



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION  
CENTRE  
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY  
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT



23 – 29 APRIL 2021

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **PIRACY**

(A) Any illegal acts of Violence or Detention, or any act of Depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed: (i) on the High Seas, against another Ship or Aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft. (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State.

(B) Any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft.

(C) Any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b).

- **ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA**

Any unlawful act of Violence or Detention, or any act of Depredation or Threat other than an act of Piracy, directed against a Ship or against Persons or Property onboard such Ships, within a States jurisdiction over such offences.

- **HIJACK:** Vessels taken by attacker, no longer under the control of the master.

- **FIRED UPON/ATTACK:** Use of weapon by assailants at vessel or boarding with intent to take control of the vessel.

- **BOARDING:** Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without taken control of the vessel.

- **ROBBERY:** Theft realize in territorial waters with threat or violence to crew.

- **THEFT:** Theft realize in territorial waters with no violence.

- **ILLEGAL UNREPORTED UNREGULATED FISHING.**

Illegal fishing conducted by national or foreign vessels in contravention of laws and regulations. Fishing conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a regional fisheries management organization but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures. Fishing in violation of national laws or international obligations. Fishing activities which have not been reported, or have been misreported. Fishing in the area of application of a regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality. Fishing in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures.

- **MARITIME MIGRATION.**

**STOWAWAY:** A person who hides on a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle 2. Someone who hides on a ship or aircraft to travel without having to pay.

- **ILLICIT TRADE.**

**ILLEGAL BUNKERING:** Bunkering is a term used to describe the process of filling a ship with oil (or coal). Illegal oil bunkering is a euphemism for theft.

- **OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS.**

**SUSPICIOUS APPROACH:** All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

**SIGHTING AND IRREGULAR ACTIVITY:** All suspicious information with no proof of intent to board the vessel.

# OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure.
- Maritime Zone D recorded one incident.
- Maritime Zone A recorded one incident
- Increased threat of piracy in maritime zones D and E.

# INCIDENTS RECORDED

Category	Type of Incidents	No of Incident in Zones				
		A	D	E	F	G
<b>TERRORISM</b>	Terrorism					
<b>PIRACY/ ARMED ROBBERY/KIDNAPPING/HIJACKING/FIRING UPON/THEFT/SUSPICIOUS APPROACH/BOARDING (PAKHFTSB)</b>	Hijacking					
	Kidnapping					
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding		1			
	Theft					
<b>ILLCIT TRAFIC</b>	Suspicious Approach	1				
	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
	Smuggling					
<b>I.U.U FISHING</b>	Industrial Fishing					
	Craft Fishing					
<b>POLLUTION</b>						
<b>ILLCIT MIGRATION</b>	Organized Migration					
	Stowaways					
<b>ILLEGAL TRANSFER</b>	Illegal Bunkering					
	Oil Robbery					
<b>CYBER CRIMINALITY</b>						
<b>MARITIME ACCIDENT</b>	Shipwreck					
	Collision					
	Sinking					
	Damage					
<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE</b>	Men Overboard					
	Assistance And Towing					
	Sanitary Evacuation					
	Capsized					
<b>OTHERS</b>						

# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **Boarding – Sao Tome and Principe .**

On 23 April 2021 at 1200 UTC, the Cyprus flag container vessel CONTSHIP NEW (IMO: 9373905) managed by Contship Management, Athens, Greece was boarded by an unknown number of perpetrators in position 01 29N 004 38E about 130NM NW of Sao Tome and Principe (Joint Development Area).

All crew mustered at the citadel. The Italian Navy ship RIZZO which has been operating in the GoG sailed to the general area of the incident to offer assistance. However the perpetrators left the vessel before ITS RIZZO arrived. MT CONTSHIP NEW was escorted to Lome anchorage, Togo for further investigations.

Investigations revealed no crew was kidnapped but the perpetrators destroyed a lot of equipment and items onboard the vessel as shown in pictures below.

