

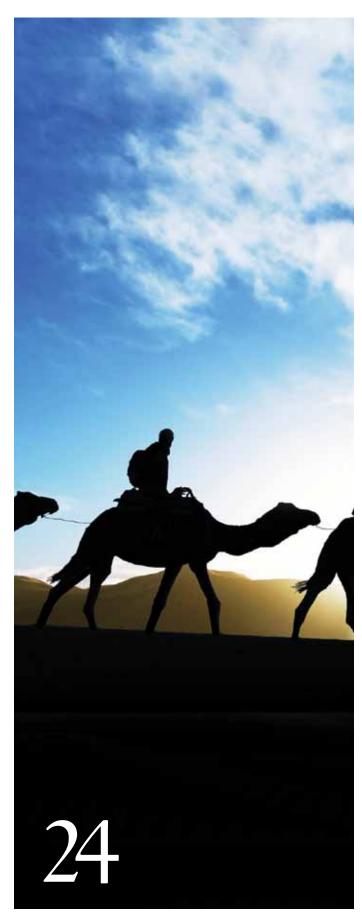


BORDER THREATS Building

Building Partnerships to Halt Transnational Crime



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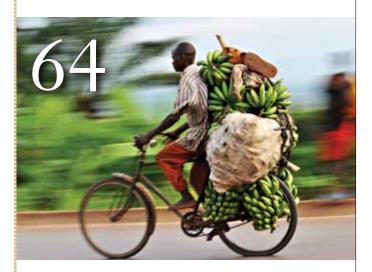
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ON THE COVER:

At the top are three images of seized goods: heroin, illegal weapons and poached ivory. Below, a Moroccan police officer stands at a checkpoint in Casablanca. This cover illustrates the importance of securing borders and commercial transit corridors so they cannot be used by traffickers or extremists.

WIEWPOINT

s world economies and populations become more interconnected, no nation can afford to believe that its security responsibilities end at its own borders. Security professionals recognize that a weakness or instability in a neighboring country can quickly become a threat at home.

Criminals who traffic drugs, weapons or wildlife, or who practice kidnapping for ransom, are experts at finding areas of vulnerability. Once they gain a foothold in a country, it can become a problem for the region and then the entire continent.

Many of Africa's 54 countries include vast, sparsely populated spaces that are ideal for traffickers to move through undetected. The collective borders stretch for 45,000 kilometers and include 109 separate international boundaries. In many instances, official border crossings are few and far between. The challenge is compounded by the fact that countries with rapidly growing economies and developed security sectors are side by side with countries prone to upheaval.

Recognizing this, African regional organizations and international groups have launched a number of initiatives in recent years aimed at bringing collective resources to bear on common problems. These programs have one shared trait: They all recognize that transnational crime cannot be tackled individually. It requires a joint effort.

A few notable programs include:

- The African Union-sponsored Ouagadougou Action Plan, which seeks to standardize the fight against human trafficking across the continent.
- The Economic Communities of Central African States' plan to protect Central Africa's remaining elephant herds by deploying up to 1,000 Soldiers and law-enforcement officers.
- Two regional counternarcotics programs, Project White Flow and the West African Police Information System, that promote information-sharing by law-enforcement agencies in Africa, South America, the United States and Europe.

Experience shows that secure borders and an internationally united front against transnational crime support regional integration and trade. In the words of the AU Border Programme, this type of cooperation transforms borders from "barriers to bridges."

U.S. Africa Command Staff



A Malian Soldier stands at a checkpoint near Sevare in January 2013. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



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AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS





Minister Kiyingi spoke at the Improving Regional Responses to East Africa Transnational Threats Workshop conducted by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies from January 28 to February 1, 2013, in Kampala, Uganda. This is an edited version of his remarks.

The rise of transnational and irregular threats is no longer a new phenomenon to Uganda and the Eastern Africa region. Uganda's Pan-Africanist spirit and ideology has meant that we understand that our destiny is intertwined with that of our immediate neighbors in the region, the entire African continent, and the rest of the world.

Our Eastern African region is grappling with all kinds of transnational asymmetric threats including terrorism; insurgent groups; armed militias; illicit

trafficking of people, drugs and weapons; and many other criminal activities.

Unfortunately, many African countries still face internal vulnerabilities, which give rise to serious threats and enable them to thrive. The countries of the region urgently need to focus and address domestic challenges by entrenching democratic practices, with special emphasis on the rule of law and by addressing issues of underdevelopment and poverty, porous borders, and unemployment. It is such situations that tend to weaken our states and also

Ugandan Soldiers patrol the Central African jungle during an operation to hunt down notorious Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony in 2012.

serve as incubators to the transnational threats hitherto witnessed in our region.

Only a multidisciplinary and multipronged approach can serve as the best instrument of response. While it may be very difficult for us in the region to effectively predict, identify, analyze and foil some of these threats before they get effected, we at least need to be versed with ways to deal with their aftermath.

It is of paramount importance to strengthen the

state if we are to successfully handle such complicated threats as we face today. Our countries in Africa as a whole need to build and entrench democratic practices and the rule of law if they are to withstand the kind of challenges that confront us, especially from without.

A weak state becomes a conduit for drugs and human traffickers; it also becomes a breeding ground for diseases like HIV/AIDS and a source for marauding refugees in neighborhoods. All in all, a weak state can easily become a major destabilizing factor for a region and beyond.

African countries should invest in building very strong democratic institutions that can peacefully resolve not only internal challenges but also fend off external threats.

Uganda has been, and continues to be, at the forefront of regional integration. We believe that the formation of regional economic and political communities provides us with a more viable framework to

overcome many of our common threats. These regional communities provide us with not only bigger markets and resources for meaningful development, but also give us more bargaining power on the international stage and wider avenues to deal with the bigger problems such as transnational threats. The regional economic communities (RECs) also give member states a platform to jointly counter other kinds of threats that do not recognize borders, namely

environmental and health-related threats. RECs give each member state a stake in each other's stability and social economic well-being.

Uganda recognizes the potential for committed regional responses with strong international backing. The Eastern African region can still harmonize its responses to these threats by forging closer cooperation that enables real-time information sharing and rapid reaction.

AFRICA TODAY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE U.N.



INITIATIVE ENCOURAGES Somalis Abroad To invest in farming

U.N. NEWS SERVICE

The United Nations agency tasked with supporting agricultural projects in developing countries has announced a new program to encourage Somalis living abroad to invest in farming. The project aims to improve food security and increase rural employment.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will provide a grant worth \$1.5 million to finance innovative diaspora projects. An additional \$1 million is expected from diaspora investment in agriculture in the first four years.

"We must harness this oftentimes invisible investment in agriculture, particularly in post-conflict countries and fragile states," said Kanayo F. Nwanze, president of IFAD. "Helping the diaspora invest in agriculture represents an opportunity to mobilize new resources to achieve our common goal."

Approximately four times as much is invested in agriculture through remittances than through official development assistance, according to IFAD.

Part of the Diaspora Investment in Agriculture, the initiative — supported by the Somali government and the U.S. Department of State's International Diaspora Engagement Alliance — consists of grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 to allow Somalis living abroad to invest in infrastructure in their home country.

Somalia has a history of food insecurity. In July 2011, a six-month crisis caused by low rainfall and a huge rise in food prices led to thousands of deaths and required an extensive humanitarian aid program.

Despite reductions in the number of Somalis in crisis, the United Nations has warned that the situation remains fragile with below-average rainfall expected in 2013.

The launch of the agricultural project comes after Somali President Hassan Sheik Mohamud urged the Somali diaspora to invest in the nation's reconstruction.

Remittances from Somalis living abroad are estimated to equal up to 50 percent of the country's gross domestic product, which is vital for its economy. Up to 40 percent of remittances are sent to recipients in rural areas.

The IFAD initiative draws on projects successfully implemented, such as partnerships with local merchants that allow participants to pick up food at local shops instead of carrying large sums with them.

SUDAN, SOUTH SUDAN AGREE TO OPEN 10 BORDER CROSSINGS

VOICE OF AMERICA

Sudan and South Sudan agreed in April 2013 to open 10 border crossings in the latest sign of improving ties between the countries, which nearly went to war last year.

Speaking on April 23, 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Sudan's Minister of Water, Paul Mayom, said that after months of intensive talks, the countries have created joint mechanisms to resolve their problems. "And now we are really opening a new page for two countries to live together and to create very soft borders, borders which will connect the two peoples in the two countries together," he said.

The African Union is brokering talks to settle tensions between the two Sudans, many of which stem from the south's breakaway from the north in July 2011. Disputes over oil and territory sparked border clashes in April 2012. Three months earlier, South Sudan shut down all oil production rather than pay what it considered high fees to use northern pipelines.

Juba resumed exporting oil through the north in March 2013, and the countries have agreed to demilitarize the border. The sides have yet to agree on how to split up the oilproducing Abyei region, and both countries accuse the other of supporting rebel movements on their territories.

MOROCCO BOASTS OF **"SPIRITUAL DIVERSITY"** at Synagogue Renewal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ing Mohammed hailed the "spiritual wealth and diversity" of Morocco at a ceremony in February 2013 to mark the end of the restoration of a 17th-century synagogue in the city of Fez. The ceremony was held in the medina, the Old City of Fez, before more than 200 people, including the country's prime minister. Germany contributed financing to the \$215,000 work.

The two-year restoration of Slat Alfassiyine synagogue bore "eloquent testimony to the spiritual wealth and diversity of the Kingdom of Morocco and its heritage," Mohammed said in a message read by Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane.

"The secular traditions of Moroccan civilization drew their essence from the fact that Moroccans are deeply ingrained with the values of coexistence, tolerance and harmony between the different components of the nation," the king said.

The new Constitution, adopted in 2011 against the background of the Arab Spring, recognized its Jewish heritage as part of Morocco's national identity, he said, calling for the renovation of all Jewish places of worship in the country. Among other speakers was Serge Berdugo, a Jewish former Moroccan minister.

Morocco historically has had a vibrant Jewish population, and 1,200 of the faith's pious ancestors are buried in cemeteries across the North African country, which was home to almost 250,000 Jews in the first half of the 20th century. There are now estimated to be fewer than 3,000 Jews in Morocco.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

RWANDA MAKES HUGE GAINS IN HEALTH CARE

Nearly 98 percent of all Rwandans have health insurance, and some preventive care is free, such as mosquito nets and immunizations.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ADF STAFF

Nineteen years after being torn apart by genocide, Rwanda has made a remarkable recovery and is the only Sub-Saharan nation on track to meet its health-related Millennium Development Goals, according to *The Christian Science Monitor*.

A *British Medical Journal* article published this year notes that Rwanda's life expectancy rose from 28 to 56 between 1994 and 2012. In the past 10 years, deaths from HIV fell 78 percent. Tuberculosis deaths dropped 77 percent in the same period. The drops are the largest global and African decreases, respectively.

"If these gains can be sustained, Rwanda will be the only country in the region on track to meet each of the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015," Dr. Paul E. Farmer wrote in the *Journal* article.

Millennium Development Goals include eight main goals: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality rates; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development.

The nation of 11 million people has only 625 doctors, but it's the 8,000 nurses and 45,000 health-care workers — elected by their own villages — who are credited with Rwanda's success in making health gains. These health workers provide primary care for such illnesses as pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria, and they also help people adhere to drug regimens. About 108,000 people are receiving anti-retroviral drugs to combat HIV, which is close to universal access, according to the *Monitor*.

According to a *New York Times* report, nearly 98 percent of all Rwandans have health insurance. Donors subsidize small annual premiums, and patients pay 10 percent co-pays. Some preventive care is free, such as mosquito nets and immunizations. "Rwanda has shown on a national level that you can break the cycle of poverty and disease," Farmer told *The Atlantic*.

Balancing the Borders

The African Union supports boundaries that promote commerce and deter crime.

ADF STAFF



he border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda is a study in contrasts. Each day, up to 1,200 Congolese citizens traipse into Rwanda at the Rusizi post, south of Lake Kivu. Women carry babies on their backs, and people of all ages jostle each other to buy eggs, vegetables, cassava flour, fish and meat.

"Thank God clearing is as simple as handing over receipts for commodities bought from Rwanda," Bashimbe Mapedo, a Congolese businesswoman, told Rwanda's *New Times* in December 2011.

The free flow of people across the border is a boon to both sides: Rwandans benefit from the commerce; Congolese have access to goods they need. But not everything going across the border is benign. Smuggling is a problem, particularly with natural resources. The eastern DRC is rich with mineral deposits, particularly tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold. According to Consultancy Africa Intelligence, these four metals "make up the majority of minerals illegally mined, exported and sold on the open market, despite the efforts of international organizations to prevent the practice."

