GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

BRIEFING PACKAGE
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Officers of the Cyprus Police during a CMCP-conducted maritime law enforcement training at the newly opened facilities of the Cyprus Centre for Land, Open-seas, and Port Security (CYCLOPS)
Welcome to the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme Briefing Package. The Global Maritime Crime Programme is UNODC’s largest global programme with a well-deserved reputation for delivering effective and sophisticated support to our Member States. With its strong field presence and highly skilled staff, the Programme is active across the full range of maritime crime from the most traditional, such as piracy, to the most modern, such as the deception of electronic vessel monitoring systems. GMCP staff are to be found at sea in coastguard vessels, in courtrooms supporting maritime prosecutions, at maritime rescue and coordination centres, and providing support to the Security Council’s sanction regimes.

The Global Maritime Crime Programme forms part of UNODC’s new Border Management Branch and has played an important role in the integration of our border work. In this Briefing Package you will read about the Programme’s contribution to UNODC’s environmental work at sea, helping to address crime in the fishing industry which deprives coastal communities of their livelihoods. You will also read about the important support provided to the justice sectors of our Member States around the world as they address crime that takes place in the complex jurisdiction of the oceans but that has a direct effect of peace and security on land. You will also learn how this work supports the Sustainable Development Goals that relate to the oceans, justice and gender.

We are sure you will find this briefing package a fascinating read. Thank you for your support.
The Gulf of Guinea region has been at the epicenter of the global discussions on maritime security in the last decade, as a result of the incidents of piracy recorded in the region. The UNSC, ECCAS, and ECOWAS States have expressed concern at this escalating phenomenon, calling for international and regional cooperation in addressing the situation.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), consistent with this call, has been providing support to Member States of ECOWAS and ECCAS since 2013. This support is aimed at strengthening the rule of law through improved legislation and its application in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant conventions, since 2013.

Building upon these legal reform initiatives, the overall aim of the GMCP’s projects in the region is to enable ECOWAS and ECCAS Member States to prosecute cases of piracy and other maritime crimes in accordance with the Yaoundé Code of Conduct, and to increase response and cooperation in the different maritime zones under the Yaoundé Architecture.

**Our Priorities**
- Legislative review and assistance to ECOWAS and ECCAS Member States in their efforts to implement UNCLOS and other relevant international conventions
- Inter-agency coordination through the development of HSOs on evidence collection and handling
- Delivery of training courses on evidence collection at sea, law of the sea, and maritime crime to Maritime Law Enforcement agencies (MLE)
- Support to maritime operations, through provision of technical advice and analysis on Maritime Domaine Awareness (MDA)
- Regional and international cooperation through the drafting and signature of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)
- Development of Community-based Crime Prevention Strategies

**Key Results in 2022**
- Legal assessment reports on maritime crime in Cape Verde, Sao Tome & Principe, and Cabo submitted to National Authorities
- Assessment of the gendered dimensions of maritime crime, responses, and capacity in West and Central African countries
- Simulated trials conducted in Cote d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Cabo, Nigeria, and Togo
- VBSS specific modules & evidence collection trainings provided to national counterparts of Zones E & F
- Community-based Crime Prevention Strategies developed in the Niger Delta
- IT Equipment provided to national counterparts of West & Central African countries
- Legal trainings provided to MLE Agencies in Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Capa Verde, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Cabo, Ghana, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo

A key result of efforts to support the prosecution of piracy in the region has been the development of the Supplementary Act on the Conditions of Transfer of Persons Suspected of Piracy and their Associated Evidence, thanks to the support of the UNODC through the SWAIMS project funded by the EU. The Act provides a veritable framework for cooperation among ECOWAS Member States for the prosecution of piracy and I am indeed confident that it would further strengthen the gains made in addressing maritime security in the region.

**Adoption of the Supplementary Act on the Conditions of Transfer of Persons Suspected of Having Committed Acts of Piracy and Their Associated Property and/or Evidence for Prosecution**

A key result of efforts to support the prosecution of piracy in the region has been the development of the Supplementary Act on the Conditions of Transfer of Persons Suspected of Having Committed Acts of Piracy and their Associated Property and/or Evidence among ECOWAS Member States.

The Supplementary Act, which was developed by ECOWAS in partnership with UNODC and with the support of the European Union (EU) through the project “Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS)”, was adopted on 3rd July 2022 in Accra at the 61st Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS in Accra.

The Act serves to facilitate the transfer of piracy suspects and the associated property and/or evidence between ECOWAS Member States with the appropriate legal framework to ensure ‘legal finish’, enabling the prosecution of piracy, while ensuring compliance with applicable international human rights law, including the treatment of suspected or transferred persons and the inclusion of provision against the death penalty.

**Figures**
- 1713 Judges & Prosecutors and MLE Officers Trained
- 57 Trainings/Mentoring
- 429 Women Trained
- 19 Countries Assisted
- 3 Legal Assessment Reports Submitted
UNODC is a lead agency to support the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy’s fight against illegal fishing. We are grateful for the support provided by the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme through the implementation of the Fisheries Protection and Enforcement project.

“H.E. AHMED HASSAN ADEN, MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND BLUE ECONOMY – SOMALIA

01. CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY BUILDING FOR MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT

Through the delivery of training and infrastructural projects, MLE officers in the Gulf of Aden countries are further equipped with the knowledge, strategies, and procedures necessary to carry out effective enforcement operations whilst conducting patrols. These trainings include: Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Basic Seamanship, VBSS, English language, engineering, communications and computer courses. Support from UNODC GMCP has enabled MLE officers to maintain the equipment of ports and coordinate activities to effectively counter maritime crimes in the region.

02. SOMALIA FISHERIES PROTECTION, ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION

This initiative is centered around enhancing Somalia’s capacity to tackle fisheries crime. Following the successful completion of the first phase of training in October 2021, the second and third phase concluded in 2022. The program is a component of a long-term strategy aimed at establishing a Somalia Fisheries Protection capacity that would decrease IUU as well as other linked organized crimes, such as arms smuggling and human trafficking. This is within UNODC’s mandate as part of IOMC, EUFNOA, CMF, and other forces in the region to support Somalia [UNSC Resolution 2551 (2020) and 2607 (2021)].

03. ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANT PRISONS

Guided by the Nelson Mandela Rules, GMCP has supported various activities within the Somali prison system. These include capacity-building training for prison officers on the humane treatment of prisoners, prevention of violent extremism, ensuring prison safety, meeting the basic needs of vulnerable prisoners, vocational training to support prisoners’ rehabilitation and reintegration, and prison refurbishments. All activities are implemented with the objective of ensuring human rights compliance in the prison.

04. ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION

Guided by different Security Council resolutions, GMCP monitors and disrupts illegal trade that funds terrorism in Somalia, and works to facilitate regional criminal justice cooperation through the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime. In 2022, strategy documents, practical tools, and training materials were developed by GMCP to enhance the investigations of Member States into sanctioned goods. In fulfilling its mandates from the Security Council, GMCP continues to promote inter-agency coordination and local ownership over a range of issues that shape sanctions compliance. Likewise, GMCP routinely conducts analysis of evolving threats to inform the development of localized projects to meet beneficiaries’ needs.

GMCP officers in the Gulf of Aden region are responsible for the following:

- Arresting and/or detaining suspects for unlawful acts (e.g., fishing, arms smuggling, human trafficking).
- Working with local authorities to seize and/ or confiscate illegal goods.
- Providing technical support to local authorities to improve their maritime crime investigation capabilities.
- Coordinating with other regional organizations, such as the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC), the Gulf of Aden Forum on Maritime Security (GAFMS), and the Gulf of Aden Somali Fisheries Protection and Enforcement Coordination Unit (GFSECU), to share information and develop joint strategies.
- Collaborating with international partners, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to enhance the capacity of local authorities.

Impact Story:
A Senior VBSS Officer

In June 2022, Bosaso Port Maritime Police Unit (BPMPU) officers detained seven third-country fishermen and seized their boats for unlawfully fishing. UNODC, US-INL, and the Danish government aided the BPMPU through the provision of boats for patrol and search operations. Furthermore, UNODC-trained officers from the BPMPU advised and guided several Benderbayla district officers on search and seizure, collecting and presenting evidence, and completing case preparation.

This mentorship led to successful operational outcomes throughout June 2022 in the Bari region of Benderbayla. The fishing boats, with illegal arms and ammunition on board, were seized, and seven foreign nationals and three Somalis were arrested. As noted by Salad, a Senior VBSS Officer, “without the vital support and guidance of UNODC and donors, we would not have been able to undertake our MLE operations to fight crimes at sea, notably in the Gulf of Aden, which is an essential conduit for international commerce.” UNODC GMCP remains fully committed to supporting officers and growing their operational capacity.

05. 2500 sets of uniforms were delivered to the YCG force. As a result, YCG has become more recognized nationally and internationally.

06. Refurbishment of Berbera and Bosaso prison.

GMCP is working closely with local authorities to ensure the provision of boats for patrol and search operations. This is possible through the provision of boats for patrol and search operations. Further, GMCP is providing training to local authorities on information management and sharing, forensic analysis techniques and alternatives to charcoal, in partnership with the Global Maritime Crime Programme. GMCP is also providing training to local authorities on information management and sharing, forensic analysis techniques and alternatives to charcoal, in partnership with the Global Maritime Crime Programme.

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GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

HEADQUARTERS TEAM

NEW PROGRAMME DEVELOPED IN 2022

TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER

TECHNOLOGY AT SEA

ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL

DRUG TRAFFICKING

CRIMES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UNSECELD SANCTIONS

MR. KRISHNASWAMY NATARAJAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RECAAP INFORMATION SHARING CENTRE

“Echoing the sentiment of former UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, that no one state or organisation can suppress piracy alone, the cooperation between ReCAAP ISC and UNODC is a significant step towards combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. This strategic cooperation would yield a mutually beneficial outcome, building upon their core competencies.”

MR. KRISHNASWAMY NATARAJAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RECAAP INFORMATION SHARING CENTRE

GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

OUR PRIORITIES

01. STRATEGIC GUIDANCE
We set the direction of GMCP both thematically and regionally in response to requests from Member States and our UNODC colleagues in regional offices.

02. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT
We develop projects to respond to the needs of Member States.

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

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

LIFE BELOW WATER

“GMCP is committed to strengthen our efforts in tackling crimes in the fisheries sector as well as crimes that affect the maritime environment as our contribution to implement SDG14 on life below water.”

SIRI BJUNE, HEAD, GMCP

GMCP PLEDGES FOR ONGOING PROJECTS

US$ 220.5 M

KEY RESULTS IN 2022

• New regional programming established in Algeria, Cyprus, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and Paraguay.

• New thematic programming established on crimes in the fisheries sector, crimes that affect the environment, crimes associated with cultural property, sanctions regime and Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats.

• New promotional videos and advocacy material.

• Multilingual maritime communication modality.

• Simulated trials in Kenya and Seychelles.

• Sixth women in maritime law enforcement forum.

• Tackling maritime crime in the Indian Ocean East.

• Caribbean Forum on maritime crime.

• Maritime training centres.

• Regional VBSS training facility in Batam, Indonesia.

• UNODC-GMCP and CIEAF riverine training.

• CYCLOPS tackling maritime crime in the eastern Mediterranean.

• Tackling maritime crime in the Indian Ocean West.

• LAC SOM and SOLAS encounters at sea training in Trinidad and Tobago.

• Seventh Contact Group on the Sulu and Celebes Seas Regional Plenary.

• Tenth Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogue, simulating the transfer of piracy suspects under the Ecowas Supplementary Act.

• New training handbooks produced the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Handbook and the Practical Framework for Maritime Strategy Development.

• New discussion paper on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate Change, launched at COP27 in Egypt.
The UNODC CMCP program has been instrumental in the enhancement of MNDF Coast Guards capacity and capabilities through their holistic and well-designed training programs delivered by competent Subject Matter Experts. The progression and continuity of training programs has greatly increased our capacity in acquiring MDA and Enforcement skills. Facilitated workshops together with partner local agencies and other international partners. The engagement of UNODC CMCP with MNDF Coast Guard has truly been a testament of success and excellence.

COLONEL IBRAHIM HILMY
COMMANDANT, MALDIVES COAST GUARD

The transformation of a common man into a Coast Guard officer is one of the dreams that have come true. It is not just about the rigorous training and disciplines that I have endured and maintained for numerous years. It was my attitude towards facing challenges where limited human beings experience in real life. I was born to a beautiful country that boasts one of the richest fisheries areas in the world, with the world's largest flooded wetland and Asia's third greatest aquatic biodiversity. Working as a Bangladesh Coast Guard officer impacted my perspective on my dedication to preserving these resources for future generations in terms of its security and safety.

I was privileged enough to participate in the instructor course(s) offered by the UNODC CMCP. This represented a paradigm shift in my mindset, with the opportunity to expand my knowledge and skills to assist others on achieving the same goal that I am dreaming of. It did not take long for UNODC to recognize my potential. UNODC has provided me with a role as a secondment advisor in the Indian Ocean East, with a first call in the Maldives outside from my beloved Nation.

