

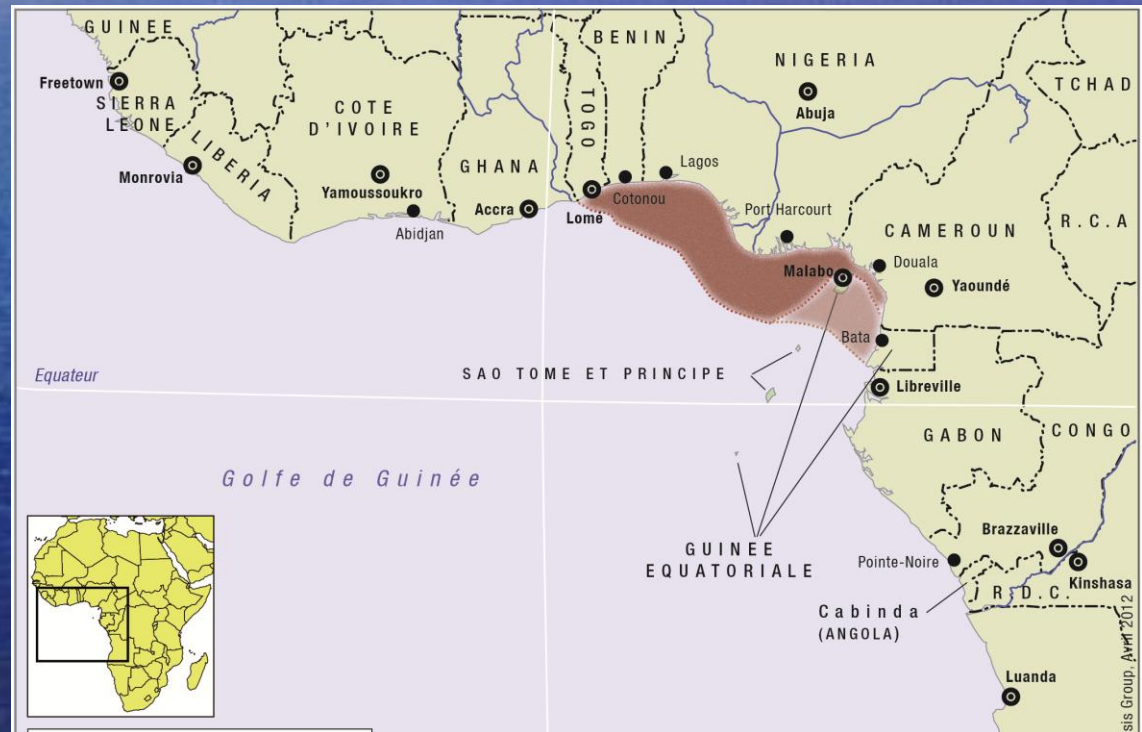
# The Gulf of Guinea

**Gulf of Guinea, the current hot spot of piracy?**

**Piracy or organized crime?**

**Main strategic concern?**

**The Gulf of Aden versus the Gulf of Guinea**



# The Gulf of Guinea

As a geographic space



**Coastal countries:**  
Libéria, Costa do Marfim, Gana, Togo,  
Benim, Nigéria, Camarões, Guiné  
Equatorial, Gabão, Congo, RD Congo,  
Angola





# The Gulf of Guinea

## A total of 12 coastal countries

(7 associated to ECOWAS)

(5 associated to ECCAS)

### Main oil producers:

Nigeria – Angola – República do Congo –  
Guiné Equatorial – Gabão

### Others:

Gana – Costa do Marfim – Libéria

The stability and the prosperity of the countries in the region are at risk because of the insecurity at sea, among other reasons

The challenges to the stability, which frequently manifest at sea, have their origins at land

## Nigeria

(the key-country)

1. Over 166 million people country with severe overcrowding due to the fact that much of it is desert and swamps
2. Economic growth has not avoided wide social disparity and economic inequality
3. Ethenical disputes and radical islamism
4. Several maritime border disputes (Camarões, Togo, Benim, Gana, Guiné Equatorial e S. Tomé)
5. The better equipped navy in the region but ...

