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CONFERENCE

ANTIPIRACY AND AERIAL SURVEILLANCE IN SEYCHELLES

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ANTI PIRACY AND AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

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Introduction

- Seychelles is a small island developing state (SID) located between latitudes 3° and 9° south and longitudes 45° and 56° east in the South-Western Indian Ocean.
- It is made up of 115 islands scattered over an exclusive economic zone covering an area of 1.374 million square kilometers.
- Population currently is approximately 91,000. Most Seychellois are descendants of early French settlers and the African/Madagascar slaves brought to the Seychelles in the 19th century. Later Indians, Chinese and other European settlers also established in Seychelles.
The two most important sector of the economy are tourism and fishing and contributes to 40% of the country’s GDP. The tourism sector is a marine based tourism including yachts charters, cruise ships, flyfishing and diving.

The fisheries sector is divided into two distinct categories: traditional fishing by a domestic fleet of some 400 vessels; and industrial tuna fishing by foreign vessels of over one hundred (Purse seiners and long liners).
Introduction (cont..)
The Eastern African Region and the Western Indian Ocean Islands has become a strategic region in the Indian Ocean virtually totally reliant on seaborne import and export.

This region has been marred by complex maritime security system due to weakness of failure of some littoral states, significance level of poverty, ethnic diversity, corruption, poor institutions, competition for scarce resources and foreign power interference a few to mention.
Threats to coastal states and maritime security concerns in this region include, illegal fishing, trafficking in drugs, terrorism, human trafficking, piracy, hostage taking, arms smuggling, pollution and inadequate port security.

The recent problem of Somali pirates in the region is only the latest symptom of the poorly regulated maritime space that has been allowed to persist.
Maritime Security Situation (cont..)

Major Security Concerns/Issues in the Indian Ocean Region

- War
- Severe crisis
- Terrorism
- Piracy
- Human trafficking
- Light arms trafficking
- Narcotics trafficking

[Map of the Indian Ocean region highlighting security concerns in various countries]
• Somalia Piracy.

• Ending Somali piracy requires a shift from reliance on security at sea to targeting those on land who enable the lucrative business to thrive.

• Although the number of attacks has markedly fallen since 2012, thanks to tougher security aboard ships and increased naval patrols, piracy emanating from the lawless Horn of Africa nation may still cost the world economy about $18 billion a year.
Maritime Security Situation (cont..)

- Pirates operate far beyond Somalia's waters, disrupting shipping on global routes in the Indian Ocean and into the Red Sea. Since the first reported hijacking in 2005, more than 149 ships have been seized, raising total ransoms of $315 million-$385 million.

- Somali pirates carried out only five reported attacks during the quarter of 2013 and just one hijacking. In that case, international naval forces freed the ship's crew before the vessel reached Somalia.
Seychelles remains one of the country most exposed to acts of piracy
Maritime Security Situation (cont..)

- Somali pirate attacks are down because of international naval patrols, better security measures taken by ships, including the use of armed guards and applying the best management practices developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

- Seychelles believes firmly that the root cause of piracy lies ashore in Somalia and together with some strategic partners taken steps to disrupt piracy financiers by creating a Regional Anti Piracy Prosecution Intelligence Centre (RAPPICC).
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICCC)
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC)

- **Background.**

- **In July 2011** the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) created Working Group 5 (under the chairmanship of Italy) to look at the illicit financial flows linked to piracy and, by association, the piracy business model.

- The UK and Seychelles launched the concept of RAPPICC to underpin the commitment to drive forward the objective of Working Group 5.
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC)

• President James Michel of Seychelles and Prime Minister David Cameron of UK signed an MOU in February 2012 agreeing to the construction of the RAPPICC in the Seychelles.

• Why have a RAPPICC?

