GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

BRIEFING PACKAGE 2023
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FOREWORD

Welcome to the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) 2023 Briefing Package. This report marks another successful year of supporting our Member States in addressing the threats and challenges posed by maritime crime. The programme stands at the forefront of efforts to address a spectrum of threats and challenges, ranging from piracy and armed robbery at sea to human trafficking, drug smuggling, illegal fishing and enforcement of marine protected areas. By fostering cooperation among nations, the programme seeks to build capacity, enhance law enforcement capabilities and fortify legal frameworks to safeguard the security of our maritime domain.

As UNODC’s largest global programme and an integral component of the Border Management Branch, GMCP plays a pivotal role in delivering comprehensive and integrated border management technical assistance to Member States.

In this briefing package you will learn about the programme’s efforts in enhancing maritime domain awareness by leveraging advanced technology and fostering collaboration among partners. Additionally, the package highlights initiatives addressing challenges related to marine pollution and emphasises cross-regional cooperation in responding to drug trafficking. The overarching goal is to ensure that the technical assistance provided is specifically tailored to the prevailing crime trends in relevant regions, with consistent focus on achieving a legal finish to the crimes at hand.

In an increasingly interconnected world, maritime security assumes a crucial role in maintaining global stability and prosperity. GMCP’s adaptability, commitment, technical expertise and strong field presence serve as a model for achieving a more secure and resilient maritime environment.

We are confident that you will find this briefing package to be a captivating read. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Alan Cole
Chief, Border Management Branch
UNODC
Building upon the legal reform work and awareness raising on piracy and armed robbery, the overall aim of projects implemented in the Atlantic Ocean region is to enable Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and ECCAS Member States to prosecute cases in accordance with the International Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant conventions.

Since 2013, UNODC’s Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) has actively supported Maritime Law Enforcement and prosecution agencies in this region through various capacity building initiatives, including technical assistance in terms of legal reforms in compliance to UNCLOS and other relevant conventions.

**PIRATES OF THE NIGER DELTA II: AN UPDATE ON PIRACY TRENDS AND LEGAL FINISH IN THE GULF OF GUINEA (GOG)**

UNODC GMCP published a study entitled Pirates of the Niger Delta II: An Update on Piracy Trends and Legal Finish in the GOG. This study explores the distinct downward trend in deep offshore (DO) kidnap-for-ransom piracy in the GoG by presenting several developments observed during this dip period and key developments in counter-piracy efforts in the region.

**KEY RESULTS IN 2023**

- Assessment of the gendered dimensions of maritime crime, responses and capacity in West Africa Countries.
- Support for a preliminary draft law on the repression of offenses committed at sea and the modalities for exercising police powers at sea in Côte d'Ivoire and Republic of Congo.
- Simulated trials conducted in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Sao Tome and Principé and Gabon.
- Community-based Crime Prevention Strategies developed in Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, Sao Tome and Principé and Gabon.
- Simulated trials conducted in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Sao Tome and Principé and Gabon.
- Expert meeting on the draft Model Framework concerning Cooperation in Suppressing Other Illicit Maritime Activities in the Waters of West Africa.
- Export meeting on the draft agreement to establish the conditions for the transfer of persons suspected of having committed acts of maritime piracy, as well as associated property and/or evidence, between ECCAS Member States.
- Delivery of investigation kits and IT equipment to Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Senegal.
- Implementation of harmonised SOPs for arrest and evidence collection procedures in maritime crime scenes, as part of the Grand African Nemo 2023 exercise.
- A series of Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) trainings and sea exercises for MLE officers from Ghana, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Cameroon in Zone E and Zone F.
- Legal trainings provided to MLE agencies in Cameroon, Togo, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, Nigeria Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Senegal.
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

HEADQUARTERS
TEAM

TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER

Mitigating transnational maritime threats is crucial for Fiji’s security. UNODC GMCP serves as a pivotal link connecting regional and international maritime law enforcement, playing a vital role in addressing complex challenges in our waters.

COMMODORE HUMPHREY TAWAKE, REPUBLIC OF FIJI MILITARY FORCES DEPUTY COMMANDER

NEW PROGRAMME DEVELOPED IN 2023

01. STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND RELEVANCE
We set the direction of GMCP both strategically and regionally in response to Member States and our colleagues in regional offices. The direction is set in the context of the changing geopolitical landscape, counterpart needs and partner priorities.

02. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT
We develop projects based on the evolving maritime threat picture and in response to the needs of Member States.

03. ADVOCACY
We ensure that Member States, donors, UN partner agencies, GMCP counterparts, stakeholders and the public at large have access to and full visibility of information on our work.

04. STAFF DEVELOPMENT
We ensure that GMCP staff are properly prepared for their duties through training and support.

NEW REGIONAL PROGRAMMING WAS ESTABLISHED IN ARGENTINA, AZERBAIJAN, DJIBOUTI, INDIA, KAZAKHSTAN, LIBYA, THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, TURKMENISTAN AND UGANDA.

NEW THEMATIC PROGRAMMING ESTABLISHED ON:
- Crimes in the fisheries sector
- Crimes that affect the environment, with a particular focus on marine pollution
- Capacity building with regard to sanctions regimes
- Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats
- Specialised Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) courses such as hull search/diving courses, riverine domain awareness and riverine enforcement responses
- Tackling the smuggling of migrants and the establishment of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres
- Maritime Rule of Law Exercises (MROLEX), simulated operations integrating thematic components of vessel detection and information analysis, including seizure, evidence collection, and handling and prosecution
- The use of dark vessel surveillance, detection and monitoring technologies such as Unmanned Surface Vessels (USV) and Terrestrial-based Passive RF Sensor systems to enhance security and safety at sea
- Decarbonization of Coast Guard fleets, including building awareness about reducing the carbon footprint of Coast Guard operations and sensitising MLE agencies on their national climate change targets
- Advancing opportunities for women in MLE by creating an enabling environment for a more gender-responsive force, particularly through a two-pronged approach that develops both dialogue and capacity
- Promoting South-South cooperation by connecting MLE officers from Brazil, Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa to share experiences and look at the entire system of cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Africa
- Participation in COP28 to promote dialogue on innovation, technology and partnerships for targeting crimes that affect ocean-based climate resilience

SIRI BJUNE, HEAD OF THE UNODC GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

OUR PRIORITIES

GMCP PLEDGES FOR ONGOING PROJECTS

US$ 262.9 M

KEY RESULTS IN 2023

- The use of cutting-edge technology plays a critical part in enhancing maritime security. As part of its support to Member States, GMCP adopts the use of various surveillance technologies to detect and track suspicious activities in the maritime environment. By increasing maritime domain awareness our Member States are able to identify potential security threats and enable timely, targeted and cost-effective interventions.

SIRI BJUNE, HEAD OF THE UNODC GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

COMBATING MARITIME THREATS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

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SIRI BJUNE, HEAD OF THE UNODC GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME
KEY RESULTS IN 2023

- 1049 MLE officials trained on basic and specialised VBSS techniques, including CBRR E - Water borne Improvised Explosive Devices (WB IED) and Fishing Vessel Boarding Operations (PVBO), as well as Seamanship and Coxswain, Pierside Vessel Search and Maritime Domain Awareness.
- 96 prosecutors and judges trained on various topics, including adjudication of maritime terrorism cases, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons.
- Three national legislative gap assessments conducted to enhance the ‘legal finish’ of maritime crimes through increased prosecutions.
- Four operational studies on criminal networks, drug seizures and trends, migrant smuggling originating from Sri Lanka and Indian Ocean regional organisations.

A Legislative Guide on Marine Pollution Crimes developed, classifying pollution crimes as serious offences in line with United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime (UNCTOC) Article 2(b) and comprehensively addressing operational treaty obligations.

Supported Sri Lanka, the Chair of IORA’s Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSS) in promoting collaboration in the regional maritime security and safety architecture.

Conducted a Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogue (MLED), focusing on Maldives’ enforcement jurisdiction for cases of fishing vessels used for drug trafficking in the country’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), based on CMCP’s issue paper developed in this regard.

Developed Harmonised Standard Operating Procedures (HSOPs) to guide evidence management processes in prosecuting maritime terrorism cases in Maldives.

Fostered South-South cooperation by enabling the participation of prosecutors from Bangladesh, Maldives, India and Sri Lanka in two Prosecutors’ Network Forums and one Judicial Colloquium held under the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC).

Expanded training into new areas such as maritime cyber threats and response to maritime incidents.

Supported Bangladesh and Maldives in the development of national plans for the protection of submarine cables, achieving the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Submarine Cables in Bangladesh.

Provided equipment to MLE agencies to strengthen their operational capabilities in detecting suspicious activity at sea.

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**OUR PRIORITIES**

**01. ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Through its mandate, GMCP is committed to support Member States in promoting cooperation at both the regional and international levels and building capacity to counter serious organised crime within the maritime domain. This involves technical, material and infrastructural support to law enforcement, prosecution and detention authorities. As maritime crimes almost always cross international boundaries, all interventions have a strong regional cooperation emphasis and are carried out within the framework of the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC).

**02. SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

GMCP builds Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) capacity through the delivery of training courses and full-time mentorship. This includes training on the maritime domain awareness (MDA) skills needed to detect and locate suspect vessels, as well as foundational MLE topics such as creating a culture of maintenance and seamanship skills. Those foundations serve as the basis for advanced regional training, a series of Qualification Training Courses, and ongoing instructor development at the national level. Port Law Enforcement training events continue around the region to help ensure crimes in ports are effectively prosecuted. Given the international nature of maritime crimes, interventions include the coordination of the Southern Route Partnership within the IOFMC framework, providing a coordination platform among national drug enforcement agencies, MLE agencies and international partners and training and equipment support to the Regional

**03. SUPPORT TO PROSECUTION**

The Prosecutors’ Network Forum (PNF) is a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration and cooperation among prosecutors from different countries in the region. By participating in this forum, prosecutors can share best practices, exchange valuable information and coordinate efforts to prosecute and bring to justice those involved in maritime crimes.

**GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME**

**KEY RESULTS IN 2023**

- Trained over 5070 participants, including 801 women, in 233 trainings covering 16 countries. The courses, such as VBSS or MDA, successfully contributed to more effective maritime and port law enforcement, covering both practical and theoretical material at a basic or more advanced level.
- 38 officers were trained as national instructors, allowing them to independently replicate GMCP training activities across the Indian Ocean West (IOW) region.
- Delivery of Maritime Rules of Law Exercises (MROLEX) for country teams from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania, with exercises conducted in English, French and Kiswahili.
- UNODC-trained boarding teams and prosecutors contributed to prosecution of 36 crew members accused of illegal fishing in Somali waters and to the largest drug seizure in Seychelles history.
- Expanded implementation in Djibouti and conducted GMCP’s first activities in Ethiopia.
- Completed handover of a ‘Ship-in-a-box’ facility to the government of Mauritius and completed construction of an MLE training centre in Mogadishu.
- Delivery of training on port law enforcement, portside security and emergency response planning under the EU Programme on Port Security and Safety of Navigation, together with IMO and INTERPOL, in nine countries in the region.
- In December 2023, the TPC supported investigations leading to Tanzania’s largest drug seizure ever of 31 metric tons in Dar es Salaam.
- In Madagascar, three UNODC-trained officers from the Fisheries Surveillance Centre who received training on navigation, seamanship skills, a technical maintenance successfully intercepted a vessel performing IUU fishing in Nosy Mitsio.

**OUR DONORS**

In 2023, the GMCP IOW Team received support from the United States State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the United States Department of Export Control and Related Border Security Program, the European Union, the Government of Denmark, and The US Office of Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence. This support enhanced efforts to combat maritime crime, maintain border security, and uphold the rule of law, allowing the team to strengthen operations and expand its reach across the IOW region.

**IMPACT STORY**

The GMCP Indian Ocean West (IOW) team has achieved considerable progress in 2023 through its training initiatives. The team has successfully trained over 38 national instructors across the IOW region. They now play a crucial role in cascading the knowledge and skills gained from the training programs to their respective law enforcement agencies.

"I am confident that I can lead a complete unit and succeed in whatever mission is assigned today. I can transform the same knowledge in theory and practice. I will lead in training Kenya Coast Guard Service officers to transform and be a world-class organization in combating crime and fighting drug trafficking in the maritime environment.”

The involvement of national instructors ensures a sustainable and widespread impact as they continue to support and guide colleagues even after the completion of the training. The national instructors’ newly acquired knowledge and skills have fostered stronger coordination and collaboration among law enforcement agencies, elevating the region’s ability to address maritime crimes effectively.

**OFFICERS TRAINED**

- 572 Prosecutors
- 2930 MLEs
- 1568 Prisons
- TOTAL 5070

**WOMEN TRAINED**

- 37 Prosecutors
- 120 MLEs
- 745 Prisons
- TOTAL 902

**NUMBER OF TRAINED/MENTIONED**

- 38 Prosecutors
- 327 MLEs
- 48 Prisons
- TOTAL 413
The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) is a proud partner of UNODC. Through its programmes the UNODC has significantly enhanced regional capacity for interoperability, particularly in maritime space. This partnership is valued by the JDF and contributes positively to the fight against transnational organised crime in the region.

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF, REAR ADMIRAL ANTONETTE WEMYS-S GORMAN, JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE (JDF).

OUR PRIORITIES

- Tactical level capacity building and regional standardisation.
- Support Member States and their maritime forces by equipping them with skills to effectively respond to events at sea and in riverine theatres.
- Support countries to achieve greater operational cooperation at both national and regional level under existing and new cooperation frameworks for more effective judicial and operational responses to maritime crimes.
- Promote legal finish and legal cooperation.
- Develop advanced prosecutorial capacities and support the creation of networks among front line investigators and prosecutors to ensure a strong legal finish to maritime crimes.
- Support efforts to identify and analyse new maritime crime trends, threats and linkages to enable Member States to develop informed responses.