UNODC has provided me with valuable and accredited information on the scope of maritime discipline. I will be an advocate and a vessel for all the knowledge I have received from the training courses provided by UNODC to be passed on to individuals with the shared goal of harmonizing nations where protection, safety, and combating crimes at sea are essential.

I am a believer in the programmes offered by UNODC. At first, I was skeptical, I did not understand how it may affect my life or societies, but now I know what it has done for me. I am determined to share my success as experiences or anecdotes with anyone, anywhere in the world.
**GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME**

**TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER**

- Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea (P&ARAS)
- Drug Trafficking and Smuggling
- Human Trafficking
- Wildlife Crimes
- Crimes in the Fisheries Sector
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)

Our world has never been more dangerous, more uncertain. 2022 has seen wars, famine, drought, floods and much, much more. The security of critical national infrastructure has never been more important and the work of UNODC’s Global Maritime Crime Programme is a vital part of that work. Our work, with our host nations, actively secures shipping lanes, ports and maritime infrastructure from the multitude of threats from Organized Crime, Corruption and Terrorism throughout and beyond the Horn of Africa and Swahili Coast. It takes a network to defeat a network and at UNODC, we will continue to play our part in keeping our world safe.

**OUR PRIORITIES**

**01. REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Through its mandate, the Programme is committed to support States in promoting cooperation at both the regional and international levels, and capacity building to counter serious organized crime within the maritime domain. This involves technical, material, and infrastructure 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**

The Programme builds MLE capacity and capability through the delivery of training courses and full-time mentorship. This includes training on MDA skills needed to detect and locate suspicious vessels, as well as foundational and enabling MLE topics such as developing a culture of maintenance and seamanship training. A new series of specialized Port Law Enforcement training events also began in January 2021 to help ensure crimes in ports are effectively prosecuted. Taking into account the typical regional and international nature of maritime crimes, interventions also include the coordination of the Southern Route Partnership (SRP) within the IOFMC framework, providing a coordination platform to promote regional cooperation among national drug enforcement agencies and international partners.

**03. SUPPORT TO PROSECUTION**

The Prosecutors’ Network Forum, which is a crosscutting pillar within the IOFMC framework, provides a setting for senior prosecutors from across the Indian Ocean region to meet, share knowledge, problem solve, and discuss cooperative strategies for prosecuting maritime crimes. The forum also supports Member States with reviews of their legal frameworks, with a view to ratify and domesticate relevant international conventions into domestic law and mentorship programmes. Lastly, prosecution experts are embedded within prosecution offices in the region.

**04. SUPPORT TO DETENTION**

The Programme delivers a Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) programme for selected prisons in Kenya where the main thematic areas of engagement are the training and mentoring of prison staff dealing with Violent Extremist Offenders (VEOs), the delivery of physical, procedural and dynamic security, the enhancement of prisoner record management systems, and the implementation of a robust risk assessment tool aimed at assessing risks of re-offending, recruitment and radicalisation amongst the prisoners.

**KEY RESULTS IN 2022**

- Trained over 2373 participants, including 571 women, in 136 trainings covering 11 countries in the region. The courses, such as VBSS or MDA, successfully contributed to better and more effective maritime and port law enforcement, covering both practical and theoretical material at a basic or more advanced level.
- Successful delivery of tabletop exercises on improving national response to drugs and contraband trafficking, and roundtable discussions for developing interagency guidance on ‘Handling of Stateless and Unflagged Vessels’.
- Facilitation of interagency and regional tabletop exercises with Pakistan MLE Agencies to enhance response to crime at sea.
- Support provided to piracy risks in Seychelles.
- Opening of the newly constructed Police Station for the Anti-Terror Police Unit (ATPU) in Mombasa in 2022.
- Installation of CCTV Cameras in Langata and Shimo Women Prisons in 2022.
- Delivery of Maritime Rule of Law Exercises (MROLEX) for country teams from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
- Delivery of training on port law enforcement, waterside 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.

**IMPACT STORY**

**LT. LOUIG/LOIZEAU**

**SEYCHELLES SPECIAL FORCES, UNODC’S FOCAL POINT FOR MLE TRAININGS ON THE GROUND IN SEYCHELLES**

"The need for protection from illicit activity has only increased, with maritime security across the region under threat from drug trafficking that is prevalent along the East African. It is of paramount importance, now more than ever, for us to be vigilant, aware and ready to react to anything that could happen by keeping a close eye on what is going on around us.” To this end, Lt. Loizeau simultaneously serves as UNODC’s focal point for MLE trainings in Seychelles and actively participates in boarding operations at sea. He supports the team both within Seychelles and across the region on the delivery of VBSS courses. With regional collaboration at the core of such efforts, Lt. Loizeau describes such capacity building efforts as essential to addressing the increased threats to maritime security throughout the Indian Ocean West region.

**FIGURES**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>OFFICERS TRAINED</th>
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<th>MLE</th>
<th>PRISONS</th>
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<td>31</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>354</td>
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</tr>
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| MEN | 90 | 40 | 136 |

**PARTNERS AGAINST CRIME**

"The collaborative professional relationship between UNODC- GMCP and USAFRICOM 359 has synergistic effects that continue to materialize. The mutual support benefits not only both organizations but, most importantly, our African partners. The coastal areas of Africa are unfortunately very conducive to illicit activities, mostly due to the lack of capacity and capabilities of the African maritime security forces and the law enforcement agencies that also protect the maritime domain. The projected immense amount of resources and commitment required to elevate our African partners to secure their maritime domain is challenging to say the least. Only through cooperation of like-minded agencies is this daunting task realistically attainable."

**DONALD “KYLE” OBBI, EAST AFRICA PROGRAM MANAGER, U.S. AFRICA COMMAND 359 - COUNTERNARCOTICS AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS PROGRAMS**
The Specialized Directorate against Drug Trafficking of the Colombian Attorney General’s Office thanks the Global Program against Maritime Crime (GMCP) for its support to the itinerant prosecutors who are in the different ports of the country working to combat the phenomenon of drug trafficking.

MARIA ELENA MONSALVE, DIRECTOR AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING, COLOMBIAN PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE

TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN TEAM

01. TACTICAL LEVEL CAPACITY BUILDING AND REGIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Our team works with Member States and their maritime forces to identify and provide them with the skills that will help them to effectively respond to events at sea. We do so not only at sea but also in riverine theaters.

02. OPERATIONAL LEVEL COOPERATION

Our team continues to support countries to achieve greater cooperation at both national and regional level under existing and new cooperation frameworks for more effective judicial and operational responses to maritime crimes.

03. LEGAL FINISH AND LEGAL COOPERATION

We develop advanced prosecutorial capacities and support creating networks among frontline investigators and prosecutors to ensure a strong legal finish to maritime crimes.

04. MAPPING EMERGING AND EVOLVING THREATS

We identify and analyze new maritime crime trends and linkages to enable Member States to develop informed responses.

REGIONAL TRAINING FOR COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, AND PANAMA THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COLOMBIAN NAVY’S CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE EXCELENCIA AVANZADA FLUVIAL (CIEAF) IN TURBO, COLOMBIA

REGIONAL TRAINING FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, JAMAICA, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD, THROUGH THE LAUNCH OF A REGIONAL TACTICAL TRAINING CENTER AT THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO COAST GUARD BASE IN STABBALES BAY.

REGIONAL MDA ADVANCED AND STANDARDIZED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN THROUGH PROVISION OF TRAINING AND ROLL OUT OF SKYLIGHT AND SEAVISION.

ADVANCED SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION EFFORTS IN THE NORTH CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH CARIBBEAN THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEDICATED MARITIME OPERATIONS CENTERS EXCHANGES, CAPACITY BUILDING AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

CASES WITH REGIONAL LINKS ADVANCED THROUGH NATIONAL COURTS AND INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN THROUGH REGIONAL PROSECUTION MENTORING IN COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, AND PANAMA.

OUR PRIORITIES

KEY RESULTS IN 2022

The partnership and ongoing work with the UNODC GMCP continue to be a very rewarding and positive experience for both the RSS as an entity and the Member States generally. Successful initiatives were recorded during the various training workshops and exercises held in the preceding years working with MLE units and the Prosecutorial departments in the region. In December of 2022, UNODC GMCP furthered the RSS’ goals of enhancing the Maritime Domain Awareness capability of the MLE Units and other Agencies to include Customs and Fisheries Departments, through provision and access to the Skylight platform.

Mutual cooperation is a critical ‘spoke in the wheel’ for these SIDS to maximize regional security in preserving the social and economic development of the people of the Region. RSS remains committed to its work and supporting strategies and initiatives that help combat the illicit commons in syndicate with our regional & extra-regional partners.

IMPACT STORY

BRIGADIER RODERICK WILLIAMS, COMMANDER, MARITIME AIR AND CYBER COMMAND, JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE

The partnership and ongoing work with the UNODC GCMP continue to be a very rewarding and positive experience for both the RSS as an entity and the Member States generally. Successful initiatives were recorded during the various training workshops and exercises held in the preceding years working with MLE units and the Prosecutorial departments in the region. In December of 2022, UNODC GCMP furthered the RSS’ goals of enhancing the Maritime Domain Awareness capability of the MLE Units and other Agencies to include Customs and Fisheries Departments, through provision and access to the Skylight platform.

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CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

MEDITERRANEAN TEAM

“LAF Navy is facing strategic challenges that require a substantial increase in the level of preparedness in all fields. These challenges include countering illicit trafficking and crime, countering terrorism, dealing with illegal immigration, and assuming the mission of the Maritime Task Force of the UNIFIL. UNODC GMCP support comes at a critical time where LAF Navy thrives to maintain maritime safety and security and to create a favorable environment for oil and gas exploration as an economic leverage for Lebanon.”

CAPTAIN COMMODORE HAISSAM DANNAOUI, COMMANDER OF THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES (LAF)

BLACK SEA TEAM

OUR PRIORITIES

01. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTERPART ENGAGEMENT
UNODC GMCP is consulting with key partners to identify priority areas for engagement that will complement ongoing efforts to strengthen MLE and border management in the Black Sea.

02. MARITIME BORDER MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
Support national MLE actors to monitor and manage their maritime spaces against a variety of maritime crimes.

03. MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME
Support national and regional awareness and response to maritime crimes that affect the environment.

TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER

- SMUGGLING OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS
- DRUG TRAFFICKING
- VIOLATIONS OF LAW AT SEA
- CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

KEY RESULTS IN 2022

- Launched VBSS training capabilities at the Cyprus Center for Land, Open-seas, and Port Security (CYCLOPS), with an MLE training in collaboration with the Egyptian Navy and Cyprus Marine Police
- Supported the MDA (MDA) capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy by arranging a two week drone pilot training to integrate MDA with MLE
- Enhanced MLE operational capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy through provision of IT and diving equipment
- Developed awareness, technical knowledge and interagency cooperation to respond to the smuggling of migrants through maritime routes by arranging a Workshop of Lebanese and Cypriot MLE agencies
- Supported the US-led Phoenix exercise in 2022, through a dedicated Table Top Exercise conducted with military and law enforcement agencies from several Mediterranean coastal countries

IMPACT STORY: TACKLING MARITIME CRIME IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

In May 2022, GMCP conducted its first maritime law enforcement training for the Cyprus Police at the newly opened facilities of the Cyprus Centre for Land, Open-seas, and Port Security (CYCLOPS). Reflecting on the recent training, Inspector Loucas Petrou from the Cyprus Marine Police said, “given the increasing volume of incidents at sea occurring in the region, the inter-agency nature of the courses has added special value by strengthening cooperation between different maritime law enforcement agencies, through information exchange and coordinated operations.”
GMCP Management Support Team’s priority for 2021 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.

**OUR PRIORITIES**

**01. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, BEST PRACTICES, MANAGEMENT & QUALITY CONTROL**
We ensure that policies, processes, and procedures are established to effectively, efficiently and diligently manage GMCP activities across the globe, including through the development of innovative solutions for monitoring and reporting.

**02. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT**
We ensure compliance of all GMCP engagements with UN Financial Regulations and Rules and other policies.

**03. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT**
We support the programme cycle management from development through to implementation, monitoring, results-based reporting and evaluation.