The DRC, Africa's second-largest country, has 10,730 kilometers of border with eight other nations

in addition to Rwanda: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Conditions in the DRC sum up a goal for African border management: finding a balance between the free movement of people for legitimate commerce and providing security against a range of threats. Africa's international boundaries feature about one official road crossing point per 129 kilometers, according to a 1996 study. Many of these posts are up to 20 kilometers away from the border they are intended to guard.

Bright Spots of Border Management

African border enforcement capacity is generally weak, but Dr. Wafula Okumu of the African Union Border Programme in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, told *ADF* three regions are making progress. "The first one is in South Africa," he said. "They have a very nice program within Interpol, and this program involves a number of countries in the southern Africa region." It deals with crossborder crimes including auto theft and smuggling of illegal immigrants.

South Africa's border security is among the most robust on the continent. According to a June 2012



REUTERS

BuaNews report, the government was set to add four companies of South African National Defence Force (SANDF) troops to its borders with Botswana and Namibia in 2013 and 2014. This is in addition to 11 companies deployed since 2010 along borders with Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. "Effective border management is part of the government's crime prevention strategy, which deals with cross-border crimes and poaching," Justice Minister Jeff Radebe said, noting that the SANDF worked with the South African Police Service and other government departments on the effort.

Despite its strengths, South Africa's approach could be seen as contrary to AU goals, Okumu said. "Our program's mantra is we want to transform African borders from barriers to bridges. We want to have a better Africa," he said. "So when you strengthen border management, it could be at the expense of what Africa wants to create — what you call a soft border where there is easy movement of people and groups to enhance regional integration or continental integration. So strengthening border management could also be seen as undermining this spirit of ... converting borders from barriers to bridges.

"The Great Lakes Region has what we call the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and they have a common policy on borders, which is quite effective in terms of applying to a great number of threats that come across borders. Displaced people approach the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda in November 2012 as the Congolese Revolutionary Army fights with the DRC government's Army near Goma, capital of the DRC's North Kivu province.

"Our program's mantra is we want to transform African borders from barriers to bridges."

> — Dr. Wafula Okumu, senior capacity-building officer for the African Union Border Programme

"And then you have West Africa, where we have common passports," Okumu said of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) passport system. "It enhances movement and immigration."

The Role of Technology

Border management is expensive and requires a range of resources out of reach for many African nations. Borders often are far removed from population centers and sometimes run through harsh terrain that is difficult to secure and patrol. Technology can fill the gaps created by lack of personnel.

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) announced in February 2013 that it will install biometrics equipment at all national border posts to monitor immigration. Also, Lirwanu Bala Musa, comptroller general of the NIS, told the *Daily Trust* that border control posts are being connected to the Nigerian satellite system so activities can be monitored from the headquarters in Abuja.

Advances including facial-recognition systems, iris and fingerprint scans, and other biometric technologies have been used with some success in the Western Hemisphere and would seem to be promising tools in border management. But Okumu said such techniques are not being promoted as "best practices" for African nations.

"Biometrics and other forms of technology could be too expensive for some of these countries, and complicated to maintain and handle," Okumu said. "Some countries don't know how to use the equipment they have — the scanners and other equipment that they have been provided — so this equipment is good, but then I think it has to be provided at a level where it can be maintained, and it also can be handled and provide effective use to add value to the work that is taking place."

Military analyst and author Helmoed-Römer Heitman agrees. "Cooperation and coordination will bring greater effectiveness and efficiency," he told DefenceWeb's Border Control Africa conference in 2010. "That is the way forward. Technology can only assist."

A Plan for African Border Management

The AU has proposed the "Draft African Union Strategy for Enhancing Border Management in Africa" as a guide for effective controls. The document, which still is under review and subject to AU approval, suggests three "strategic pillars" for success: cooperation and coordination, capacity building, and community involvement.

Cooperation and coordination: Three levels of cooperation are necessary — within government ministries and agencies, between ministries and agencies, and internationally.

Heitman said border security is a "team sport." "Borders, certainly in Africa, are too long and difficult to seal physically," he said.

"The implication of this is that effective border protection must depend on intelligence," he said. "In turn, sound and timely intelligence for border protection and, indeed, for border control, is unlikely to be achieved without close cooperation with the relevant forces and agencies on the other side of the border. That cooperation will be to the immense benefit of both countries."

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Bilateral cooperation is already underway in West Africa. In February 2013, Nigeria and Cameroon inaugurated the Trans-border Security Committee to build on an agreement struck a year earlier to fight terrorism and stop insurgents. Northern Nigeria has been the site of fierce clashes with the insurgent group Boko Haram, and the extremist group abducted a French family in northern Cameroon in February. "This will include new and additional measures to address the challenges of terrorism, trans-border trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and influx of illegal immigrants," Nigeria's minister of foreign affairs, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru, told the newspaper *Leadership*.

Capacity building: Countries should train border security workers and improve organizations and their management. Legislation, regulations, infrastructure and equipment also should be upgraded to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

The AU Border Programme has designed a training curriculum on border management that embodies core modules including professionalism, behavioral analysis, effective communication, document analysis, border security, integrated border management, and ethics and integrity. Teaching ethical standards is especially important because corruption is a huge problem in Africa. The draft strategy notes: "Wherever there are border management agents and officials who are willing enough to trade their responsibilities for personal benefits, it is only natural to encounter the proliferation of smugglers, traffickers and terrorists who know no qualms to extend their trades once they have overcome this immediate barrier."

Okumu said officials will supplement core modules with themes specific to various regions as the curriculum is introduced across the continent. "Once the curriculum has been finalized, we hope to roll it out over the next three years across Africa," Okumu said. In fact, Okumu's department will cooperate with the AU Department of Social Affairs, which deals with human trafficking, on a series of training sessions that were scheduled to begin in June 2013 in Moshi, Tanzania. The sessions will include immigration, customs, border police, intelligence, health and agriculture officials.

Community involvement: According to the draft, this strategy "recognizes the importance of local communities as key stakeholders in the management of borders in Africa. Local communities include the people who live on both sides of a border, border traders, border civil society organizations, local government administrative authorities, and other locals who in one way or another could play a role in the way borders are managed."

Okumu said this resource is crucial. "To the best of my knowledge, there is no country, like even South Africa, that can deploy the resources that are needed to patrol each border on a consistent basis," he said. "Many of them have found out that they rely on local communities to help monitor the borders and also keep an eye on what's happening and share it, in terms of information. So local communities, if they are incorporated in border management, it can be a very effective way."

Methods for Border Security

Strategies for securing borders vary from technical to personal. The African Union supports low-tech options because of cost, training needs and maintenance.

UIU

Cooperation and coordination:

This must occur within and between agencies and nations. Intelligence is key, and sharing it is essential. Nigeria and Cameroon are working together through the Trans-border Security Committee.

Capacity building:

African nations must train border workers and improve legislation, regulations, infrastructure and equipment.



Community involvement:

Residents, traders, local authorities and others can play a vital role in border security by observing and reporting.



Biometric technology:

This can include eye, face and fingerprint scans. The Nigeria Immigration Service intends to install biometrics equipment at national border posts to monitor immigration.

RAPID BARDID BAR

ADF STAFF

In 2008, after years of diplomatic disputes and low-grade border skirmishes, the government of Nigeria handed the Bakassi Peninsula over to Cameroon. The 1,000 square kilometers of oil-rich territory is a network of narrow creeks, mangrove forests and islands. The handover came after a ruling by the International Court of Justice, and former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan mediated negotiations.

A Cameroonian boarding team trains aboard the Nigerian Navy ship NNS Thunder during Exercise Obangame Express 2013 in Douala, Cameroon.

STREET, STREET, ST



It was hailed as a relatively rare peaceful transfer of land in Africa, where too often border disagreements lead to years of war. But soon, Cameroon discovered that governing Bakassi carries its own perils.

- In November 2007, 20 Cameroonian Soldiers were ambushed and killed by rebels on speedboats. The separatist group told a media outlet they wanted to "sound a warning" to the Cameroonian government.
- In October 2008, pirates boarded the offshore vessel the Bourbon Sagitta and took 10 civilian hostages.
- In the fall of 2008, bandits on speedboats robbed a string of banks in Cameroonian port towns, escaping with millions of CFA francs.
- In November 2010, an attack on the Moudi oil terminal run by the Anglo-French company Perenco left six dead.

The situation became so desperate that foreign oil companies started paying protection taxes to pirates for safe passage. Boats that paid the tax flew special flags advertising to pirates not to attack.

The insecurity also took a toll on the economy. As foreign companies withdrew their workers, oil production decreased. According to the Jamestown Foundation, from 2005 to 2009, Cameroon experienced an 18 percent drop in production, from 94,000 barrels per day to 77,000 barrels per day.

Cameroon faced an enemy that hid deep in the mangrove forests and fought for a variety of reasons. Some were separatist fighters who did not recognize the authority of the central government. Others were hardened pirates who hijacked vessels and kidnapped oil workers for ransom. Still others simply were opportunistic criminals who trafficked drugs or weapons.

"The longstanding dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon has made the Bakassi peninsula uncontrollable," security analyst Niagalé Bagayoko-Penone wrote in a 2008 piece. "The military positions of both the enemies were frozen for decades. Bakassi thus became a no-man's land where no administrative authority was represented."

Cameroon's top civilian and military officials realized they needed a new strategy. Neither traditional ground forces nor naval forces were suited for the mission. So in an unprecedented decision, Cameroon handed over control of its coast guard duties to its elite special forces unit, the Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide (BIR).

"We have a unique experience, so we had to build a unique system according to our situation," said Col. Joseph Nouma of the BIR.

EXPANDING THE BIR

The BIR was created in 1999 and was initially formed as a light intervention battalion to clamp down on highway bandits, known as "coupeurs de routes," in the north part of the country. In 2001, the BIR was expanded to include a presence in three sectors of Cameroon. By 2008 it had five battalions operating in five regions. As it grew, it added special units, including one for counterterrorism, logistics and an air squadron.

Training for the maritime force, initially known as the BIR-Delta, began in 2009 at Man O' War Bay, a tiny inlet not far from the coastal town of Limbe. The wellappointed campus includes a helicopter hangar, a computerized maritime operations center and a swimming pool to train divers.



From the beginning, the BIR was designed to be an elite group. The six-month training for BIR-Delta commandos includes rigorous endurance and physical fitness tests culminating in a 400-kilometer hike that all recruits must complete. Special training courses ask men to master vessel boarding, combat medicine, tactical shooting and swimming. A visitor to the campus will notice the BIR logo stenciled on Soldiers' hats, vehicles, backpacks, even seared into the bread served at the mess hall. It's all designed to inculcate the "spirit" of the BIR, which leaders say is all about taking initiative and demonstrating leadership.

"We want Soldiers to be involved, not just to execute without knowing what they're going to do when they go out on a mission," said Maj. Jérôme Francis Nko'o Ella of the BIR. "To really integrate what we're asking them to do and to really be part of the whole mission from beginning to end. So the whole is larger than the total of its parts; that's what we teach them."

Between 2009 and early 2013, BIR-Delta grew to include 1,500 Soldiers. The group is well-funded and, though its rapid growth has drawn grumbles from some

FOR SAFER SEAS

OBANGAME EXPRESS BRINGS GULF OF GUINEA NATIONS TOGETHER TO FIGHT MARITIME CRIME

ADF STAFF

s a light rain fell at the Port of Douala before dawn, Maj. Felix Tetcha of Cameroon's Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide (BIR) addressed his men. The commandos were preparing to head out to sea for days of tracking, boarding and searching suspicious vessels in the Gulf of Guinea.

The action was part of Obangame Express, a multinational maritime security exercise. Although the target vessels in the exercise would all be friendly, the threats in the gulf are very real.

"Rely on your training," Tetcha told the men. "Stay focused until the end. It demands a lot of concentration. You have the aptitude that's necessary, so all that's left is for you to deploy these skills on the ground."

Obangame, which took place off the coast of Cameroon from February 22 to 28, 2013, is where Central African nations train to gain the upper hand on maritime criminals. The BIR commandos, a trained maritime interdiction operation (MIO) team, were there to perfect techniques that included boarding and securing vessels, inspecting a ship's cargo and paperwork for signs of criminal activity, and reacting to medical emergencies on board.

These skills, Tetcha said, are vitally important. The Gulf of Guinea has become a hot spot for piracy, drug trafficking and illegal fishing in recent years. The area supplies 40 percent of Europe's oil and 29 percent of the oil used by the United States. This petroleum drives the economies of many nations in the region, but the recent outbreak of crime has prompted maritime organizations to warn that the gulf risks becoming a "second Somalia."

