



**ROYAL DANISH
DEFENCE COLLEGE**



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT



KAIPTC
...where peace begins

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

The Gulf of Guinea and the Red Sea as a learning curve for African decision-makers in capacity-building

JOINTLY PRESENTED BY

**RDDC (DENMARK), KAIPTC (GHANA) AND SIGLA (STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY)**

Background

Since 2022, the Royal Danish Defence College (RDDC), the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), and the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) at Stellenbosch University have collaborated to present an annual conference on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. For the past 2 years, the themes and topics largely clustered around vulnerabilities and responses, programmes and other initiatives to mitigate insecurity in the waters of the Gulf.

Recent developments in the Red Sea have meant global shipping companies have diverted routes away from the Red Sea, altering shipping flows between the huge global markets of Asia and Europe. Insurance premiums for shipping have surged, raising the costs of goods for consumers in Africa and around the world. Diversions around South Africa have added up to 2 weeks and 6,000 extra nautical miles to a vessel's journey. Attacks on shipping in the Red Sea by the Houthi militia in Yemen have exposed the vulnerability, but also the critical importance of African maritime security.

In keeping with the Africa focus of the annual event, the 2024 iteration is planned for 5th and 6th of September 2024 in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Included are panels to also bring into focus events off East Africa and in the waters off Somalia and the Red Sea. With this, the partners envisage bringing into vogue progress and initiatives in the Gulf of Guinea, the nature and impact of the sudden spate of armed attacks in the Red Sea that highlights the threat of armed non-state actors, state responses, and the opportunities for piracy and hijackings. Events in both regions have spill-overs that also impact Southern African waters.

Aim

The aim of the conference is threefold: First to highlight the Gulf of Guinea as an African maritime landscape persistently exposed to various maritime security threats. Second, to consider and identify first order lessons from the Northwest Indian Ocean where the threat landscape since December 2023 migrated closer to traditional maritime security threats. The latter also hold implications for countries and the oceans further south and this is also addressed. Third, to present key maritime stakeholders from the West, South and East coast with a platform to share perspectives, insights, and foster greater mutual comprehension on strategies to address maritime security challenges and capacity-building.



**ROYAL DANISH
DEFENCE COLLEGE**



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT



KAIPTC
...where peace begins

Consequently, the conference examines the adequacy of the existing maritime security frameworks established under the Yaoundé and Djibouti Code of Conduct: Specifically, it shall seek answers to whether the structures currently provide the necessary scope and flexibility for fostering enhanced cooperation in the realm of maritime security. The conference also aims to address the apparent lack of African ownership in addressing maritime issues in general and during the recent events in the Red Sea which so far has seen little to no response from African countries. To this effect, the conference touches upon on how to build partnerships in maritime security capacity building and conduct maritime diplomacy.

In 2023, the United Nations adopted the BBNJ agreement also known as the High Seas Treaty. A resolution with the aim of protecting maritime resources beyond national boundaries to end illegal fishing and overfishing through science-based management plans in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible. The conference will also dive into the current state of fisheries in the Gulf and Western Indian Ocean to address how inter-agency cooperation can help the detection and reporting of IUU fishing.

In tandem with the contributions, the organizers plan on releasing an official communiqué as well as a special journal issue based on the papers and presentations from the conference. The special issue will cover maritime security matters that resonate with themes covered during the conference.

Scope & programme

The conference is planned for a period of two days and structured along the following lines:

- Day 1: Wednesday 4th September 2024 -Arrivals
- Day 2: Thursday 5th September 2024 - Full day event commencing with an official opening followed by a keynote and two panels on the Gulf of Guinea and events in the NW Indian Ocean since December 2023. Comparing cooperation mechanisms in East- and West Africa related to piracy and IUU: Similarities, differences, and ways ahead given the interplay between maritime security off East and West Africa
- Day 3: Friday 6th September 2024 - A panel on the importance of African leaders engaging in maritime diplomacy, and highlighting rising maritime security matters for Africa related to critical maritime routes, smuggling networks and subsea data cables. Day 3 will also include a panel on African ownership of maritime security and how to build agency and mutual partnerships in maritime security capacity building.
- Day 3 (Evening): Departures
- Day 4: Saturday 7th September 2024 - Departures

Output

1. Provide a platform that allows for academic and practical/industry knowledge sharing to inform practitioners, institutions, policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders such as coastal communities.
2. Raise awareness of participants on current and rising issues related to maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and Indian Ocean Region to reinforce cooperation between state and non-state actors to promote maritime security and resilient coastal



**ROYAL DANISH
DEFENCE COLLEGE**



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT



KAIPTC
...where peace begins

states and communities. Included is raising awareness of the importance of the Cape Sea Route and related security matters.

3. An official Communiqué that reflects discussions and recommendations
4. Open-access special journal issue within 12 months after concluding the conference
5. Identify practical future pathways for cooperation to enhance the level of maritime security along Africa's coast.

Participants

The organisers plan to invite participants from the following key stakeholders:

- Maritime authorities from the Yaoundé and Djibouti architecture with an emphasis on regional actors.
- International Academia along with West- and East African Academia
- A grouping of academics from South Africa working on maritime security
- National maritime authorities – civilian as well as military.
- Associations from the fishing industry.
- Non-government organizations.
- Other relevant actors

Responsibilities

Day 1: Responsible Institutions – KAIPTC & RDDC

Day 2: Responsible institution - SIGLA, Stellenbosch University

Funding

Travel and accommodation from the Gulf of Guinea: RDDC

Participation of East African panel: Arranged by Prof Mandrup

Conference venue arranged by SIGLA with the Protea Hotel (Technopark) for 45 delegates

Enquiries

Organiser: Mikkel Andersen - mian@fak.dk

East Africa organiser: Prof Mandrup - thomasm@sun.ac.za

Co-organiser (SIGLA): Prof F. Vreÿ – fvrey@sun.ac.za

Co-organiser (KAIPTC): Ms Afua Lamptey - Afua.Lamptey@kaiptc.org // Ms E. Tachie-Menson – Elsie.tachie-menson@kaiptc.org