617 PEOPLE TRAINED
46 WOMEN TRAINED
47 NUMBER OF TRAININGS/ MENTORING
501 MLE OFFICIALS TRAINED
38 WOMEN IN MLE TRAINED

KEY RESULTS IN 2023

CARIBBEAN

- Developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on evidence handling for boarding officers from Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, endorsed by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in each country.
- Supported the development of a Memoranda of Understanding for Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation and Search and Rescue between the Dominican Republic Navy (ARD) and the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF).
- Provided technical assistance to strengthen human security and resilience against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) in coastal communities in the Dominican Republic.
- Developed an Interagency Task Force in the Bahamas to counter TOC at sea.
- Facilitated the planning and delivery of Exercise Event Horizon 2023, the first Caribbean multi-agency and multi-domain exercise aimed at strengthening cooperation and collaboration within the region for maritime safety, security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response to be executed independently by the Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Jamaica.
- Facilitated the planning of Exercise Event Horizon 2024, which includes 11 Northern Caribbean basin nations.
- Hosted the UNODC Caribbean Forum on Maritime Crime (CFMC) 2023, bringing together officers from all Caribbean nations, including for the first time officers from countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Panama, as well as DPPs from the Caribbean.
- Donated 40 laptops to the Caribbean Military Academy of the Jamaica Defense Force, as well as the provision of laptops, PPE equipment and vessels spares to the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard.
- Expanded the Maritime Operation Center to Maritime Operation and Command Systems (MOC-SOC) within the region.
- Facilitated the planning of Exercise Event Horizon 2023, bringing together southern Caribbean MLE agencies from Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

LATIN AMERICA

- Conducted a counter-proliferation capacity assessment in the ports of Coatzacoalcos and Salina Cruz, including the delivery of courses on the identification of explosive precursors and components, as well as the search of those within containers and pierside vessels.
- Facilitated regional investigation exchanges leading to strengthening/opening of 56 investigation lines lead among Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and the National Anti-Narcotics Service (SENAF) in Brazil.
- Developed and implemented the Riverine Domain Awareness (RDA) training and support to the identification of Critical Riverine Segments (CRS) along the Amazon Basin and Paraguay/Paraná Rivers.
- Delivered International Riverina Training at the Centro de Integração e Aperfeiçoamento em Polícia Ambiental (CIAPA) in the Amazon.
- Delivered joint training to the officers of riverine units from Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama to counter irregular maritime activity of Colombian Navy Balsa Turbo.
- Conducted Transatlantic cross-training and information exchanges to counter drug trafficking.

IMPACT STORY

ROGÉRIO PIRES COSTA ALVES
BRASILIAN FEDERAL POLICE OFFICER

For the Special Maritime Police Unit of Foz do Iguaçu, it was an honour to host and carry out the First International Exchange on Riverine Operations in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, promoted by the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) jointly with the Federal Police of Brazil.

At this first exchange, Maritime Law Enforcement officers from the Federal Police of Brazil, Paraguayan Navy and Colombian Navy gathered to share insights into criminal dynamics, operational cooperation and shared exchanges among the participating officers demonstrated the benefits of cross-border cooperation and the sharing of best practices in riverine operations.

The sharing of best tactical practices through joint training supported efforts to build and standardise capacities of riverine law enforcement officers who operate at the shared river border between Brazil and Paraguay.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN TEAM

TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER

- Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear Threats
- Firearms Trafficking
- Drug Trafficking
- Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants
- Crimes in the Fisheries Sector
- Crimes That Affect the Environment

PLANS FOR 2024

- Continue strategic, tactical and operational level support initiatives in the Caribbean to tackle maritime threats, with a particular focus on migration and border security.
- Through the Maritime Operation Center to Maritime Operation Center (MOCC-MOC) of North and South Caribbean initiatives, promote the signature of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation on maritime operations between MLE agencies within the Caribbean.
- Development of the Caribbean UAVs Center of Excellence in the Bahamas.
- Continue support to riverine and port enforcement authorities to tackle narcotics trafficking and transnational organised crime along the Amazon River Basin, Paraguay/Paraná Waterways and Transatlantic Routes.
- Regional investigations, prosecutions, and legal finish to disrupt transnational criminal organizations.
GMCP Management Support Team’s priority for 2023 was to facilitate the Programme’s recruitment processes and strengthen gender and geographical diversity. Further expansion of the Programme – on both geographical and substantive levels – required additional human resources to ensure effective, efficient, and diligent implementation of GMCP activities across the globe.

In line with the United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity, as well as the UN pledge to strengthen geographical diversity, the GMCP MS Team strived to hire candidates from UNODC’s underrepresented regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean. GMCP has also reached the 50/50 gender target at professional staff levels - gender mainstreaming is a priority across our work in line with SDG 5: Gender Equality.

“Amidst the challenges of 2023 and limited resources, MSU provided high quality support facilitating the management of projects delivering a remarkable USD 40 million. As we look forward to 2024, we embrace the opportunities ahead, committed to enhancing our support services with a focus on quality and innovation, paving the path for even greater achievements.”

SIJI MANGALATH, PROGRAMME OFFICER, MS TEAM, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

In 2023 the Management Support Unit (MSU) led a transformative shift of GMCP projects to the Integrated Planning Monitoring and Reporting (IPMR) platform. This transition, the cornerstone of the MSU’s efforts throughout the year, marked a significant leap towards enhanced project management and accountability. The MSU dedicated its energy to transitioning ongoing projects into the dynamic IPMR framework: three projects were seamlessly integrated into the new framework to be enriched with new insights and perspectives. The MSU, along with colleagues from the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, meticulously converted programme Logical Frameworks (Logframes), ensuring a more comprehensive and transparent representation of programme goals and outcomes. This dynamic recalibration represented a deliberate effort by the MSU to synchronise the GMCP’s structure with emerging needs.

In response to the evolving needs and requirements outlined by UN Member States, the budget allocations were increased in the spirit of adaptability. This adjustment aimed to accommodate unforeseen challenges and capitalise on emerging opportunities, ensuring that GMCP remained responsive to the dynamic landscape of global maritime crime. Two of the projects underwent a rigorous evaluation by the UNODC Programme Review Committee. This exercise significantly bolstered GMCP’s mission by improving project management, accountability and responsiveness to global challenges. It underscored the GMCP’s commitment to staying agile in the pursuit of its mission.

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**OUR PRIORITIES**

01. **MARITIME BORDER MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Support national maritime law enforcement actors in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and operational responsiveness through analytical training, provision of equipment and mentoring. Use satellite imagery to practise analytical skills, operational planning and on-water exercises in line with international law and human rights. Promote the inclusion of women in decision-making and operational roles.

02. **LEGAL FINISH TO MARITIME CRIMES**

Support the legal finish to crimes committed at sea through training to judges and prosecutors. Furthermore, support through simulated trials with national authorities and complimentary regional maritime exercises. Support international cooperation between prosecutors through the establishment of networks. Train national authorities on use of electronic evidence, as well as MDA evidence in a court of law.

03. **MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Build sustainable in-country and in-region MLE capacity-building programmes. Establish Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) and exercise capacity and enhance the capabilities of these nations to effectively address maritime safety and human rights at sea.

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**OUR PRIORITIES**

04. **IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SANCTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

In line with UNSC Resolution 2591 (2021), support the capability building of the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy in view of the transfer of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Maritime Task Force mandate to their authority. In collaboration with the UN Panels of Experts and Mediterranean coastal states, support the implementation of UNSC sanctions related to the arms embargo on Libya and the illicit exportation of petrochemicals from Libya.

05. **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTERPART ENGAGEMENT**

GMCP’s Mediterranean team continued to work with counterparts with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean. In addition, the Mediterranean team engaged counterparts in the Central and Western Mediterranean to identify priority areas for cooperation. GMCP has developed activities to strengthen maritime law enforcement and border management in 2019. In the Black and Caspian Sea, GMCP is consulting with key partners to identify priority areas for engagement that will complement ongoing efforts to strengthen MLE and border management. Activities in the Caspian Sea in 2024 will focus on countering weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) trafficking.

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**GMCP IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO PROMOTE REGIONAL COOPERATION INCLUDING ON THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS AT SEA**

UNODC GMCP in the Eastern Mediterranean has taken significant steps to promote regional cooperation including on the smuggling of migrants at sea. In February 2023, a 3-day simulation of a maritime pollution case was conducted, marking the second phase of cooperation between GMCP and the General Secretariat of Maritime Affairs (SGAM) in Tunisia and was funded by France.
OUR PRIORITIES

01. PROMOTING REGIONAL WHITE HULL DIPLOMACY
Building skills to de-escalate tense situations at sea and enhancing regional cooperation under the Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogue (MLEDs) and facilitating the establishment of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum.

02. CREATING SHARED AWARENESS THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING
Establishing a Tri lateral Coast Guard Regional Commanders Forum (Trilateral) to build shared understanding of developments in the Sulu and Celebes Seas and disseminating maritime criminality developments under the Sulu and Celebes Seas Contact Group.

03. EXPANDING STAKEHOLDERS IN COUNTERING DRUG TRAFFICKING
Upholding a multi-agency approach to counter maritime drug trafficking across the region, including in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand.

04. ENHANCING MDA CAPABILITY AND ANALYSIS
Inducting cutting-edge technology on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through equipment support and strengthening MDA analytical capacity.

05. ENHANCING PROSECUTORIAL CAPACITY FOR AN EFFECTIVE LEGAL FINISH
Harmonising international standards through legal assessments of maritime law and conducting simulated trials in littoral states.

THE UNODC GMCP Southeast Asia and the Pacific has been a stellar and exemplary partner to Pacific Island Countries in its approach supporting critical national sovereign infrastructure and operational capabilities while also understanding and fundamentally supporting the important role of regional cooperative frameworks and processes.

The sustained and respectful support of convening and enabling of the MDA Talana Group, comprising the heads of the regional security agencies, has been critical to enabling them to jointly discuss and coordinate their respective roles in the development of regional MDA to support their respective PC national constituents. The regional GMCP has been superlative and an exemplary model for other external partners to learn from.

JAMES MOVICK, DIRECTOR OF THE PACIFIC FUSION CENTER

NEW MILESTONES IN POLICY-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

2023 marks two important new milestones for UNODC GMCP in the Pacific Ocean: a training support for Visiting, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) personnel and a data sharing platform.

CAMBODIA
- Offered hands-on tactical exercises through Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) training to boarding teams.

INDONESIA
- Supported the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment of Indonesia in developing MDA Data and Information Sharing Platform and Analytics Dashboard for Indonesian maritime stakeholders.

MALAYSIA
- Customised and expanded MDA analytical training courses for various MLE agencies including Marine Police, Navy, Fisheries, Immigration and Customs. Two new courses were delivered for the first time: Training on the Reliability of Data for C4ISR Decision Making for MMEA operators, and a course on counter cyber security threats to MLE agencies. Malaysia also hosted the first Regional Maritime Intelligence Analysis Training course, which combined elements of naval intelligence and MDA analysis.

PHILIPPINES
- Delivered cutting-edge technology and relevant capability-enhancing trainings to maritime agency counterparts, including Maritime Agency of the Philippines.
- Conducted Learning Exchanges to Regional Coordinating Centers for greater information-sharing and strengthened inter-agency coordination in responding to maritime crimes, and conducted relevant assessments and studies for greater MDA in the Philippines.

THAILAND
- Conducted Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) trainings for Thai-MECC Boarding Officers and delivered MDA analytical trainings.
- In addition, a Coastal Monitoring Station Technical Survey in Saranee Island, Ranong was conducted to inspect and assess the condition of the existing coastal radar.

TIMOR LESTE
- Conducted a visit to the Maritime Operations Centers (COMAR) and the Commander of the F-FDTL Naval Component Force to strengthen GMCP cooperation with Timor Leste, and convened an MDA Foundation Course for various enforcement agencies such as the Fisheries Department, Maritime Police Unit, Ministry of Transport and the Navy.

VIETNAM
- Strengthened technical capacities of MLE agencies through MDA trainings and delivered VBSS trainings for the officer-level and the boarding teams. Further enhanced coordination of MLEs via Tabletop Exercises (TTE) on effective management of volatile situations at sea and conducted maritime crime scene investigation training.

THE PACIFIC
- Facilitated four iterations of the Talana Meetings between Regional Security Secretariats on Pacific Maritime Security and convened both the first Heads of Police Maritime Units in the Pacific Forum and the first Pacific Women in MLE Forum (PacWinMLE).

- Provided post volcanic support to Tonga following the 2023 eruption of the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai Volcano. In addition, GMCP provided post volcanic support to the Tonga Maritime Coordination Centre, and deployed an expert to develop the institutional structures for a permanent Tonga Police Maritime Group. GMCP also delivered training for Pacific MLE personnel on the Safe Handling of Synthetic Opioids at the UNODC Lab in Vienna and delivered Maritime Crime Investigation Training and MDA Foundational Training to MLE personnel from Micronesia, Palau, Nauru and Kiribati.

KEY FIGURES

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<th>Country</th>
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KEY RESULTS IN 2023 | COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

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The Platform is an optional way to improve our law enforcement capabilities at sea. This is a concrete collaborative effort to safeguard maritime sovereignty and state security through the implementation of technology innovation”, said Jodi Mahardi, Deputy Minister of the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime and Investment Affairs.

Since 2022, GMCP also supported the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) with the development of its 10-Year Strategic Plan through the conduct of regular national consultations, a maritime criminality study across Malaysian waters, and a study visit to the Republic of Türkiye Coast Guard. The outcome document has been presented and approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs and will serve as a guiding reference for targeting future support to Malaysia.
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EU COORDINATED MARITIME PRESENCE AND THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY (EMSA) IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

The EU and its Member States have supported CMCP initiatives across the globe since its establishment in 2009. CMCP strongly supports the Coordinated Maritime Presence concept, which provides an opportunity to coordinate the actions of the international community to address maritime security challenges to the benefit of targeted states.