# The Gulf of Guinea

## Some different dimensions of the maritime insecurity:

Theft of oil (loss of revenues)

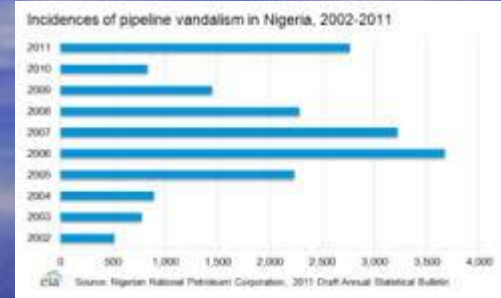
Environmental degradation

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Drugs trafficking

According to UNODOC estimates , 50 tons of cocaine, destined to Europe and worth 2 billions, transits West Africa annually (**Highway 10**)

Almost 40% of the fish caught in West Africa waters is taken illegally (1,5 billions USD/year)



# Gulf of Guinea

## Internacional community's response

### UN

Security Council Resolutions 2018 october  
2011 e 2039 february 2012

President of Benim, Yayi Boni's call , to support  
national efforts (jul 2011)

Multidisciplinary mission to assess the scope  
of piracy threat and  
to make recommendations  
( Benim, Nigéria, Gabão e Angola, nov 2011

### OMI

From the UN mission report:

- 1. Major threat to peace, security and economic interests***
- 2. Consequences of inaction could be catastrophic***
- 3. Most countries could not alone prevent or manage the threat***
- 4. Any lasting strategy need to take in account the root causes***



# Gulf of Guinea

Internacional community's response

## European Union

Programa CRIMGO

Target Countries: Benim, Togo, S. Tomé, Nigéria, Camarões, Guiné Equatorial e Gabão.  
Participating Countries: França, Portugal, Espanha, Reino Unido, Finlândia, Itália e Polónia

## African Union

2050 AIM Strategy  
(adopted in 2011)

China

Brasil

USA

França

Reino Unido

**FOGG**  
**(Friends of the Gulf of Guinea)**  
G8 plus Australia Belgica,  
Brasil, China, Dinamarca,  
Holanda, Noruega, Portugal,  
Africa do Sul, Coreia do Sul,  
Espanha, Suíça, EU and UN

African Partnership Station  
Naval assets provided to Nigeria  
Coast Guard training in Gana, etc.

Priority Solidarity  
Fund: Benim, Togo, Gana ...  
2011/2014

Focus on regional  
cooperation

Reduce duplications of efforts,  
Help to combat criminal activities at sea

# The Gulf of Guinea

## Sub-regional international organizations

### **ECOWAS** (Economic Community of West Africa States) (1975) 15 members

Benin, Burkina Fasso, Cabo Verde, Gâmbia, Gana, Guiné, Guiné-Bissau, Libéria, Mali, Níger, Nigéria, Senegal, Serra Leoa, Togo

### **GGC** (Gulf Of Guinea Commission)(1999) 8 members

Angola, Camarões; Congo, Gabão, Guiné Equatorial, Nigéria, RD Congo, S. Tomé

### **CPLP** (1996)

Angola, Brasil, Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau, Moçambique, Portugal, S. Tomé, Timor-Leste

**Guiné Equatorial?**

### **MOWCA** (Maritime Organization of Western and Central Africa) (1975) 26 members

Angola, Benim, Camarões, Cabo Verde, Congo, RD Congo, Costa Marfim, Gabão, Gâmbia, Gana, Guiné, Guiné-Bissau, Libéria, Mauritânia, Moçambique, Níger, S. Tomé, Senegal, Serra Leoa e Togo ...

### **ECCAS** (Economic Community of Central Africa States) (1981) 11 members

Angola, Burundi, Camarões, República Central Africana, Chade, República do Congo, República Democrática do Congo, Guiné Equatorial, Gabão, Ruanda, S. Tomé



**The nature of the  
problem**

**The Gulf of Guinea,  
the current worldwide hot  
spot of piracy?**

**Piracy  
or  
organized crime?**

**Gulf of Aden versus Gulf of  
Guinea?  
How they compare?**

**Main strategic concern:**

**Freedom of navigation  
or**

**freedom of access to a source or  
energy resources?**



Piracy  
or  
organized crime?