"All these countries depend on the oil markets," said Cmdr. Loic Moudouma of Gabon, a maritime safety and security expert with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). "That's the main resource used to pay salaries for the people. So if the bad guys start attacking us and the oil markets are impacted, it could be extremely damaging."

The 2013 iteration of Obangame (a word that means "solidarity" in the Fang language) included 16 participating countries, an all-time high. Participant countries ranged from Côte d'Ivoire in the north to the Republic of the Congo to the south.

The nerve center of the exercise was the maritime operations center (MOC) in Douala, where operators communicated with other MOCs spread across Central Africa and with ships at sea. Operators monitored the 20-by-20-nautical-mile exercise grid on large projection screens that synchronized radar and automatic identification system data from ships.

Organizers said this was the most complex exercise they had attempted. "Each year gets a little more complicated, and we add a few more things," said U.S. Navy Capt. Dave Rollo, exercise director. "This year we took a major step forward."

Obangame 13 had several innovations:

 For the first time, the ship boardings at the exercise were directed by a command and control team aboard a ship in the exercise — the Belgian vessel BNS Godetia. This team communicated directly with MIO teams at sea by high-frequency radio.

- Organizers simulated a power outage and generator failure at the Douala MOC that required all data to be backed up by a partner MOC.
- Five MOCs exchanged data and monitored the maritime domain in real time. Operators working at MOCs in Gabon, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Cameroon were in regular communication through a secure Internet chat tool supplied by Naval Forces Africa.

The added complexity was handled deftly by participants, Rollo said. Next year organizers are considering adding new twists including applying "law of the sea" for noncompliant boardings, expanding the size of the grid, and incorporating more helicopters and maritime patrol aircraft.

Moudouma said Obangame helps present a more united front against maritime crime. Since the first Obangame in 2010, he said he has seen more communication between MOCs and naval officers of Gulf of Guinea countries who participate in the exercise. When a suspicious vessel passes from one nation's exclusive economic zone to that of another, it isn't allowed to disappear anymore, he said. There is the right of "hot pursuit" between ECCAS nations, and MOC operators no longer hesitate to call one another. "Most of the MOC operators are here. Now they know each other, and they can call by phone or HF [high frequency]," he said. "It's more simple to exchange information now."

Moudouma also said the criminals have taken notice of tightened security and tend to flee the waters when Obangame takes place each year. "This is a show of force to the pirates," he said. "It can have an impact on them; it can discourage them from organizing illegal activities."

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Dwight Isaacs, seated at right, discusses at-sea operations with Navy officers from Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Ghana and Nigeria during the main planning conference for Exercise Obangame Express 2013.



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JACOB D. MOORE/U.S. NAVY

in other military branches, its success at combating bandits and pirates is universally lauded. "We emphasize working like a team, working like a group," said Nko'o Ella. "Being committed to the same mission is better than having everybody being specialists."

SECURING THE PENINSULA

In March 2009, the BIR formally took over the security operation in Bakassi. The mission began with an effort to clear the peninsula of criminals.

"When we arrived inside the peninsula, pirates were living and operating freely," recalled Col. Joseph Nouma of the BIR. "Our main idea is if we face pirates, we have to put damage to them. We used very heavy machine guns. We were very well-armed every time we came out; we had three boats with around 20 Soldiers, machine guns, radar. We used all the tools to take advantage of our level."

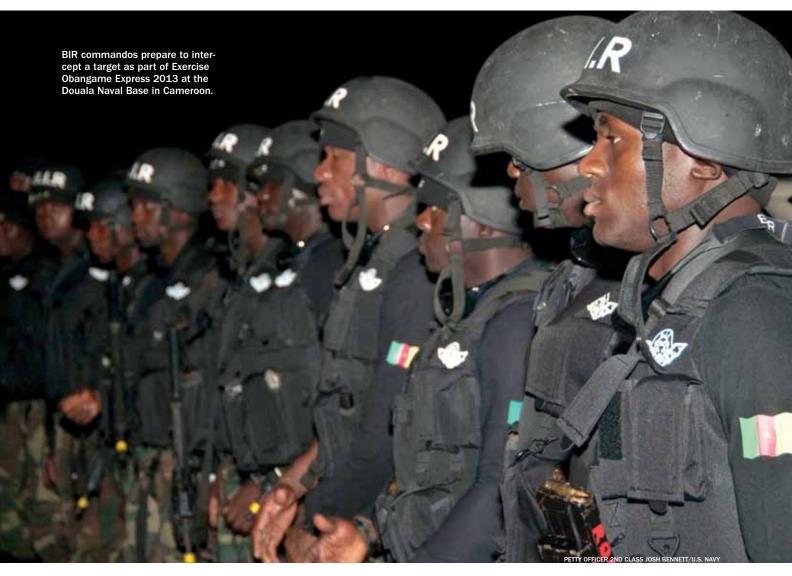
Nouma said the BIR units traveled through the delta in patrol groups made up of three speedboats. The boats were backed by an intervention team waiting at the dock, which was prepared to respond

within five minutes by day or 15 minutes by night in case of "engagement."

"We don't want the incident to go on for a long time. In the maritime area if you don't succeed within 30 minutes, it will become a very huge problem," Nouma said. "There you are working inside mangroves, so if you lose them, you will not find them again."

The show of force had its intended effect. Illicit activity on the peninsula steadily decreased from 2008 to 2010, and the resulting stability allowed officials to improve the infrastructure of the peninsula and allow for the reassertion of civil society. During those years, more than 300 kilometers of paved road and bridges and dozens of primary schools, health clinics and docks were built, according to the *Cameroon Tribune*.

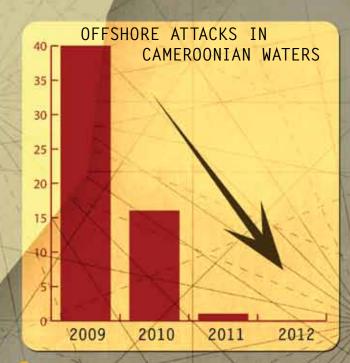
"In Bakassi, security was reinforced," said the late Jacob Lekunze Ketuna, president of the Committee for Bakassi Priority Projects, in a 2010 interview. "It's been more than a year and a half since we've had security incidents here because the BIR assures the safety along with border police and gendarmes.





GULF OF GUINEA ATTACKS FROM 2009 TO 2012

NIGERIA



CAMEROON

Incidents in 2009

Incidents in 2011

Incidents in 2010

Incidents in 2012

ADF ILLUSTRATION Source: BIR Coast Guard



Security is an international priority that we must try to reinforce every day."

The success in Bakassi allowed the BIR to expand its mission. It divided the entire 420-kilometer coast of Cameroon into four operational zones and set up four BIR Coast Guard bases with responsibility out to 10 nautical miles from shore. To improve maritime domain awareness, Cameroon installed three radar systems and integrated data gathered from radar and the publically available automatic identification system. BIR units began tracking, stopping and boarding boats traveling faster than 15 knots, a characteristic speed of boats used by pirates and traffickers.

They've also randomly stopped and inspected vessels and found instances of drug and weapons smuggling. "We have tried to put fear in the opposite side so if somebody wants to come to Cameroon with arms in the boats, he will think twice before doing it," Nouma said.

Two more radar systems are expected to be added to the coast in coming years, and, increasingly, the BIR is incorporating helicopter patrols into its surveillance operations.

To regain faith from the oil industry, the BIR purchased the Rio Del Rey, a five-story barge, to serve as an open-sea floating base that allows forces to be closer to oil installations. The 70-meter barge can hold up to 132 men and includes a helicopter landing pad. The BIR also has positioned security teams at key installations, including the national oil refinery in Limbe and the deep-sea port at Kribi.

The results have been impressive. In 2009, there were 40 offshore attacks by criminals in Cameroonian waters, according to the BIR. In 2010, the number of attacks dropped to 16, and in 2011, there was only one attack. That downward trend continued, and in 2012 there were no attacks recorded in Cameroonian waters.

Still, attacks have continued at an alarming rate in other areas of the Gulf of Guinea. According to the International Maritime Bureau in London, attacks in the gulf, which stretches from Côte d'Ivoire to the coast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, increased by 42 percent in 2012.

"The fact that [the Cameroonian] side is clear is not due to the fact that the pirates have just decided to abandon the business and go home," Nko'o Ella said. "It's because of the permanent presence and deterrent effect we have produced in our territorial waters through maritime patrols, aerial patrols, intervention units, and also the security teams we sent to protect oil and gas facilities offshore."



NARCOTICS

West African nations are signing on to rid the region of drugs passing through from South America to Europe.

ADF STAFF

Senegalese Soldiers in the town of Rufisque prepare to destroy bricks of seized cocaine.

he United Nations has called Guinea-Bissau the world's first "narco-state." That label seemed apt in April 2013 when the U.S. Department of Justice accused Armed Forces Chief Gen. Antonio Indjai of plotting to traffic cocaine to the United States and sell weapons to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

New York prosecutors said Indjai faces four counts of conspiring to sell surface-to-air missiles to Colombia's FARC rebels to shoot down U.S. patrol helicopters, and of seeking to import cocaine into the United States. He is the eighth person from the West African nation targeted by the United States. Indjai's charges came after similar accusations were brought against Guinea-Bissau's former navy chief and four others.

Guinea-Bissau is an ideal West African drug hub. The location is favorable, and the rule of law is virtually nonexistent. "It's an easy country to be active if you're an organized crime lord," Amado Philip de Andres of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) told the United Kingdom's *Guardian*. "Law enforcement has literally no control for two reasons: There is no capacity, and there is no equipment."

Guinea-Bissau also has seen an increase in drug addiction among its own population. "Foot soldiers are paid in kind," says Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of UNODC, "and whatever is left behind is sold domestically."

COOPERATION KEY IN NARCOTICS FIGHT

Guinea-Bissau is not the only West African nation that serves as a way station for South American cocaine headed to Europe. Tons of the drug traverse the Atlantic Ocean in planes that land in ungoverned spaces. Business is so lucrative that drug traffickers have been known to burn airliners after a delivery in a brazen display of wealth and power.

Cartels, usually based in Colombia and Venezuela, have shipped hundreds of tons of cocaine worth billions of dollars to Ghana, Guinea (Conakry), Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo, according to www.dialogo-americas. com. FARC is a major supplier of cocaine bound for Europe.

Agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) got a glimpse of how these smuggling conspiracies work in 2009 when a South American drug organization tried to bribe Liberian officials working undercover. The case ended with the arrests of several men, including South American drug lord Marcel Acevedo Sarmiento, who dealt cocaine for more than two decades. He was capable of moving thousandkilogram quantities of cocaine into West Africa, U.S. authorities have said.

The case was made under Operation Relentless, a joint undercover effort between Liberia and the United States. A June 2010 news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office stated that defendants tried to bribe high-level Liberian officials to protect cocaine shipments bound for Europe and other parts of Africa. Unfortunately for the defendants, the two Liberian government officials were working with the DEA. As a result of the operation,



Acevedo Sarmiento was sentenced to 12 years in prison in March 2013 for conspiring to import cocaine into the United States.

Cooperation between Liberia and the United States continues. In March 2013, the United States sent drug testing kits, handcuffs and flashlights to Liberia's Drug Enforcement Agency to aid in drug investigations, according to online magazine Front Page Africa. The kits will allow testing of illicit substances seized during investigations.

Anthony Souh, Liberia's DEA director, said the donation is important, given the nation's lack of a strong drug enforcement law. "Drug abuse in one country is drug abuse in the other, because drug trafficking is a transnational crime," Souh said. "Our U.S. partner knows that Liberia is a loophole; this is why they are coming in to help us build the barricade against drug traffickers." Anti-narcotics police officers search a vehicle where a large haul of heroin was seized from a house in Runda Estate in Nairobi, Kenya, on February 14, 2013. U.S. Africa Command's Counternarcotics and Law Enforcement Division is working with other African countries to halt the drug trade. Mark Huebschman, deputy chief of the division, commented on efforts with the partner nations of Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria and Cape Verde:

SENEGAL: Efforts in Senegal have focused on very high-frequency (VHF) and highfrequency (HF) communications systems. The idea is to link Senegalese naval units, particularly in the Casamance region south of The Gambia, where smuggling and other illicit activity is rampant. "The long-range goal of this project is to link as many countries together, particularly with the HF system, as possible," Huebschman said. "We can have communications between the different countries and hopefully facilitate better information flow. Right now, we're focusing on Senegal, The Gambia and Cape Verde for that system."

GHANA: The Counternarcotics and Law Enforcement Division has worked with the U.S. DEA to establish a special investigative unit. "We're starting to see some fruit being born from that effort in terms of significant arrests and seizures in that country," Huebschman said.