"I am the captain of the Spanish warship Audaz deployed in 2023 in the Gulf of Guinea to protect security and stability in the region. We are conducting this operation under the framework of the 'Coordinated Maritime Presence' of the European Union. Our pivotal role is to support not only these coordinated European efforts but also all initiatives from the European Union such as PASSMAR and partnerships with CMCP."

CAPTAIN DE SOUSA FUCHS

DRAFT OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ACT RELATING TO COOPERATION IN THE SUPPRESSION OF OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITIES IN THE ECOWAS REGION AND SIMULATION EXERCISE UNDER THE EU-SWAIMS PROJECT

To support the implementation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Act, and achieve its goal of countering piracy, CMCP has drafted a Supplementary Act. The Supplementary Act works to suppress other illicit maritime activities in general, defined as any illicit activity under international and national law of the Member States, including drug trafficking by sea, maritime terrorism and other transnational organised crime in the maritime domain. This Act seeks to enhance expeditious sharing of information on suspect vessels through the Yaoundé Architecture, expedite the procedure of boarding requests of suspect vessels beyond territorial waters, facilitate the granting of the necessary consent to board and implement a comprehensive ship rider mechanism in the waters of Member States and beyond, with the view to exercising their authority to suppress illicit maritime activities under the authority of the ship Rider’s State.

COORDINATED EU-GMCP-INTERPOL-IMO ACTION FOR MARITIME SECURITY IN THE RED SEA

Through the EU-funded Regional Programme for Maritime Security in the Red Sea, CMCP is engaging in coordinated actions with INTERPOL and IMO to develop capacities and promote adequate security and safety standards for maritime, port and land-based law enforcement authorities. This support for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen focuses on three result areas: Enhanced maritime law enforcement; Port security and safety of navigation; Regional maritime domain awareness and dialogue.

EU SUPPORT TO ADDRESSING THE RISK OF TERRORISM AND TO INCREASING SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

The project ‘Support to Addressing the Risk of Terrorism and to Increasing Security in the Maldives’ seeks to prevent and counter potential acts taking place at sea, providing local counterparts with assistance on a wide range of security related matters, while ensuring legal finish. In 2023, CMCP delivered specialised trainings for MLE officers and engaged with the prosecution, the judiciary and the correctional service to ensure a full coverage of the criminal justice cycle linked to maritime terrorism. When monitoring and providing technical assistance, CMCP always highlighted the importance of respecting human rights at all stages, to avoid further radicalization and future terrorism recruitment. Such a long-term perspective was also integrated when discussing a plan to introduce prison reforms in the coming years with high-ranking officials from Maldives’ correctional service.

PARTNERING WITH THE EU ON THE GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF MARITIME CRIME AND RESPONSES IN WEST AFRICA

Under the EU-SWAIMS project, CMCP gathered maritime actors in Abidjan to validate a report on the gendered dimensions of different types of maritime crime, investigating their impacts and responses to them. This report was shared with national counterparts to be mainstreamed in their respective internal policy development, training and criminal justice responses.

CELEBRATING EUROPE DAY 2023

On 9 May 2023, CMCP joined the international community in celebrating Europe Day and released a social media message celebrating the occasion. The message included a video pertaining to the launch of series of activities implemented under the framework of PASSMAR EU-UNODC in Gabon, as part of the EU project ‘Coordinated Maritime Presence’, in cooperation with Spain who offered its patrol boat Audaz to facilitate the sea exercise conducted in cooperation with Gabonese Navy in March 2023.

EU-GMCP PARTNERSHIP
1. FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC AND BEYOND

Japan and GMCP uphold the principle of rule-based maritime governance and work together for the Rule of Law in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly Southeast and South Asia. The Japan-GMCP partnership constitutes joint efforts to support Member States in developing the capacity and capability of Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) agencies and judicialities, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. From Coast Guard boats battening maritime crime to busy courtrooms hearing maritime cases, this partnership contributes to the rule of law at sea around the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

With the Japanese assistance through their supplementary budget, UNODC provides technical assistance to coastal countries in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on capacitating MLE agencies and the judiciary on maritime crimes. This ranges from strengthening MLE operational capability and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) to supporting the judiciary to counter illicit activities at sea, such as drug trafficking, crimes in the fisheries sector and marine pollution. It also supports the enforcement of UN-sanction regimes at sea and the protection of submarine cables and strengthens the response to critical maritime incidents. In Maldives and the Pacific Ocean, UNODC supports the construction of a Maritime Rescue Coordination Training Facility as well as provides MLE and MDA training and equipment through the Japanese Grant Aid.

2. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JAPAN COAST GUARD (JCG)

UNODC has maintained a productive partnership with JCG since 2018, when JCG dispatched its Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT) to visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) training held for countries from the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia in Seychelles and Sri Lanka. From 2020, JCG officers have been seconded to GMCP and supported the delivery of MLE training in Southeast and South Asia. With its outstanding expertise on MLE, JCG also shares skills and knowledge on specialised areas, such as digital forensic and MDA. In 2021, MLE and MDA instructors from JCG were deployed to GMCP-led training in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia. GMCP also organised a visit for Heads of Maritime Fusion Centres from four Southeast Asian countries to JCG and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

MR. NOBUTAKA OKA, JCG SECONDED OFFICER TO GMCP

"I was seconded from Japan Coast Guard (JCG) to the GMCP/Pacific Ocean team in January 2022, where I am mainly engaged in delivering and coordinating VBSS trainings at the training facility in Batam Island, Indonesia, and facilitating dispatchments of JCG experts to other trainings in Southeast Asia region such as MDA school and maritime digital forensic trainings. As maritime crimes have become complex and easy to transcend boundaries, it is more and more important to enhance capabilities of maritime law enforcement agencies in order to address the problems as a whole region. As JCG and GMCP share common principles in the field of maritime security, it is a distinct honour and pleasure for me to work in GMCP as the secondment who has an operational background in the Coast Guard and can contribute to the rule of law."

The global risks posed by the smuggling of Radiological and Nuclear (R/N) materials are extremely high. The loss or unauthorised acquisition of R/N materials could lead to widespread social, political and economic upheaval, as well as the tragic loss of human lives. Acknowledging the severity of this threat, the GMCP and the Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence (NSDD) have joined forces. Their collaboration aims to enhance the capabilities of worldwide maritime law enforcement bodies in identifying and preventing the maritime trafficking of R/N substances.

1. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS TO MAP MARITIME R/N TRAFFICKING

GMCP and NSDD continued to support independent research and counter maritime R/N trafficking in 2023. Stable Seas, a research organization focusing on maritime security, analysed the work of GMCP and NSDD in strengthening global defences against R/N material smuggling. Its findings emphasised the critical role of VBSS training that is integrated with radiological detection for effective Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE). The deployment of portable radiological detection devices is noted as a game-changer, enhancing routine maritime operations with their ease of use and cost-effectiveness. The report also stresses the need for sustained training, equipment maintenance and long-term national planning to ensure that these capabilities remain effective in countering maritime radiological threats.

2. ENHANCING MARITIME SAFETY: SCENARIO-BASED NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL THREAT TRAINING IN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

In Indonesia and Malaysia, scenario-based discussions significantly improved the awareness and readiness of mid-tier maritime officials regarding R/N threats. Spanning three days in each country, these training sessions employed realistic scenarios. Immersing officials in the practical aspects of detecting and managing such threats in maritime contexts. The focus was on empowering these officials with the skills needed to effectively identify, evaluate and respond to potential nuclear and radiological dangers. This initiative not only heightened their understanding of these complex threats but also enhanced their ability to implement strategic responses in real-world maritime situations.

3. EMPowering FRONTLINE MARITIME OFFICERS TO COUNTER RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR Threats

This training initiative was spearheaded by the GMCP and NSDD in Seychelles, involving maritime officers from Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Yemen. It had two strategic aims. First, to build regional cooperation among these nations. This aspect is crucial because maritime threats, especially those involving R/N materials, are often transnational in nature. By fostering collaboration and understanding among neighbouring countries, the program enhances the collective ability to monitor, detect and respond to such threats more effectively. Second, the program focuses on raising awareness among frontline maritime officers about the threat of R/N smuggling. This is an essential component of maritime security, as awareness and knowledge are key to prevention. Frontline officers are often the first line of defense against smuggling activities at sea. By educating them about the signs of R/N smuggling, the tools available for detection and the protocols for response, these officers are better equipped to identify and mitigate these threats. This comprehensive approach not only bolsters individual nations’ security but also contributes to a more secure maritime environment in the region.
WWF-GMCP PARTNERSHIP

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is an international governmental organization that works in the field of wilderness preservation and the reduction of human impact on the environment.

In December 2022, UNODC GMCP and WWF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreeing to use fisheries science and targeted sector information as an enabler for more efficient and cost-effective capacity-building against unsustainable fishing activities under GMCP’s remit, with a focus on crimes in the fisheries sector.

GMCP and WWF are working in partnership to reduce the occurrence of crimes that affect the environment and their impact on coastal and marine ecosystems by addressing crimes in the fisheries sector and other types of maritime crime. The objective is to scale the collaboration beyond fishing to include other joint efforts that lead to improved maritime security, including at-sea Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) against other crimes that affect the environment, such as related to endangered species, ghost gear, pollution, and timber. The partnership demonstrates how the conservation and maritime security communities can leverage each other’s core competencies for greater impact in their respective fields.

“The global challenge of reducing IUU fishing and fisheries crime requires inter-sectoral collaboration and knowledge. WWF’s partnership with UNODC leverages our combined expertise on ocean conservation, fisheries science, maritime enforcement, and legal capacity building to address this challenge.”

SARAH GLASER, SENIOR DIRECTOR, OCEANS FUTURE, WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

1. CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

On November 2022, GMCP and UNODC’s Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment (GPCAE), in partnership with WWF, launched a new discussion paper on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate Change at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The report discusses the relationship between environmental crime, biodiversity loss and climate change. It explores illegal activity in marine and terrestrial ecosystems and trafficking in waste to understand their impact on the environment.

The legal and judicial systems offer potential solutions to these problems that are under-utilised. The report offers potential paths forward for legal and judicial reform, emphasising the importance of measuring generational harm when calculating the impact of climate change on human well-being.

2. CRIME AND CORRUPTION IN THE MARITIME SECTOR WORKSHOP IN ECUADOR

In July 2023, GMCP and GPCAE participated in the WWF-led conference exploring the steps Ecuador has taken towards improving maritime security in its waters, including efforts for strengthening maritime control and surveillance capabilities to combat IUU fishing and other crimes in the fisheries sector.

3. COP28: PROTECTING BLUE CARBON IN THE GALAPAGOS

Climate resilience for coastal communities and robust blue carbon sinks rely on well-protected nature. During the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) held in the United Arab Emirates in December 2023, WWF and GMCP hosted an event focusing on robust, collaborative maritime security and improved legal approaches for crimes that affect the marine environment by showcasing the progress of the partnership in Ecuador. Without significant improvement in legal approaches, including the use of technology and scientific information to strengthen evidence collection at sea, maritime crime will undermine protection of blue carbon sinks and nature-based solutions. Representatives from WWF, GMCP and officials from the Ecuadorian and US governments convened to emphasise the critical need for collaborative strategies in combating crimes in the fisheries sector, enhancing maritime domain awareness, and safeguarding the Galapagos Islands’ unique biodiversity.
SUBSTANTIVE INTERVENTION AREAS
COMMUNITY BASED CRIME PREVENTION

Community-based projects play a pivotal role in crime reduction and prevention. The importance of these initiatives is multi-faceted and ranges from addressing the root causes of crime to building trust among community members.

WORK WE DO

Underlining the importance of a community-based crime prevention approach to address the root causes of piracy and criminal activities in the Gulf of Guinea, UNODC has supported crime prevention initiatives starting with the Niger Delta region of Nigeria as a pilot model. Under its project Combating Piracy and Maritime Insecurity in Nigeria through Community-based Crime Prevention Strategies, UNODC supported the Bayelsa State Government of Nigeria in developing a community-based crime prevention strategy to achieve a whole-of-society approach to tackle maritime crime. The strategy is accompanied by action plans to improve community-centred policing and the exchange of intelligence to identify security risks. It focuses on three work streams:

- Strengthening law enforcement and security services to respond and combat piracy and maritime crime.
- Strengthening criminal justice and trust in the criminal justice system by expediting cases to increase convictions of piracy, and other maritime and maritime-related crimes.
- Building community resilience to piracy and other maritime crimes, both as victims and as the source for recruitment.

KEY RESULTS

- Validation and adoption of the Bayelsa State Crime Prevention strategy.
- Refurbishment and equipping of three police posts in the three pilot communities of Ayamasa, Ihebrin 1 and Otuan.
- Refurbishment of three youth centres in the three pilot communities of Ayamasa, Ihebrin 1 and Otuan.
- Refurbishment and equipping of three cassava/gari processing facilities in the three pilot communities of Ayamasa, Ihebrin 1 and Otuan.
- Establishment of the LULU (Line Up Live Up) training programme, which uses sports to prevent crime and drug use for young people aged 12 - 18.
- Facilitation of Community Oriented Policing for the Nigerian Police Officers deployed in the three pilot communities and senior level Nigeria Police Force (NPF) officers.
- Installation of solar lighting in hot dark spots in the three pilot communities.

There is a need to expand the development of this strategy beyond Bayelsa State to cover all States of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, as well as the most vulnerable communities in other parts of the Gulf of Guinea region.

LULU PARTICIPANTS

“Through the LULU program, I have learnt not to look down on myself; I can achieve anything I want in life.”