**KEY RESULTS IN 2022**
- Donor Agreements worth $34 million finalized and facilitated, and budget programmed for a record delivery of $40m
- More than 800 budget revisions processed
- Facilitated 12 recruitments, 60 contract extensions and 3 relocations (lateral moves)
- More than 40 Uncertified and Certified Financial Reports prepared and facilitated
- Five Agreements with Implementing Partners facilitated
- 15 Programme Support Personnel (PSP) meetings facilitated
- GMCP Operations Manual migrated to web-format
- GMCP Programme Support Personnel Annual event conducted in April 2022 in Mombasa, Kenya

**IMPACT STORY**

**CHINYERE OKORIE**
GMCP Finance and Admin Associates, Country Office for Nigeria (CONIG)

When we joined GMCP a few years back, we were introduced to the Operations Manual developed by Management Support Unit (MSU) which provided guidance on processes and solutions to numerous challenges that emerge in our daily work. MSU routinely updates the Manual with new and relevant information to keep us up-to-date on latest administrative instructions and procedures. The monthly meetings for Programme Support Personnel (PSP), organized and moderated by MSU, give us the platform to learn from and to share our knowledge with colleagues from other field offices. We always look forward to these meetings as there is always something new to learn.

In our PSP network, colleagues were nominated to give various presentations on their areas of specialty, especially in Umoja, on topics like closing of commitments and liabilities, procurement processes, grant management, consultancies and travel. These presentations were helpful as from time to time we refer to them when we encounter challenges in our daily work.

The knowledge and information we have gotten in the team through PSP has made us more confident and competent in all areas as we handle various administrative roles to support our implementations in the field.

"We look forward to the yearly Programme Support Personnel (PSP) knowledge sharing and information exchange programme where we come together from different parts of the world to share and learn best practices from colleagues and the MSU team. Big thanks to the MSU for putting this together and making this happen annually. We have made a lot of friends and bonded with colleagues with whom we regularly share knowledge and people solutions to challenges. We are grateful to be a part of GMCP where we continue to learn and grow professionally."

ADEFEMI ADESOLA, GMCP Finance and Admin Associate, Abuja, Nigeria
KEY RESULTS IN 2022

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**: Strengthened MDA for fisheries forces with training on using MDA equipment in monitoring fishery activities.

- **CAMBODIA**: Enhanced skills and capability in maritime surveillance by providing MDA equipment and delivering MDA analytical training, as well as offering hands-on tactical exercises through VBSS training to boarding teams.

- **INDONESIA**: Successfully established and equipped the Regional Maritime Training Facility in Batam in close collaboration with Indonesia Coast Guard (Bakamla), and hosted 114 participants from Southeast Asia on VBSS trainings. In addition, enhanced maritime surveillance through the support with upgrading the MDA data collection and dissemination virtual platform, improved knowledge of prosecutors on maritime law and maritime crime, as well as supported the drafting of two important documents: the Maritime Information and Data Sharing Protocol and Common Security Measures for Seaports Across the Country.

- **MALAYSIA**: Strengthened maritime surveillance through the delivery of intermediate MDA analytical trainings; presented Maritime Criminality Report to Malaysian Authorities; implemented Pilot Initiative of RFID tags for the Department of Fisheries, Sabah; conducted Consultation with the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) to develop MMEA’s 10-Year Strategic Plan; and organized a High-Level Delegation from Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).  

- **PHILIPPINES**: Enhanced maritime surveillance capacity with delivery of equipment and MDA analytical trainings to MLE agencies; conduct of tabletop and field training exercises; needs assessment on fisheries vessel monitoring capability; and provision of cutting-edge technology solutions in critical areas in southern Philippines.

- **THAILAND**: Conducted over assessment on the implementation of UNSC Maritime Shipping Sanctions, handed over VBSS equipment, and conducted VBSS trainings.

- **TIMOR-LESTE**: Enhanced MDA through the delivery of an intense multi-week course on MDA, including a capability assessment and a handover ceremony of an interactive table to Centro de Operações Marítimas (COMAR). Conducted VBSS training and included a pilot project on using optimal imagery in Skylight.

- **VIETNAM**: Strengthened technical capabilities of MLE agencies through MDA analytical trainings; conducted assessment on the Maritime Crime Law Enforcement Framework and Practice; delivered specialized training on maritime law and maritime crime for prosecutors; enhanced coordination of MLE agencies via Tabletop Exercises (TTX) on effective management of volatile situations at sea, and conducted maritime devices forensics training.

- **THE PACIFIC**: Provided ICT equipment support to the Nauru Police Force to upgrade maritime surveillance capability; delivered online training to 10 Pacific Island countries and territories; trained Village Headmen on Island Security and Maritime Surveillance in Kiribati; trained Village Leaders on Reporting Suspicious Maritime Activity in Nauru and Samoa, and delivered trainings in Maritime Crime Investigation for Fiji and Tonga.

**Impact Story**

**CC COMMO MITZIE SILVA-CAMPO PCC, FIRST FEMALE COMMODORE AMONG THE GENERAL LINE OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD**

Having had the opportunity to partake as both a participant and a speaker, the Woman in MLE Forum (WinMLE) of the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme is a testament to the unflinching commitment in supporting dialogues that uphold gender equality and promote cooperation among women in MLE agencies across Southeast Asia. The sharing of experiences allows us to innovate as we take our active role in identifying shared challenges, breaking down stereotypes, improving our communications, engaging the communities, and focusing on action towards building an inclusive working environment—with equal opportunities and fair treatment for all.

**Equipped with**

- **VBSS TRAINING EQUIPMENT, MARITIME SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, AUTOMATED IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) READER, DATABASE SERVER, PASSIVE RFID TAGS, HANDHELD AND VESSEL MOUNTED READERS, PASSIVE RF SENSOR SYSTEM, AND ICT EQUIPMENT**

**Regional Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT GROUP ON THE SULLU AND CELEBES SEA (E2E)</th>
<th>FORUM ON NATIONAL MARITIME FUSION CENTRES (FNFMC)</th>
<th>MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT SHAPED (MLES)</th>
<th>MARITIME TRAFFICKING ROUTES - SOUTH-EAST ASIA (WTR-SEA)</th>
<th>WOMEN IN MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT (WINMLE)</th>
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</thead>
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<td>1777 385</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEOPLE TRAINED</td>
<td>FEMALES TRAINED</td>
<td>REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS</td>
<td>COUNTRIES ASSISTED</td>
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**Our Priorities**

1. **Promoting White Hull Diplomacy across the Region**

   Building skills to de-escalate tense situations at sea and enhance regional cooperation under the MLE Dialogues.

2. **Creating Shared Awareness through Information Sharing**

   Establishing a Tri-lateral Coast Guard Regional Commanders Network (EtuKAw) 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.

3. **Expanding Stakeholders in Countering Drug Trafficking**

   Upholding a multi-agency approach to counter maritime drug trafficking in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand.

4. **Enhancing MDA Capability and Analysis**

   Inducting cutting-edge technology on MDA through equipment support and strengthening MDA analytical capacity.

5. **Enhancing Prosecutorial Capacity for an Effective Legal Finish**

   Harmonizing international standards through legal assessments of maritime law and conducting simulated trials in littoral states.

**Types of Maritime Crime We Counter**

- **Illegal Trafficking of Nuclear Material**
- **Terrorism at Sea**
- **Drug Trafficking**
- **Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants**
- **Crimes in the Fisheries Sector**
- **Weapons Trafficking**
- **Crimes That Affect the Environment**

**Maritime Issues**

Maritime issues are transnational in nature and remain as the major significant threats to Malaysian waters. The GMCP, UNODC played a significant role as a connecting bridge among regional and international coast guard to resolve these challenges and issues.
PARTNERSHIPS
EU-GMCP PARTNERSHIP

The EU considers it a valuable asset to be able to count on UNODC’s expertise and knowledge to improve institution building, law enforcement and fair trials in the Gulf of Guinea. Through our joint activities, I feel proud of the level of our partnership. UNODC and the EU share the principle of ownership: whatever we do should promote the leadership of coastal states and institutions.”

NICOLAS BERLANGA
EU SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR MARITIME SECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA
EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE, BRUSSELS

EU delegations are UNODC-GMCP’s first points of contact in the field. From ensuring access to the most adequate funding instrument, to providing political support in the overall delivery of maritime security projects, EU diplomats and members of the EU delegations continue to play a crucial role in the development and success of this partnership across the globe. UNODC-GMCP is also represented in Brussels through UNODC’s Brussels Liaison Office (BRULO), which actively participates in the development of our partnership with the EU.

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THE EU: A TRUSTED PARTNER IN COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

The European Union is a forefront partner to UNODC in combating environmental crimes. In addition to participating in numerous policy coordination sessions (see relevant chapter on environmental crimes in the present brochure), the EU continues to fund several GMCP initiatives that have a direct and concrete impact on the reduction of environmental crimes at sea. Recently, under the project ‘Port Security and Safety of Navigation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean’, UNODC trained over 110 officers working at the ports of Toamasina and Mahajanga in Madagascar. One day after the training was concluded, a joint team of officers who had attended the training intercepted the smuggling of 36 radiated tortoises. The tortoises, native to southern Madagascar, are classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) due to rampant poaching for their meat and the illegal pet trade. The intercepted tortoises were on their way to Camaroon before being sent on to Asia, a common trafficking route for these kinds of species.

A FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP EXPANDED TO TEAM EUROPE

The EU and its Member States have supported GMCP initiatives across the globe since its establishment in 2009. GMCP highly supports the recent development of the Team Europe concept, which provides an opportunity to coordinate the actions of the international community to the benefit of targeted states. A concrete example followed the 2022 adoption of the Supplementary Act on the Conditions of Transfer of Persons Suspected of Having Committed Acts of Piracy (I) by ECOWAS. Under the EU project ‘Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS)’, UNODC, with the support of ECOWAS, has developed implementing arrangements in the form of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The procedures are aimed at guiding evidence collection at sea, detention on board, and the transfer procedures for suspects apprehended at sea for the implementation of the Act. In the framework of Grand African Nemo (GANO) 2022 Exercise, the EU and the navies of Italy, Spain, Nigeria, Togo and Benin, with UNODC and in collaboration with ECOWAS, have facilitated the testing of the transfer procedures described in the SOPs. This involved simulating in real time at sea the transfer of piracy suspects and evidence between ECOWAS Zone E countries at the GANO exercise. As a result of the simulation exercise, national authorities in Zone E countries have an increased understanding of the nature and details of the ECOWAS Supplementary Act and its implementing arrangements (SOPs), and have an established network with the ‘competent authority’ of the Act of the Zone E Member States.

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PORTS: AN EU-GMCP APPROACH TO COUNTERING CRIME

Ports play a vital role in the global economy, but also have a heavy impact on the lives of people living along the coastline. From changing their landscapes and providing employment opportunities to affording opportunities to connect to the rest of the world. Ensuring that ports remain secure is therefore crucial to the well-being of a country’s culture and economy. This perception is shared both by the European Union and GMCP, who have collaborated under the project ‘Port Security and Safety of Navigation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean’. GMCP have recently held photo exhibitions in Madagascar, Mauritius, and Tanzania to showcase how ports and people are interconnected, underscoring the need to increase port security and better involve surrounding communities.
Japan-GMCP Partnership

Japan and GMCP uphold the principle of rules-based maritime governance and work together for the rule of law, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

The ocean provides the foundation of our life as the crossroads for people, commodities and communication networks connecting the world. Japan and UNODC share an understanding on the principle of rules-based maritime governance and security. The Japan-UNODC partnership constitutes joint efforts to support Member States in developing capacity and capability of MLE agencies and the judiciaries, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. From coast guard boats battling maritime crime to busy courtrooms hearing maritime cases, this longstanding partnership contributes to the rule of law at sea around the globe.

With Japanese assistance through its supplementary budget, UNODC provides technical assistance for MLE agencies and the judiciary on maritime crimes for coastal countries, especially those in the Indo-Pacific, Southeast and South Asia, and the Pacific. The assistance ranges from strengthening MLE operational skills and MDA to supporting the judiciary to counter illicit activities at sea, such as drug trafficking and crimes in the fisheries sector. UNODC also supports the enforcement of UN sanction regimes at sea and the protection of submarine cables, and strengthens response to critical maritime incidents. In the Maldives, UNODC supported the construction of a Maritime Rescue Coordination Training Facility through Japanese Grant Aid.

Partnership with the Japan Coast Guard

UNODC has maintained a partnership with JCG since 2018, when JCG dispatched its Mobile Cooperation Team to 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 led the delivery of MLE training in Southeast and South Asia. With its outstanding expertise, UNODC has shared skills and knowledge on specialized areas, such as digital forensic and MDA.

FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

With growing forces of globalization, the Indo-Pacific has gained significant strategic importance in the global economy. A rules-based maritime order, as well as freedom of navigation and a free and open maritime domain, have become more important than ever for economic development, peace and security in the region and beyond.

In Southeast Asia, affirming the central role of ASEAN on maritime security, Japan and UNODC work together in promoting justice and the rule of law in ASEAN countries. In partnership with Japan, a national MDA School and regional Maritime Training Facility were established in the Philippines and Indonesia, respectively, in 2022. With expertise from the Japan Coast Guard (JCG), UNODC also delivers VBS training, as well as MDA and other specialized training for countries in Southeast Asia.