The effort is modeled on DEA work in Central and South America. "Essentially they'll come in and take some of the best and brightest from some of the law enforcement agencies, put them through a vetting process, and then provide them kind of a long-term training and mentoring program," Huebschman said. "So

Global Cooperative Efforts Target Drug Trafficking

Each year between 18 and 47 tons of South American cocaine pass through West Africa on the way to Europe, producing billions of dollars in wholesale revenue for traffickers and drug cartels.

Once cocaine arrives in West Africa, it is "repackaged and moved to neighboring countries before being transferred to syndicates in Europe, often composed of African expatriates, who handle wholesale and retail sales," researcher Davin O'Regan wrote in a July 2010 paper for the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. "Seizures in West Africa have resulted in the arrests of African, South American, European, and other nationals."

The complex and prolific drug trafficking problem has inspired several global cooperative efforts.

Project White Flow: This program is intended to increase the exchange of intelligence regarding South American cocaine trafficked into Europe by way of West Africa. Project White Flow aims to help identify mid- to upper-level cocaine traffickers linked to Africa and to effectively share this information among Interpol's member countries.

In a 2010 case known as Siska, Interpol helped coordinate an investigation among Belgium, Germany, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and the United States to dismantle an organized crime group moving South American cocaine through Sierra Leone to Europe. Some member countries took action against members of this syndicate, resulting in several arrests, house searches and seizures.

An Interpol panelist told a 2010 African Union conference that Project White Flow seeks all evidence and data related to drug trafficking, including information on people arrested, detained and wanted in order to build an international database of suspicious persons. In the past, Interpol noted an overall lack of national and international collaboration and communication.

West African Police Information System (WAPIS): WAPIS was developed by Interpol and funded by the European Union in 2010. The project seeks to help collect, centralize, manage, share and analyze police information from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) nations and Mauritania. The program's inaugural workshop, held in November 2012 in Brussels, Belgium, brought together representatives of the five pilot countries – Benin, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania and Niger – and Sierra Leone. The workshop evaluated police data and flows in the five pilot countries to assess their needs.

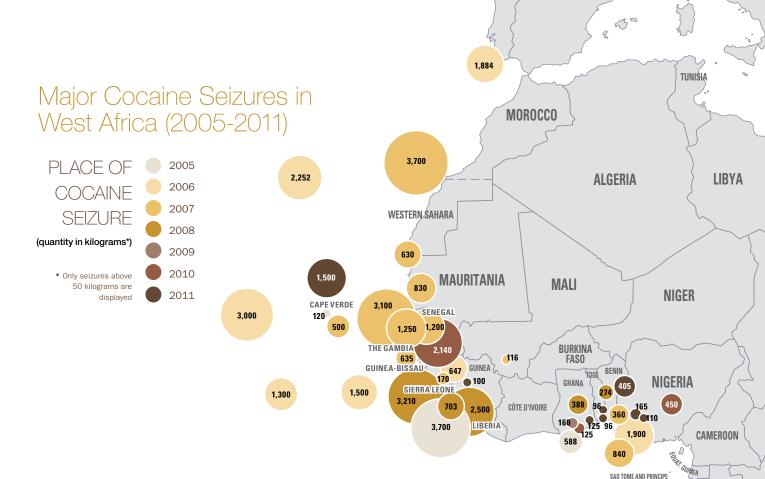
"WAPIS is an ambitious program and unique in its genre," said Pierre Reuland, Interpol's special representative to the European Union. "WAPIS will become a regional system, compatible with European countries and the rest of the world through the Interpol I-24/7 secure global police communications system." The I-24/7 network lets investigators access Interpol's range of criminal databases. ECOWAS will be the final owner of the WAPIS police information system. Five other workshops were planned for 2013 in West African countries to assess needs and plan for the second and third phases of the WAPIS program. The first of those five was in Cotonou, Benin, in January; the second was in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in March; and the third was in Abuja, Nigeria, in April.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohamed Yansaneh, head of Interpol in Sierra Leone, said WAPIS will help West African law enforcement officers obtain information about people, vehicles and identity documents, and share that information.

Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP): This joint effort of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization and Interpol began in 2010 as a way "to improve intelligence-led policing at airports and information sharing among ... countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Europe," according to the U.N.

Participating airports will have units of up to 20 people operating around the clock. The project will connect them to international law enforcement databases and communication networks so information can be transmitted in real time to other international airports to intercept illicit shipments.

Countries involved in AIRCOP are Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea (Conakry), Jamaica, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Venezuela.



we've seen good success on that in Ghana, and we're actually expanding that into some other countries in Africa as well."

NIGERIA: The United States has begun working with Nigeria on a longterm project to help the nation's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency build a comprehensive training program. The agency has about 5,000 people, and the program would seek to offer training at all levels, from new employees up to top officials.

CAPE VERDE: The U.S. partnered with Cape Verde in 2010 to build an interagency maritime operations center. The center was a key player in a 1.5-ton cocaine seizure off the Cape Verdean coast in October 2011, the largest in the nation's history.

U.S. Africa Command has also worked regionally with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Law Enforcement Affairs and other agencies to develop the West Africa Cooperative Security Initiative (WACSI). The five goals of WACSI are to build accountable institutions, establish legal and policy frameworks to counter transnational organized crime, strengthen security operations, reinforce justice operations, and address socio-economic causes and consequences of transnational organized crime.

LOOKING EAST AND NORTH

West Africa remains the most active African region for drug trafficking, but East Africa is starting to warrant attention as well. Heroin from Afghanistan and Pakistan is making its way onto the continent primarily through Kenya and Tanzania. In March 2013, ships of Combined Task Force 150, a multinational maritime security patrol, intercepted 500 kilograms of heroin off the coast of Tanzania as part of Focused Operation Southern Sweep, a counterterrorism effort. The seizure comes as Africa Command works with Tanzania to build capacity to fight trafficking and share information.

"It's a region that's getting increased visibility and increased focus from us," Huebschman said. "In the past, most of our programs have been focused purely in West Africa, but we're starting to expand into East Africa."

The crisis in Mali has underscored the importance of looking north, too. "We're moving forward with trying to implement some counternarcotics programs in some of the Trans-Sahel countries as well, focusing on places like Niger, Chad, Mauritania," he said. Sources: UNODC Individual Drug Seizure database, UNODC Field Offices in the region

ANGO

NAMIE

GABON

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



A CONVERGENCE OF TRAFFICKING AND TERROR HAS HAD DEADLY CONSEQUENCES ACROSS THE SAHEL AND SAHARA.



oving goods and people across the harsh land of the Sahara is nothing new. For centuries, a lucrative caravan trade thrived from tropical Sub-Saharan Africa north to important commercial cities such

as Marrakech, Tripoli and Cairo. Goods including dates, salt, gold and silk were moved in bulk along these routes.

Although formalities such as customs inspections rarely applied to these traders, there were rules. Duties had to be paid to local officials along the way, and complex written contracts bound buyers and sellers. Those who tried to pass through certain zones without permission from the tribal or family networks that controlled the routes quickly found it to be a dangerous enterprise.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Mali Vicki Huddleston recalled visiting the northern part of that country several years ago and being told by an elderly leader from the nomadic Tuareg tribe that his familial network still held sway in the region. "We are masters of the desert and have been for thousands of years," she recalled the man saying.

But trade in the modern era was greatly diminished. Beginning in the late 1800s, transportation advances made the slow and perilous overland passages of the Sahara less frequent. People who could afford it transported goods by train, truck or barge. The ancient networks and the routes were used less and less, but they never went away.

ILLICIT CARGO

In the 1970s and '80s, some desert routes were brought back into service as smugglers began illegally transporting cigarettes to smokers in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. This was a lucrative business because it avoided taxation and state tobacco sale monopolies. It also was sometimes done with the connivance of major cigarette manufacturers eager to have their products enter new markets.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the value of the illicit tobacco trade in North Africa has ballooned to more than

THERE'S A BIG QUESTION WITH AQIM WHETHER TO LOOK AT IT AS A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION OR A JIHADIST OR A JIHADIST OR BOTH. THOSE OR BOTH. THOSE CATEGORIES SHOULDN'T BE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE."

\sim ALEX THURSTON

an expert on North Africa who runs the website Sahel Blog

African countries, to move goods into more profitable markets. Other enterprising traffickers diverted humanitarian aid onto black markets and shepherded migrants who were desperate to make their way to Europe.

As these networks re-emerged, traffickers began to acquire necessary assets such as large trucks, 4x4s, speedboats and off-road vehicles. They also cemented deals to bribe corrupt officials — military and civilian — for safe passage. The trading networks, mostly dormant for years, sprang back to life.

"From the 1970s onward, the links that had survived the collapse of the longdistance caravan trade in the late 19th century began to expand," Wolfram Lacher wrote in a research paper for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In the early 2000s, smugglers began



French customs agents prepare to destroy seized cigarettes in 2010. Transit routes through North Africa have emerged as highways for smuggled goods, including cigarettes. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

\$1 billion annually. An estimated 15 percent of the 400 billion cigarettes smoked each year by Africans come from the black market.

As the tobacco trade grew, traders looked to take advantage of economic imbalances, such as fuel subsidies in North Mauritanian gendarmes patrol the desert near Mbera refugee camp, about 40 kilometers from the border with Mali. Porous borders have been exploited by traffickers to move goods undetected through vast expanses in the Sahel and the Sahara. REUTERS

ТОЧОТА



Hussein, a member of Mauritania's National Guard, takes a break from escorting a humanitarian convoy in the desert near Bassikounou, Mauritania, about 30 kilometers from the Malian border. The frequency of kidnapping for ransom in the region has made overland voyages like this one extremely perilous. REUTERS

REUTERS

moving another product along some of these routes: narcotics. The most popular drugs were cocaine and cannabis resin; however, some traffickers dabbled in pharmaceuticals. The North African transit routes became attractive as traffickers looked for new paths to enter the European market.

"When the American markets for cocaine became overflowed and difficult to generate income, the Latin American traffickers saw the opportunity to sell their drugs to the European market through western Africa and the Sahel," said Abdelkader Abderrahmane, a native of Algeria and a senior researcher with the Institute for Security Studies.

By 2007, the cocaine trade had exploded in West Africa. The UNODC estimated that 47 tons of the drug, valued at just under \$4 billion, passed through West Africa en route to Europe that year. South American smugglers moved the product by plane to hubs in West Africa and then used a variety of means to transport it, including speedboats, motorcycles and trucks, often with the protection of corrupt officials. A particularly stunning incident occurred in 2009 when the charred remains of a Boeing 727 were discovered in the desert of northern Mali. Officials believe the plane, nicknamed "Air Cocaine," carried as much as 10 tons of the drug that originated in South America and was destined for European markets.

TERRORISTS TAKE NOTE

The incredible sums of money trafficking provided attracted the attention of violent extremist groups that operated in the same Sahelo-Saharan band. It became a symbiotic relationship: Traffickers had access to valuable goods, and heavily armed extremist groups could offer protection. "I think it is inevitable that these groups operating in the same permissive environments will eventually come to know each other and work together," said Douglas Farah of the International Assessment and Strategy Center. "Because each one has what the other one wants."

Abderrahmane said the partnership between extremist groups and traffickers started off

cautiously, but quickly became close. "At first I would say that they didn't really think of any common ground," he said. "But at one point they understood that they could share different expertise, and the interest grew in joining forces."

This partnership was embodied by former al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) emir Mokhtar Belmokhtar. A native of Algeria, Belmokhtar moved to northern Mali when the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), a precursor to AQIM, relocated there in the early 2000s.

Northern Mali had become a favorable environment for extremists like Belmokhtar due to its sparse population and because a rebellion by the Tuareg people in the early 1990s made the region largely ungoverned. "After 1996, the military and the state kind of pulled back from the region, and that created greater opportunity for various operators to move in," said Alex Thurston, an expert on the region who runs the website Sahel Blog. "Be it peaceful NGOs or Islamic missionaries or traffickers and militants at the other end of the spectrum."

Belmokhtar worked to enmesh himself in the community and formed alliances with the families that controlled trade in northern Mali. He married a woman from a prominent Timbuktu family, a strategy used by other AQIM commanders.

"When they marry these women they're also marrying into families, and they're marrying into networks," Thurston said. "So it goes beyond a union of two people and becomes a union of two networks."

Belmokhtar would become known as "Mr. Marlboro" for his dominance in the cigarette trade. He reopened an ancient 3,000-kilometer "salt route" that passed through Timbuktu and used it to transport tobacco. Belmokhtar and other AQIM leaders also charged "taxes" to fellow smugglers who used their routes.