SUNDAY RACHEAL, 17 YEARS OLD, FEMALE

“I learnt that if your peers is telling you to take substance that will affect you tomorrow, for example, marijuana, cocaine and all other strong substance that will affect your destiny tomorrow. ALWAYS REJECT IT!”

GOODLUCK THANKGOD, 14 YEARS OLD, MALE

“After the implementation of this project, I believe that the youths of this community will see the need to live a life free from drug use”

COMMUNITY REP, OTUAN

“I believe the training has helped youths to realize that they can live to achieve their goals without using drugs and without necessarily falling into criminal activities.”

CHRISTIANA OLUWAKEMI, LULU TRAINER
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

WORK WE DO

INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- GMCP has partnered with the Allan Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2) Skylight to enable Member States to access a satellite vessel tracking system. This system uses algorithm-based machine learning to predict dark rendezvous and suspected fishing events. GMCP provided regular training and guidance on the effective use of Skylight.

- GMCP held discussions with Seavision technical experts at the Volpe Centre in Boston, Massachusetts on terrestrial based maritime surveillance technology. GMCP was provided with access to a simulator software on the Seavision platform to conduct a trilateral Tabletop Exercise (TTX) with intel injects visualised on the MDA screen.

- GMCP engaged closely with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the Copernicus programme on satellite imagery to support maritime operations to counter crimes in the fisheries sector.

- GMCP convened the Heads of Centre (HOC) meeting under the Forum of National Maritime Fusion Centres (FNMFC) bringing together practitioners and experts to discuss latest advancements in MDA technology.

- GMCP has partnered with the Allan Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2) Skylight to enable Member States to access a satellite vessel tracking system. This system uses algorithm-based machine learning to predict dark rendezvous and suspected fishing events. GMCP provided regular training and guidance on the effective use of Skylight.

- GMCP has established MDA Schools in Fiji, Philippines and Viet Nam and providing fit-for-purpose training facilities dedicated for MDA training. The MDA Schools are equipped with interactive smart boards and access to MDA training platforms.

- GMCP has supported the upgrading of surveillance equipment at Maritime Operations Centres in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu in the Pacific region; Seychelles and Tanzania in the Indian Ocean West region; and Maldives and Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean East region. These upgrades improve maritime surveillance and response capability.

- GMCP installed maritime x-band coastal radar equipment on Tarawa island in Kiribati to improve the MDA capability of Kiribati Police maritime unit. In addition, radar equipment was also provided to the Tanzanian Marine Police Operations Centre.

- GMCP has facilitated the provision of pro-bono synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery to national law enforcement agencies to detect vessels of interest (VoI) in support of counter-narcotics operations at sea.

- GMCP has developed eight MDA training courses that include MDA Foundational Training (3 courses), MDA Analytical Training (3 courses), specialised training in Radar Analysis (1 course) and the collection of soft-MDA (HUMINT) from coastal communities (1 course).

- GMCP delivered a training on incorporating aviation reconnaissance sensors into Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) to coast guard personnel from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines. Participants were trained on the collection and infusion of aviation reconnaissance data to augment the MDA picture and had an opportunity to conduct a practical exercise over the Malacca Strait using a Japan Coast Guard aircraft.

- GMCP facilitated community-level engagement to collect human intelligence on maritime activity by training Village Headmen in the Kadavu and Lau Island Provinces of Fiji, and Community Leaders in Kiribati and Samoa. The training focused on Maritime Surveillance and Island Security to enhance the reporting of suspicious activity at sea observed by coastal communities to maritime surveillance centres.

- GMCP supported regional capacity-building on environmental crime at sea focusing on ship-source pollution as an environmental crime liability of legal persons’ to strengthen maritime domain surveillance capacities for the detection of environmental crime in West and Central Africa.
International trade and the global economy depend heavily on maritime transport. Over 80% of the volume of international trade in goods is carried by shipping lanes. With the increase of global trade and shipping operations by sea, smuggling of arms, drugs and human trafficking has increased as smugglers conceal narcotics, illegal weapons and humans alongside legitimate cargo. To counter these possibilities, UNODC GMCP’s PVST training courses - also known as Bulk Carrier Search Courses - seek to improve the capacity of the border management personnel, including Customs, Port Authority, Fisheries and Coast Guard officials. The courses focus on fundamentals and techniques in searching a vessel while it is alongside in harbour or local anchorages. This will in turn facilitate trade in seaports to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods and humans.

GMCP is delivering PVST training courses to provide MLE officers with comprehensive guidance on the fundamentals of conducting a detailed search of a vessel in port, focusing on inspections of vessels once alongside and on post-seizure analysis on cargo or fishing vessels. The course is based on using At Sea Space Accountability (ASSA) techniques to investigate vessels that are suspected of being linked with organised crime activities in the areas of arms, narcotics and contraband while alongside or at sea, in compliance with international maritime laws and national law enforcement procedures.

**PIERSIDE VESSEL SEARCH TECHNIQUES**

**01. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**
- Conduct PVST trainings to MLE personnel including Navy, Coast Guard, Customs, Police and other law enforcement agencies, which are crucial to enhance skills and knowledge in maritime security.
- Conduct PVST Instructor trainings to MLE personnel, including Customs officers, to sustain the impact of trainings and ensure continuous development of their skills.

**02. COLLABORATION WITH BORDER AGENCIES**
- Facilitating sharing of knowledge and experience of PVST Instructors from different regions and officers of border agencies through PVST courses and PVST Instructor exchange programmes. This allows for sharing of good practices.

**03. PROVIDING AWARENESS**
- Building awareness on the importance of finding and correctly handling evidence for a smooth prosecution and conviction process.
- Raising awareness on different search techniques, taking into consideration cultural sensitivities within the regions while searching females on board the vessels.
- Raising awareness on specialised vessel search techniques, focusing on indicators of hidden suspicious compartments onboard vessels.

**04. CAPACITY BUILDING**
- Assisting border management agencies with vessel search equipment, including vented hard hats, overalls, safety boots, large pliers, adjustable spanners, large sockets and ratchets, ring spanners and laser distance measurers.

**COUNTRIES TRAINED**
- Somalia
- Bangladesh
- Pakistan
- Egypt
- Cyprus
- Maldives
- Kenya
- Tanzania

**ORGANIZATIONS TRAINED**
- Somali Police Force Department of Coast Guard
- Bangladesh Coast Guard
- Bangladesh River Police
- Bangladesh Customs
- Pakistan Anti-Narcotics Force
- Pakistan Coast Guard
- Pakistan Model Customs
- Maldives Customs
- Kenya Coast Guard Service
- Tanzania Marine Police
- Egyptian Navy
- Cyprus Port Marine Police
- Cyprus Customs

**IMPACT STORY**

In September 2023, the first ever Pierside Vessel Search Techniques (PVST) training was conducted in Mogadishu, Somalia involving ten officers from the Somali Police Force Coast Guard (SPF-DGC). Led by the maritime law enforcement mentor and a national instructor, the comprehensive training is particularly important for Somalia, given its strategic location along major international shipping routes. The emphasis was on pierside vessel techniques to augment the efficiency and effectiveness of vessel search operations. During the training, officers acquired vital skills encompassing thorough vessel inspections and implementing safe working practices.

“The training equipped participants with thorough and systematic search skills, ensuring compliance with international maritime security protocols and regulations.”

MARTIN VILJOEN - UNODC MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT

“This training transcends the boundaries of Vist, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS), delving into the profound realms of crime scene preservation and search techniques, equipping us with a deep understanding that reaches beyond the surface, where every detail becomes crucial in the intricate puzzle of security and justice.”

SPF-DGC OFFICER

**COUNTRIES TRAINED**
- Somalia
- Bangladesh
- Pakistan
- Egypt
- Cyprus
- Maldives
- Kenya
- Tanzania

**OFFICERS TRAINED**
- In Indian Ocean West: 38
- In Indian Ocean East: 76
- The Mediterranean Black Sea Region: 13

**OFFICERS TRAINED**
- In Mogadishu, Somalia: 38
Establishing a dedicated training centre for the maritime police and Coast Guard holds profound implications for the efficiency and effectiveness of these crucial law enforcement agencies. Such a centre becomes a nexus for skill enhancement, offering specialised training in maritime law. By providing a centralised location for training, maritime training centres allow for streamlined coordination and collaboration between different branches of the maritime police and the Coast Guard.

**MARITIME TRAINING CENTRES**

**MARITIME TRAINING FACILITY IN SEYCHELLES**

The Republic of Seychelles serves as UNODC GMCP’s regional training hub across the Indian Ocean West region. Maritime law enforcement (MLE) personnel from across the region convene together and receive advanced training to supplement the basic qualifications they have obtained from previous UNODC trainings. Through interaction with regional counterparts, these trainings additionally serve as a networking and collaborative opportunity for regional MLE personnel. Trainings are also facilitated to include information-sharing components with the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) and Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC). This integration aims to promote and enhance the use of these centres in real-life operations, whilst also highlighting the importance of coordinated information sharing across the region. GMCP coordinates and supports fellow international actors and stakeholders in the region such as the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) partnership, United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) and the Indian Navy. Support includes the provision of logistical and administrative undertakings for the facilitation of exercises and operations. GMCP also works to circulate relevant information to benefit ongoing efforts in the region.

**MARITIME TRAINING FACILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

GMCP South East Asia and Pacific Team, in collaboration with the Indonesian Coast Guard (Bakamla), established a Regional Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) Training Facility on the Batam island of Riau Island Province in Indonesia. The facility, located at Bakamla’s base and equipped with air-conditioned container classrooms, serves as the VBSS training centre for MLE agencies throughout the Southeast Asia and South Asia regions. Since its establishment on 24 June 2022, the facility has been used to deliver 17 VBSS trainings for boarding teams from various countries across the region, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. GMCP is currently working with the Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Centre (Thai-MECC) on the potential establishment of a second Regional VBSS Training Facility in Phuket.

**MARITIME TRAINING FACILITY IN CYPRUS**

Since 2021, UNODC GMCP has been strengthening the law enforcement capacities of Member States in the Eastern Mediterranean to support them in countering organised crime within the maritime domain. Since 2022, this has involved supporting the newly opened facility of the Cyprus Centre for Land, Open-seas, and Port Security (CYCLOPS), owned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CYCLOPS offers specialised trainings to law enforcement agencies with the purpose of increasing border, port and maritime security. The training activities that UNODC conducted at the centre in 2023 ranged from pier-side search techniques to specialised VBSS courses using remotely operated underwater vessels and K-9 dogs. All practical training has simulated realistic settings to ensure MLE officers are ready to use their skills in real-life scenarios.

**MARITIME TRAINING FACILITY IN YEMEN**

UNODC GMCP in Yemen has established purpose-built training rooms, with a fully equipped computer room, for the Yemen Coast Guard (YCG) headquarters in Aden. This strategic initiative has significantly bolstered the YCG’s training capabilities, enabling them to conduct continuous training sessions for all personnel in Aden and those stationed at the YCG Red Sea and Arabian Sea. This training facility aims to be used as an MLE training hub in the region.
In countries with long sections of navigable rivers, those rivers often represent important routes for trade but can also be exploited by criminal networks to conduct illicit activity. In some regions, because of the lack of other transportation infrastructure, rivers are sometimes referred to as the “trafficking highways.” In cases where contraband and other illicit goods are smuggled into or within countries along rivers, law enforcement agencies must be well-skilled and knowledgeable on the commonalities and differences in the applicable legal frameworks and enforcement methods between maritime interdictions at sea and riverine operations, particularly in terms of border security at international boundaries.

To respond to these requirements, UNODC GMCP has provided training to law enforcement agencies that have a focus on river activities. The aim is to augment skills and capabilities to enable effective detection and response to illicit activities in riverine settings. This includes training on Riverine Movement Techniques, Riverine Boarding and Search procedures, Confined Space Drills, Tactical Driving, Safety Brief, Pre/Post Operational Checks and Operational Environment Survival Skills. Additionally, to allow for more efficient targeting in riverine operations, UNODC GMCP has also implemented a range of analytic techniques to identify critical sections of rivers for patrolling and monitoring and developed a concept for Riverine Domain Awareness (RDA) in Latin America.

**RIVERINE TRAINING**

**LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

- Supported the delivery of regional riverine training in partnership with the Centro Internacional de Excelencia Fluvial Avanzada (CIEAF) in Turbo, Colombia. The training was delivered to Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay.
- Supported the delivery of cross-Atlantic training in partnership with the Centro de Integração e Aperfeiçoamento em Polícia Ambiental (CIAPA) of Brazil to counter the illicit flows from Latin America to Southern and Eastern Africa. The training was delivered to Brazil, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania.
- Supported the delivery of the first International Exchange on Riverine Operations in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil between law enforcement agencies from Brazil, Colombia and Paraguay, in partnership with the Federal Police of Brazil.
- Supported the implementation of legal training for riverine legal finish, including on cash seizures, working with prosecutors from riverine regions of Colombia and Paraguay.
- Development of a Riverine Domain Awareness: Vector Analysis based on critical riverine segments for Brazil and related inter-agencies technical consultations, in partnership with the Centro Gestor e Operacional do Sistema de Proteção da Amazônia (CENSIPAM).
- Supported and facilitated trilateral operational dialogues focused on the Amazon River Basin and Parana waterways, in partnership with the Colombian Navy within the framework of the Orion Campaign.

**INDIAN OCEAN**

- Supported the delivery of cross-Atlantic training in partnership with the Centro de Integração e Aperfeiçoamento em Polícia Ambiental (CIAPA) of Brazil to counter the illicit flows from Latin America to Southern and Eastern Africa. The training was delivered to Brazil, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania.
- Delivered Basic Seamanship and MLE courses to agencies in Bangladesh, including the River Police and Coast Guard.