Partnering with the Japan Coast Guard

UNODC has maintained a partnership with JCG since 2018, when JCG dispatched its Mobile Cooperation Team to VBS training held for coastal countries from the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia in Seychelles and Sri Lanka. In 2020, JCG Officers have been seconded to GMCP, and led the delivery of MLE training in Southeast and South Asia. With its outstanding expertise on MLE, JCG also shares skills and knowledge on specialized areas, such as digital forensic and MDA.

I have been seconded from JCG to GMCP/Pacific Ocean team since January 2022, where I am mainly engaged in delivering and coordinating VBS training at the training facility in Batam Island, Indonesia, and facilitating the preparation of JCG experts to other trainings in Southeast Asian countries such as MDA school and maritime digital forensic training. As maritime crimes have become more complex and difficult to counter, these activities are more important than ever 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 an honor and a pleasure for me to work in GCMP as the secondment officer, who has operational background of coast guard and contributes to the rule of law.

MR. NOBUTAKA OKA, JCG SECONDED OFFICER TO GMCP

Japan and GMCP Partnership

日本とGMCPは、共に海上における犯罪防止の原則を有し、特にインド太平洋地域での法の支配のために協力しています。

海は、世界の人に、そして過去のことを未来に、無根の生活ではなくない存在です。そのような海洋において、日本とUNODCは、ルールに基づく政治や安全保障の重要性について認識した関係を共有しています。そして、日本とGMCPとのパートナーシップを通じて、犯罪対処法の支援に寄与するために、インド太平洋地域での法の執行機関に対する能力強化支援を行っています。これらの支援は、海上犯罪をなくすための海の法の支援を通じて広く提携された海に向けられ、海上犯罪対策国際連合加盟国への能力強化のために行われています。

UNODCは、インド太平洋地域、特に太平洋、東南アジアでの海事犯罪の非法的行為に対する日本の政府の補助金を通じて海上犯罪対策に対する支援を行っています。これらの支援は、国家警察や民間企業など海上犯罪の行為に関して、法の執行機関に対して、侵害のMDAの交渉、取り締まりや他の犯罪防止対策を含む海上犯罪防止のための支援を提供します。また、国際海事法の実行や、国家間の覚書の共同、国家海事警察への初期対策などの分野においても、支援を行っています。また、モデル領域では、日本の政府の国際連合機関無償支援を通じて、法的援助調整・訓練施設の建設を行っています。

東南アジアにおける自由で開かれたインド太平洋
グローバリゼーションの時代が進むにつれ、インド太平洋の世界経済における重要性が増している。ルールに基づく海上秩序、航行の自由、そして自由で開かれた海は、インド太平洋地域内外の経済発展と、平和と安全のために、これ以上に重要になってきている。

海上安全問題におけるアジアの中心的な役割のもと、東南アジアでは日本とUNODCは、司法や法の支援のための協力を行っています。例えば、フィリピンのMDAスクールやインドネシアの海事訓練施設の設立など、日本の援助を得られました。また、日本の政府の助成金の利用で、日本政府とGMCPとの長期的なパートナーシップは、法の支配における国際連合加盟国への海事警察の強化に寄与してきました。また、海上犯罪対策として国際連合加盟国での海事警察、デジタルフォレンジックやMDAの専門性の高い分野でも協力しています。

海上保安庁との提携

UNODCは、2018年には東南アジアを核にとめた日本で行われたインド太平洋と東南アジアの国の対象を対象としたVBSトレーニングにパールコーポレーションチームの職員を派遣することを申し入れ、海上犯罪の対処方法を有する日本の海上保安庁を連携して活動を行っています。2020年からは、海上保安庁の職員がGMCPに派遣され、東南アジアのMDAスクールを核にした、各国の海上保安機関への派遣を引き続き進めています。海上犯罪対策として国際連合加盟国での海事警察、デジタルフォレンジックやMDAの分野での専門性の高い分野でも協力しています。

関信貴
海上保安庁よりGMCPに派遣

私は、海上保安庁よりGMCP海事警察に2022年1月より派遣しています。特に、インドネシアのバターン島にある訓練施設で、VBS トレーニングの講師や実習、東南アジアのMDA スクールやデジタルフォレンジックなどを通じて、海上保安庁からの訓練派遣の調整等の業務を行っています。海上犯罪対策の必要性を、そして法の支援に貢献できるよう取り組み、それに向けた日本海事警察との緊密な連携を通じて、海上保安庁から現場勤務の持つ職業としてGMCPに派遣し、業務を通じて海の支配に貢献できていることは、非常に名なすことだと感じています。
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.

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 partnership demonstrates how the conservation and maritime security communities can leverage each other’s core competencies for greater impact in their respective fields.

“... We are proud to partner with UNODC to build capacity at the intersection of ocean health and maritime crime. We want to get the best fisheries science and the best information on seafood supply chains in the hands of the people who are training enforcement agencies.”

JOHAN BERGENAS
WWF’S SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF OCEANS

1. USE FISHERIES SCIENCE AND TARGETED SECTOR INFORMATION AS AN ENABLER FOR MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE CAPACITY BUILDING AGAINST UNSUSTAINABLE FISHING ACTIVITIES UNDER UNODC GMCP’S REMIT, WITH A FOCUS ON CRIMES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.

2. SCALE THE COLLABORATION BEYOND FISHING TO INCLUDE OTHER JOINT EFFORTS THAT LEAD TO IMPROVED MARITIME SECURITY, INCLUDING AT-SEA MLE AGAINST OTHER CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS CRIMES RELATED TO ENDANGERED SPECIES, GHOST GEAR, POLLUTION, AND TIMBER.

3. DEMONSTRATE HOW THE CONSERVATION AND MARITIME SECURITY COMMUNITIES CAN LEVERAGE EACH OTHER’S CORE COMPETENCIES FOR GREATER IMPACT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

In December 2022, GMCP and WWF held a technical session for Ecuadorian authorities in the Galápagos to build institutional coordination to deal with crimes at sea, including drug trafficking, fuel smuggling and wildlife trafficking. The workshop resulted in a preliminary draft of coordination guidelines and set of recommendations being approved.

CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

In 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 during a side event on ecosystems-based climate mitigation at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The high-level event brought together countries and UN leaders to discuss ecosystems-based approaches, responses to crimes that affect the environment, corruption, and action to galvanize financing.

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-utilized. The report offers potential paths forward for legal and judicial reforms that emphasize the importance of measuring generational harm when calculating the impact of climate change on human well-being.
STABLE SEAS—GMCP PARTNERSHIP

Transnational security threats like piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, maritime terrorism near Yemen, armed robberies at sea in Southeast Asia, migration and human trafficking across the Mediterranean, and drug-laden submarines from Latin America have redirected the world’s attention toward the security of the global maritime commons. Fortunately, governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector are responding with innovative technologies and new forms of cooperation that can vastly improve global maritime security and governance.

Stable Seas produces rigorous research to assist these efforts to counter dynamic threats to peace at sea, offering a holistic systems approach that highlights the intersections and feedback loops connecting diverse themes like the welfare of coastal populations, international maritime cooperation, the blue economy, trends in global counterterrorism, and ocean conservation. The strong links between these themes necessitate ambitious whole-of-society approaches instead of piecemeal and narrowly scoped mandates.

ISSUES
1. Good Governance
2. Economy and environment
3. Safety and security
4. Terrorism and insurgency

GEOGRAPHY
• Atlantic Africa
• Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea
• Indian Ocean East
• Indian Ocean West
• Latin America
• Mediterranean
• Pacific

In March 2022, GMCP and Stable Seas released a report examining the potential maritime, radiological, and nuclear trafficking risks posed by the multitude of small, traditional, and unregistered vessels plying the world’s oceans.

As maritime security strategies become more comprehensive and holistic, so too must our attempts to measure progress.
SKYLIGHT-GMCP PARTNERSHIP

Skylight, based out of the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, is an online platform for monitoring vessel activities that may be noncompliant with fisheries and other maritime regulations. UNODC GMCP entered a partnership with Skylight in the summer of 2020 and has since introduced the platform to law enforcement agencies in over 40 countries around the world. UNODC has enhanced these countries’ abilities to identify and combat maritime crimes by facilitating access to Skylight and providing training customised to each agency’s mission and specific threats. More than 300 participants have been trained on how to use this tool in-person and hundreds more have been trained virtually.

In Southeast Asia, MDA training provided directly to Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. UNODC also encouraged interagency collaboration by inviting different agencies from the same country to train together (e.g. Fisheries, Coast Guard, Navy, Intelligence, and Immigration in the Philippines).

In the Indian Ocean, Skylight training was provided to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. It was combined with training on VBSS, which helped provide a fuller picture on how to take action based on the intelligence derived from MDA tools.

In the Gulf of Guinea, GMCP has been working hand-in-hand with regional maritime authorities like ICC, CRESMAO, and CRESMAC to co-organize and co-lead virtual trainings with over 19 Member States.

Furthermore, the cooperation between Skylight and GMCP has resulted in numerous success stories:

- The Maldives Coast Guard apprehended five vessels in 2021 and two vessels in 2022 illegally fishing inside of their EEZ through the help of Skylight. “After starting to use Skylight, we have come to realise that much more fishing vessel movements are happening in Maldivian waters than we ever knew”, said Captain Sawaad.
- The Navy of Colombia and the Dominican Republic have reported more than three occasions where a Dark Rendezvous Event helped them surface drug trafficking.
- The Panamanian Navy interdicted a vessel fishing illegally in Colba Ridge Marine Protected Area and the Philippine Coast Guard saved the crew on a pleasure vessel with the help of Skylight's near-real-time AIS feed.
- The Fiji Navy shared that the amount of vessels to interdict on patrol has increased from 1 - 2 to 10 - 14, since they have started using Skylight. Their most recent success was surfacing alcohol and tobacco smuggling through their ports.
- During training, the Madagascar Fisheries Monitoring Centre surfaced a vessel illegally trawling shrimp within their 2 nautical mile zone and sent an official warning letter.
- 90+ port officers in the Sri Lankan Fisheries Department have been using Skylight to check fishing industry compliance to AIS requirements for their boats and their gear.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

- In Southeast Asia, MDA training provided directly to Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. UNODC also encouraged interagency collaboration by inviting different agencies from the same country to train together (e.g. Fisheries, Coast Guard, Navy, Intelligence, and Immigration in the Philippines).
- In the Indian Ocean, Skylight training was provided to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. It was combined with training on VBSS, which helped provide a fuller picture on how to take action based on the intelligence derived from MDA tools.
- In the Gulf of Guinea, GMCP has been working hand-in-hand with regional maritime authorities like ICC, CRESMAO, and CRESMAC to co-organize and co-lead virtual trainings with over 19 Member States.

Looking forward, GMCP will continue to work collaboratively with Skylight, sharing feedback that Member States are providing to improve the tool and make Skylight even more complimentary to what already exists in their watchfloods. Some highlights:

- Skylight is technically integrated with SeaVision and YARIS - two major information sharing tools - and Skylight is in early stages of integration with IORIS, Dark Vessel Detection, Global Fishing Watch, and some national tools.
- Skylight is expanding its functionalities from the provision of AIS and satellite radar-based events to automatically cueing high resolution optical imagery after events and providing VIIRS and low resolution optical imagery.
- In October 2022, Skylight added Potential Dark Activity Events by popular request. These events are generated when the AIS transmission for a vessel has not been received for a long period of time, some of which may be vessels who are purposely turning their AIS off to obscure illicit activity.
NSDD-GMCP PARTNERSHIP

While the likely chances of radiological and nuclear (R/N) trafficking in the maritime domain are low, the consequences of smuggling of such material can have high risks for the entire world. Loss or theft of R/N material could result in social, political and economic disruption and, even worse, loss of lives. Realizing this threat, GMCP and NNSA’s Office of NSDD have partnered to increase the capacity of MLE agencies across the globe to detect and deter maritime trafficking of R/N material.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS TO MAP MARITIME R/N TRAFFICKING

GMCP and NSDD sponsored an independent study in 2022 which examined the potential maritime, radiological, and nuclear trafficking risks posed by small, traditional, and unregistered vessels in four geographic areas (Brazil, West Africa, the Red Sea, and Indonesia). It also proposed areas of potential policy prioritization that would increase MDA around these small vessels and mitigate the risk of trafficking activity.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF UN MEMBER STATES TO DEVELOP MARITIME R/N DETECTION CAPABILITIES

GMCP supported NSDD in its donation of R/N detection equipment to the Seychelles Coast Guard to bolster their maritime R/N detection capabilities. The R/N detection equipment handed over to Seychelles includes Personal Radiation Dosimeters, Radiological Isotopes Identification Devices (RIIDs), radiological detection backpacks, and Maritime Contraband Kit.

OUTREACH AND AWARENESS RAISING

GMCP and NSDD are reaching out to new partners to raise awareness on the threats of R/N trafficking and to gauge interest in possible cooperation for capacity building. Such cooperation includes scenario based discussions and potential donation.