That wasn't the only innovation. In 2003, Belmokhtar helped give rise to an epidemic of kidnapping for ransom (KFR) in the Sahel when he participated in the abduction of 32 European tourists in southern Algeria. Although accurate figures are difficult to obtain, governments, families and corporations have made tens of millions of dollars in ransom payments to kidnappers in the region since the early 1990s. Thurston said KFR serves a dual purpose: It creates a "spectacle" that attracts attention to the groups' messages and allows them to make demands of governments. It also provides a revenue stream.

"There's a big question with AQIM whether to look at it as a criminal organization or a jihadist organization or both," Thurston said. "Those categories shouldn't be mutually exclusive."

The KFR industry in the Sahel spawned related

businesses. In some cases local thugs kidnapped travelers and handed them over to AQIM. In other cases local representatives served as intermediaries, helping to negotiate ransom payments. "Kidnapping for ransom has developed into a highly lucrative industry that has allowed AQIM to become a significant political and military force in the Sahel," Lacher wrote. "At the same time, repeated hostage takings have caused tourism to collapse, thereby further limiting opportunities for employment and profit outside of criminal activity."

COMPLEX SOLUTIONS

The military operation in northern Mali launched by France in January 2013 has disrupted trafficking networks. In March, officials announced that AQIM emir Abu Zeid was killed by Chadian forces in the Ifoghas mountains of northern Mali. They also announced that Belmokhtar, who had formed a breakaway battalion of fighters, had died although forces loyal to Belmokhtar contested this claim.

Careful observers like Abderrahmane caution against believing the problem can be solved quickly. "The presence of French military groups put on hold trafficking and terrorist groups, but it will resume, whether next year or two years' time," he said. "Because the roots of the problems in Mali are far deeper than what we often see."

Abderrahmane said a real solution must address not only the symptoms but the illness that causes trafficking and terror to converge in these regions. He pointed to three general areas that must be improved:

- 1. People living in isolated parts of the Sahel must see other avenues for employment besides colluding with criminals to traffic or kidnap. They must also benefit from economic development.
- 2. There needs to be an end to the "sense of impunity" among corrupt military members and public officials. Those who collaborate with traffickers must be weeded out and punished. Paired with this initiative should be fair compensation for Soldiers, customs officials and border guards so they are less tempted to engage in corruption.
- 3. There needs to be a greater partnership and information sharing among countries in the region because traffickers and extremists tend to fill the vacuum of weak enforcement.

"This problem is not black and white. ... It's very complicated and it is layered," Abderrahmane said. "Solving it requires a lot. It requires money, obviously, but it also requires a willingness. In theory many of the tools are there to fight trafficking already, but I'm not sure that the willingness is there."

AFRICA HEARTBEAT



A museum guard displays a burned ancient manuscript at the Ahmed Baba Institute in January 2013. The majority of Timbuktu's ancient manuscripts appear to be safe after the city's 10-month occupation by rebel fighters.

MALIANS RALLY TO RESCUE Ancient Texts

ADF STAFF

RELITERS

ali's history is rich with priceless relics and Sufi Islamic culture, making the past a valued treasure for citizens of the present. But for non-Malian Salafist extremists who sought to establish a strict religious state in the north, history became a casualty.

In early 2012, Tuareg rebels returning from the conflict in Libya and a complex mix of extremist groups, including al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, took over northern Mali. Chaos multiplied as a military coup in the capital Bamako overthrew the government of President Amadou Toumani Toure. The resulting divided military was unable to stop extremists as they consolidated their power in the north.

The religious extremists viewed Sufi shrines and other relics as heretical. Nowhere was the resulting destruction more evident than in the storied city of Timbuktu.

The city once served as a busy Saharan crossroads where spices, fabrics and gold were transported and sold. Traders brought books, which scribes copied. Thousands of books still remain, covering everything from medicine, botany and astronomy to Islamic philosophy and law.

"This is the record of the golden ages of the Malian empire," Irina Bokova, director-general of UNESCO, told The New York Times. "If you let this disappear, it would be a crime against all of humanity.'

France sent troops into Mali, and their advances and airstrikes drove militants out of key cities, including Timbuktu. But the ancient texts became targets in a scorched-earth retreat by extremists.

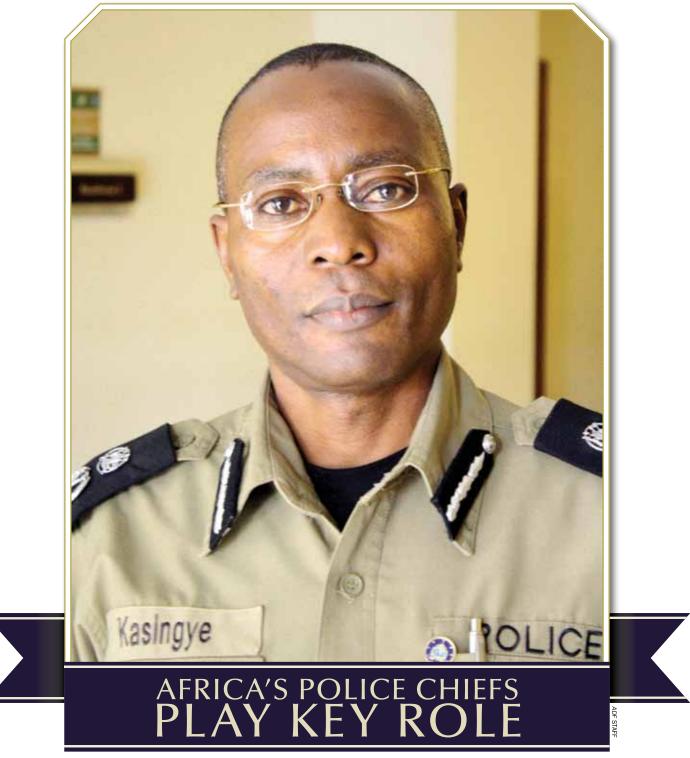
Malians, however, recognize the treasure trove of history in their midst. Some of them have become accustomed to protecting it, and the majority of the antiquities have endured for centuries, despite threats caused by climate, insects and invasions. Families in Timbuktu hide the relics as danger approaches.

Abdul Kader Haidara is keeper of a priceless group of Arabic manuscripts, which include a 12th-century astrology chart and an Arab genealogy chart. He put an emergency plan into action as extremists arrived. "I bought every tin box I could find," he told CBS News, "the kind we store household goods in, and my staff and I filled them with manuscripts until the library was empty." Once the boxes were full, he quietly handed them out to area families, who hid them in their homes.

Extremists did indeed burn a number of precious manuscripts, but losses amounted to less than 1 percent of that collection belonging to the government, CBS reported. All 30,000 of the documents Haidara hid in boxes survived.

Manuscripts and books were not the only treasures targeted for destruction. Religious extremists also took pickaxes to ancient mausoleums and shrines to Sufi saints, claiming the structures are forbidden because they are idolatrous.

According to the Financial Times, militants destroyed 11 mausoleums. UNESCO's Bokova said the structures would be rebuilt. The cost is estimated at \$4 million to \$5 million. Those responsible for the destruction could face prosecution for war crimes.



Uganda's director of Interpol envisions an "Afripol," a police chiefs' organization that spans the continent.

Asan Kasingye is director of Interpol and International Relations with the Uganda Police Force. *Africa Defense Forum* interviewed him in Kampala about his work with the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation.

ADF STAFF

You're heavily involved in the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO). How did that organization come to be?

We realized that crime — especially transnational organized crime and cross-border crime — in this era of criminals using new technology and advanced technology cannot be dealt with by any single country. As such, we took advantage of the fact that in Africa we have different regional groupings. We used that as a starting point. So the EAPCCO was formed in 1998. We are a regional bureau for Interpol. Since that time, we've had EAPCCO looking at transnational crime, making resolutions on how to deal with organized crime, and sharing intelligence and information. I'm proud to say that over these years now, we've seen a positive transformation in dealing with serious crime, especially terrorism.

Give some examples of what EAPCCO does.

Number one, we do training programs within our police forces and also with other international and regional bodies. For example, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies has helped us put out manuals for training our officers. And equipping them — capacity building — is one of the most important things that we do.

Number two, we carry out joint simulation exercises.

Number three is sharing of intelligence and information in regard to movements of terrorists and terrorist cells that we have in our region.

What is the focus of EAPCCO?

In the day-to-day survival of the state, the challenge is about crime. It's about terrorism, it's about cyber crime, it's about transnational organized crime, drugs and wildlife crime. In all of this, the primary mandate is with the police.

The armies are also working together. In the Great Lakes region, for example, we've seen groups that abuse human rights, like the Joseph Kony element. It has become a regional security issue. I have seen that the armies have been having meetings between Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic and South Sudan, in order to address regional security problems. They're working on a more permanent arrangement, like we have with the police.

What's the next step for Africa's police chiefs?

We need to learn from what Europe has done. As of now they have Europol. We need to unite into a formidable force that fights crime together. We have the East African police chiefs organization; we have the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO); we have the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO); and we have the Central African Police Chiefs' Committee (CAPCCO). The four organizations operating in Africa, as much as they are doing a good job, I think it's imperative that we move forward and we have one formidable continental regional body comparable to Europol.

The challenges that we face are not limited to, for instance, East Africa. Most of the drug problems that we have in the region — most of the facilitators of these problems are West Africans. If we are not cooperating, West Africa and East Africa, together, in one formidable organization, it becomes difficult. It becomes a challenge for us to track these criminals. Personally, I think we need to have an "Afripol," an Africa police organization like Europol.

Should Africa's police departments play a larger role in fighting terrorism?

We must all agree that fighting terrorism is the duty of everybody, of every East African, of every African, everybody in the world. There is no question about that. However, the police play a leading role. All the other security organizations, within the region, within the country, fight terrorism under the leadership of the police. It's not a question of whether the police do it better, it's a question of who plays a leading role. That is our constitutional mandate.

Explain the constitutional mandate you mentioned.

The police are mandated constitutionally to prevent, prosecute, investigate, detain, interrogate and imprison any person who commits a felony, whether it is terrorism or any other crime. That's our constitutional mandate. It is not a constitutional mandate of the Army. The role of the Army is to defend the borders of this country from the enemies of this country, either infiltrating or from within.

So it is not a question of whether the police do it better than the Army, it's a question of mandate. However, you may not be able to delineate the role of the military and the role of the police, when it comes to terrorism because we do actually work together. We share intelligence together; we do operations together, overt and covert operations. We do training programs together.

For example, in Uganda, we created a joint anti-terrorism task force composed of intelligence organizations, the police and the Army. We all move together.

How do the police and military work together?

Here is how our police work: The military will come into a problem area, stabilize the situation, and that's where we come in. One example: The police have been able to establish themselves in Mogadishu because the Army has been there for quite some time, and now the Army can go outside Mogadishu to other areas like Baidoa (Baydhabo). The police are now establishing themselves to make sure there is the rule of law. Uganda, for example, has been able to deploy a police unit of 140. This couldn't have been done without the role of the Army.

Somalia now is hooked to the Interpol system, so every day we can share and exchange information with Mogadishu because of the work the military has done in that area. In Eastern DRC, the role of the Army is critical in ensuring that there is peace and security there. Once that has been done, then the police can be able to link up to police chiefs and police in that area to ensure that we deal with the cross-border issues that we have.

Moving forward, we would like to have joint operations and joint training programs among the four regional police bodies in Africa. Right now, EAPCCO is planning a joint operation with the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation. They are planning on having joint exercises on terrorism, trafficking in human beings, illicit trafficking in drugs and illicit trafficking in wildlife crime.

Why is the need for cooperation among countries so critical?

We should not rely just on our regional bodies. We should really look at the magnitude of the problem and be able to share data and crime statistics. Crime doesn't know our borders. Criminals don't know borders. We should be able to work together to ensure that criminals are deterred.

We have trafficking in human beings in terms of forced labor. There are many East Africans who are now moving into the southern region, particularly into South Africa, where traffickers are taking people into forced labor, into prostitution rings. All of this is coupled with drugs. We need to come out of our individual cocoons and begin to have joint operations.

What is to be done about illegal arms on the continent?

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons over time is because of the regional geopolitical problems we have had. The political instabilities within different countries have put many guns in the hands of individuals and groups. These guns are responsible for problems of cattle rustling within our borders, robberies, and of course terrorism and other activities.

We have regional bodies that are responsible for dealing with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In this region we have a civil society



organization, RECSA — the Regional Center for Small Arms — based in Nairobi. What we can do as the police is to work hand in hand with the regional organizations that are responsible for small arms and light weapons. Work with them, in terms of planning, in terms of operations, in terms of sharing intelligence. They have done an enormous amount of research on this problem. So if we share that information, we can become the operational wing of these organizations.

Do you register guns in your region?