# Damages to MT CONTSHIP NEW



**Glass for windows (Fitter Cabin, in front of accommodation)**



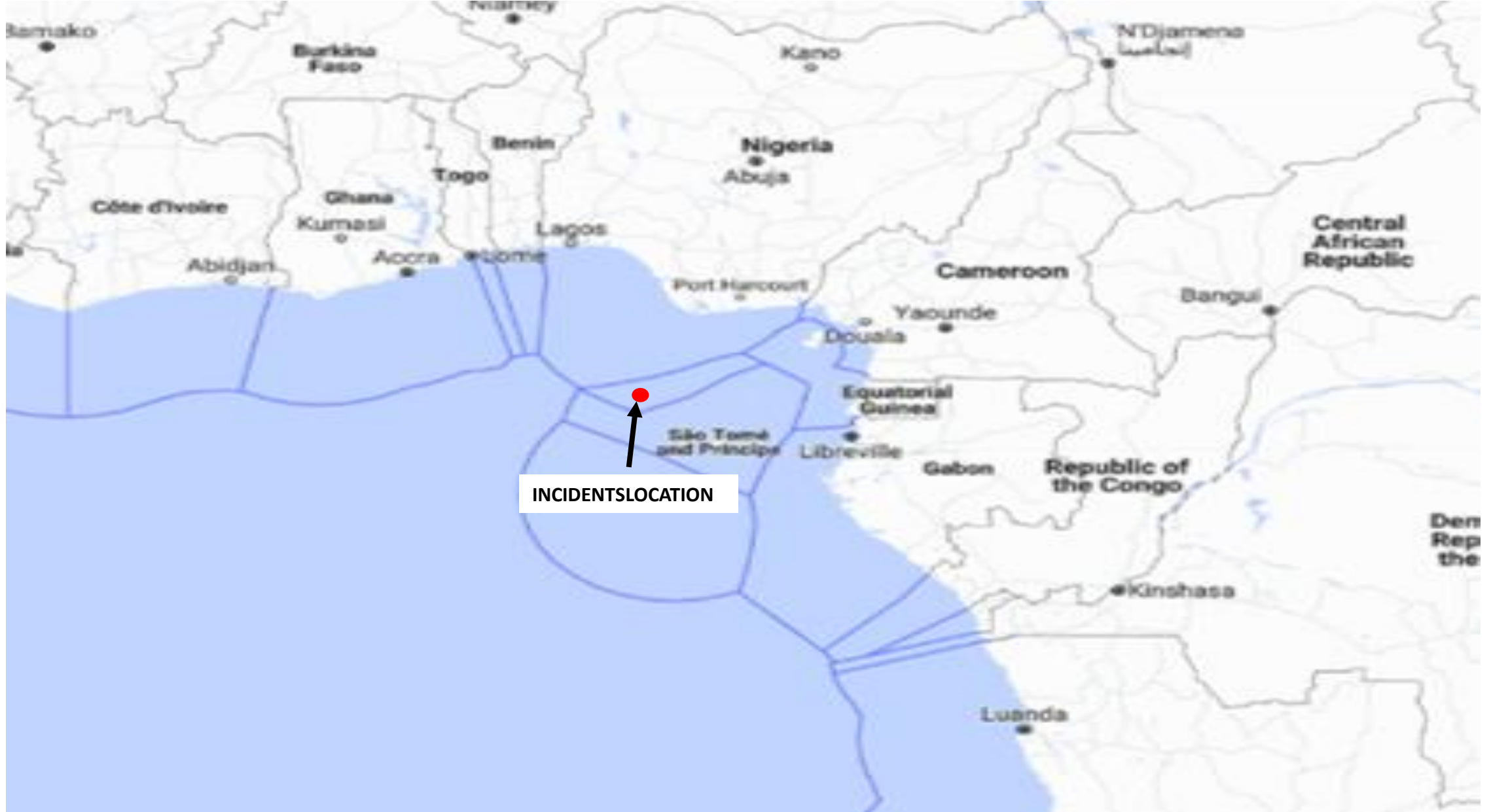
# Damages to MT CONTSHIP NEW



**Glass of windows (Main Entering Door)**



# INCIDENT DISPOSITION





# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **Boarding – Luanda anchorage, Angola.**