INTEGRATING VISIT BOARD, SEARCH, AND SEIZURE (VBSS) PROCEDURES WITH R/N DETECTION

GMCP and NSDD designed a special course in 2022 to integrate VBSS procedures with R/N detection. Participants from Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles were trained by NSDD and GMCP instructors on integrating R/N detection equipment with VBSS to counter smuggling at sea, and to develop a concept of operations to respond to any R/N threats. The training included pier side and underway boardings.
PROGRAMMING
MALDIVES

**PRISONS AND AGENCIES SUPPORTED**
- Maldives Correctional Service Headquarters
- Maafushi Prison
- Male Prison
- Hulhumale Prison
- Assiyiy Prison

**AREAS OF WORK**
- Prison security
- Prison intelligence
- Incident management
- Rehabilitation and reintegration

**TYPE OF WORK**
- Training of prison officers on:
  - Dynamic security
  - Incident management
  - Contingency planning
  - Use of force
  - Nelson Mandela Rules
- Prison officer mentoring
- COVID-19 response
- Training on COVID-19 prevention and response in places of detention
- Provision of equipment to facilitate prisoners’ contact with the outside world

**OUR RESULTS**
- 16 prison officers trained on various topics, including dynamic security, security information reports and use of force
- 11 prison officers participated in a joint collaboration with the SRI LANKA prison service in a programme entitled “Excelling Beyond Emerging Challenges - Corrections After the Global Pandemic”, which enhanced knowledge on prison operations and activities of Maldives Prison Service after COVID-19 pandemic
- 10 officers and technical staff were trained as trainers to conduct the prisoner rehabilitation activities that support inmates to reintegrate with society upon release
- A prison rehabilitation module was developed in line with academic qualifications of Maldives, with 13 officers and technical staff contributing to the validation process
- 12 officers, including technical staff, participated in “Conduct the Safe and Secure Approaches to Vocational Training and Effective Rehabilitation” course. The course aims to strengthen the implementation of international best practices for vocational training conducted in prisons systems around the globe
- Seven officers participated in a Study Trip to Kenya, visiting prisons and training facilities in Nairobi and Mombasa. Participants were exposed to various new aspects of command and control, including using soft skills, maintaining a prison happiness index, K9 operations and officer training related to career pathways

**IMPACT STORY**
NAJMA ABDULLA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION COMMAND, MALDIVES CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

Continuous efforts and collaboration of UNODC and Maldives Correctional Service will continue to pay off the efforts to improve prison conditions and to strengthen prison management to enhance the social reintegration prospects of the many individuals who have come in conflict with law.

SRI LANKA

**PRISONS AND AGENCIES SUPPORTED**
- Department of Prisons - Headquarters
- Welikada Prison Hospital
- Angunukolapelessa Prison
- Anuradhapura Prison
- Bogambara Prison
- Dumbura Prison
- Galle Prison
- Kalutara Prison
- Mahara Prison
- Matara Prison
- Pallansena Youth Correctional Center
- Pallekele Prison and Government Analyst’s Department

**AREAS OF WORK**
- Prevention of violent extremism (PVE)
- Prison Security and Management
- Nelson Mandela Rules
- Virtual trials
- Support inmate rehabilitation efforts through enhanced vocational training
- Health: COVID-19 response; communicable/non-communicable diseases; physical and mental wellbeing

**OUR RESULTS**
- 38 Prison Officers trained on PVE
- Nine officers participated in the joint training with Maldives Prison Service to strengthen skills in adapting to emerging challenges posed by the pandemic and in the use of technology to increase access to justice and to fair hearings
- Two prison mentoring/coaching sessions focused on prevention measures conducted
- 250 inmates and 50 officers trained on modern and sustainable agriculture practices
- 44 officers trained on communicable/non communicable diseases; Nelson Mandela Rules, and mental and physical wellbeing
- SOP and action plan created for COVID-19
- SOP contingency plans for crowd control, hostage taking, fire outbreaks and mass protests were created
- A prison staff guide on ‘Managing Violent Extremist Prisoners’ was printed and shared with SLP
- Nelson Mandela Rules were translated to local languages and distributed to the prisons
- Construction materials and equipment to support vocational training development and modernized agriculture practices were delivered to selected prisons
- Equipment purchased for the Government Analyst’s Department to facilitate efficient investigations

**TYPE OF WORK**
- Training and mentoring of prison officers on:
  - Dynamic security
  - Management of high-risk prisoners
  - Prison Management
  - Remote trials and hearings
  - Health and wellbeing of prison officers and inmates
- Training of the affiliated staff of the Department of Prisons on health and agriculture, to further enhance skill and knowledge transfer to inmates
- Support the rehabilitation of inmates through increased opportunities to engage in vocational trainings
- Support to the development of infrastructure within selected prisons:
  - Construction of the training cell in Angunukolapelessa Prison
  - Infrastructure support to modernize agriculture plots of Mahara and Pallansena Prisons, including greenhouses and mushroom cultivation units
  - Refurbishment of the kitchen floor and water tank of Matara Prison
  - Reconstruction of the border fence of Pallansena Prison
- Developing security infrastructure to support overall security within prison settings
- Support capacity building and skill development to strengthen efficient investigation and forensic evidence generation
Kenya

In Partnership with Kenya Prison Service (KPS)

Prisons and Agencies Supported
- Kaimeti Maximum Prison
- Langata Women Prison
- Shimo La Tava Maximum Security Prison
- Shimo La Tava Women Prison

Areas of Work
- Targeted Infrastructure interventions
- Capacity Building
- Psychosocial Support for Prison Officers
- Rehabilitation program for VEOs
- Infrastructure Improvement
- Security Mentorship

Types of Work
- Dynamic Security Training
- Security Information Reporting Training
- Security Information Reporting Sensitive Information Workshop
- Needs Assessment Training
- Religious Counter-narratives Training
- Trauma Resilience Workshop
- Alternative Narratives and Motivational Dialogue Workshop

Our Results
- 792 persons have been trained, of which 354 were women
- 40 training/mentoring sessions have been conducted
- Dynamic Security Training. The trained prison officers have become more knowledgeable and observant of international human rights frameworks on detention, including the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules
- Security Information Reporting. The level and quality of security information reporting (SIR) at the four supported institutions has significantly improved
- Needs Assessment Training. The training has led to a greater understanding of inmates’ criminogenic needs by Prison Officers, reinforcing rehabilitation efforts taking place within prisons
- Religious Counter-narratives Training. The training has increased awareness of the religious narratives used to spread radicalization and increased the capacity of officers in disengagement
- Trauma Resilience. Officers learned how to deal with and approach violent extremist prisoners, and how to take better care of their mental health
- CCTV. The installation of CCTV cameras has boosted surveillance within the target prisons. Prison officers are able to collect and store critical data which is used to thwart attacks and escape plans by prisoners.

Impact Story

Religious Counter-narrative Training. As one KPS Prison Officer noted: “Before this training, we were very afraid of the violent extremist prisoners, especially when they were speaking in Arabic and we couldn’t understand what they meant. We were even suspicious of our fellow Muslim prison officers. Now we understand that the problem is not the religion of Islam but that violent extremist groups are misusing religious narratives to mislead and recruit people. This has made us more confident in our efforts to disengage violent extremist offenders.”

Trauma Resilience Workshop & Alternative Narratives and Motivational Dialogue Workshop. “I am more informed, confident and well equipped with new tools to direct the inmates. I feel less judgmental of the prisoners and more tolerant.” - KPS Prison Officer

Somalia

In Partnership with Somali Corrections Sector

Prisons and Agencies Supported
- Garowe Prison - Puntland
- Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex - South Central Somalia
- MPCC & MCP
- Banadir Region
- Baledweyn - Hirshabelle
- Baidoa - Southwest State
- Kismayo - Jubaland
- Hargeisa Prison - Somaliland
- Gabiley Female Prison - Somaliland
- Burao Prison - Somaliland
- Berbera Prison - Somaliland and Mandera Prison - Somaliland

Areas of Work
- Meeting the basic needs of vulnerable prisoners
- Prevention of Violent Extremism in prison
- Rehabilitation of target facilities
- Capacity building for custodial corps on effective prison administration techniques that comply with international standards
- Promoting gender equality by ensuring the participation of women in various prison-related activities

Type of Work

01. Construction and Refurbishment
- Berbera Prison rehabilitation
- Additional cell blocks in Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex
- Bosaso Prison security refurbishment
- Landscaping and operationalization of two additional cell blocks in Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex

02. Training of Custodial Corps
- Senior Management Programme (SMP)
- Female Prison Officers Training (FPO)
- VEP training
- Inspection jointly with Attorney General’s Office and Somali Custodial Corps in prison facilities in Somalia, in collaboration with UNSOM
- Development of the Federal Standard Operating Procedures
- Trainer of Trainers for Basic Training of Prison Officer
- Dynamic Security Training
- Development of the New Somalia Prison Law

03. Vocational Training and Educational Sessions for Prisoners
- Tailoring
- Henna and Make-up Skills
- Culinary Art (Baking)
- Welding
- Electrical Works
- Plumbing

Our Results
- Prison infrastructure to ensure safe and human rights-compliant detention facilities
- Implementation of activities to support prisoners’ rehabilitation and reintegration
- Capacity building for Prison Officers
- Prison laws and procedures revised and enforced
- Ongoing work on the prison infrastructure to ensure safe and human rights compliant detention facilities
- Recognition of prisoner educational courses
Established in 2015 by the Global Maritime Crime Programme, the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC) serves as a regional platform for MLE and judicial networking among littoral states of the Indian Ocean, bringing together national law enforcement and prosecutors to promote cooperation between states throughout the Indian Ocean region. The IOFMC includes sub-pillars for the implementation of the maritime aspects of sanctions on Somalia (UNSCR 2607/2021) on the charcoal trade and the trafficking of other licit and illicit goods that finance terrorist activities in Somalia. The expiration of the UNSCR on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia has left some residual illicit maritime activities. The IOFMC will be a strong contributor to the new Contact Group on illicit Maritime Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (CGIMA-WIO), assisting states in countering illicit and terrorist activities in Somalia.

The Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime provides the region with a focus for cooperating and learning from shared experiences amongst Coastguards, Prosecutors, Judges and State authorities in tackling Transnational Organized Crime on our Seas that threatens the effective development of the Blue Economy.

JOHN STEED, SENIOR MARITIME CRIME ADVISOR, UNODC

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, and exchanges among analytic experts from regional and international partner organizations.

Impact Story

JOYCE MARANGU AWINO, HSC
DIRECTOR ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AST, KENYA COAST GUARD

We have used the Indian Ocean Maritime Crime Forum as a means of cooperation to identify different issues from Sanctions Enforcement in Somalia to weapons and drug smuggling into our waters. The forum allows us to quickly cooperate with regional states, the UN and naval forces deployed in our region. Scenarios that are regularly changing and require updates. Through the IOFMC, we have also received capacity building support from Border Management Committees with knowledge and equipment including drones. The KCGS also receives training from GMCP under the IOFMC to the Coast Guard and other law enforcement elements. On a more strategic level, Kenya is the Chair of the new Contact Group on illicit Maritime Activities in the Western Indian Ocean and GMCP provides us with hands-on support as Chair and we value the partnership we have with maritime crime together.

Sanctions Support / Transnational organised Crime at Sea

UNSCR 751 (UNSCR 2607/2021)

Based on a series of UN Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 2662/2022, GMCP works through the IOFMC with the Federal Government of Somalia and other stakeholders to disrupt the trade in charcoal, and the trafficking of other licit and illicit goods that may finance terrorist activities in Somalia. In response to its mandates from the Council, GMCP developed a practical tool containing techniques for Member States to effectively detect and investigate sanctioned and restricted goods in the Gulf of Aden. Under the IOFMC, GMCP is advancing its capabilities and capacity to share good practices with Member States.

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GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

SIMULATED TRIALS

PURPOSE
To assess national legal frameworks and 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.

EARLY ENGAGEMENT OF PROSECUTORS
Emphasize the benefits of early engagement through pre-boarding legal advice and the range of strategic options and operational decision-making 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 particular region. In 2022, GMCP facilitated two advocacy trainings for prosecutors in Sri Lanka.

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

CASE HANDLING BY DEFENCE
Ensure the inclusion of defense lawyers where feasible with the objective of avoiding the making of unmeritorious applications, written submissions, and oral presentations, and of demonstrating that the best interest of the client is being served.

ADVOCACY/EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES
Provide 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.

WORK WE DO

GMCP has developed an educational video with step-by-step guidance on court proceedings for maritime criminal justice practitioners, covering: 1) charges; 2) preliminary challenges; 3) hearings; 4) final written addresses; and 5) judgement and recommendations.

WITNESSES
Help witnesses to give evidence in a coherent and clear manner and, at the same time, learn to handle 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. In 2022, GMCP conducted a VBSS training focusing on evidence handling for MLE agencies in Sri Lanka.