RECSA has a program in which all the arms in individual countries are registered. For quite some time, even in our individual countries, we may not be able to know how many guns are in the hands of the military, of the police, of the intelligence services, of private security organizations. In order to stop this problem of proliferation of small arms, we need to have regional programs conducted simultaneously between the countries where guns and arms of different security organizations are registered. Every security organization must register its own arms. Legitimate arms must be registered.

This helps us. If we recover a rifle, it is easier to tell which organization it has come from and probably which service officer had this gun. How did this gun get lost? So in the long run, it helps individual officers have more responsibility for their own guns.

What do you do with illegal weapons?

We need to have joint operations, joint regional operations — police and military — to recover illegal guns from illegal hands. Get the illegal arms from illegal hands and destroy them! These illegal arms have caused untold suffering to the people of this region, and even to wildlife, because poaching elephants and other animals is on the increase. If you have to deal with this problem, then you also have to deal with the illegal arms that are in the area. So we need to get the guns and destroy them.

We need to have programs that deal with the liberation of people's minds. We need to sensitize our communities that think that the gun is their livelihood. To provide security, governments in Africa, governments in this region, must provide security to different community groups. Once they feel they are secure, once they feel that they don't live under the threat of, for example, cattle rustling by other communities, then the motivation to have guns to defend themselves will diminish.

Once there is political stability, then there will be positive and productive reduction of arms. \Box

Distance for DISASTER



Left unattended, Africa's weapons depots pose an explosive threat.

ADF STAFF

n March 4, 2012, Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo, was rocked by a series of explosions. Although some feared at first that it was a military coup or terrorist attack, it soon became clear that the sound came from the munitions depot at the Regiment Blindé, just off the Congo River in the bustling eastern part of the city.

An electrical short circuit or another spark caused a fire, which ignited several tons of explosive agents, rifle and artillery ammunition, and possibly rocket fuel. The cause of the explosion is under investigation.

The toll was devastating. More than 200 people were killed, 3,000 were injured and 20,000 had to flee their homes. The blast shattered windows for a 5-kilometer radius and propelled unexploded ordnance (UXO) throughout the city. Officials spent months trying to find and remove the scattered explosives, the U.N. report said. Later, squalid conditions caused by the blast led to a cholera outbreak.

Although the Brazzaville explosion was notable for its size, such blasts are not rare on the continent. In the decade ending in 2011, African countries suffered at least 27 depot explosions. Mozambique had the greatest number with nine; Sudan was second with four.

Experts say stockpile safety is an overlooked aspect of national security. "It is far easier to avoid disasters like this from occurring, rather than to deal with the extremely high financial costs

Left: A plume of smoke rises from an explosion in Brazzaville on March 4, 2012. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

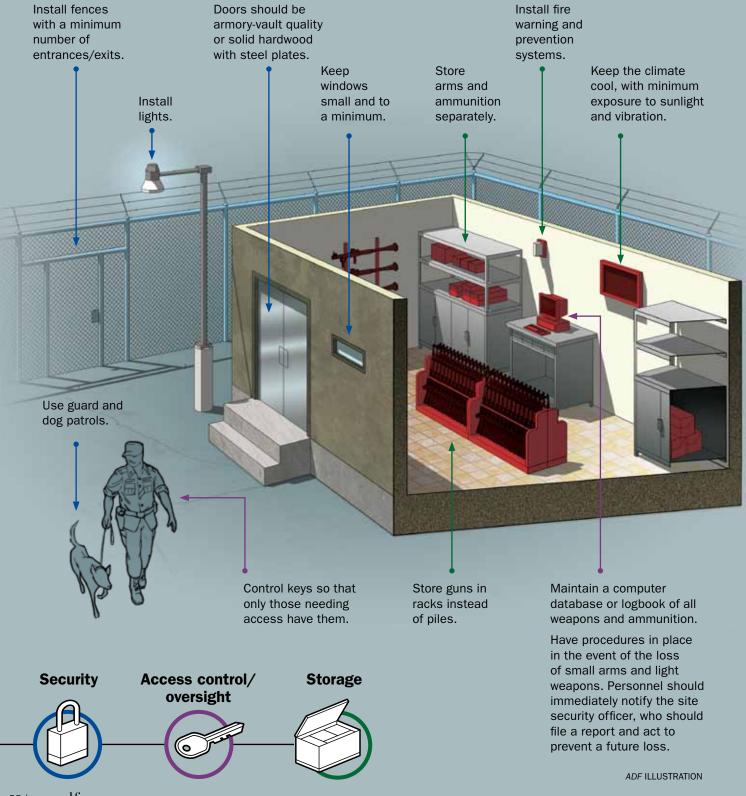
Above: A man poses among Soldiers with the remains of a missile that shot out of the Brazzaville munitions depot during an explosion.

"It is far easier to avoid disasters like this from occurring, rather than to deal with the extremely high financial costs associated with them afterwards."

> – Lauren Tracey, Institute for Security Studies in South Africa

Depot Security

Out of 200 million military firearms worldwide, about 76 million are considered surplus. Many depots that store these weapons are old and poorly maintained. The result is that many of the weapons end up on the black market, and sometimes depots explode — with deadly results. Low-cost security and monitoring improvements can significantly enhance safety. Some measures as outlined by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe include:



associated with them afterwards," wrote Lauren Tracey of the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa. "The technically challenging cleanup costs of UXO that end up littering the streets long after such an explosion, the medical costs of the injured victims coupled with the financial burden of having to rebuild homes and other infrastructure, are all costs many countries cannot afford."

The risk of an explosion is not the only danger. Insecure weapons depots are prime targets for looters who aim to steal and sell deadly devices such as man-portable air-defense systems. In order to secure and manage stockpiles, there are best practices that industry professionals agree can reduce the risk of explosions or theft. In a 2011 report, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) outlined some of these practices.

Location

Like the depot in Brazzaville, many stockpiles in African countries date to the colonial era. Although they were once a safe distance from civilian centers, steady urban growth means that many are now surrounded by homes and businesses. OSCE recommends that small arms and light weapons (SALW) stockpile locations be close enough to military bases that personnel can be armed quickly, yet far enough from population centers that they don't pose a risk. Arms that do not need to be available for rapidreaction forces should be more isolated.

There are no universally accepted guidelines for depot locations, but the NATO Allied Ammunition Storage and Transport Publication gives some recommendations on distance.

Security

SALW stockpiles should always be kept in a secure armory within a secure compound. The OSCE says the building should have "armory vault doors or solid hardwood with steel plate on the outside face, with door bucks, frames and keepers rigidly anchored." Security also includes a combination of well-trained security staffers, active or passive alarm systems and security devices. Windows should be kept to a minimum. If possible, an alarm and intruder detection system should include sensors on doors, windows and other openings. An alert from the system should generate an immediate response from local guards. Lights, fences, and regular patrols or guard dogs are all security features that decrease theft or intrusion risks.

Storage

The OSCE says arms racks and metal containers are useful for storing SALW, but arms should be stored in a way that they are not easily removed. Significant amounts of SALW and ammunition should also be stored apart from each another.

Oversight

Keys issued for the facility should be minimal and given only to personnel who must access the facility for



A resident moves his belongings after a series of explosions destroyed homes and buildings in the Mpila neighborhood near the weapons depot of the Regiment Blindé in Brazzaville.

official duties. These workers should be cleared through a background check. Similarly, records of all weapons and ammunition inside the facility should be kept and audited. The oversight should also include unannounced "spot checks," the OSCE said. A computerized system is best for record keeping, but a well-maintained logbook can also work.

Conditions

The physical and chemical condition of ammunition is as important as the security of the stockpile site. Ammunition has a shelf life (the length of time it can be used) and requires optimal conditions for stability. In general, it is best to keep ammunition away from moisture, direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Excessive vibration can also degrade the effectiveness of ammunition and lead to instability.

Necessary Size

The size of a national ammunition stockpile is a decision that is unique to each country. It is subject to a wide range of factors including the defense budget and the threats the country faces. Because unused ammunition deteriorates over time, it is in a country's interest to determine the amount needed for national defense and not to surpass that amount. In a study titled the "Stockpile Management of Ammunition," researcher Adrian Wilkinson said the leaders of the armed forces, police and civilian officials should examine the daily ammunition expenditure rates (DAER) for each piece of equipment they possess. Expenditure rates will be different for intensive war, peacekeeping, training and other events. For example, a mortar section will require 16,800 rounds over 30 days during intense warfare. After totaling the DAER for all equipment, the nation should keep on hand only what is needed for the daily activities of the military and police, training, and a reserve for an emergency.



PROTECTING THE HERONAL

CAMEROON RAMPS UP ITS EFFORTS After a massacre of elephants in Bouba n'djida national park.

ADF STAFF

n early 2012, a group of about 100 armed bandits rode on horseback 1,000 kilometers across some of the harshest terrain in the world. Leaving western Sudan, they crossed parts of the Central African Republic and Chad before entering the grasslands of Bouba N'Djida National Park in the far north of Cameroon. Although their transportation was primitive, their weaponry was not. Armed with rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s, the horsemen set up camp in the park and began slaughtering its elephants.

The park's "eco-guards" carried only antiquated rifles and were helpless to prevent the assault. Within two weeks, somewhere between 200 and 650 elephants were killed for their ivory.

Conservationists who later inspected the carcasses believe the animals were still alive when the poachers began hacking them apart because many were found slumped over on their knees. "[The poachers] were organized and very determined to kill all the animals of the



Poachers killed this elephant at Bouba N'Djida National Park. In early 2012, Sudanese poachers killed between 200 and 650 elephants for their ivory in a matter of weeks.

herd," said Celine Sissler-Bienvenu of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, who visited the park soon after the killings. She estimated that half of the park's elephants were

Forces battalion, the Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide (BIR). Within 48 hours, BIR Soldiers had reached the park, 700 kilometers north of the capital Yaoundé, and days later they engaged the poachers in battle. "In the first week we faced them twice in very close combat," Maj. Francois Pelene of the BIR told ADF.

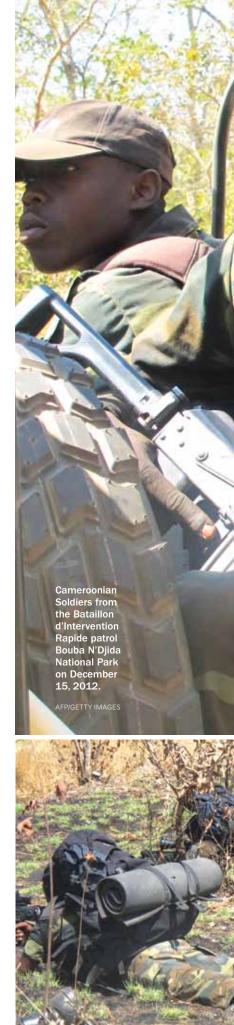
"The result was that we succeeded in killing two poachers, we seized around 10 horses, over 2,000 bullets, and an important stock of their logistics was seized and 81 tips of ivory."

killed. "They knew very well Bouba N'Djida. They knew very well how

In response to the event,

President Paul Biya of Cameroon

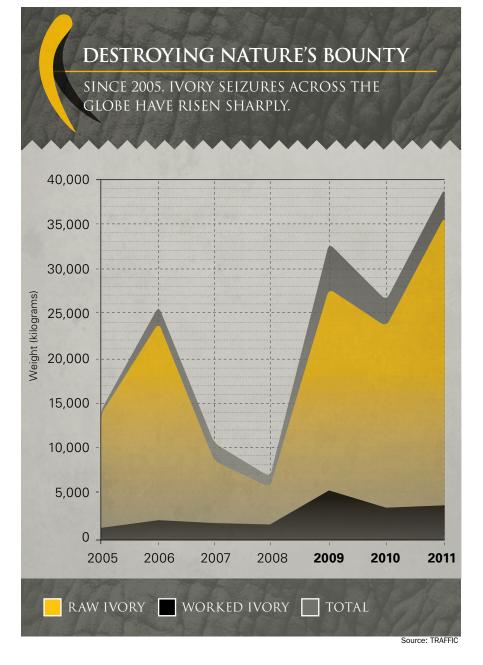
to move in the park."











The BIR also lost two men during the fighting. After the poachers fled, the BIR began sorting through their camps. They found food packages with writing in Arabic, traditional talismans and narcotics — evidence that the men came from the north. Some hypothesized that they were from a tribe known as the Rizeigat, which has ties to the murderous Janjaweed fighters who committed atrocities against the people of Darfur in the early 2000s.

The BIR also found remains of camels that had been used to transport ivory and enough ammunition for the poachers to go to war. "Those poachers are very well-trained in terms of guerrilla warfare," Pelene said. "They've been making war in South Sudan, they have experience, and they're absolutely not afraid to fight and they absolutely have to go back with ivory because it's a very big business."