# Piracy Statistics

(Source: IMO)

2013  
Totals  
(attempted  
and executed)

South China Sea – 142  
(90/2012)

Nine ships arrested

Western Africa – 54  
(64/2012)

Indian Ocean – 33  
(31/2012)

Strait of Mallaca – 24  
(17/2012)

East Africa/Somalia – 20  
(286/2011; 90/2012)

64 Crew members  
still kept by the pirates

South America/Caraíbas – 8  
(21/2012)

Piracy  
or  
organized crime?

# Piracy statistics

(Source: IMO)

2008

Total Western Africa

50 (16%)

Total  
worldwide

306

Attempted

8 (4/1/3)

Executed

42 (2/17/23)

12%

2009

46 (11%)

406

12 (6/4/2)

34 (7/19/8)

26%

2010

47 (10%)

489

10 (4/4/2)

37 (6/15/16)

21%

2011

61 (11%)

544

17 (9/5/3)

44 (10/15/19)

31%

2012

64 (19%)

341

19 (8/6/5)

45 (17/9/19)

39%

2013

54 (18%)

298

20 (14/1/5)

34 (13/5/16)

50%

(International waters/territorial seas/ interior seas)

**Piracy  
or  
organized crime?**

**Organized crime?**

**At the beginning, ten years ago,  
“piracy” was relatively incipient.  
Mainly, armed robbery at sea, inside  
territorial waters**



**Today, piracy is dominated by organized crime  
networks which try to get advantage from  
fragilities in the governance and from an  
unregulated oil sector**



**“Petro-piracy”  
(piracy as an instrument of the organized crime associated  
with the oil “black market”)**

**No longer possible, dissociate  
piracy from the transnational  
organized crime**



**Main strategic concern:**

**Freedom of navigation  
or  
freedom of access to an alternative source  
of energy resources?**

## **The nature of the problem**

**It is not a problem of securing freedom of navigation around a “choke point” of the maritime world commercial traffic, as is the case of the Golfo de Aden (30000 ships/year) or of the Strait of Malacca (63000).**

**\*\*\***

**It is a matter of securing access to an energy “choke point”**

**How can we compare with  
the situation in the Gulf of  
Aden?**

## **The nature of the problem**

### **Similarities**



**Same roots**

**Similar political and social situations**

### **Divergencies**



**Purposes**

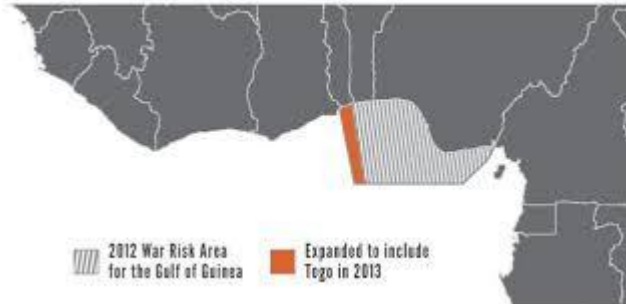
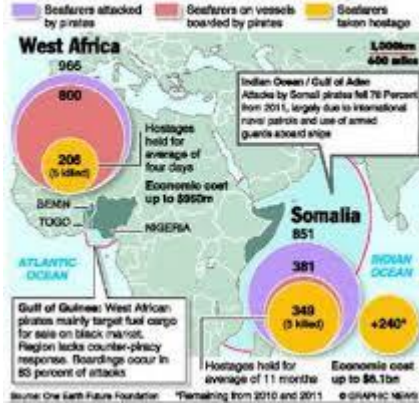
**Naval assets to control the situation**

**National interests**



## West Africa piracy overtakes Somalia

The West African coast became the most likely region for pirate attacks in 2012, overtaking piracy in Somali waters, according to a report by the International Maritime Bureau and other seafarers' groups



## Pirate attack in W.Africa

A Ukrainian sailor was killed when pirates seized an oil tanker off the coast of Benin



## NIGERIAN PIRATES TAKE TWO U.S. SAILORS