**WORK WE DO**

**PRIMARY COLLABORATION WITH BORDER AGENCIES**

- Partnership with the Colombian Navy/CIEAF
- The Federal Police of Brazil/NEPOM/CIAPA
- CENSIPAM
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, PROSECUTION AND ADJUDICATION

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS & ASSESSMENTS

GMCP assists Member States in enhancing regional cooperation and combating criminal activities in the maritime domain by delivering tailored capacity-building initiatives aligned to each country's national legal framework.

National legal reviews were conducted to ensure that activities meet the specific requirements of each country. These reviews identified and addressed gaps in the criminal justice chain, aiming to strengthen the regional strategy against maritime crimes and enhance the prospects of achieving legal finish.

WORK WE DO | FOCUS

The legal reviews conducted focused on the following:
- Domestication of relevant international conventions
- Jurisdiction
- Investigation
- Mutual Legal Assistance
- Extradition
- Admissibility of Evidence
- Stringency of the penalties

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, PROSECUTION AND ADJUDICATION

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Engaging with the key stakeholders in Angola, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, and Tanzania on recommendations regarding how to tackle various offences committed at sea and in ports endangering port security and safety of navigation.
- Assisting Comoros, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe in the revision of their penal codes and criminal procedures codes.
- Supporting Cote D’Ivoire in the drafting of a special law on the suppression of offences committed at sea.
- Collaboration with the Legal Department of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Commission, International Criminal Court (ICC) and the CRESMAC Regional Maritime Security Centre on the Handover Agreement entitled ‘Project of the ECCAS protocol on the conditions of transfer of persons suspected of having committed acts of maritime piracy and their associated property and/or evidence’.
- Collaborated with the General Secretariat of Maritime Affairs (SGAM) in Tunisia on warranted legal reforms to strengthen the Tunisian levers of action against maritime pollution in the Mediterranean.
- Conducted legal assessments of the maritime crime frameworks in Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka, providing detailed insights into their respective legal structures. These assessments identified key areas for improvement and resulted in targeted recommendations for legal reform.
- In response to Bangladesh’s maritime security challenges, including piracy, armed robbery, trafficking, smuggling and illegal fishing within its maritime domain, GMCP collaborated with national counterparts to develop and introduce a curriculum focused on International Law and the Law of the Sea related to Maritime Criminal Law.
- Given the pressing challenge of drug trafficking at sea, particularly in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a critical Issue Paper was developed, entitled ‘Coastal State’s Enforcement Jurisdiction over Drug Trafficking in the EEZ: The Case of Maldives’, providing an in-depth legal analysis of the Maldives’ jurisdictional capabilities and challenges in enforcing jurisdiction over drug trafficking cases in the EEZ.
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

SIMULATED TRIALS

The purpose of simulated trials is to assess national legal frameworks and to train prosecutors and judges in maritime crime cases. The exercise seeks to take the simulated trial approach forward to meet ‘on-the-ground’ challenges, including those of case preparation, evidence handling, examination of witnesses and case management. In the Indian Ocean region, UNODC GMCP facilitated simulated trials on drug trafficking at sea in Kenya and Mauritius, with the objective of expanding such exercises to other countries in the region.

WORK WE DO

- **EARLY ENGAGEMENT OF PROSECUTORS**
  Emphasise the benefits of early engagement through preboarding legal advice and information on the range of strategic and operational decision-making options that are likely to be encountered.

- **PRELIMINARY CHALLENGES**
  Train practitioners on the formulation and drafting of legal arguments and provide them with the opportunity to make oral or written presentations before a judge or a panel of judges, drawn from States within the region.

- **CASE HANDLING OF PROSECUTORS**
  Discuss matters of concern to prosecutors including charging decisions, concurrent jurisdiction, international cooperation, the disclosure/service of documents to the defence and court, human rights considerations and the drafting of opening notes and arguments.

- **CASE HANDLING BY DEFENCE**
  Ensure the inclusion of defence lawyers, where feasible, with the objective to avoid the making of unmeritorious applications, written submissions and oral presentations, and further to demonstrate that the best interest of the client is served.

- **ADVOCACY/EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES**
  Training on a reasoned, well-considered and planned approach in the examination and cross-examination of witnesses. These sessions are intended to have the parties rehearse for hearings where witnesses will be called.

- **WITNESSES**
  Help witnesses learn how to give evidence in a coherent and clear manner and, at the same time, how to manage cross-examination.

- **EVIDENTIAL CHALLENGES**
  Train investigators to develop their case strategy and record decisions. Continuing challenges include search and seizure, exhibit collection, handling and management, detention issues, initial examination of witnesses and suspects, retrieval of digital evidence, and covert techniques. Investigators will be required to develop their case strategy and to log and record decisions.

- **DIRECT AND INDIRECT/CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE**
  Train investigators and prosecutors on how to build their case on circumstantial evidence. In maritime cases, in particular cases of drugs and arms trafficking, the incriminating evidence may be deemed inadmissible. Investigators and prosecutors will, therefore, often build their case on circumstantial evidence.

- **INTELLIGENCE-LED INVESTIGATIONS/COVERT TECHNIQUES**
  Ensure that law enforcement and prosecutors understand the importance of intelligence and how it may be used and should be protected in a criminal case.

- **CASE MANAGEMENT ISSUES FOR JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES**
  The simulations explore how judges and magistrates manage a case once it enters the judicial phase, including proper chain of custody.

GMCP has developed an educational video with step-by-step guidance on court proceedings for maritime criminal justice practitioners. The video covers charges, preliminary challenges, hearings, final written addresses, and judgement and recommendations.

LEGAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING (LEGM)

UNODC GMCP supports Member States in strengthening their Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) and legal capabilities to disrupt and counter maritime criminality. Every year, UNODC GMCP hosts a global meeting of legal experts to discuss emerging maritime crime legal issues and produce papers on maritime crime subjects to be used as a baseline and background for UNODC technical assistance provided globally. The experts develop papers focusing on specific technical maritime themes, and review and revise the UNODC manual on maritime crime for criminal justice practitioners. Topics for the 2023 LEGM included criminal jurisdiction on maritime pollution, flag state criminal jurisdiction, maritime transport and terrorism, and criminal jurisdiction at sea on weapons trafficking.
Kenya

PRISONS SUPPORTED
- Shimo La Tewa Woman Prison
- Shimo La Tewa Maximum Security Prison
- Kamiti Maximum Security Prison
- Langata Woman Prison

CONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHMENT
- Opened the construction Police Station for the Anti-Terror Police Unit (ATPU) in Mombasa in 2022.
- Installed CCTV Cameras in Langata and Shimo Women in 2022.
- Opened a high security separation block at Langata Women Prison in July 2021.
- Constructed a new court complex at Shanzu Court in 2020.
- Secure refurbishment of Kahawa CT Court in 2023.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING
- Carpenter
- Plumber
- Electrical Works
- Masonry
- Welding

TRAINING OF CUSTODIAL CORPS
- Training for prison staff on assessment and categorisation of violent extremist prisoners through risk assessment training.
- Training for prison staff on how to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism in prisons through security information reporting.
- Training for prison staff on dynamic security at the prison facilities to promote a human rights-friendly environment within the prisons.
- Training for prison officers on how to support efforts towards disengagement of violent extremist prisoners by creating awareness on the misuse of religion through the religious counternarratives training.
- Training the prison staff on how to properly assign a rehabilitation strategy for violent extremist prisoners by understanding their motivation and individual needs through assessment training.
- Psychosocial support for prison staff who collaborate with violent extremist prisoners through trauma resilience workshops and the alternative narratives and motivational dialogues workshops.
- Training of alternative narratives and motivational dialogues, as well as religious counter-narratives as part of the efforts against violent extremism in prisons.

OUR RESULTS
- 1268 persons have been trained, of which 745 were women.
- Capacity-building of Kenya Prison Service staff to deliver dynamic security, needs assessments, security information reporting and risk assessment of violent extremist prisoners.
- Creation of awareness on the misuse of religion to spread extremist ideologies and techniques to counter false narratives.
- Psychosocial support for prison staff working with violent extremist prisoners.
- Creation of awareness on the damage corruption within prison service can do.
- Ensuring targeted stations maintain international human rights standards through the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules and Beijing Rules from admission to release.
- Development of national trainers through strategic mentoring.

Somalia

PRISONS AND AGENCIES SUPPORTED
- Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex (Somalia)
- Garowe Prison (Puntland)
- Hargeisa Prison (Somaliland)
- Gabiley female Prison (Somaliland)

AREAS OF WORK
- Reintegration and Rehabilitation trainings.
- Upholding the Nelson Mandela Rules.
- Prison mentorship and capacity building.
- Promoting gender equality through empowering female prison guards and female prison inmates at Gabiley Female Prison.

TYPE OF WORK
- Prison and Court Complex (MPCC).
- International Monitoring Committee visitation to Mpcc to monitor the human rights situation of the prisoners.
- Joint UN mission to Garowe Prison to monitor the human rights situation of the prisoners.
- Delivery of communication and radio equipment.

TRAININGS
- Prison staff refresher training.
- Prison staff radio and communication training.
- Senior Prison Management training.
- Training for women prison officers in Gabiley Prison.
- Training of gate staff at Hargeisa Prison.
- Training on the use and maintenance of Very High Frequency (VHF) radios.
- Training with prison authorities on broad criminal justice issues.

OUR RESULTS
- Prison infrastructure to ensure safe and human rights-compliant detention facilities.
- Implementation of activities to support prisoners’ rehabilitation and reintegration.
- Capacity building training for prison officers.
- Recognition of prisoner educational/vocational courses.

Impact Story: Vocational Training for Women Prisoners in Gabiley Prison

“Many of the women I worked with in the prison have had hard lives and very few opportunities. Some did not have a basic education. The social pressures for women prisoners in our society can be great. In my experience, it is the most vulnerable women in our societies who end up in institutions like Gabiley Prison.”

Sadiyo - UNODC PRISONS MENTOR

Sadiyo provided tailoring classes to female prisoners, enabling them to learn new skills and enhance their creative skills whilst incarcerated. The course allowed prisoners to practice their skills and receive feedback from the instructor, providing prisoners with a constructive path during their incarceration. Medina, an inmate, expressed her gratitude for the programme: “Learning a new skill also boosted my self-esteem and confidence, making me feel more positive about my future.”
MALDIVES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MALDIVES CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

PRISONS AND AGENCIES SUPPORTED

✓ Maldives Correctional Service HQ
✓ Male, Hulhumale and Assayri Prisons
✓ National Integrity Commission

AREAS OF WORK

✓ Ensuring compliance with international standards and human rights in prison management, such as the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, Beijing Rules and Tokyo Rules.
✓ Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) in detention.
✓ Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R).

TYPE OF WORK

✓ Capacity-building activities for the correctional staff of the Maldives Correctional Service (MCS) focused on international standards and human rights in prisons, including health and wellbeing, as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of the incarcerated.
✓ Capacity-building activities focused on international standards and human rights for the custodial staff in the Maldives Police Service.
✓ Raising awareness at the National Integrity Commission on the application of international standards and human rights in places of detention.
✓ Strengthening the awareness of over 20 officers in senior managerial roles in the Maldives Correctional Service on the application of international standards and human rights in places of detention.
✓ Capacity building of MCS on health management.
✓ Technical assistance for policy formulation and assessments in the areas of prison reform, rehabilitation and reintegration, and management of Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs).

OUR RESULTS

✓ Over 20 officers trained on managing security during virtual trials.
✓ Over 20 prison officers trained on the use of ICT skills to operationalize virtual trials.
✓ 26 judges, 36 lawyers and 25 prison officers trained on the use of ICT skills, video conferencing and the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules.
✓ 26 prison officers trained on embedding Dynamic Security in prison management, in compliance with international standards and human rights.
✓ 26 prison officers trained on managing security during virtual trials.
✓ 26 prison officers trained on embedding Dynamic Security in prison management, in compliance with international standards and human rights.
✓ 2 senior officials at the DOP got the opportunity to attend the International Corrections and Prisons Association Annual Conference and join the visit to the Penitentiary Complex in Brugge, Belgium.
✓ Prison guide on Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners (MVEP) and Nelson Mandela Rules books were translated into Sinhala and distributed to all prisons.
✓ 100 inmates and officers from Mahara Maximum Security Prison and Pallansena Youth Correctional Center trained on good agriculture practices.
✓ Equipment and greenhouses handed over to selected prisons.

IMPACT STORY

“Through UNODC GMCP training, we gained knowledge on the importance of treating the detainees with respect and dignity, in line with fundamental human rights in correctional and custodial settings. Even though we have limited physical and financial resources, UNODC encourages us to improve ourselves in performing our duties responsibly. I really enjoyed the training and hope to participate in future programmes.”

SRI LANKA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS

PRISONS AND AGENCIES SUPPORTED

✓ Department of Prisons (DOP)
✓ Magistrate and High Courts in Southern Province and Government Analyst’s Department (GAD)

AREAS OF WORK

✓ Prison management and security
✓ Compliance with international standards and human rights in prisons.
✓ Virtual trials to address prison congestion.
✓ Enhanced resilience against health emergencies.
✓ Strengthened forensic and investigation capacity.

TYPE OF WORK

✓ Training on Dynamic security; Incident Management; Virtual trials; ICT skills.
✓ Capacity building for criminal justice practitioners in the use of ICT skills to operationalize virtual trials.
✓ Providing physical infrastructure and equipment for selected prisons.
✓ Enhancing forensic capabilities of the GAD.
✓ Vocational training support to promote physical and mental well-being of the incarcerated and prison staff.