The Liberian flag container vessel SONGA CALABRIA (IMO: 9477309) managed by Sunship Schiffahrtskontor KG, Emden-Ostfriesland, Germany was attacked in position 08°41'00"S 013°17'05"E at Luanda anchorage, Angola on 29 April 21 at 0100 UTC.

An unknown number of perpetrators boarded the anchored vessel. The duty crew sighted the perpetrators and raised the alarm. The crew mustered in the citadel but the perpetrators fled without stealing anything.

This is the fourth incident at the Luanda anchorage since the beginning of the year 2021 involving three boarding incidents and one suspicious approach.

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION

## SONGA CALABRIA



# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **INCREASED THREAT OF PIRACY IN MARITIME ZONES D AND E.**

Information received from multiple sources indicates that, there is possible increase in piracy threat in the coming days within maritime Zone D and E. The general area of increased risk covers about 54000 square miles covering parts of Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Sao Tome and Principe and the Common Development area.

The demarcated area below has so far recorded more than ten maritime incidents in 2021 with 6 offshore incidents. The offshore incidents include four suspicious approaches and two successful boarding incidents against MT MAERSK CARDIFF on 13 January 2021 and MT SEA PHANTOM on 7 February 2021. No crew was however kidnapped.

The coordinates of the demarcated increased risk area are the following.

