



EUROPEAN UNION

MARITIME STRATEGY ON THE GULF OF GUINEA

ANALYSING MARITIME SECURITY CHALLENGES

The Gulf of Guinea (GoG) covers the **6 000 kilometres coastline stretching from Senegal to Angola**, including the islands of Cabo Verde and Sao Tome and Principe, covered by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea face significant challenges related to limited ocean governance with a real risk to human and socio-economic development, as well as external trade and environment.

In 2014, **the European Union adopted an EU Strategy for the Gulf of Guinea, in line with the objectives of the 'Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security and Safety'** to tackle maritime crime. The strategy has been updated in 2022 to reflect the evolution of the threat landscape and the impact of the lack of maritime security on the blue economy.

The Strategy recognises **five risks and threats to maritime security**:



piracy and armed robbery at sea, including kidnap for ransom, oil bunkering and petro-piracy;



trafficking of narcotics, arms, counterfeit goods, and human beings;



illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;



criminal or unlawful acts in ports;



degradation of marine domains and biodiversity loss, especially caused by environmental pollution.

PROMOTING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO MARITIME SECURITY

The Strategy promotes an **integrated EU approach** to maritime security in order to:

- ▶ Build a common understanding of the **scale of the threat** in the Gulf of Guinea and the need to address it among the countries in the region and the international community.
- ▶ Help governments of the region build robust institutions, maritime administrations and multiagency capabilities to **ensure maritime awareness, security and the rule of law** along the coasts.
- ▶ **Support prosperous economies** in this region in line with national and regional development strategies.
- ▶ **Strengthen cooperation structures** between the countries of the region and the regional organisations to take the necessary actions to mitigate the threats at sea and on land.

DEVELOPING TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY

A set of **programmes and projects** funded by the European Union aims at implementing the Strategy on the Gulf of Guinea (see reverse side for detailed actions).

At the same time, since early 2021, the EU **Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP)** has boosted the collective engagement by enhancing **coordination of the existing Member States' naval and air assets** present in the Gulf of Guinea on a voluntary basis to increase the EU's capacity to act as a reliable partner and maritime security provider in the region. The CMP tool offers greater European operational engagement, ensures a continued EU maritime presence and outreach in maritime areas of interest (MAI) as established by the Council of the EU, and promotes international cooperation and partnership at sea. It is **coordinated by the Maritime Areas of Interest Coordination Cell (MAICC)** within the European External Action Service (EEAS)/EU Military Staff, and supervised by the EU Senior Coordinator for Maritime Security.

The **European Peace Facility (EPF)**, an off-budget funding mechanism for EU actions with military and defence implications under the Common Foreign and Security Policy, allows the EU to develop assistance measures that are meant to strengthen the capacities of naval forces in partner countries and maritime security architectures.

The EU Commission cooperates with several countries in the Gulf of Guinea through sustainable fishery partnership agreements (SFPAs).



Enhanced MARitime Action in the Gulf of Guinea



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MARITIME ACTIONS IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

EnMAR - Enhanced MARitime Action in the Gulf of Guinea

- **Duration:** October 2022 - April 2026 (3.5 years)
- **Managed by** FPI Dakar: 4.99M€
- **Objective:** to strengthen, coordinate and promote the European Union's action on maritime security and safety (political dialogue, coordination of EU projects, capacity-building, communication and visibility)
- **Beneficiaries:** Gulf of Guinea (19 countries)
- **Implementing agency:** Expertise France

SEACOP VI - Seaport Cooperation

- **Duration:** November 2023 - October 2026 (3 years)
- **Managed by** FPI: 6M€
- **Objective:** to support the fight against maritime illicit trafficking between Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa (capacity-building to Joint Maritime Control Unit (JMCU) and Maritime Intelligence Unit (MIU), information sharing, cooperation)
- **Beneficiaries:** Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
- **Implementing agencies:** Expertise France and FIAP

SAFE SEAS FOR AFRICA - Enhancing Maritime Security in Africa (Gulf of Guinea Component)

- **Duration:** 2024-2028
- **Managed by** DG INTPA and EUD Nigeria: 20M€
- **Objective:** to strengthen the capabilities of national law enforcement agencies to investigate criminal act at sea and support the establishment of the legal finish, as well as enhance regional cooperation and reinforce the Yaoundé Architecture
- **Beneficiaries:** Gulf of Guinea (19 countries)
- **Implementing agencies:** UNODC, UNITAR and IMO

SWAIMS - Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (Component 2.3)

- **Duration:** Ending in December 2026
- **Managed by** DG INTPA and EUD Nigeria: 10M€
- **Objective:** to strengthen operational response and management of the rule of law at sea (provision of 24 RHIBs and 24 forensic kits, capacity-building)
- **Beneficiaries:** ECOWAS coastal countries
- **Implementing agency:** Camões, I.P.

SCOPE AFRICA - Securing Corridors, Ports and Exchanges in Western and Central Africa

- **Duration:** February 2025 - January 2029 (4 years)
- **Managed by** DG INTPA and EUD Cameroon: 12M€
- **Objective:** to strengthen intra-African connectivity by supporting the safety and security of strategic ports in West and Central Africa, with the aim of facilitating trade and transport, thereby contributing to the region's sustainable economic development
- **Beneficiaries:** 10 ports (Praia, Dakar, Monrovia, Abidjan, Lomé, Lagos, Douala and Kribi, Libreville, Pointe-Noire)
- **Implementing agencies:** Expertise France and Enabel

WASOP - West Africa Sustainable Ocean Programme

- **Duration:** 2024-2029
- **Managed by** DG INTPA and EUD Cabo Verde, EUD Ghana and EUD Senegal: 59M€
- **Objective:** to promote the sustainable integrated use and management of marine and coastal resources, through blue economy and nature-based solutions (ocean governance, innovative and sustainable blue economy, marine and coastal resilience)
- **Beneficiaries:** West Africa (13 coastal countries from Mauritania to Nigeria)
- **Implementing agencies:** Expertise France, FAO, EFCA, Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, Fisheries Committee for the West and Central Gulf of Guinea, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Assistance measures of the European Peace Facility (EPF) in support of military actors and navies in the Gulf of Guinea

- **Beneficiaries:** Yaoundé Architecture, Cameroon and Ghana
- **Duration:** 3 years
- **Budget:** 21M€
- **Objective:** to strengthen anti-piracy and maritime security operations and deterrence activities in the Gulf of Guinea by strengthening the capacities of the Yaoundé Architecture and of its member states, notably by enhancing their maritime situational awareness, and by increasing the capacity of selected coastal navies to patrol the high seas.
- **Implementing agency:** FIAP
- **Beneficiary:** Navy of Benin
- **Duration:** 3 years
- **Budget:** 5M€
- **Objective:** to enhance the operational capabilities of the Beninese Navy, with the aim of strengthening its capacity to patrol its exclusive economic zone and to conduct operational activities.
- **Implementing agency:** DCI Group
- **Beneficiary:** Navy of the Republic of Congo
- **Duration:** 3 years
- **Budget:** 5M€
- **Objective:** to enhance the operational capabilities of the Congolese Navy, with the aim of strengthening its capacity to patrol its exclusive economic zone and to conduct operational activities.
- **Implementing agency:** DCI Group



Enhanced MARitime Action in the Gulf of Guinea