OUR RESULTS

✓ 133 officers from the DOP trained on embedding Dynamic Security in prison management, in compliance with international standards and human rights.
✓ 49 front line prison staff trained on incident Management in prison settings, enabling them to deal with incidents such as riots, disturbances, fires etc.
✓ 26 prison officers trained on managing security during virtual trials.
✓ 26 judges, 36 lawyers and 25 prison officers trained on the use of ICT skills, video conferencing and the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules.
✓ To improve GAD capabilities, GMCP donated 2 Raman spectrometers and facilitated training of 4 Forensic Experts on identification of illicit drugs through the UNODC Lab in Vienna.
✓ Sri Lanka delegates presented on food (in)security in custodial environments at the Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules.
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IMPACT STORY

“Mr. H. M. T. N. Upuldeniya - Commissioner General of Prisons - Department of Prisons in Sri Lanka: ‘The professionalism of the field of the correction depends on the regular training on theoretical and practical aspects pertaining to corrections. Accordingly, the technical support by UNODC to develop the capacity of the prison officers in Sri Lanka in human rights, ICT and dynamic security has made a significant contribution towards the professional management of correctional facilities in Sri Lanka.’”
UNODC GMCP has supported the innovative use of technology to augment maritime law enforcement capability and pioneered the induction of new technology to counter maritime crime. GMCP initiatives provided advanced technology solutions to enhance vessel detection capability and pioneered the use of autonomous technology at the subsurface level, surface level and aviation level.

**VESSLE DETECTION CAPABILITY**

GMCP introduced cutting-edge technology for dark vessel detection with the installation of a Terrestrial-based Passive RF Sensor system on Bongao Island in the Tawi-Tawi Province of Western Mindanao in the Philippines. The Terrestrial-based Passive RF Sensor will detect radio emissions from vessels in the Sulu Sea to detect vessel activity.

**AUTONOMOUS SUBSURFACE CAPABILITY**

GMCP introduced technology to enhance enforcement capability at the subsurface level with the training course on the ‘Use of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for Hull Searching’. GMCP utilised underwater drones with cameras to examine the hull of vessels without the need for divers.

**AUTONOMOUS SURFACE CAPABILITY**

GMCP will be introducing the use of unmanned surface vessels for maritime surveillance purposes. The deployment of an autonomous vessel will enable Coast Guard agencies to conduct surveillance using multiple maritime sensors on a continuous basis without the need for human intervention.

**AUTONOMOUS AVIATION CAPABILITY**

GMCP introduced Training on Incorporating Aviation Reconnaissance Sensors to Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) to enable coast guard personnel utilize advanced technology to monitor and detect illicit activity at sea. The training focused on the collection and infusion of aviation reconnaissance data to augment the MDA picture, and provided a practical exercise using an aircraft.
Established in 2015 by CMCP, the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC) serves as a regional platform for Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) and judicial networking among littoral states of the Indian Ocean, bringing together national law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities to promote cooperation between states throughout the Indian Ocean region. The IOFMC includes sub-pillars for the implementation of Sanctions on Somalia (UNSCR 2607/21) on the charcoal trade and the trafficking of other licit and illicit goods that may finance terrorist activities in Somalia. In 2023, CMCP conducted research reports looking into the trafficking in charcoal and disrupting Al-Shabaab's activities. In the new UNSCR 2662/2022, the Council requested UNODC to:
- Exchange information with partners about Al-Shabaab’s operations and to work with stakeholders to develop a plan to disrupt their operations and exploitation of the licit financial system.
- Collaborate with its partners to monitor and disrupt the export and import of charcoal to and from Somalia.
- Support the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in developing a proposal for the one off, complete disposal of charcoal stockpiles and work with the FCS to develop a plan to disrupt illicit trade along Somalia’s borders with Kenya and Ethiopia from which Al-Shabaab profits.
- Enhance regional cooperation on responding to illicit maritime flows and disrupt all forms of trafficking in licit and illicit goods that may finance terrorist activities.
- Provide support to the FCS to improve their Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and enforcement, including in relation to the role of fishing vessels in trafficking and illicit trade, with dedicated support to the FCS fisheries protection and enforcement capability demonstrator project.
- Engage in discussions with shipping association representatives and propose relevant recommendations on how to make these measures implementable.

ILLICIT MARITIME ACTIVITIES POST UNSCR 1814 (UNSCR 2662/2021)

Following the adoption of UNSCR 2654/2022 on Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the expiration of UNSCR 2608/2021 on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, residual piracy-related work still exists in the Indian Ocean region. Crucially, though, there is now further capacity for the IOFMC to deal with illicit maritime activities in support of the new Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities (CGIMA). Through CGIMA, focus has been placed on increasing surveillance against threats posed at sea including drugs, nuclear materials and arms trafficking, terrorism financing and wildlife trafficking. Transnational Organised Crime at Sea and a range of illicit maritime activities pose new and growing threats to the region. The IOFMC brings a range of expertise and support to the region to address these crimes and uses its convening power to share information and deliver training where needed.

MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

Member States have access to six MLE training centres operated by CMCP in the region: Bangladesh, Djibouti, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia and Sri Lanka. At these centres MLE officers can train on vessels that have been confiscated from heroin traffickers, pirates, migrant smugglers and illegal fishing groups. The opportunity to practise on vessels like those that they will come across at sea and learn from CMCP’s experienced trainers ensures that subsequent boarding operations are safe, contraband is seized and maritime criminals are brought to justice. The IOFMC promotes initiatives within the region aimed at developing operational tools to enhance information sharing and strengthen MDA. These include systems and analysis training, procurement and repairs of sensors and related equipment capable of operating from coastal sites or from patrol vessels, as well as exchanges among analytic experts from regional and international partner organisations.

GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

In 2022, the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2662 expanded CMCP’s mandate towards the disruption of the trade in Somali charcoal and the trafficking of other licit and illicit goods that may finance terrorist activities in Somalia. In 2023, CMCP conducted research reports looking into the trafficking in charcoal and disrupting Al-Shabaab’s activities. In the new UNSCR 2662/2022, the Council requested UNODC to:
- Exchange information with partners about Al-Shabaab’s operations and to work with stakeholders to develop a plan to disrupt their operations and exploitation of the licit financial system.
- Collaborate with its partners to monitor and disrupt the export and import of charcoal to and from Somalia.
- Support the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in developing a proposal for the one off, complete disposal of charcoal stockpiles and work with the FCS to develop a plan to disrupt illicit trade along Somalia’s borders with Kenya and Ethiopia from which Al-Shabaab profits.
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Impact Story

Ms Madam Razafindrainiarana Hanitrinaina Jacqueline, Deputy Public Prosecutor, MAHAJANGA ANTI-CORRUPTION UNIT

Madagascar, being the largest island in the Indian Ocean, with a strategic position, the host country, took full advantage of its participation in the Indian Ocean Prosecutors’ Forum organised in Antananarivo through its representatives to deepen knowledge or acquire new ones or to exchange experiences in order to face maritime crimes, to be able to prosecute and express them efficiently. This was also an opportunity to forge or strengthen relationships with representatives from other countries. The forum’s highlight was the various practical cases that had to be dealt with about the legislation of each country, which enabled the specific legal gaps in these legislations to be identified and to see how other countries handle cases. The experts’ contributions were highly instructive. Their experience and patience enabled us to assimilate the topics covered and encouraged us to continue deepening our knowledge of the subject.
SAFE CYBERSPACE: PROTECTING SUBMARINE CABLES AND COUNTERING CYBER THREATS AT SEA

In our digitally interconnected era, submarine cables serve as indispensable conduits for the vast majority of global telecommunications and economic transactions. Facilitating essential services ranging from financial transactions to healthcare and transportation systems, these critical undersea infrastructures, approximately the diameter of a garden hose, lay on the ocean floor, presenting unique challenges and vulnerabilities. As the backbone of our wired world, submarine cables are susceptible to intentional damage by malicious actors and inadvertent harm from activities such as shipping and fishing. According to the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), around 100 to 200 cases of damage are reported on submarine cables every year, with ship anchors and fishing gear identified as common causes in 2021. Hence, the protection of these vital communication arteries continues to pose concerns and requires a comprehensive approach that integrates Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) efforts with advanced cyber threat detection and mitigation strategies.

The clandestine nature of cyber threats at sea introduces a layer of complexity, requiring heightened vigilance and coordinated actions to safeguard not only submarine cable networks, but also data being transferred through them, as matters of national security. MLE agencies play a pivotal role in this landscape, tasked with the challenge of detecting and countering cyber threats that could potentially disrupt or compromise this infrastructure. Given the inherently transboundary nature of submarine cables, international collaboration and robust regulatory frameworks are imperative to address the multifaceted challenges posed by cyber threats in the maritime domain. The criticality of protecting submarine cables in the contemporary digital ecosystem emphasises the need for a symbiotic relationship between MLE and cybersecurity measures. As the reliance on undersea data transmission continues to grow, the need for proactive and technologically sophisticated approaches to detect and counter cyber threats at sea will become paramount for ensuring the resilience and security of global communication networks.

1. In South Asia, GMCP’s Indian Ocean East team continued to engage with national counterparts in Bangladesh and Maldives on developing national plans for the protection and resilience of submarine cables. In June and November 2023, GMCP conducted one-to-one meetings and validation workshops with relevant government institutions in both countries to populate and finalise draft national plans. With the aim of being presented as policy documents for future operationalization, GMCP will continue to engage with counterparts in South Asia for these purposes.

2. This year, GMCP had the opportunity to take part in regional and international conferences pertaining to the protection of critical infrastructure. This included:
   - Participation in the second ‘Maritime Law Workshop’ under the auspices of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), held on 13-14 April 2023 in India, focusing on the topic of ‘Understanding legal regimes concerning submarine cables and underwater data storages.’ This provided the occasion to share progress made in relation to the support provided to Bangladesh, Maldives, and Sri Lanka on the development of national protection and resilience plans for submarine cables. ‘Cyber security, protection of critical infrastructure and technology’ is one of the pillars of the Conclave, placing engagements on submarine cable protection at the core of the mandate of this important regional body for maritime security in South Asia.
   - Participation as Observer during the 2023 Plenary of the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), held on 18-20 April in Madrid, Spain. UNODC and ICPC have been cooperating since 2019, particularly on the incorporation of ICPC Best Practices into UNODC’s framework for the protection and resilience of submarine cables, which is currently used to advance the development of national plans in South Asia. During the Plenary, several speakers presented on various topics, including sessions on limitations on the freedom to lay submarine cables, improving cable resilience through maritime domain awareness, and understanding and promoting submarine cables as critical infrastructure. This provided an opportunity to stay updated on discussions held at the ICPC level and potential implementation in countries where GMCP operates.

3. Under the Indian Ocean East and Pacific Ocean teams, and for the first time, GMCP delivered a series of training sessions focused on identifying and countering cyber security threats to MLE agencies in South Asia (Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand). The objective of these sessions was to enhance the collective understanding and awareness of information and cyber security within these agencies in order to address the evolving nature of cybercrime and its potential impact on maritime operations. The training thus focused on a range of cyber threats specific to MLE, encompassing data threats, network security threats, risks to surveillance systems, and risks to critical maritime infrastructures. This area of work complements GMCP’s ongoing support on submarine cable protection, not only accounting for the physical aspects of the undersea cable infrastructure, but also the data being transmitted.

WORK WE DO
CRIMES THAT AFFECT OCEANS AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

CRIMES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR

The oceans are a key source of food and employment for millions of people around the world. According to WWF, half of the world population relies on fish for protein intake. As population growth has led demand for fish to increase so has the fishing industry expanded, catering to the growing demand. However, with the expansion of the industry, the presence of organised crime in the fisheries industry has also gained momentum. Therefore, the fishing industry has become vulnerable to a wide range of offences along the value and supply chain, on land and at sea. These organised crimes pose a threat to sustainable fishing, the marine environment and the stability of the oceans. Some of these offences include unsustainable fishing, human trafficking, drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, fraud and tax evasion.

UNODC defines crimes in the fisheries sector under two categories: crimes associated with the fisheries sector and crimes along the fisheries value chain. Crimes that are associated with the fisheries sector have no direct connection with fishing operations but take place on fishing vessels, in fishing facilities or use fishing operations. Crimes in the fisheries value chain are crimes that are closely linked to fishing operations, including corruption, fraud and forgery, money-laundering, tax crimes, customs and fiscal fraud and trafficking in persons.

Crime in the fisheries sector and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing deplete fish stocks and threaten biodiversity and livelihoods, particularly if performed in violation of regulations that are part of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Given that the majority of marine life is in the surface of the ocean and near the shores, safeguarding MPAs is critical to maintaining biodiversity and its capacity to provide services. Protecting MPAs has a triple benefit of protecting biodiversity, boosting fishery yields and securing marine carbon sinks.

However, without proper enforcement to protect MPAs, including addressing organised crime in the fisheries sector, illegal practices will continue, affecting sustainability and conservation approaches to maintain the health of the oceans and the delicate food web which sustains marine life.

WORK WE DO

01. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Provide Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) training including Fishing Vessel Boarding Operations (FVBO) courses to Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) officials including fisheries authorities, in close cooperation with the FAO and regional fisheries organizations.

02. LEGISLATION

- Organise Stakeholder Consultation meetings with fisheries authorities and Attorney General’s departments to develop fisheries modules and a fisheries handbook.

03. DETECTION

- Provision of satellite imagery to MLE officials for improved patrolling strategies.

04. INVESTIGATION

- Provide training to MLE agencies to accurately collect evidence onboard fishing vessels to support prosecutions.

05. COOPERATION

- Development of inter-agency cooperation guidelines as appropriate.

ENHANCED MLE FOR OCEAN CLIMATE ACTION

Oceans are the planet’s greatest carbon sink. Due to their size and mass, oceans absorb a third of anthropogenic CO2 and they sequester that carbon, often for very long periods of time, on the seabed and in other marine ecosystems. Nearly anything that disrupts those ecosystems diminishes the capacity of the oceans to regulate the climate. Unfortunately, higher temperatures and increasing ocean acidity caused by carbon emissions, when combined with unsustainable fishing and widespread marine pollution, have a higher detrimental impact on marine life.