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 (organized crime), the incriminating evidence may be thrown overboard. Investigators and prosecutors will therefore often have to 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 will explore how judges and magistrates manage a case once it enters the judicial phase, including proper chain of custody.

GMCP is continuing the partnership with the U.S. Navy under their Express series of annual multi-naval exercises in different regions. These include OBANGAME – CUTLASS – PHOENIX – TRADEWINDS - SEACAT, where the legal component is added to the exercise. The latter further includes a partnership with INTERPOL.

WORK WE DO

In 2022, GMCP facilitated simulated trials on drug trafficking at sea in Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Sri Lanka with the objective of expanding such exercises to other countries in the region.

GMCP facilitated seven simulated trials both in West and Central Africa in 2022. In West Africa, participant countries included Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. Simulated trials in these countries related to oil bunkering, maritime piracy, maritime terrorism and smuggling of migrants by sea. A total of 42 prosecutors and 63 MLE personnel participated. In Central Africa, Cameroon, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe have tested their national legal instruments through scenarios on marine pollution and maritime piracy. A total of 48 prosecutors and 177 MLE personnel were involved.

The activities provided an opportunity for relevant domestic laws and procedures to be tested. They also revealed areas where legal reforms were required. A key element was the use of international and national experts and consultants in the preparation and conducting of the simulated trials to ensure the transfer of knowledge and skills and local ownership.
UNODC GMCP supports Member States in strengthening their maritime law enforcement and legal capabilities and capacities 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 2022 LEGM included constructive presence, maritime autonomous vehicles and law enforcement, and maritime pollution crimes.

### Legal Expert Group Meeting (LEGM)

UNODC GMCP held the 2023 LEGM in Oxford, in cooperation with the University of Oxford from 12 to 14 January 2023.

### Topics for 2023

In 2023, the LEGM will analyze legal issues related to:

- **CRIMINAL JURISDICTIONS ON MARITIME POLLUTION**
- **COASTAL STATE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION**
- **FLAG STATE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION**
- **MARITIME TRANSPORT AND TERRORISM**
- **CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AT SEA ON WEAPONS TRAFFICKING**

### Link of LEGM to Issue Papers and Manual

LEGM experts, representing both academia and practitioners, produced Maritime Crime: A Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners, and provide regular updates to its contents. The present Manual provides clear technical support, serving both as a training tool for the capacity-building work carried out by GMCP and as a guide for criminal justice practitioners working on maritime cases.

The third edition of the Manual contains two new chapters: a detailed review of the legal issues related to vessels without nationality, and an overview of the use of ship riders and law enforcement detachments as part of international cooperation. As in the previous editions, the aim of the Manual and its new chapters is to provide a useful and reader-friendly guide for our partners, counterparts and stakeholders involved in combating maritime crime.

The Forum ended with a greater commitment to pursue more equality for women in MLE in both policy and practice.

### How LEGM Fits to Broader Work of GMCP

The LEGM allows UNODC GMCP to have technical insight on emerging maritime crimes, creating the legal background for analyzing UNODC’s mandate to support Member States in tackling such crimes, and exploring the possibility for UNODC GMCP’s new programming, in close cooperation with academia. The LEGM also revises the Manual, preparing new editions and adding new chapters, to be selected among the papers issued by the LEGM experts. The Manual is currently on its 3rd edition.

### LEGM and GMCP Training

The LEGM provides UNODC GMCP with advanced legal analysis on emerging maritime crimes to be integrated within the GMCP training curricula, as well as providing legal inputs to be used in supporting legal reforms for Member States.
PIERSIDE VESSEL SEARCH TECHNIQUES

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 in cargo and containers. Therefore, GMCP’s Pier-side Vessel Search Techniques (PVST) training courses, also known as Bulk Carrier Search Courses, seek to improve the capacity of the border management personnel including Customs, Port authorities, Fisheries, Navy and Coast Guard officials. The courses focus on fundamentals and techniques in searching a vessel while it is alongside in harbor or local anchorages. This will in turn facilitate trade in seaports in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods and humans.

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

GMCP is also delivering PVST Instructor Courses, which provide instructional techniques to conduct a PVST course and an opportunity to deliver a real-time PVST course alongside and under the supervision of UNODC instructors.

WORK WE DO

01. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- PVST trainings to MLE personnel including Navy, Coast Guard, Customs, Police, Revenue and Fisheries officials
- PVST Instructor trainings to MLE personnel, including Customs officers, to sustain trainings

02. COLLABORATION WITH BORDER AGENCIES

- Sharing the knowledge and experience of PVST instructors from different regions and officers of border agencies through PVST courses and PVST instructor exchange programmes. This helps to share best 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 vessel
- Raising awareness on specialized vessel search techniques, focusing on awareness of key indicators of hidden suspicious compartments onboard vessels

04. CAPACITY BUILDING

- Assistance to 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

IMPACT STORY

Ms. Dilani Sirimanna, Assistant Superintendent of Customs

I was honored and privileged to be a part of the Pier Side Vessel Search Techniques (PVST) training session along with the PVST instructor course conducted by UNODC experts in Seychelles in October 2021. The invaluable knowledge and experience gained throughout this training will sustain me greatly as an instructor. It is of particular importance to me, since Sri Lanka, with its geographical setting as a coastal country, is subject to various smuggling attempts, taking advantage of the numerous vessels transporting via our ports. It gives me great pleasure to say that the PVST instructor course gave me this opportunity to enhance and calibrate my knowledge and skills as an instructor and I was able to successfully conduct training sessions on PVST sharing my knowledge and experiences with Seychelles Customs and Maldives Customs.

My special gratitude goes towards the UNODC in their quest to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women by providing opportunities to represent, perform and strengthen their knowledge and experiences, making a crucial contribution towards a sustainable future. I am delighted to be a part of the PVST team, and I hope to work towards achieving the goals and objectives of UNODC, fighting the noble battle against drugs and organized crimes, making this world a safer place.

COUNTRIES TRAINED
- Pakistan
- Kenya
- Mozambique
- Tanzania
- Sri Lanka
- Maldives
- Bangladesh

ORGANIZATIONS TRAINED
- Sri Lanka Customs
- Maldives Customs
- Maldives Coast Guard
- Bangladesh Coast Guard
- Bangladesh Fisheries
- Pakistan Anti-Narcotics Force
- Pakistan Coast Guard
- Pakistan Modal Customs Collectorate

KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY
KENYA COAST GUARD
MOZAMBIQUE CUSTOMS
MOZAMBIQUE NAVY
TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

48 OFFICERS TRAINED IN INDIAN OCEAN WEST
130 OFFICERS TRAINED IN INDIAN OCEAN EAST
6 INSTRUCTORS TRAINED IN INDIAN OCEAN WEST
12 INSTRUCTORS TRAINED IN INDIAN OCEAN EAST
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

RIVERINE TRAINING

Rivers represent important routes for trade in countries with rich fluvial activity, but they can also be exploited by criminal networks to conduct illicit activity. Once contraband and other illicit goods have entered a country, law enforcement agencies must be well skilled and knowledgeable of the commonalities and differences between maritime interdictions and riverine operations, particularly in terms of border security (i.e., international riverine borders). In Latin America, because of their length and number, rivers are often referred to as 'trafficking highways'.

To overcome these challenges, UNODC GMCP has been delivering training programmes to law enforcement agencies to enhance the capabilities of members of river-focused law enforcement bodies in detecting and tackling illicit activity in rivers. This includes Riverine Movement Techniques, Riverine Board and Search, Confined Space Drills, Tactical Driving, Safety Briefs, Pre/Post Operational checks, and survival in riverine environments. The latter is specific training delivered to operators in Latin America, where rainforests make the operational theater particularly challenging.

WORK WE DO

- Delivered multiple Basic Seamanship and MLE courses to agencies in Bangladesh, including the River Police and Coast Guard
- Delivered substantive equipment to facilitate riverine operations in Bangladesh, including patrol boats to the Department of Narcotics Control, River Police and Coast Guard
- Supported the delivery of regional riverine training and transnational organized crime in partnership with the Centro Internacional de Excelencia Fluvial Avanzada (CIEAF) in Turbo, Colombia. The training was delivered to Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama
- Supported the development of legal training for riverine legal finish working with prosecutors from riverine regions
- Supported the delivery of cross-Atlantic training in partnership with the Centro de Integração e Aperfeiçoamento em Policia Ambiental (CIAPA) for Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania to counter the illicit flows from Latin America to Southern and Eastern Africa
- Provided training material and equipment for essential CIEAF training and operations

COLLABORATION WITH BORDER AGENCIES

- Conducted assessment to determine the needs at the Teknaf region in Bangladesh, and special attention is being given to the Naf River, a riverine border used as means for illicit activity between Bangladesh and Myanmar
- Partnership with the Colombian Navy and the CIEAF, as well as the Federal Police of Brazil and the CIAPA

PROVIDING AWARENESS

- The GMCP Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) team will work on 'Riverine Domain Awareness’, starting in 2023
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

GENDER ROLES IN TACKLING MARITIME CRIME

Achieving gender equality has become a central tenant of all the initiatives pursued by the UNODC GMCP. While women in MLE forces remain underrepresented, it is also the case that women are significantly impacted by maritime crime. Consequently, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5, UNODC has developed the Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2022-2026) to ensure the mainstreaming of considerations of gender equality across its programming. The aim of this strategy is to recognize that intersectional gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are integral parts of all aspects of UNODC institutional processes, programmatic work, and project activities that make the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism. The Strategy encourages a twin-track approach that incorporates gender mainstreaming and recognizes the theory of change. Some of the activities encouraged by the Strategy include reporting regularly on the approach of UNODC to gender mainstreaming and building and communicating gender-focused knowledge.

GMCP has consistently upheld the priority areas of gender equality through the implementation and monitoring of gender-focused elements in its global effort in combating maritime crime. This also includes women’s empowerment within GMCP. For example, GMCP sponsored training activities for female prison officers in Gabiley. This aimed to break these bottlenecks as participants discussed and presented several policy opportunities and solutions to the above challenges. TheForum ended with a greater commitment to pursue more equality for women in MLE in both policy and practice.

WORK WE DO

1. MORE FEMALE PARTICIPATION

- GMCP encourages MLE agencies and government institutions in certain jurisdictions to nominate female officials in UNODC-sponsored training, including those traditionally undertaken by male officers, such as maritime navigational courses or maritime interdictions. This includes countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

2. WOMEN-FOCUSED EVENTS

- GMCP has been raising awareness on the unequal representation of women in MLE through the delivery of study findings and recognition of pioneer women to inspire women to reach leadership positions. Some examples include the delivery of the 6th and 7th Women in MLE Forums (W-MLE Forums), as well as the Regional Meeting for Qualified Women Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Officers to Encourage Regional Cooperation for South Asia and Southeast Asia.

3. MORE RESEARCH ON GENDER

- GMCP has convened studies on standard operating procedures surrounding the role of women onboard vessels and the opportunities available to women interested in pursuing MDA roles. GMCP has convened the studies in Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand.

STORIES

1. (PO) On 18 November 2022, GMCP Pacific Ocean Team convened the 7th Women in MLE Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Forum gathered independent experts and professional practitioners such as MLE officers and prosecutors from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam to discuss issues related to women operating onboard vessels. Unlike previous iterations, this year’s Forum ensured that both men and women officers were represented in the conversation to raise the level of awareness on existing disparities faced by women in MLE agencies. The Forum also showcased an expert panel of women practitioners who shared insights from the maritime world in the India, United States, and the Philippines. This eye-opening conversation allowed women to appreciate the common challenges and opportunities presented to women across the world. These challenges included biased treatment, insufficient policies, poor implementation and practices, and the non-inclusion of women in training opportunities. The next session aimed to break these bottlenecks as participants discussed and presented several policy opportunities and solutions to the above challenges. The Forum ended with a greater commitment to pursue more equality for women in MLE in both policy and practice.

2. (GARS) Within Somali prisons, GMCP training programmes were tailor to promote gender mainstreaming. Female prison officers’ training and vocational training activities for female prisoners in Gabiley were undertaken to maximize female participation in projects and to enhance their role to benefit the wider Somali community.

3. (AC) In West and Central Africa, GMCP completed an assessment of the gendered dimensions of maritime crime, as well as responses and capacities, to identify and analyze threats to maritime security on different types of crimes at sea. The common trend between assessed countries showed that women were heavily involved in MLE, not only in supporting administrative positions, but also in intelligence or monitoring roles on land, playing pivotal roles to ensure maritime security. Similarly, GMCP supported the holding of seven simulated trials in the region, at which women prosecutors were represented during the trials of maritime crime. Out of 90 prosecutors, 41 female prosecutors played leading roles at courts during the trials in West and Central Africa countries.

