COPERNICUS MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION





SUPPORT TO UNODC DURING A SEA EXERCISE IN GABON

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) through its Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) has been providing capacity building to maritime law enforcement agencies and legal reforms. This enables Gulf of Guinea member states to prosecute cases of piracy and other maritime crimes in compliance with relevant international conventions.

In March 2023, Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) optical imagery was requested to support an exercise conducted by the UNODC under the framework of the PASSMAR EU-UNODC, a project co-funded by the European Union and implemented by GMCP.

The exercise was aimed at improving capacity for maritime domain awareness, by facilitating operational planning and the selection of potential targets conducting illicit activities in the Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone of Gabon. This took place within the framework of the EU Gulf of Guinea Strategy.

The exercise was jointly conducted by the Gabonese Navy, UNODC GMCP, the Delegation of the European Union in Gabon and Sao Tome-and-Principe and the Spanish warship BAM¹ Audaz, deployed in Gabon as part of the EU initiative 'Coordinated Maritime Presences'.



The exercise was conducted in the territorial waters and contiguous zone of Gabon



CMS optical image provided in the context of the sea exercise







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USE CASE

The scenario involved the following use cases: piracy attacks, smuggling of migrants, smuggling of drugs, and arms trafficking.

CMS optical imagery was used for detecting the vessel of interest, which was subsequently intercepted by on-scene assets.

Copernicus is the Earth Observation component of the European Union's Space Programme which looks at our planet and its environment for the benefit of all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) is the Entrusted Entity responsible for implementing the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance service on behalf of the European Commission (DG-DEFIS).



Audaz exercise in Gabon



Audaz exercise in Gabon

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Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service

Twitter CopernicusCMS / Instagram CopernicusCMS copernicus@emsa.europa.eu

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