KEY RESULTS IN 2023

- Blue Enforcement Project in Sri Lanka and Maldives to combat transnational organised crime in the fisheries sector.

- Assistance to the Sabah Department of Fisheries of Malaysia in the form of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Tally-Plates to support maritime surveillance capabilities.

- Support to fisheries patrol operation training at sea and training on fisheries protection skills for Coast Guard, inspectors, prosecutors and boarding officers in Somalia.

- Virtual training on Skylight for the Caribbean Regional Security System (CRSS) to enhance maritime domain awareness (MDA) and address illegal fishing.

- MDA Analysis training for fisheries surveillance and enforcement personnel in Indonesia, Madagascar, Philippines and Thailand.

- National training for magistrates and judges in Comoros on crimes in the fisheries sector.

- Training on Fisheries enforcement and Fishing Vessel Boarding Operations in Indonesia.

- Multi-agency operational support to promote increased human security and actions to mitigate transnational organised crime within fishing communities in the Dominican Republic.

- FishNET phase 2 aimed at enhancing developing countries’ capabilities to address crimes in the fisheries sector, covering areas including improvement of legislative frameworks, capacity building and fighting corruption.

- UNODC formally joined the UN-Oceans mechanism to enhance inter-agency coordination on ocean and coastal issues.

GMCP AT COP28

- GMCP held a side event on innovation, technology and partnerships for targeting crimes that affect ocean-based climate resilience. Focusing on the use of advanced technology solutions, from satellite imagery to AI-driven tools, GMCP together with SkyTruth, Global Fishing Watch, Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative presented ways for strengthening rule-based ocean climate action.

- GMCP highlighted the need to enhance MLE for greater ocean-based climate change ambition during a UN-Oceans-led side event.

GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME
CRIMES THAT AFFECT OCEANS AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

TACKLING POLLUTION CRIME AT SEA

Marine pollution occurs when harmful effects result from the entry into the ocean of chemicals, particles, industrial, agricultural, and residential waste, noise or invasive organisms. The most common sources of sea-based pollution include fishing and aquaculture, illegal or accidental dumping at sea from shipping and offshore mining and extraction. It is estimated that more than 150 million tons of plastics have accumulated in the world’s oceans, while 4.6-12.7 million tons are added every year. As well as being toxic to marine life, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), found in crude oil, are very difficult to clean up and last for years in the sediment and marine environment. Discharge of cargo residues from bulk carriers can also pollute ports, waterways and oceans. In many instances, vessels intentionally discharge illegal wastes, despite foreign and domestic regulation prohibiting such actions. An absence of national standards provides an incentive for some cruise liners to dump waste in places where penalties are inadequate and law enforcement is weak. Although multiple illegal activities and crimes contribute to this reality, the following are among the most impactful:

- **Illegal activities and crimes:**
  - **Land based marine pollution:**
    - Ship-source fuel pollution
    - Bilge water dumping
  - **Other pollutants:**
    - Plastic waste trafficking

KEY RESULTS IN 2023

- **February 2023:** Workshop on the criminal justice system’s response to maritime pollution in Tunisia
- **July 2023:** Western Indian Ocean pollution regional exercise for testing an existing regional contingency plan for regional responses to pollution incidents at sea
- **September 2023:** Tabletop Exercise on disaster management delivered in Bangladesh on topics including incident marine pollution and mitigation for managing these incidents
- **November 2023:** Maritime pollution control in the Mediterranean Sea exercise held in Tunisia to enable authorities involved in combating maritime pollution to identify legal and operational strategies to enhance coordination and capabilities from pollution detection to prosecution
- **May and November 2023:** Second and third Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2 and INC-3) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. CMCP co-organised a side event on ‘Oceans and the marine environment, including transport, ghost fishing gears, dumping, pellet loss and impacts on biodiversity’ to highlight the need for establishing mechanisms for enforcement, compliance measures and legal framework provisions.
- **Prosecution and Legal Support to the Attorney General’s Office in Sri Lanka during the MV X-Press Pearl prosecution process.** In 2021, the X-Press Pearl caught fire off the coast of Colombo, resulting in the worst marine ecological disaster in Sri Lankan history due to the chemical products that spilled, including three containers of plastic pellets.

COMING SOON!

LEGISLATIVE GUIDE ON COMBATING POLLUTION CRIME AND ITS ANNEX ON POLLUTION CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

This Guide will assist States in establishing robust legislative frameworks and classifying pollution crimes as serious crimes, in line with the UNTOC, by comprehensively addressing areas pertinent to the operational implementation of treaty obligations, with the overarching goal of preventing and combating pollution crimes in all their forms.

WORK WE DO

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Support legal reforms tackling ship-source marine pollution crimes and marine waste disposal legislation, as well as training on their implementation at the national level
- Assist states to develop good practices, governance frameworks and regulations for management and enforcement of MPAs
- Support MDA exercises in protection of identified MPAs in cooperation with technology provider AI2 and its Skylight system
- Promote intelligence sharing and the monitoring and flagging of vessels involved in the illegal disposal of waste at sea
- Deliver cross-agency training through exercises using case studies based on previous incidents of marine pollution
- Strengthen the operational capacity of maritime law enforcement agencies to conduct enforcement action and maritime traffic management for deep-sea mining activity
- Support port and maritime law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance on ballast water management by vessels and similar activity by small craft to prevent relocation of pathogens and invasive species
- Support training on investigation and prosecution of falsified logbooks related to bilge waters discharge
- Train on relevant national and international legal frameworks in cooperation with UNEP, IMO and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions
- Facilitate simulated trials for testing legal frameworks and increase skills on evidence admissible in court, case preparations, court proceedings and knowledge on marine pollution
- Support training on investigation and prosecution techniques related to ship-source marine pollution crime, including flag state perspective, and targeting corporate entities and legal persons in line with UNTOC Article 10
- Facilitate legal cooperation and mutual legal assistance related to ship-source marine pollution crime

POLICY AND AWARENESS RAISING

- Convening of international high-level events and conferences on preventing and combating pollution crimes at sea
1. EQUIPPING WOMEN WITH OPERATIONAL SKILLS

and studies that uncover the gendered nature of maritime criminality in the Atlantic Ocean. In the Atlantic Ocean team, GMCP initiated and published a research paper with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of enhancing gender equality in maritime forces across the Pacific. The meeting was held from 4-5 October 2023 in Nadi, Fiji, and was attended by nine women from maritime police forces in Fiji, Nauru, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu and the South Pacific Commission. In addition to country presentations and expert insights on experiences and challenges in achieving a senior position, discussions were complemented by promoting a region-wide perspective pertaining to the development of strategic approaches that advocate for women’s rights. The Meeting achieved its goal in highlighting the importance of advocating for equal opportunities across maritime police forces in the Pacific.

GMCP also recognises that although women are present, their contributions are often seen as an extension of male activities in the male-dominated maritime sector. In recognition of the different experiences of women and men, both as perpetrators and enforcers countering maritime crime, several programmes have been developed that are specifically targeted towards gender equality. This includes the Women in Maritime Law Enforcement (WmLE) Meeting which was held from 2nd to 3rd October 2023 in Nadi, Fiji, and was attended by 22 participants from maritime police forces in Fiji, Nauru, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu and the South Pacific Commission. In addition to country presentations and expert insights on experiences and challenges in achieving a senior position, discussions were complemented by promoting a region-wide perspective pertaining to the development of strategic approaches that advocate for women’s rights. The Meeting achieved its goal in highlighting the importance of advocating for equal opportunities across maritime police forces in the Pacific.

GMCP continues in its mission to broaden awareness on gender equality amongst Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) forces through regional dialogues held on a biannual basis. These dialogues, which also include the participation of male officers, seek to break glass ceilings, challenge stereotypes and correct biases that prohibit the career progression of women.

2. RAISING AWARENESS ON GENDER EQUALITY

CMCP continues in its mission to broaden awareness on gender equality amongst Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) forces through regional dialogues held on a biannual basis. These dialogues, which also include the participation of male officers, seek to break glass ceilings, challenge stereotypes and correct biases that prohibit the career progression of women.

3. GENDER-FOCUSED ASSESSMENTS

More gender assessments are being convened that feed into evidence-based and targeted gender programming within GMCP. The gender aspects of maritime criminality and effects of existing programming on gender are being studied to ensure that future GMCP programmes are optimally designed to advance gender equality.

WORK WE DO

1. EQUIPPING WOMEN WITH OPERATIONAL SKILLS

To upgrade the skillsets of women enforcement officers alongside their male counterparts. GMCP continues to emphasise the importance of female participation in training courses that build capacity in command and control, search and boarding vessels, and navigational training. These courses pave the way for women to hold senior-level commander roles in their respective forces.

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STORIES

1. Under the South East Asia and Pacific Team, GMCP collaborated with the Sri Lanka Navy to provide, for the first time ever, an Inshore Patrol Craft (IPC) Navigation Training to female officers from Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka in the Atlantic Ocean. From 24 July to 18 August 2023. The one-month training provided female officers with comprehensive practical and theoretical knowledge on boat navigation skills, thereby enabling female officers to navigate small boats and progress to commanding a vessel in the future. The training is considered a momentous step forward as the duty of commanding an IPC in the region has mostly been performed by men. The inclusion of women in more sea duties will not only mark a breakthrough in gender roles and offer new career development for female officers, but also contributes to a more inclusive approach that promotes gender equality and women’s participation in all sectors as drivers for development.

As the first iteration of its kind, the Pacific Women in Maritime Law Enforcement (WinMLE) Meeting was a premier event designed to raise awareness of the importance of enhancing gender equality in maritime forces across the Pacific. The meeting was held from 4-5 October 2023 in Nadi, Fiji, and was attended by nine women from maritime police forces in Fiji, Nauru, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu and the South Pacific Commission. In addition to country presentations and expert insights on experiences and challenges in achieving a senior position, discussions were complemented by promoting a region-wide perspective pertaining to the development of strategic approaches that advocate for women’s rights. The Meeting achieved its goal in highlighting the importance of advocating for equal opportunities across maritime police forces in the Pacific.

In the Indian Ocean team, GMCP initiated and published a research paper with the aim of presenting realities from five West African countries (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo) to highlight the gendered nature of maritime criminality, its impacts and responses, as well as offering recommendations from stakeholders on what can be done differently. The data and information generated through the assessment seeks to be part of the UNODC’s knowledge repository to feed into training tools and conferences, and to inform future programme development. The report has been shared with relevant national counterparts to be able to support their initiatives in enhancing gender mainstreaming in their respective internal policy development, training and criminal justice responses.

In the Indian Ocean East team, GMCP continued to partner with the Passenger and Cargo Border Team (PCBT) under the Blue Enforcement Project. On 22-23 November 2023, 18 participants from law enforcement agencies and fisheries departments from Maldives and Sri Lanka convened in Colombo for the Regional Training for Women in Fisheries Law Enforcement. During the event, sessions delivered focused on understanding definitions on gender, common stereotypes, biases and intersectionality, presenting the national and international legal framework which governs and promotes gender equality in both countries; challenges faced by women officers, techniques for communication, and leadership and innovation.

In the Horn of Africa, GMCP Somalia has joined the Action Plan on Women in Maritime Sector, which seeks to break down barriers and stereotypes that hinder women’s participation in the maritime and blue economy sectors. Implementation of capacity building activities will start in 2024 with tailored training for the female staff of the Coast Guard and Ministry of Fisheries. Additionally, it will promote gender diversity and inclusivity within the Coast Guard and Ministry of Fisheries, fostering a more inclusive and progressive work environment.

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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH AND MARITIME CRIME

Learn more about how GMCP is supporting the inclusion of youth through various initiatives, both in our internal structure and in our project implementation.

SPORTS AS A TOOL FOR CRIME PREVENTION IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA

Integrating Sport in Youth Crime Prevention frameworks and strategies to leveraging the power of Sport for Sustainable Development Goals. UNODC is working together with the government of Nigeria on crime prevention for youth in coastal communities through the Line Up Live Up Programme (LULU programme).

Piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea have posed significant challenges in recent years. UNODC, in partnership with the Bayelsa State Government, embarked upon a crime prevention project focused on combating piracy and maritime insecurity through community-based crime prevention strategies in coastal communities. The project aims at strengthening the resilience of at-risk youth and preventing crime, violence and drug abuse with a view to sustaining gains made and preventing the shifting of criminality into the riverine areas of Bayelsa state.

LULU (Line Up Live Up) is an evidence-informed sports-based training that targets young people ages 12 - 18 and teaches them practical skills for dealing with situations involving violence, crime, drug use and other anti-social behaviour in schools, within the family setting and in social groups. They are trained on how to develop life and social skills, how to deal with peer pressure, how to cope with their emotions, how to improve self-esteem and how to build resilience to crime and substance use.

Ultimately, the project aims to empower communities by giving practical meaning to Freedom from Fear: one of the four fundamental human rights recognized under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“Through the LULU program, I have learnt not to look down on myself. I can achieve anything I want in life.”

SUNDAY RACHEL - 17 YEARS OLD - LULU PARTICIPANT

DOMINIQUE MAXWELLE ADA ETENE - INTERNATIONAL UNV BASED IN CABON

“There is a youth volunteer workshop that happens twice a year in Bangkok during which they are doing training for youth volunteers. That shows the work we are doing to encourage others to join in this sphere. It is a global initiative.”

HUSSAIN KAUSAR WAHEED - NATIONAL UNV BASED IN MALDIVES

“In one of our projects, we supported the department of prisons by providing capacity building and capacities in the field of agriculture. Inmates were trained on sustainable agriculture production. We worked with a youth correctional centre (ages 18-22) to help them develop skills and find their own path to make a living for themselves.”