4. (IOE) In South Asia GMCP, in partnership with UNODC’s Container Control Programme (CCP), held a Regional Meeting for Qualified Women Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Officers to Encourage Regional Cooperation. The meeting was focused on support to MLE efforts in tackling fisheries crime by accelerating the management potential of women law enforcement officers through gender-conscious leadership and women’s rights engagement. The event was held in Bangkok and attended by 26 participants from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand, generously supported by the Blue Enforcement Project funded by the Government of Norway.
The United Nations Volunteers programme in Madagascar is delighted to have welcomed its very first volunteer with the UNODC agency that recently opened its office in the country. We know that this will be the beginning of a great collaboration to reach together the SDG16. We know how strong the commitments of the Volunteers are to have a better world. We are convinced that Volunteers can contribute their knowledge, time and skills to make it happen. This is why we continue to mobilize them for the GMCP (Global Maritime Crime Program) in their mission to fight against maritime crime that our country is facing. In Madagascar, the Volunteers are in great demand thanks to their rapid deployment and their efficiency in their assignments. Moreover, we can say that the agencies often recruit them to face humanitarian emergencies in the country. Volunteers are a great help to the United Nations in Madagascar. Finally, I would like to share the spirit of this year’s International Volunteer Day that together, let’s act now.

GET INSPIRED

**SOSSO ASSOTI - NATIONAL UNV BASED IN TOGO, ATLANTIC OCEAN TEAM**

Sossi Sossi has worked for the Togolese Maritime Administration and the Togolese Shipper’s Council, where he gained eight years of experience on maritime public and commercial aspects. In January 2020, he joined the Global Maritime Crime Programme of UNODC in Abuja, where he gave substantial support in the fight against maritime crimes with Member States in the Gulf of Guinea. Currently, he is a national UNV, in a programme management role based in Togo, facilitating the implementation of the Atlantic Ocean Team’s activities in West African Francophone countries.

“The GMCP has helped me to build self-confidence and look me to another professional level. Today, I see challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.”

**BECKY UDUCHEKWI ADIELE - INTERNATIONAL UNV BASED IN KENYA, GULF OF ADEN AND RED SEA TEAM**

Becky has been working with GMCP GARS since May 2021. She supports the Somalia and Piracy Programme and Transnational Organized Crime at Sea team, where she coordinates with relevant stakeholders to implement capacity building training to officials from Kenya, Somalia and the Gulf Countries.

“Volunteering for UNODC GMCP has contributed to my personal and career growth in ways I could have never imagined. I also get to witness the impact of the hard work we put in.”

**NAOMI LEVY - INTERNATIONAL UNV BASED IN KENYA, INDIAN OCEAN WEST TEAM**

After working for the French Ministry of Defence, Naomy joined UNODC as a UNV in July 2022. Currently, she is stationed in Nairobi and working as a Project Support Officer in GMCP for the Indian Ocean West Region. As a member of the Legal Team, her tasks involve assisting the implementation of the Programme’s capacity building activities, such as the organization of Simulated Trial, Judicial Colloquium and Prosecutors’ Network, including logistical and coordination assistance. She is also assisting projects under the PVE Programme (Preventing Violent Extremism).

“Working at GMCP gave me the opportunities to learn about end-to-end project implementation but also about the needs of Member States in their fight against maritime crimes. GMCP’s cross-cutting nature has also enabled me to assist other projects such as terrorism prevention within Kenya’s prisons. Finally, it has been a privilege to learn further from a multicultural and diverse professional environment.”

**KOTTEGODA CANKANAMGE PRAMUDI LANKANADEE, NATIONAL UNV BASED IN SRI LANKA, INDIAN OCEAN EAST TEAM**

Pramudi Lankanadee has been supporting the GMCP activities with the Indian Ocean East team since February 2022. She has contributed to the compilation of the ‘2022 Compendium of Drug Seizures at Sea’, a report analyzing the trends in drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean region, and assisted in project implementation under the GMCP’s prison portfolio in Sri Lanka.

“GMCP has provided me with an ideal platform to pursue my passion to continuously develop myself and an invaluable opportunity to serve my purpose of empowering the community, which I am deeply grateful for.”

**SOFIA BIASIN, INTERNATIONAL UNV BASED IN MADAGASCAR, INDIAN OCEAN WEST TEAM**

Sofia holds a Master of Law (Politics and International Relations) from Peking University, China. She has worked as International Aid Officer at the European Commission in Brussels and as Programme Officer for the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Sudan. She has previously worked for UNODC in Myanmar within the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme focusing on Illegal crop substitution.

Sofia is currently an International UNV (Project Support) within the GMCP-based in Antananarivo, where she follows Port Security activities across Angola, Comoros, Madagascar, and Namibia.

**ASYURA SALLEH, INTERNATIONAL UNV BASED IN THAILAND, PACIFIC OCEAN TEAM**

As a UNV, Dr. Asyura has had the opportunity to pursue her passion in maritime security in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Prior to this position, Asyura served as a consultant for the Programme to produce analyses on maritime drug trafficking and design and develop programming activities related to maritime crime. Prior to her work with UNODC, she held positions as Research, Regional Lead in both the NGO and government sectors and received a doctorate at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. In her current position, she now oversees regional programming activities such as the Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogue and the Forum on Maritime Trafficking Routes – Southeast Asia.

“The exposure received at GMCP has been fun and holistic. From learning how to effectively engage and coordinate capacity building activities with the team, to discovering knowledge and coordination opportunities amongst maritime security stakeholders in the region. I look forward to further advancing the global capacity in countering maritime crime with the programme.”

**FRANCESCO CHIAVON, INTERNATIONAL UNV BASED IN SOMALIA, GULF OF ADEN AND RED SEA TEAM**

Francesco graduated in International Humanitarian Law and has always been passionate about the chance to use international law to provide relief to the most vulnerable. He started his working career as a lawyer in Italy and, after several experiences with UN agencies and NGOs, I have joined UNODC GMCP Somalia in 2021.

“I would have never thought my career would bring me to work for the correction sector in Somalia, an amazing opportunity to work in a country shattered by decades of conflict and fragile institutions. Having the chance to work together to ensure better jail conditions in Mogadishu and in Somalia, it is really inspiring to work that allows me to use my legal background to support the most vulnerable people incarcerated. GMCP has offered me a unique experience working in a fascinating country supporting the rehabilitation of prisoners and strengthening the rule of law in Somalia.”

WE ARE INSPIRATION IN ACTION!
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TO COUNTER MARITIME CRIME

GMCP supported innovative use of technology to overcome MLE challenges and pioneered the introduction of new technology to counter maritime crime. GMCP initiatives have provided advanced technology solutions to enhance communication capability, automate processes, tamper-proof vessel registration, strengthen vessel detection capability and advance drone technology.

WORK WE DO

ENHANCING MARITIME COMMUNICATION

- GMCP has installed radio repeater systems and procured radio communication systems in archipelagic states such as Bangladesh, Maldives, Seychelles, and Tanzania to expand the coverage of the police radio network.
- In efforts to strengthen existing radio communications systems, GMCP has installed new antenna masts, high performance antennas and radio communication equipment to improve maritime communication capability in regions of Somalia.

AUTOMATING PROCESSES

- GMCP has provided innovative solutions to automate manual systems in court administration. In Seychelles, GMCP facilitated the development of a computerised court administration system to streamline court processes. This also included automatic transcription capability for recording of court proceedings. In Kenya, GMCP facilitated the digitalisation of court records to better store and access them.
- GMCP installed face recognition technology at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka (Bangladesh), Brunei International Airport in Bandar Seri Bagawan (Brunei Darussalam), and Colombo International Airport (Sri Lanka) to automate passenger screening by law enforcement at the arrival and departure terminals.

TAMPER-PROOF VESSEL REGISTRATION

- GMCP, in partnership with the Sabah Fisheries Department in Malaysia, tested the use of RFID Tags and RFID Readers for verification of vessel registration details from a distance of 50m and without requiring physical contact with the vessels. This RFID technology overcomes the need for close contact to authenticate vessel registration details.
- GMCP, in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard, is piloting the use of QR Codes as a tamper-proof method for boat registration markings on the hull. The QR Codes make it difficult to tamper with the vessel registration markings on the boat.
- GMCP is working closely with maritime regulatory agencies to enhance protection against fraudulent documentation by embedding QR Codes that support other maritime authorities and law enforcement agencies to verify the authenticity of documentation and vessel details.

VESSEL DETECTION CAPABILITY

- 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 detect dark rendezvous and entry alerts within geo-fenced areas to improve MLE, with a particular focus on countering fisheries crime. The Skylight system has been provided on a pro-bono basis to 40 states and 3 regional bodies. The support also includes regular training and guidance on effective use.
- GMCP has established MDA Schools in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam, 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 developed eight MDA training courses including 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). These courses are delivered to MLE personnel across six regions.
- 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 locate vessel activity.
- GMCP, as the Secretariat for the Forum of National Maritime Fusion Centre (FNMFC) of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, convened the 3rd Heads of Centre (HoC) Meeting under FNMMF in Bali, Indonesia in August 2022. The Meeting provided an opportunity to discuss advancements in MDA technology and adaptation for MLE.
- 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 to 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 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 is working with MDA information providers using algorithm-based machine learning analytics to support Member States to detect vessels that are in breach of sanctions imposed under United Nations Security Council Resolutions.
- GMCP facilitated community-level engagement to collect human intelligence on maritime activity by training Village Headmen in 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.

DRONES FOR MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

- GMCP provided aerial drones and training to the Royal Thai Marine Police to support riverbank-patrolling to counter drug trafficking across the Mekong River. In addition, drones have been provided to Mozambique, Seychelles, and Sri Lanka for maritime surveillance to counter narcotics trafficking and other illicit activities at sea routes.
- GMCP supported the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) Navy to identify man-portable drones that will enhance MDA and operational capacity. GMCP is also evaluating the integration of drone imagery into the LAF-Navy operations center to develop an improved picture of illicit activities in Lebanon's territorial waters.
GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

DEFENDING CYBERSPACE: SUBMARINE CABLES & CYBER THREATS AT SEA

At least 95 per cent of all telecommunications data and roughly $10 trillion in economic transactions are transmitted through submarine cables each day. In our ‘wired’ and interconnected world, everything from air traffic control to hotel bookings, medical care and access to cash is reliant on the submarine cable network. Interference with, disruptions to, and destruction of that network could have drastic consequences for economic stability, public health, basic safety and national security. A threat to submarine cables is a threat to our way of life.

Submarine cables are approximately the diameter of a garden hose and lay on the ocean floor. They are at risk of intentional damage by criminals or negligent damage by other users of the seas, such as shipping and fishing communities. Coordinated regulation and surveillance and protection by MLE actors is essential to ensure that the lifeline of data continues to flow.

Under international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), states have the right to lay and repair submarine cables. In practice this is carried out by private sector actors who lay, own and operate roughly 380 of 420 submarine cables globally. While this should motivate strong collaboration between these private sector operators and the governments whose economies and populations submarine cable data serves, few states have structures to facilitate that relationship.

UNCLOS further requires that states have minimal protection measures in the form of criminal offences for intentional or negligent cable damage outside of their territorial waters. States also have an interest in criminalizing the same within their waters, where cable damage is more likely as it arrives at the shore in shallower waters. Globally, however, few states have criminalized such acts, meaning no recourse currently exists for what could be catastrophic interruptions to state life.

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UNODC GMCP supports the development of National and Regional Plans on the protection and resilience of submarine cables. The Plan development is launched through an initial stakeholder meeting, which is followed by the collection and collation of content together with national partners. UNODC GMCP and the ICPC provide expert support and guidance through the process.

In September 2022, UNODC GMCP conducted a series of meetings with multiple stakeholders in Maldives to consolidate challenges and needs in terms of protection and resilience of submarine cables, in consideration of its geography.

In October 2022, UNODC GMCP held the first ever in-person multi-stakeholder workshop with nine government institutions of Bangladesh to identify the challenges of the protection of submarine cables, in the context of the high port activity and new seaport development projects taking place in the country. UNODC is currently developing the first draft of the national plan to be socialized and finalized by the relevant government entities in Bangladesh.

UNODC GMCP works with national counterparts to identify and convene stakeholder meetings to initiate dialogue on their respective positions, priorities and mandates as it relates to the laying, repairing, operating and protection of submarine cables. These key stakeholders all have a stake in ensuring an effective and balanced National Plan is developed.

The Framework and the resulting National Plans are supported by expert guidance by the International Cable Protection Committee on identifying Best Practices in cable protection and resilience.

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UNODC GMCP also supports the substantive content and technical process for legislative amendments needed to criminalize damage to submarine cables, if requested.

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In collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment, UNODC GMCP held the first Stakeholder Meeting in Indonesia on Developing a National Submarine Cables Protection and Resilience Plan. This event, hosted in February 2022, was held in hybrid format, with participation from nine government agencies and telecommunication companies.
The oceans are a key source of food and employment for millions of people around the world. Per 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 to cater to the growing demand. However, with the expansion of the industry, the presence of organized crime in the fisheries industry has also gained momentum. Therefore, the fishing industry has become vulnerable to a wide range of offenses along the value and supply chain, on land and at sea. These organized crimes pose a threat to sustainable fishing, the marine environment and the stability of the oceans. Some of these offenses 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.