A tour of the park revealed more grisly evidence of the poachers' handiwork. Shriveled elephant carcasses rested in clusters where the horseback poachers had corralled the frightened beasts before massacring them. Even elephant calves, of no value on the international ivory market, had been killed with machetes. Sissler-Bienvenu suspects the poachers purposely tortured the calves to draw adult elephants closer.

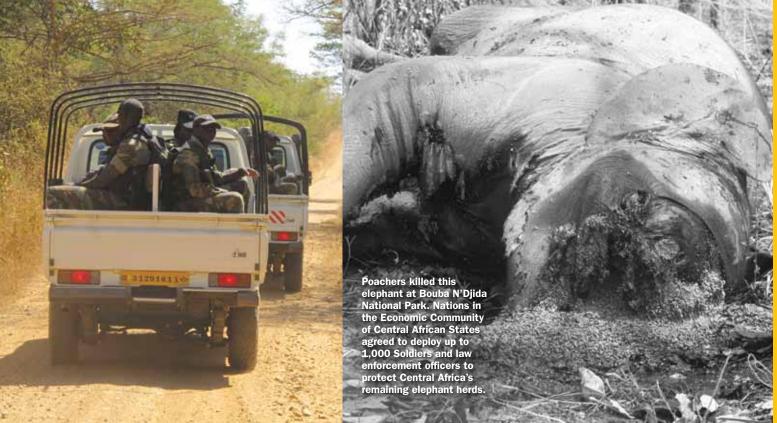
A REGIONAL PROBLEM

If the poachers' work appeared methodical, that's because it was. For years, bands of Sudanese poachers have stalked the unpatrolled regions of Central Africa looking for ivory. They've decimated endangered elephant populations in Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad and Cameroon. According to the World Wildlife Fund, CAR's elephant population alone has dropped from 80,000 to just a few hundred in recent years.

"The fact that these perpetrators of this type of wildlife crime are having to go further and further afield is testament to how depleted wildlife resources are in that part of the world," said Tom Milliken, Zimbabwebased manager of the Elephant Trade Information System for the conservation organization TRAFFIC.

Across the continent poaching has become professionalized. In 2012, South African officials tallied a record year for rhino poaching with 668 rhinos killed for their horns. The horn can fetch up to \$65,000 per kilogram on the black market and is more valuable than gold. Recent years have been equally deadly for Africa's elephants. According to Milliken, three of the past five years have been the highestvolume years on record in the illegal ivory trade. In 2011, a record was set with nearly 40 metric tons of illegal ivory seized worldwide.

Milliken said the ivory poached from Bouba N'Djida was likely destined for one of two places: Cairo or Khartoum. Recently, TRAFFIC noted an increase in the ivory trinkets sold to tourists in the souks of Cairo. "It's a very active market and has kind of taken on a new lease on life with all the Chinese tourism," Milliken said. Similarly, a boom in oil exploration has drawn Chinese nationals to Khartoum by the thousands. A lucrative underground ivory trade has developed alongside this influx with "aggregators" working as black market middlemen to gather the ivory and ship it back to Asian markets. The



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ivory is sent mostly to China and Thailand. Vietnam, with its newly booming economy, has become the hottest market for rhino horn.

"All of these networks are increasingly being linked," Milliken told *ADF*. "Throughout Africa, there are more Asian nationals resident and working here than ever before in the history of the continent, and organized crime is part of that interface. That poses severe national security risks."

A UNITED FRONT

After the first confrontation, Cameroon's BIR forces knew the poachers would return. They began an intense training program that included practicing shooting skills, map reading and navigation. Soldiers also became acclimated to the park's harsh climate and began to develop an intelligence network among the local population, asking them to alert authorities when trouble was coming. They used night vision goggles for night patrols and incorporated a helicopter for surveillance. They practiced communicating and relaying information on wireless devices, and the men did regular motorized, foot and aerial patrols.

The work paid off. In October 2012, working with the U.S. Embassy in Yaoundé, BIR commanders received word from the intelligence network that the poachers were returning, this time with 50 additional men, to finish their work in Bouba N'Djida. In a show of overwhelming force, the BIR dispatched 600 Soldiers, 30 tactical vehicles, 10 logistical trucks and a helicopter.

The military placed teams at the east and west borders of the park and divided it into six sectors, which men regularly patrolled, Pelene said. In December 2012, the BIR received reliable intelligence reports that the band of poachers approached the park, but turned around when they caught wind of the overwhelming military presence. Cameroon plans to keep BIR units inside the park every year during the dry season until the threat has passed.

"We are not dealing with ordinary poachers," said Gen. Martin Tumenta, commander of Cameroon's 3rd Joint Military Region, who led the operation. "What we are dealing with is an army, platoon, battalion that does not hesitate to cross our borders to rob it of its natural heritage." Tumenta emphasized that the military presence in and around the park was not temporary. "These forces will be permanently, I say permanently, and I repeat permanently, in this territory," he said. "I advise [the poachers], in light of the resources at our disposal, not to step foot in this country."

All sides agree it will require a regional effort to combat the scourge of poaching. There are too many unpatrolled areas in the region, and recent chaos in the CAR has only made that country's last elephant herds that much more vulnerable.

In March 2013, 89 more elephants were killed in Chad, near the border with Cameroon, by the same group of poachers. After a three-day meeting of leaders of the Economic Community of Central African States, the region agreed to deploy up to 1,000 Soldiers and law enforcement officers at a cost of \$2.33 million as part of a joint military operation to protect Central Africa's remaining elephant herds. "If we were not on the ground now, for sure they would have killed a lot of elephants," Pelene said. "We know that it costs a lot of money to set up an operation like this, but it's worth it."



Bio Labs A PROMISE AND A THREAT

Bioweapons can be a byproduct of biological research. Experts say more oversight is needed throughout the world's labs.

ADF STAFF

Even under the watchful eyes of scientists, viruses have a way of getting out of control.

The H1N1 flu virus was considered to be extinct in humans as of 1957, but nearly two decades later, there were two outbreaks. One was confined to a military base in the United States

in 1976. The other occurred a year later in the former Soviet Union, Hong Kong and China.

A study of the 1977 epidemic showed it was related to a 1950 human strain that had been preserved for years as a "freezer" virus. Scientists now believe it was accidentally released during research, possibly in the former Soviet Union or China. It has continued to mutate and circulate as a seasonal flu ever since.

Such viruses can be more than just a health hazard. They have the potential to be used as weapons of terrorism.

Scientists worldwide are aware of the potential for disaster with viruses and chemical weapons. It has been a topic of talks since 1925, when the Geneva Protocol banned the use of chemical and biological weapons.

The protocol, however, did not ban the possession or development of such weapons. That came in 1975 with the signing of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. As of March 2013, the treaty had been ratified by 169 countries.

The convention as it now stands has little force of law. There is no formal verification body to monitor compliance, and there are no inspections. As a result, the convention has, on occasion, been blatantly violated.

Since the 1975 signings, treaty countries have routinely held conferences to build on the convention's work. The most-recent BWC conference was in Geneva in December 2011. Then-U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke, warning that terrorists had made it known that they "want to acquire and use these weapons."

The editors of *The Economist* agree. "There is a concern that some terrorist groups, motivated not by specific political grievances but by a general hatred of the West, might unleash the uncontrollable mayhem of a viral epidemic purely out of spite," the magazine reported.

Partnerships to Improve Safety

The United States established the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program in 1992 to work with countries in addressing nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical threats. In December 2010, the U.S. determined that CTR partnerships with Iraq, India, China and the countries of Africa would help in achieving long-standing nonproliferation goals, as well as sustaining long-term partnerships.



A laboratory worker studies a cassava species in Abadan, Nigeria. Throughout Africa, scientists are using laboratories to create new strains of crops and research diseases and viruses. In a May 2011 report, the U.S. said that the "most dynamic" area of CTR activity for the foreseeable future would be biodefense. CTR's Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) announced four goals:

- To consolidate and secure collections of especially dangerous pathogens that might serve as the source for biological weapons.
- To provide laboratory safety enhancements and training to prevent accidental release of especially dangerous pathogens.
- To strengthen partner countries' detection, diagnostic and reporting systems with training, technology upgrades and improvements to laboratory detection networks.
- To promote collaborative research projects to increase capacity to understand and recognize the most dangerous pathogens.

"Collectively, these four areas help address the growing human and animal biodefense challenge which we believe has heretofore lacked appropriate resources and attention from U.S. agencies with national security missions," the report concluded. The four goals would help countries in "strengthening global health security, obtaining timely insight on emerging outbreaks, reducing the potential for exploitation of life sciences material and technology, and reinforcing norms of safe and responsible conduct."

Potential for Accidents

Africa is perceived as a particularly sensitive area. An October 2005 international meeting in Uganda focused on the policy implications of using science to eradicate diseases while simultaneously controlling access to disease-causing organisms to prevent bioterrorism. Delegates called for "strict measures to be formulated to guard against the misuse of biology, and warned that failure to address concerns over biological weapons could undermine efforts to develop and instill confidence in science," according to SciDev.net.

"Confidence in modern science is giving way to a period of fear, doubt and uncertainty," said Patrick Mazimhaka of the African Union Commission.

As *The Economist* reported in 2011, "Africa is home to the world's nastiest diseases, such as the Ebola and Marburg viruses, and to laboratories that study them. Could that be a tempting target to terrorists?"

The magazine cited specific examples, including a Kenyan research lab housing anthrax, Ebola and Marburg that "backs into a slum and has low, easily scaled cement walls." African researchers, the magazine said, have to use large quantities of dangerous viruses in their research because their equipment is old and out of date.

Richard Lennane of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research noted that security for such laboratories is not just about fences and guards. It requires trained security workers as well. And, Lennane observed, scientists need to be empowered with the authority and presence of mind to ask questions if a lone researcher starts regularly working late or acting out of character.

Patrick Rose, an American biosecurity expert, predicts some sort of biological attack will occur somewhere in the world within the next five years. "It's because of the sheer advance of science, and how technologies have become more affordable," Rose told *ADF*. "Fully functional hobbyist kits like you'd find in laboratories are available online. They're much cheaper now, and they've been simplified

to the point that anybody can use them. You combine that with the intent and the access to different biological agents, and it's not unlikely that you would find nonstate actors with a great intention to use them."

A bigger concern than terrorists, say researchers, is accidents. The 1977 H1N1 flu epidemic was the result of an accident. A British outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 2007 was probably the result of sloppy laboratory procedures. NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING



and public panic can be critical.

and respond in the event of an outbreak.

Regular exercises involving public safety and public

health officials are a good way of ensuring that a commu-

nity has a plan to identify and quarantine sick patients

The U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency offers

training in such fundamentals as responding to hazard-

ous materials incidents in support of the U.S. Africa

Command's Disaster Preparedness Program. In April

Ugandan Soldiers unpack breathing apparatus kits during a training session.

2013, 34 members of the Uganda People's Defense Force and the Uganda Police Force graduated from a five-week program in dealing with hazardous materials. The training included a simulated rescue and cleanup.

Oversight is Needed Worldwide

Now, more than ever, regulations and oversight are needed in biological research. Countries have come to understand that investing in biotechnology

The Police and Military Can Help

The police and the military are critical in responding to biological threats. In almost every country in the world, police departments are part of the first responder teams. They will almost always be the first on the scene when something unusual happens, including public health emergencies. Militaries, however, have historically not been asked to provide help during a health crisis in most countries. That dynamic can change, and the military can play more of a support role for civilian agencies.

It makes good sense, officials say. The military has an infrastructure and resources that the police, fire and public health departments often lack. That includes the manpower to organize clinics, set up public health stations and establish quarantine sites.

Ideally, health officials can also train their public safety sector to handle large events, such as outdoor concerts and sporting events. Officials set up triage tents with a nurse or doctor to help people if they are dehydrated or suffering from too much sun exposure. "That way, you can monitor what's going on," Rose said. "That's a low investment you can provide to make a place like that safer."

Diagnosing virus outbreaks can be complicated. Experts say that countless types of infections begin with what are conveniently described as "flu-like symptoms." A 2005 study published in *African Security Review* notes: "Outbreaks of rare diseases are unpredictable and local health personnel may fail to recognize the early signs at the onset of a major epidemic, mostly because of relevant skills." In such emergencies, putting a country's military infrastructure in place to deal with the onrush of victims is part of their economic growth, whether it's improving crop production, coming up with new health procedures or inventing new fuels.

The *McKinsey Quarterly*, a business magazine, reports that one biotech company has modified yeast to transform sugar into useful compounds, including malaria drugs and biofuels that can substitute for today's jet fuel, diesel and gasoline. Countries such as Malaysia and Pakistan are investing as much as 2.5 percent of their gross domestic product in biotechnology development.