PRAMUDI LANKANADEE - NATIONAL UNV BASED IN SRI LANKA

“In most of our activities, such as training and workshops, my team has been promoting the fruitful engagement of young and aspiring government and maritime law enforcement officers along with the senior staff, to create a diverse environment during the dissemination of information pertaining to various subjects.”

MOABBIR HOSSAIN - NATIONAL UNV BASED IN BANGLADESH

“I am part of the early careers initiative for young women within UNODC, which is a platform where young women working in the agency exchange on how to improve the agenda and women careers within the system.”

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TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS/AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS (TIP/SOM)

Migrant smuggling at sea is a global organised crime that endangers the lives, safety and security of migrants. It remains a complex challenge in many regions of the world and migrants smuggled by sea face particular dangers due to the nature of smuggling by sea. Law enforcement operations and rescue operations often overlap in responding to smuggling of migrant cases. Rescue operations, governed by United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue of 1979 (SAR Convention) and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea of 1974 (SOLAS Convention), must take precedence over law enforcement actions.

WORK WE DO
TO RESPOND TO TIP/SOM AT SEA, GMCP IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES WITH:
- Specialized Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) training courses on encounters with migrant vessels, including on handling overcrowded vessels engaged in migrant smuggling.
- Specialised VBSS train-the-trainers courses with a focus on gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches.
- Search and Rescue (SAR) trainings for Coast Guard officers.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023
1. SUPPORTING JOINT RESCUE COORDINATION CENTERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
Protecting migrants in the Mediterranean. In 2023, more than 2,500 people died or went missing while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. This number has surged compared with 2022, according to the UN Security Council. The Mediterranean Sea is among the deadliest routes for refugees and migrants. In the Eastern Mediterranean region in 2023, GMCP has conducted technical assistance activities in Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon to protect migrants at sea, including support to Lebanese Navy and Cypriot authorities to develop institutional linkages and exchange knowledge in Joint Rescue Coordination Centers operations in December 2023.

2. HANDLING OVERCROWDED VESSEL ENGAGED IN MIGRANT SMUGGLING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE BAY OF BENGAL AND THE MALDIVES
Coastal states within the Indian Ocean, notably Bangladesh, confront various maritime security threats, including illicit Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM). These challenges significantly impact Bangladesh’s national interests, particularly in terms of safety and security. In November 2023, GMCP in Bangladesh delivered a two-week VBSS course on handling an overcrowded vessel for the Bangladesh Coast Guard through a combination of theoretical and hands-on instructions on different aspects through a reflection on TIP and SOM.

3. SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAININGS IN THE RED SEA
In 2023, GMCP delivered Basic Search and Rescue (SAR) trainings for Yemen Coast Guard officers, focusing on locating the search area and ensuring safety for the migrants in the Red Sea. Key subjects covered included the effect of weather on SAR operations, the Tidal Stream effect, distress signals and emergency situations, SAR information and planning, and search methods and techniques. Trainings also included practical sessions on seamanship skills, coxswain skills and chartwork skills, enhancing the officers in their capacities to respond to distress calls at sea.
Terrorism is one of the many forms of crime usually associated with the land that also exists at sea. Terrorists have targeted military and civilian vessels underway and in port, and also make use of the sea as a means of transporting fighters and their weapons to the scene of their attacks. They also use proceeds from both legitimate and illegitimate maritime trade to help fund their activities. The ability of states to closely monitor vessels at sea is instrumental to the increasing success of sanctions regimes imposed on terrorism, such as the sanctions regime on the Democratic Republic of North Korea in accordance with UNSCR 1718(2006).

UNODC GMCP has been helping Member States to address maritime terrorism since it was first established and continues to do so. Working with Coast Guards, prosecutors, courts and port authorities we deliver a wide range of technical support to counter maritime terrorism. This support ranges from surveillance using the latest satellite technology to simulated trials of maritime terrorism cases and improvements to port security. GMCP recognises that maritime terrorism is often linked to other forms of maritime crime, so many of the capabilities that we provide to Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) officers tackling illicit trafficking are also relevant to tackling maritime terrorism. Components on maritime terrorism are included in the Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) courses we run in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and in our programme of simulated trials. We also use our regional cooperation mechanisms to encourage the integration of maritime domain awareness (MDA) to improve the effectiveness of maritime patrolling.

GLOBAL VESSEL REGISTRY
- Cooperation with Panels of Experts to produce a consolidated registry of vessels identified as being used in the violation of sanctions.

UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS
- GMCP supports UN Member States by providing sanction compliance tools to flag state registries and sanction specific interdiction training to MLE agencies and prosecutors.

INDIAN OCEAN
- Conducted specialised training for prosecutors and judges to enhance their capabilities on the prosecution of terrorism-related cases occurred at sea in Maldives.
- Conducted various VBSS courses focusing on countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats in Maldives.
- Conducted two workshops in Male and outside of the Greater Male Region to assess the capabilities of MLE agencies in ensuring effective monitoring and surveillance of the Maldives’ territorial waters to disrupt terrorism threats.
- In the process of developing Harmonized Standard Operating Procedures (HSOP) for evidence handling of maritime crimes for relevant law enforcement activities in Maldives.
- In the process of establishing a working group specialising on countering water-borne improvised explosive devices (C-WBIED) for the exchange of knowledge and best practices among MLE agencies in Maldives.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- MLE training in Cyprus, including the use of Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle (ROV) and K-9 dogs to counter maritime terrorism threats in the Mediterranean Region.
- Hybrid MDA and VBSS training for Algerian maritime law enforcement officials at the CYCLOPS training centre in Larnaca, Cyprus to counter terrorism threats along the Algerian coasts.

GULF OF ADEN & THE RED SEA
- Charcoal guide-based awareness training delivered to support implementation of UNSC Resolutions 2036 and 2662.
- Implemented roadmap to combat illicit trade along Kenya-Somalia border.
- Conducted analysis on the disruption of terrorist financing in Somalia.
- Research performed on terrorist activities in Ethiopia.
- Conducted analysis on the revenue streams of the criminal groups and the charcoal trade under UNSCR 2607.
- Developed a practical tool outlining techniques to detect and investigate maritime flow of sanctioned and restricted goods in the Gulf of Aden.

PACIFIC OCEAN
- Partnered with the Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence (NSDD) Program of the US Department of Energy to host a scenario-based Radiological and Nuclear Detection training for MLE agencies in Malaysia and Indonesia. The training aimed to improve the detection and response capabilities of MLE agencies in addressing maritime security incidents.
- The training included the introduction of radiation detection operations and operator safety, hands-on and practical activities with detection equipment, and a facilitated interactive scenario related to the detection and interdiction of an illegally transported radioactive item.
UN SECURITY COUNCIL: DETERRING SANCTION VIOLATIONS AT SEA

Over its 14 active sanction regimes, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) can only impose sanctions on ships through the Sanctions Committee on North Korea (RES 1718, 2006). Yet vessels are key instruments in the clandestine and illicit movement of goods in breach of several other UNSC sanction regimes. The success of arms embargoes, bans on improvised explosive devices (IEDs), nonproliferation and other measures ordered by the UNSC heavily depends on the international community’s capacity to participate in their implementation through detecting and responding to suspicious activity. At the request of UN Member States or when mandated by the UNSC, UNODC GMCP assists MLE agencies and criminal justice actors in detecting and interdicting sanctions violations occurring along coastlines.

MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT DISRUPTION TECHNIQUES

Assisting UN Member States in exercising law enforcement jurisdiction off their coastline is a high priority for UNODC GMCP. Present across all oceans, the Programme has developed networks and an expertise that allows it to deliver high-level training on detection of suspected vessels and interdiction of arms, dual-use goods, CBRN material and other sanctioned products.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE PLATFORMS

UNODC GMCP encourages and supports UN Member States in using information exchange platforms to increase their ability to make informed decisions with regards to registration.

HANDBOOKS ON SANCTION DISRUPTION AT SEA

An essential component of UNODC GMCP’s response to sanction violations, the drafting of handbooks on sanction disruption at sea facilitates the implementation of UNSC resolutions by UN Member States. Serving as guiding tools for all MLE actors, the handbooks aim at addressing the knowledge deficit among key partners by providing tailored information on specific regions and on the illicit trafficking of specific goods. The handbooks describe exports, imports and routes as well as evidence collection techniques that allow maritime authorities and law enforcement agencies to enhance their capacity to detect, interdict, and investigate suspected vessels at sea.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Crucial in guiding the law enforcement community and prosecution services, laws and regulations must first reflect the content of UNSC sanction dispositions as criminal offences. UNODC GMCP has been particularly active in this regard in Southeast Asia where several assessments were conducted on legislation, regulations and practices supporting the competencies of the existing legal framework to effectively enforce compliance with UNSC resolutions relating to maritime sector sanction on P2P (including Res 2222 [2015], Res 2307 [2017], Res 2270 [2016], Res 1874 [2009], Res 2270 [2016]).

Prosecution training and networking: With a wide range of tools from basic prosecutor training to simulated trials, UNODC GMCP offers beneficiary states a specialised course tailored to national legal and practical specificities (e.g. types of sanctions and modes of evasion), which enables prosecutors to master the legal tools at their disposal to prosecute sanction violators. Given the transnational nature of sanction offences, UNODC GMCP also assists prosecution services in establishing networks with foreign countries along the trafficking routes (at regional level or beyond) in order to increase mutual legal assistance under the framework of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime.

INTEGRAL SANCTION COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

In response to emerging and evolving threats, UNODC GMCP supports flag registries in developing and updating an internal strategy to comply with UNSC resolutions.

VESEL MONITORING

UNODC GMCP offers its support to UN Member States to increase their flag monitoring capacities by providing equipment and training on the ground and by embedding international experts with flag state administrations.

SUPPORTING FLAG REGISTRIES IN COMPLYING WITH SANCTIONS

While remaining a key component in deterring sanction violations at sea, the territorial aspect of enforcement jurisdiction is not the only tool enabling states to enforce law at sea. The United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has codified the international legal framework governing the nationality of ships; and the flag state’s ability to monitor ships under their flag and have several obligations to do so.

GMCP AWARENESS-RAISING ON UNSC MARITIME SECTOR SANCTIONS IN 2023

In the Gulf of Aden, GMCP, in collaboration with the UNODC Border Management Branch Passenger and Cargo Border Team (BM PBCT) Container Control Programme and the Royal Omani Police Customs Division, held a regional charcoal forensics guide-based awareness training in Muscat, Oman in December 2023. Charcoal is exported from Somalia and its origin is regulated. UNODC’s mandate to support Somali charcoal sanctions was extended by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2715/2023. The training supported UN SC Resolution 2715/2023, reaffirming a ban on the import and export of Somali charcoal. By offering law enforcement officials and prosecutors additional insights and tools to counter illicit trafficking in charcoal.
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE (BSGI)

Ukraine and the Russian Federation are important sources of food for many developing countries as primary exporters of agriculture products. However, the war between Russia and Ukraine slowed down exports of grain and fertilizers from the Russian Federation and grain exports from Ukraine which deteriorated food security worldwide.

Among the two Initiatives, the BSGI gained great momentum as it supported the stabilization of escalating grain prices in the world and avert famine in least developing countries. UN worked as the secretariat for the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) established in Istanbul for the operationalization of the BSGI. Among the many UN agencies contributed towards this initiative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) played a key role in working as mediators and inspecting both in-bound and out-bound vessels alongside Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian inspectors.

Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) as the maritime arm of the UNODC supported the grain deal with the most number of staff members contributing as both staff inspectors and administrative staff to run the daily operations of inspections of vessels along with inspectors of the Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian military where UN staff worked as intermediaries between all parties.

STAFF VESSEL INSPECTORS FROM GMCP IN 2023
- Kalusiani Vuki
- Fatimana Agustinanto
- Raisa Lumampao
- Joseph Cituro
- Joshua Arjeta Gonzalez
- Selen Abrams
- Sherzod Khodjaev
- Chinazo Chikeziri

ADMINISTRATION STAFF IN 2023
- Grace Wimaladasa

“BSGI was unique and an exciting opportunity for me. It was also my very first exposure to an international mission! I felt satisfied with the work I did knowing it contributed to a great cause. The team at JCC was a pleasure to work with. I thank Alan, Siri and rest of the team for giving me this once in a lifetime opportunity!”
GRACE WIMALADASA, ADMINISTRATION OFFICER, BSGI

This Initiative has ensured the safe passage of over 32.8 million metric tons of food commodities from Ukrainian ports in more than 1000 voyages as per JCC.

It is unfortunate that the initiative was not renewed in July 2023 which has shipped more than 725,000 tons of grain to support humanitarian operations relieving hunger in some of the hardest hit corners of the world, including Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and Yemen and helped stabilize world food prices for both rich and poor.

However, the collective efforts of all parties in operationalizing the BSGI have been recognized on a global level. This year Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for OCHA, and Rebeca Gyrispan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and the teams were awarded with the UN Heroes Award 2023 for the outstanding work on the Memorandum of Understanding and negotiations on the Black Sea Initiative.

This award is a recognition of the outstanding contributions of everyone who committed to support BSGI including GMCP.

“This is an invaluable opportunity to serve as a UN Inspector in the Black Sea Grain Initiative. In addition to allowing me to explore and learn more about vessel boarding and safety procedures at sea, I was able to be part of a diplomatic endeavour that contributed to food security globally. Climbing wooden ladders for 15m-long vessels at 10°C under the rain was certainly far from my everyday tasks, but it allowed me to experience first-hand the challenges faced by law enforcement officials when monitoring the maritime domain. Forever grateful for having been given the chance to experience this!”
JOSHUA ARTETA GONZALEZ, STAFF INSPECTOR, BSGI
UNODC GMCP experts conducting on the job training in Aden for the YCG operations officers and testing the newly installed VHF Repeater