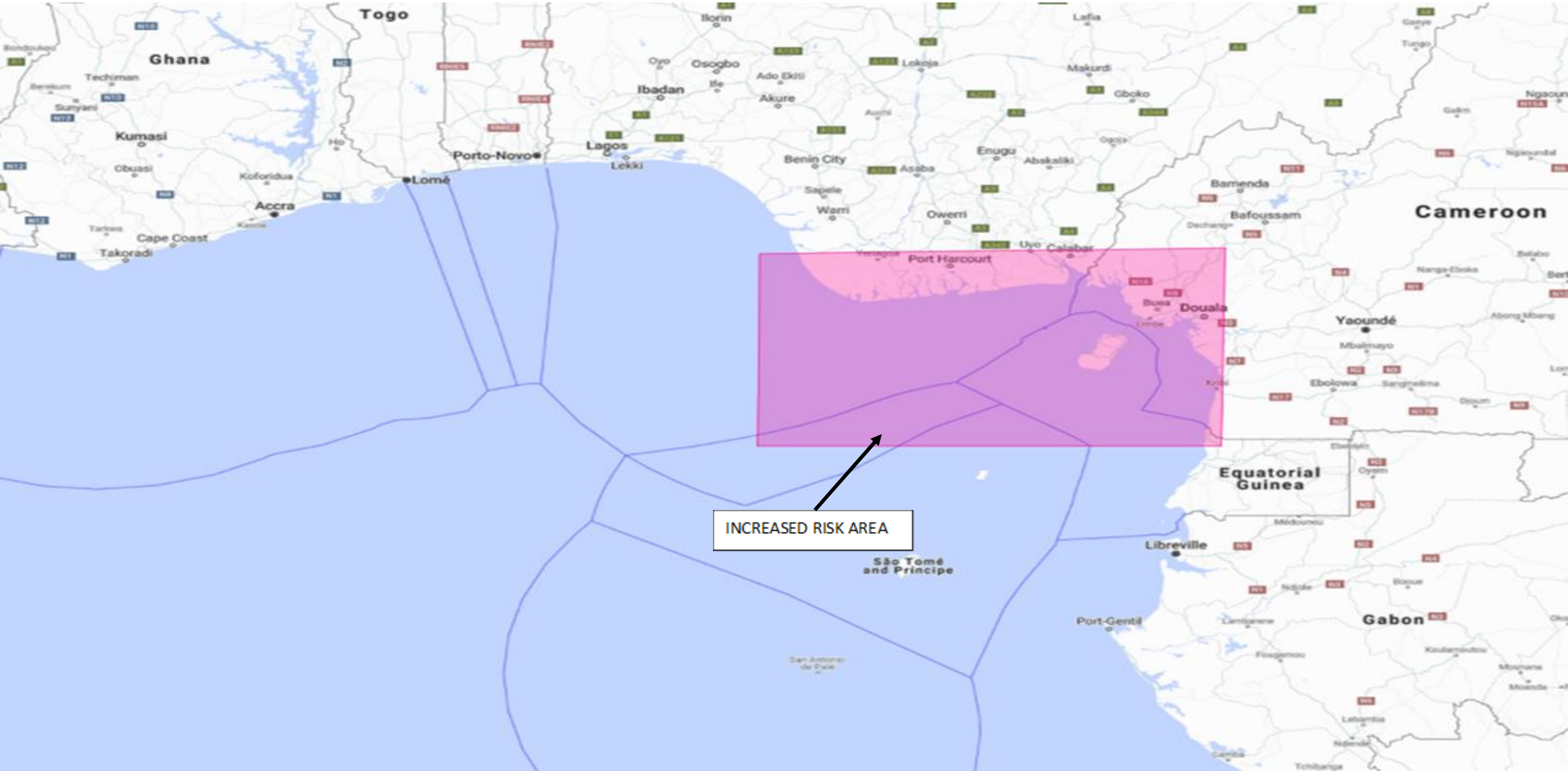
05°00'N – 005°00'E

05°00'N – 010°00'E

02°00'N – 010°00'E

02°00'N – 005°00'E

# GENERAL AREA DEMARCATED



# GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

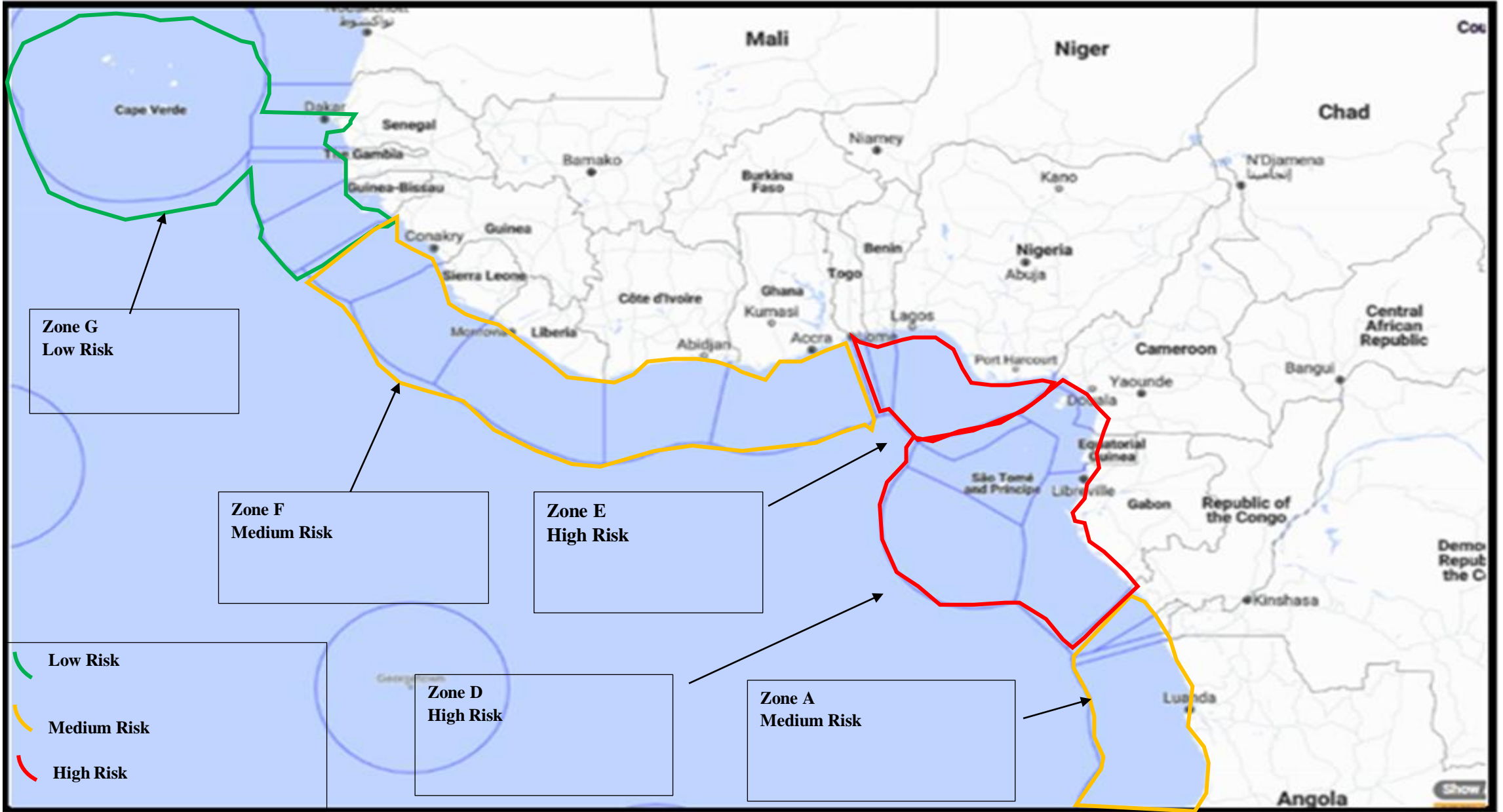
- Attacks against vessels in ports and anchorages account for more than 40% of all maritime incidents in 2021. Port authorities and security agencies are encouraged to increase surveillance and patrols within ports and anchorages.
- The threat of pirate attacks offshore within maritime Zones D and E remains high in the coming days. However, pirates may spring a surprise on other areas where they are less expected. All coastal authorities and security agencies are encouraged to increase patrols offshore and be ready to attend to incidents in good time.
- The presence of the ITS RIZZO in GoG and the sighting and pursuit of the suspected pirate skiff boat may compel pirate action groups to change their modus operadi including becoming more violent as witnessed in the firing upon ITS RIZZO helicopter. Security vessels at sea are encouraged to prepare adequately to respond to pirate threats.
- All vessels transiting the GoG are advised to remain vigilant and report any suspicious skiff or speed boat to the necessary authorities promptly.

# FORCAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

## **FORECAST**

- General Maritime Security Situation in the Maritime Zone F is expected to remain relatively safe. However the possibility of petty theft and armed robberies within ports and anchorages in maritime Zone F remains likely.
- Maritime Zone E and D are expected to be relatively safe. However pirate attacks is more likely.
- Maritime Zone A and G are expected to remain incident free.