• Piracy though has decrease continues to be a serious problem in the Indian Ocean. It is a major threat to world trade and directly affects the lives of seafarers.
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC)

- Until now much of the emphasis has been on military operations at sea to counter Pirate Action Groups (PAGs).
- However there is an almost limitless supply of young Somali men willing to take the risk of engaging in piracy due to the large financial rewards.
- A concerted effort needs to be made to target the pirate leadership and financiers and to disrupt the piracy business model.
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICCC)

- This is what RAPPICCC will seek to do.
- The UK and Seychelles recognise that by working with others and sharing information in one co-ordination centre, then resources can be better aimed at targeting the root cause of piracy, rather than dealing with pirates re-actively.
- In essence UK and Seychelles believe that capturing and prosecuting 10 organisers/financiers is ultimately more productive than prosecuting 100 low level pirates.
What will RAPPICC do?

In order to bring pirate leaders and facilitators to justice, the centre will coordinate intelligence from various sources (regional States, other investigating States, industry and international missions such as EUNAVFOR, CMF, NATO and independent navies) to create useable evidential packages for prosecutions both in the region and further afield.
Working with Interpol it will then seek to have these individuals arrested and brought before a court. This is a serious objective and aims to disrupt the business model of those behind the pirates.

Why is RAPPICC being based in the Seychelles?

Seychelles is an important focal point in the area of counter piracy operations.
The country has modern anti piracy laws which allow suspected pirates to be prosecuted. These laws have been well tested and the Seychelles currently have hold over 100 pirate suspects.

It is also a hub for military operations against the pirates with a number of Maritime Reconnaissance and Patrol Aircrafts (MPRA) stationed here and frequent naval visits from a variety of coalitions and national navies.
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC)

- As piracy is on the decrease in the region, the existence of RAPPICC becomes questionable.
- With other emerging maritime threats RAPPIC will continue to exist and extend its mandate to include other maritime and transnational crimes.
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC)

- Difference between RAPPIC and ReCAAP.
- The Regional Anti-Piracy Prosecutions Intelligence Coordination Center (RAPPICC) is used to collect and disseminate intelligence about pirate activity to tactical officers in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean then assemble obtained evidence and make it usable in court prosecutions.
- The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery in Asia.
A similar programme to ReCAAP for the Indian Ocean Region is the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

The Djibouti Meeting adopted the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, which was signed on 29 January 2009.

In particular, the signatories to the Code have agreed to cooperate, in a manner consistent with international law, in:

(a) the investigation, arrest and prosecution of persons, who are reasonably suspected of having committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, including those inciting or intentionally facilitating such acts;
Regional Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC)

(b) the interdiction and seizure of suspect ships and property on board such ships;

(c) the rescue of ships, persons and property subject to piracy and armed robbery and the facilitation of proper care, treatment and repatriation of seafarers, fishermen, other shipboard personnel and passengers subject to such acts, particularly those who have been subjected to violence; and

(d) the conduct of shared operations – both among signatory States and with navies from countries outside the region – such as nominating law enforcement or other authorized officials to embark on patrol ships or aircraft of another signatory.
Seychelles People’s Defence Forces

Today the SPDF comprises of three main Services with it HQ situated at Bel eau:
- Army
- Air Force and
- Coast Guard. (Formerly called Navy until Dec 1992).

Constitutionally Enshrined Tasks of SPDF

• To defend Seychelles and any other area over which the Republic has proclaimed its jurisdiction.
• To assist in the fulfillment by the Republic of its international obligations:
Seychelles People’s Defence Forces

- To perform as directed by the President functions and services of a civil nature so as to participate to the maximum extent in the task of national development and improvement in accordance with or under an Act.

- During a period of emergency, to provide assistance to civil authorities
  - (i) In a civil disaster or
  - (ii) In the restoration and maintenance of public order and security on being called out by the President
Seychelles Air Force
Seychelles Air Force (SAF)

Mission:

To defend and protect the sovereignty of the republic of Seychelles and all its economic activities.

