 2009. The CGPCS chairman, speaking on behalf of all CGPCS stakeholders, expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its support throughout the years of maintaining the CGPCS's online presence. Cardiff University, member of the Lessons Learned Consortium of the CGPCS, agreed to develop and expand the website www.lessonsfrompiracy.net as a one-

stop-shop for academic analysis, stakeholder contributions and the CGPCS Archive online. www.lessonsfrompiracy.net will take over the functionality of the 'old' CGPCS website. New features will include a central workspace where PPT presentations and other relevant documents can be placed. The CGPCS part of the website will be password protected (CGPCS Stakeholders will receive a password shortly). To facilitate (future) academic research, we aim to make the CGPCS Archive as complete as possible – thus developing it as a reference for all Somali piracy related research. Should stakeholders possess relevant documents – or wish to share their opinion on the CGPCS – they are kindly invited to do so via www.lessonsfrompiracy.net.

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