# MARITIME RISK AREA



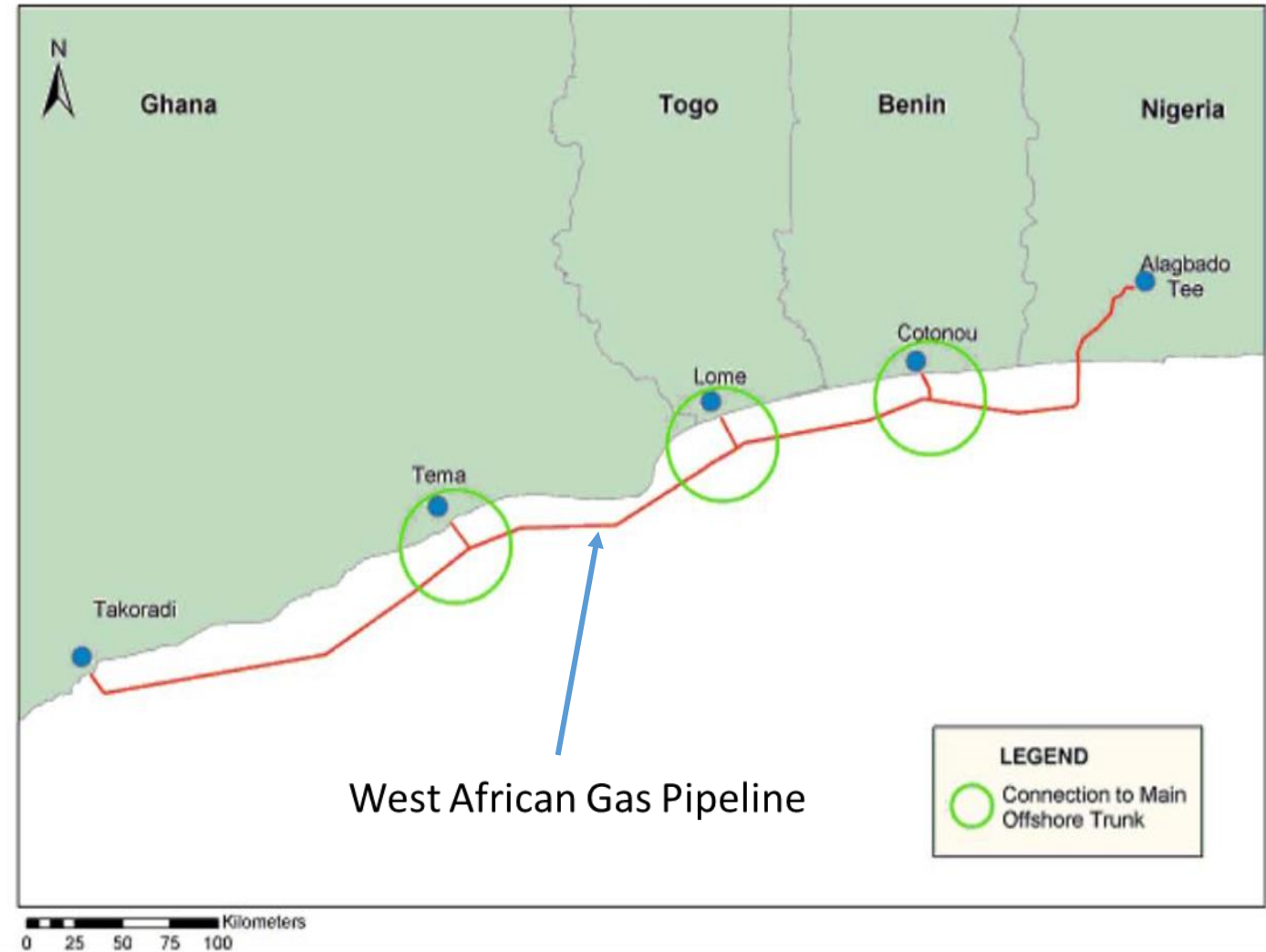
# NOTICES

## Oil Fields

- All vessels transiting close to the oilfields are to observe the promulgated maritime safety and security zones around the oil fields.

## West African Gas Pipeline

- The West African Gas pipeline extends from Takoradi in Ghana to Nigeria. The pipeline since its installation has experienced periodic breakages due to fishing and anchoring activities on the pipeline.
- The position of the pipeline is shown on maritime charts.
- All vessels transiting the coastal areas between Ghana and Nigeria are to avoid anchoring and fishing within the pipeline protective zone.





# MARITIME INFORMATION OF INTEREST

## PIRACY INCIDENT

Crewmember Attacked During Armed Robbery in Singapore Strait.

- <https://www.maritime-executive.com>





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