GMCP, in collaboration with EU Naval Force (EUNAFOR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), successfully conducted training in Mahé, Seychelles for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MoFMR). GMCP also focused on supporting states in strengthening their inter-agency coordination and cooperation, as well as facilitating regional meetings to tackle crimes in the fisheries sector.

In 2022, UNODC GMCP has conducted several FBVO courses for MLE officials and fisheries authorities in Maldives and Sri Lanka, and is currently engaged in conducting a gap analysis, the development of an FBVO course module and an analysis of existing legal and international frameworks to tackle maritime crime in the region. GMCP has also been supporting Ecuador’s efforts to strengthen inter-agency coordination against maritime crime in the Galapagos by holding sessions to map authorities and their responsibilities to ensure effective coordination and prosecution of crimes committed at sea. Moreover, GMCP organized an interagency workshop in Ecuador at which draft inter-agency coordination guidelines were developed, as well as a further session to strengthen existing guidelines on the chain of custody.

Furthermore, GMCP has provided support in preparations for the first fisheries enforcement patrol in the Somali Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to demonstrate the capabilities available in the country to protect and enforce their existing legal frameworks. UNODC GMCP, in collaboration with EU Naval Force (EUNAFOR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), successfully conducted training in Mahé, Seychelles for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MoFMR), Somali Police Force (SPF) and the Office of the Attorney General. The training contained activities on legal frameworks, jurisdiction, boarding procedures, safety at sea, operations planning and inter-agency cooperation. GMCP, in addition, has conducted training on maritime law for the SPF MLE Officers and the MoFMR Fisheries Inspectors in Mogadishu, Somalia, aimed at enhancing knowledge on maritime legal frameworks, particularly on rules of engagement, the use of force, evidence gathering and handling procedures, special investigation procedures and human rights. UNODC GMCP will continue to support efforts to deter crimes in the fisheries sector with the help of its donors, especially the Government of Norway and its partners.
CRIMES THAT AFFECT COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Our oceans face a complex mixture of environmental, social, and economic pressures. Foremost among these pressures is marine pollution, a key part of a network of activities damaging essential natural habitats and reducing populations of marine species that also includes overfishing, coastal development, and tourism. Marine pollution is a transboundary challenge that is rooted in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, poor solid waste management, lack of financial resources and lack of appropriate infrastructure. Countries with high rates of marine pollution tend to also have weak or inadequate legal and policy frameworks and poor enforcement, including on interregional cross-border trade of illegal hazardous waste. These networks are well coordinated and form part of a complex web of operators within and across countries. Crimes that affect coastal and marine ecosystems threaten the rule of law, governance, and national security, they local communities of their livelihoods and negatively impact social and economic development.

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 spill kits and booms to enhance responses to incidents of pollution at sea and minimize the impact on the marine environment.

Unfortunately, higher temperatures and ocean acidity caused by carbon emissions, when combined with marine pollution, have a more substantial detrimental impact on marine life. Although multiple crimes contribute to this reality, the following are among the most impactful:

- **LAND BASED MARINE POLLUTION**
- **SHIP-SOURCE FUEL POLLUTION**
- **INLEGATE WATER DUMPING**
- **OTHER POLLUTANTS**
- **BOTTOM TRAWLING**
- **FISHERIES CRIME**
- **IUU FISHING**
- **WASTE TRAFFICKING**
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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). GMCP has been helping Member States to address maritime terrorism since it was first established and continues to do so. Working with coastguards, 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 recognizes that maritime terrorism is often linked to other forms of terrorism so many of the capabilities that we provide to MLE officers tackling illicit trafficking are also relevant to tackling maritime terrorism. Components on maritime terrorism are included in the 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 MDA to improve the effectiveness of maritime patrolling.

**Maritime Counter-terrorism**

**Atlantic Ocean**
- Tabletop exercises on maritime terrorism cases in Ghana and Nigeria
- Support to the reform of maritime terrorism legislation in Ivory Coast and training on the implementation of maritime terrorism legislation in Ghana
- Capacity building and mentorship on maritime counterterrorism work in Benin, Senegal, and Togo

**Indian Ocean**
- Maritime training in Sri Lanka, Maldives and Seychelles with captured target vessels to allow MLE agencies to practice boarding and searching of vessels suspected of moving terrorists and their materials
- Improved MDA and patrolling through satellite imagery, UAVs, coastal surveillance sensors and machine learning
- Guidance on the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel at Sea and the regulation of Floating Armories
- Capacity building in safety of navigation and port security against terrorist threats
- Support to border management and the protection of digital infrastructure from terrorist groups
- Training on counting waterborne IED and remote island security for customs, police and coastguard in Maldives
- Provision of facial recognition technology

**Mediterranean Sea**
- Delivery and training on MDA equipment for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) Navy to counter the maritime terrorism threat along its coast
- CBRN detection and decon training in Lebanon for the LAF Navy to counter CBRN terrorism and its trafficking
- MLE training in Cyprus, including the use of Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicles (ROV) to counter water-borne IEDs, in cooperation with the Egyptian Navy and Cyprus Marine Police
- Underwater Vehicle (ROV) to counter water-borne IEDs, in cooperation with the Egyptian Navy and Cyprus Marine Police
- QR code scanners were donated to the Philippine Coast Guard Small Craft Support Unit (CGSCS) to address small boat activity engaged in maritime criminality, including kidnap for ransom and contraband trafficking
- Supported initiatives in Philippines and Malaysia to digitalize small boat registration with QR code tally plates
- Facilitated a Coast Guard Subic Regional Commanders meeting on a quarterly basis
- Provided the Philippines Coast Guard with a long-distance thermal imaging camera to be installed in a critical location in Mindanao to secure the coastline in the ZamBauSulTa area through detection of small and fast moving targets
- Provided briefing on response to emerging trends of maritime crime in the Sulu and Celebes Seas, including on the evolving threat on the use of drones by militants in the Sulu Archipelago
- QR code scanners were donated to the Philippine Coast Guard to support the development of a digitized vessel identification system for small maritime crafts in the Sulu and Celebes Seas
- Facilitated a Virtual Tabletop Exercise on Surveillance Handover of a Vessel of Interest in the Sulu Sea
- Facilitated a Coast Guard Regional Commanders meeting in (SuluX) to brief on recent developments and updates in the maritime tri-border area
- Established a research network collecting open-source information on maritime criminality in the Sulu and Celebes Seas, with researchers based in North Sulawesi, North Kalimantan, Sabah, and Southern Mindanao
- Incorporated the expertise of a maritime terrorism expert from St Andrews University, UK to conduct analysis of maritime criminality in the Sulu and Celebes Seas
- Conducted a pilot initiative to install RFID tags on fishing vessels in the Sabah region (Malaysia) as an innovative technology to read vessel registration details from a distance
- Installed a Terrestrial Passive RF Sensor system on Bongao Island in Tawi-Tawi (Philippines) to detect RF emissions from vessels in the Sulu Sea region and identify dark vessel activity
UN SECURITY COUNCIL: DETERRING SANCTION VIOLATIONS AT SEA

Over its fourteen active sanction regimes, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) can only impose sanctions on ships through the Sanctions Committee on North Korea (Res 757, 1993). 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 embargos, bans on improvised explosive devices (IEDs), non-proliferation and other measures ordered by the UNSC heavily depends on the international community’s capacity to participate in their implementation through detection 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.

DETECTION AND INTERDICTION

The Programme focuses particularly on building detection capacities through the establishment of MDA centers while facilitating the exchange of information at national and regional levels with neighbouring countries and international naval missions. With its specialized VBSS curriculum, GMCP trains and mentors maritime law enforcement operators in interdicting suspected vessels at sea. More information on curricula is available in the annexes of the present brochure.

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.

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: states not only have the exclusive jurisdiction to monitor ships under their flag but have several obligations to do so. Given the exclusivity that characterizes a state’s jurisdiction over ships under its flag, the capacity for each flag registry to exercise due diligence and enforcement over its fleet is critical. UNODC GMCP supports UN Member States in developing a monitoring capacity over their ships to efficiently counter criminals operating both in coastal areas and in the high seas. The Programme’s approach focuses on three key compliance aspects aimed at establishing an international sanction compliance strategy: developing a capacity to monitor fleets, and facilitating the exchange of data between partners in the public and private sectors.

INTERNAL SANCTION COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

Despite the efforts deployed by the international community, sanction violators continue to operate through several evolving evasion practices: disabling or manipulating the Automatic Identification System (AIS), physically altering vessel identification, falsifying cargo and vessel documents, ship-to-ship transfers and flag hopping, amongst others. In response to these emerging and evolving threats, UNODC GMCP supports flag registries in developing and updating an internal strategy to comply with UNSC resolutions.

VESSEL MONITORING

While several flag states have developed efficient structures to monitor their fleet’s compliance to UNSC sanctions, many lack the incentive, resources, or technical guidance to do so. Criminal organizations are aware of these weaknesses and continue to exploit them. 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.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE PLATFORMS

Information exchange is crucial in countering sanction violations as it addresses a disparity of capacity between flag registries. When a ship is de-registered, its owners can request to be registered under a new one. Without information exchange, the new registry has no information about the ship’s past behavior and may accept the request, thereby allowing the ship to continue its illicit operations by ‘flag hopping’. 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.

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 offenses. UNODC GMCP has been particularly active in this regard in Southeast Asia where several assessments were conducted on legislation, regulations and practices supporting the competency of the existing legal framework to effectively enforce compliance with UNSC resolutions relating to maritime sector sanctions on DPRK, including Res 2321 (2016), Res 2371 (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 specialized 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 transcendental nature of sanction offenses, 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.
The Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) was established on 27 July 2022 in Istanbul with the mission to support the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), which facilitates a humanitarian maritime corridor to allow ships to export grain, other foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukraine. The JCC comprises representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Türkiye and the United Nations. Approximately 21 million tons of grain and foodstuffs located in Ukraine’s three key ports in the Black Sea – Odessa, Chornomorsk, and Yuzhny – are being exported to various locations across the world. The Initiative contributes to the prevention of global hunger, the reduction of global food insecurity and the safety of merchant ships delivering grain and foodstuffs. As of 30 December 2022, the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs exported from the three Ukrainian ports was 15,965,575 metric tons. A total of 1,211 voyages (601 inbound and 610 outbound) had been enabled by this date.

IMPACT TO THE WORLD

The Initiative has helped to boost trade, and stabilize and subsequently lower global food prices. As of 24 November, 20% of the cargo had gone to low and lower-middle income countries, 28% to upper middle-income countries, and 52% to high income countries. 44% of the wheat exported is committed to low and lower-middle income countries. Beneficiaries include Egypt (4 percent), India (2 percent), Iran (1 percent), Bangladesh (3 percent), Kenya (1 percent) and Sudan (0.55 percent), Lebanon (0.60 percent), Yemen (1 percent), Somalia (0.24 percent), Djibouti (0.06 percent), and Tunisia (2 percent). This includes UN-chartered vessels delivering humanitarian food assistance to relief operations. World Food Programme (WFP) has so far purchased 325,800 metric tonnes of wheat to support humanitarian relief in the Horn of Africa, Yemen and Afghanistan.

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IMPACT STORY

AMIR ABDULLA, FORMER UN COORDINATOR, JCC

During my time as the UN Coordinator for the BSGI more than ten million tons of food were exported from Ukraine on over 350 ships. Each of those ships was inspected empty on its way to Ukraine and full on the outward voyage. The importance of the role that the UNODC inspectors played in this Initiative cannot be overstated. I was impressed every day by the professionalism and enthusiasm that the UNODC Team showed everyday as they got ready to leave the JCC premises to board the ships under inspection. They were an integral part of the BSGI, and their enthusiasm was infectious. I frequently told them during the morning briefing that they were the backbone of the Initiative, and we really relied on them as they were the interface of the JCC with the ships sailing in the Initiative. I enjoyed meeting the members of the UNODC group and will treasure the friendships that were forged as we all worked to make the BSGI a success.

GMCP CONTRIBUTION

UNODC’s Border Management Branch (BMB) reached out to GMCP, requesting support for vessel inspections with staff inspectors and administration support personnel to the joint Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian UN vessel inspection teams based in Istanbul. The teams are responsible to the JCC for inspecting both vessels that are leaving the Black Sea with grain and foodstuffs and those entering the Black Sea empty to collect grain.

GMCP has so far deployed 15 staff members for both administration and inspection duties on the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The ships heading to and from the Ukrainian ports are inspected by the GMCP staff inspectors, along with the Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian teams. Administration support has been provided to coordinate and plan vessel inspection activities.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The JCC comprises representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Türkiye and the United Nations. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Health Organization (WHO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Border Management Branch (BMB) of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assist JCC with vessel inspections. GMCP, as one of the key programmes under UNODC BMB, is continuously supporting the initiative with staff inspectors and admin support personnel.