- It shall be responsible for the following task:
  - Conduct Anti-piracy operation/patrol
  - Surveillance of Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
  - Search and Rescue operation (SAR)
  - Medical Evacuation
  - Aerial Photography surveillance and filming
  - Reconnaissance Patrol
  - VIP transportation
The SAF currently operates three aircrafts: a DHC 6-320 Twin Otter and Harbin Y12 and a Dornier 228. The Twin Otter aircraft, designed and built by de Havilland, Canada, is well suited for Seychelles as it is adapted for short takeoff and landing and can easily land on the remote islands. The aircraft is fitted with camera surveillance equipment, extra fuel tanks to have more autonomy and has a range of 700 nautical miles.
Seychelles Air Force (SAF)

The Y12 is a high wing twin engine turbo prop utility aircraft built by China Harbin Aircraft Manufacturing. It has an excellent short taking off and landing performance and designed to carry 18 passengers. Though being used for surveillance the aircraft is not fitted with camera or radars. Seychelles is looking into the possibility to have it fitted with surveillance equipment in the future. The aircraft has a range of 723 nautical miles.
Seychelles Air Force (SAF)

Dornier 228
Seychelles Air Force (SAF)
Dornier 228

- Seychelles Air Force added a very critical and important asset in its anti piracy inventory when a Dornier 228 surveillance aircraft arrived in Seychelles on the 27th March 2013 at the height of the fight against piracy and other illegal activities within the South West Indian Ocean.

- This state-of-the-art aircraft equipped with loud-hailers, radar equipment and night-vision cameras will surely help in keeping the ocean waters of Seychelles secure and safe from the menace affecting so many nations together.
The government of India agreed to provide Seychelles with a grant of USD $28.79 million for the supply of the maritime aircraft under a memorandum of agreement signed on 9th December 2011.

The aircraft, a Dornier 228, is a twin-engine short take-off and landing quick-change capability aircraft which can be utilised for cargo lifting, troop transport, aerial survey, military maritime patrols, fishery patrols and maritime pollution surveillance.
The Seychelles Coast Guard operation department in consultation with the Seychelles Air Force plan and coordinate daily aircrafts and naval vessels patrol within the Seychelles EEZ and Territorial waters.

A gridded system for the Indian Ocean is currently being used to designate patrol areas. Patrols are organised based on intelligence report or areas where most probably there is ongoing illegal activities.
To effectively conduct surveillance and sanitise its EEZ, Seychelles needs medium and long range aircrafts with low maintenance and running cost. The Dornier 228 is one of the few aircrafts with those capabilities, 7 hours endurance, good detection means particularly for small targets. The SAF smaller aircrafts with low endurance will be used for short patrol around the coast. This will provide different layers of surveillance and detection.
While aerial surveillance is ongoing the Coast Guard operation centre must also ensure that they have necessary coast guard vessels support to intervene in case the aircraft detect ongoing illegal activities.

Any suspected activities detected is photographed or filmed to be kept as record to be used in court cases as evidence.
SEYCHELLES - STRATEGIC LOCATION

- 115 islands (43 granitic and 72 coralline)
- Lies between 4 and 10° South of the Equator
- Located in Indian Ocean & 700 NM from the coast of Somalia
- Total land area = 455.3 square km with an EEZ of 1.3 million km²
Tuna fishing areas within the South West Indian Ocean

Sea Routes in the Indian Ocean

SEYCHELLES - STRATEGIC LOCATION
Challenges

- Vast area to conduct surveillance.
- Apart from piracy other threats include illegal fishing, narco trafficking, small arms trafficking etc..
- The European Union Naval Forces (EUNAVFOR) anti piracy operations “Atalanta” in the region will end December 2014. Future of EUNAVFOR unclear.

The Countries in region have to prepare their forces both air and naval assets to patrol and conduct surveillance.

Seychelles is on the right track having acquired the Dornier 228 and other naval assets.
Conclusion

- With the expansion of piracy into the Indian Ocean, Seychelles has been one of the most affected country and also on the forefront in the fight against piracy.

- Initiative to set up the RAPPICC and acquisition of a Dornier 228 aircraft will greatly contribute towards a long term solution for the reduction of piracy and other maritime crimes within the Indian Ocean.
Thank you!