Pakistan in particular has made significant gains in cotton production with the aid of biotechnology research. In 2011, it began testing its second generation of biotech cotton, which resists insects and tolerates herbicides.

"For some countries, there's money to be made," Rose said. "This might be private companies, this might be the government investing in it. They are trying to build an economy around it. But we are struggling with how much oversight, how much freedom these institutions should have in doing what they're doing."

Efforts are underway throughout the world to reduce the risk of chemical warfare. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons reported in March 2013 that about 80 percent of declared chemical weapons had been destroyed under international verification, Among the countries still holding chemical weapons were Libya, which still reportedly had more than 14 tons of sulfur mustard gas in bulk containers left over from the Moammar Gadhafi regime. The replacement government has said it plans to complete disposal of its stockpiles by December 2016. \Box

a tool to fight the human trade

OUAGADOUGOU ACTION PLAN GIVES AFRICAN NATIONS A FRAMEWORK TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFIECKING

October 2003 was a time of liberation for 74 Beninese children. Sold to work in Nigerian granite pits, they were returned home, some with open wounds after having spent countless hours smashing stones. "We would break the stones, and the men would come to take them away in trucks," a boy, about 10 years old, told the BBC. The children told United Nations officials that 13 others had died in the previous three months, exhausted by smashing and carrying rocks, sleeping in the open, and lacking food.

Each year, more than 4 million African children — the equivalent of the population of Liberia — are trafficked for labor before they turn 15. The problem is particularly severe in Benin, where more than half of the population scrapes by in poverty. In this small Gulf of Guinea nation, 50,000 children a year are trafficked so they can work. Some go to Nigeria's granite mines and quarries.



ome boys from Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Mali and Guinea end up in Gabon working as mechanics or street hawkers. Often children are sent away with the consent of their parents, who hope to make money from the child's work while having one less mouth to feed, according to

a November 2012 report in *The Guardian*. "It's a last recourse, a survival strategy," Jean Lokenga, a child protection specialist in Benin for UNICEF, told *The Guardian*. "Parents see it as a way for children to contribute to the family."

Many of these stories have a tragic ending. For every few dozen children rescued from hard labor, or every woman forced into prostitution who is liberated, millions more languish under the cruelty of traffickers, pimps or taskmasters.

Trafficking is a worldwide problem, but its roots are deep in Africa. It touches children and adults, and the purposes are varied. According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012," two-thirds of victims found in Africa and the Middle East were children. Nearly half of the victims were used in forced labor, and 36 percent were trafficked for sexual exploitation. Fourteen percent of trafficking cases were related to the procurement of child soldiers, for rituals or other purposes.

The problem preys on the vulnerable: children, women, migrants, immigrants and the poor. It is a \$32 billion industry that affects 30 million people worldwide, according to the nonprofit organization Not For Sale.

Human trafficking operates in the shadows and often is part of more elaborate criminal enterprises. The crime has been linked to smuggling, corruption, identity theft, false document production and money laundering. Criminal groups also engage in drug trafficking as well as human smuggling and trafficking, according to Louise Shelley, author of *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective.* Unsecured borders, financial limits and lack of political will help the crime thrive. "High levels of governmental corruption and the presence of powerful organized crime groups undermine any state capacity to counter trafficking," Shelley wrote in her book. "With limited and underfunded civil societies, there is no effective counterweight to the absence of state action."

Africa's Plan to Fight Human Trafficking

Law enforcement, national legislation, and the political and social will to tackle human trafficking vary among African nations. This complicates efforts at regional and international cooperation. It's a problem the African Union is trying to overcome through the AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT).

AU.COMMIT is intended to establish the fight against human trafficking as a continental development priority through AU member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Central to this effort is the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children.

African and European foreign affairs, migration, and development ministers, as well as AU and European Commission officials, adopted the action plan at the Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in Tripoli, Libya, in November 2006. The plan reaffirms commitments to a range of international and regional human rights instruments. It also proposes a three-pronged strategy: preventing trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting those involved in trafficking. It seeks to do so through four main principles:

Prevention and raising awareness: Nations should train police and other authorities to combat trafficking, educate the public through media campaigns, and call on civil society institutions to join the process. Improving birth registrations and identity documents, and establishing rehabilitation centers for victims, also fall under this principle.

Assisting and protecting victims: Trafficking victims must be identified so they can receive shortand long-term help and protection. States also must encourage victims to participate in prosecutions. African Union consultant Mehari Taddele Maru, the AU's former program coordinator for migration, told *ADF* that Gabon stands out with regard to prevention and victim protection. "Gabon sees a lot of trafficked children, especially from Benin, Togo, Nigeria and other Central African countries," he said, adding that the government works closely with nongovernmental organizations. "And they have been very active; in this traditionally they are strong."

Legislation, policy development and law enforcement: Laws should target criminal organizations and ensure effective prosecution. Nations also should amend or adopt legislation to effectively and consistently define and criminalize human trafficking. Countries should work to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed combat, and rehabilitate and reintegrate child soldiers.

Member states should consider developing a national action plan and a national task force to carry out the plan. Law enforcement, customs, immigration and court officials should be trained to address human trafficking. Special law enforcement units should target trafficking and consider joint border patrols.

Maru said African countries can be categorized three ways in their response to human trafficking: Nations such as Gabon, South Africa and Egypt have legislation, policies and an action plan. Countries such as Djibouti, Algeria and Libya have legislative frameworks but little to no enforcement capability. Other countries, such as the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger or Mauritania, have neither legislation nor enforcement abilities. Some of these countries may consider poverty the real problem or may even tolerate things such as child labor.

Cooperation and coordination: Coordination must occur on multiple levels — among nations, national governments and nongovernmental agencies, as well as civilians.

"We have to identify these countries which are weak and which are being exploited for becoming an origin of trafficking ... to assist them to form their own action plan, their own national legislative system, their own enforcement agencies."

Mehari Taddele Maru

African Union consultant and the AU's former program coordinator for migration



Child laborers are handed over to Beninese authorities in Krake at the Nigerian border in 2003. Seventy-four children as young as 4 underwent emergency medical treatment after being rescued from traffickers who had sold them to work as granite miners in Nigeria. "Alicia," a Rwandan woman, was brought to a south London apartment and forced to have sex while her captor collected her earnings. Forced prostitution is just one of the reasons people are trafficked. Many African women are trafficked to Europe and the Middle East for sex.



Two boys dig for granite in Abeokuta, Nigeria. Children from Benin often end up working under inhumane conditions breaking granite for traffickers in Nigeria.

A Nigerian woman attends a sewing class at Edo State Skills Acquisition Center in Nigeria's Benin City. The organization counsels and supports trafficked women who have returned from Europe.

Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) is cooperating on a number of levels by working with UNODC, the European Union Delegation, the Nigeria Immigration Service and others in the fight against human trafficking, according to the *Daily Trust*.

Arinze Orakwue, NAPTIP's head of Communications and Media, told the *Daily Trust* the agency is "fully committed to cooperating with the police, the immigration service and other law enforcement agencies in the fight against human trafficking."

The agency is creating public awareness through radio jingles and working with a production company to produce a television drama series that addresses human trafficking, child abuse and other related matters. "The objective is to take the anti-trafficking campaign to the living rooms of Nigerians and hopefully make them aware of this crime that shames us all," Orakwue said.

Putting the Plan in Place

Maru, who designed the AU.COMMIT campaign, spoke at a December 2012 AU.COMMIT workshop in Libreville, Gabon, to start the Ouagadougou Action Plan in Central and North African member states. Maru told *ADF* that trafficking and migration issues often are divided among various government agencies and institutions. Some nations approach the problem as a security threat and place it under the interior ministry. Others address it through social and labor institutions. Still others come at it from a human rights perspective. He offered three suggestions for overcoming these divisions:

- 1. National governments should organize a "national consultative process," which will let them bring together various involved parties to discuss, draft and design strategies to combat trafficking, and they should have a national action plan that follows the Ouagadougou Action Plan.
- 2. Identify weak countries that are the origin of trafficked people, "to assist them to form their own action plan, their own national legislative system, their own enforcement agencies," Maru said.
- 3. Finally, national governments should establish a joint task force composed of the various ministries and agencies that deal with human trafficking. "Trafficking is managed by many state organs, and if you don't bring them together to establish a task force that can work together . . . it still will be an approach which is an ad hoc, fragmented approach," Maru said. "And this has allowed many criminals involved in trafficking to slip away from prosecution."

New or revitalized task forces could include interior ministries, police, immigration officials, and transportation and hospitality industries, such as airlines and hotel chains. "This has to be synergized," Maru said.

NIGERIA WORKS TO REGAIN STATUS IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING FIGHT

espite the depth of Africa's human trafficking problem, there have been some positive strides in fighting the crime. Nigeria's legislation and law enforcement stand out. "It's difficult to quantify, but at the moment Nigeria has the best anti-TIP [traffic in persons] legislation on the continent," said Philip Bob Jusu, migration officer in the AU's Department of Social Affairs. "And they derive their strength from the Ouagadougou Action Plan. So we are using Nigeria as a best practice."

Central to Nigeria's anti-trafficking efforts is the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP). However, Nigeria now finds itself working to improve its response since a drop in its rating in the global anti-human trafficking campaign, according to the *Daily Trust*.

The 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. Department of State had Nigeria slipping from Tier 1 status, a rating it had maintained since 2007, to Tier 2. The report is the U.S. government's principal diplomatic tool for engaging foreign governments in the fight against human trafficking. The report places countries into one of three tiers based on government efforts to comply with minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking, which are enshrined in Section 108 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA).

Beatrice Jedy-Agba, executive secretary of NAPTIP, told the *Daily Trust* that despite the downgrade, the agency is committed to combating human trafficking. "The U.S. government has adopted the 'whole-of-society' approach in this assessment, which automatically removes the outcome from the reins of the agency, as the indices used are not entirely within the control of NAPTIP," she said. "However, it is a clarion call on all tiers of government to close ranks and step up actions to rid the country of the scourge of human trafficking."

Jusu told *ADF* that the engagement of civil society has been a "missing link" in the AU's efforts to fight trafficking. "Because whichever way you look at it, civil society can play a very instrumental role," he said. "And we've not adequately engaged civil society, which, I think, has been a lapse on our part."

The report makes several recommendations for how Nigeria can improve:

- Ensure that NAPTIP is funded sufficiently, particularly for prosecutions and caring for victims.
- Increase investigations, prosecutions and punishment of labor trafficking offenses.
- Train police and immigration officials to identify trafficking victims.
- Provide mandatory training to NAPTIP shelter counselors.
- Increase educational and vocational training to victims at all government shelters.
- Track victims repatriated from abroad, and make them aware of protective services.
- Ensure that NAPTIP interacts with and receives support from other government agencies that encounter trafficking.
- Be proactive in investigating and prosecuting government officials suspected of trafficking-related corruption and complicity in trafficking offenses.

Nigeria remained in Tier 2 in the 2013 TIP report but showed modest improvement in law enforcement efforts. Tier 1 countries are those whose governments fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards. Tier 2 countries' governments do not fully comply with these minimum standards but are working hard to comply. Tier 3 countries do not comply and are not making significant efforts to do so.

The Way Forward

Philip Bob Jusu, migration officer in the AU's Department of Social Affairs, told *ADF* that the Ouagadougou Action Plan grew out of European Union nations' concern regarding the "irregular migration" of people originating in Sub-Saharan Africa and passing through North Africa on their way to Europe.

The AU.COMMIT campaign now has been launched in all of Africa's seven RECs. But Jusu said the process has been slow. Many African nations, especially where trafficking is prominent, have not adopted the action plan's principles into their laws. "It has not been implemented satisfactorily, that I can tell you," Jusu said. "If you look at Africa as a whole, you see that border management is very weak; most of the borders are porous. You know most countries do not have the resources to address these issues. So to say that it is moving at a satisfactory pace, that's not the case."

Jusu set up the Trafficking Task Force in 2011. It is composed of the AU, the European Commission, the UNODC, the International Labour Organization, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF and other organizations. The various regions of Africa have their own dynamics and challenges, and the task force will consider the best way to advance antitrafficking efforts.

Training Is Key

Training sessions will continue this year as the AU organizes sessions in each of Africa's RECs that will include military leaders, immigration experts and border management officials. "It's a recurring training process because every year we meet with these immigration officials, we discuss what progress has been made, what needs to be done," Jusu said.

Jusu's office also is working with the AU Border Programme, which initially dealt with regional integration and the free movement of people on the continent, to incorporate that office's expertise. The first training session of 2013 was to have taken place in March.

Although progress has been slow, Jusu said he is confident that there is enough interest to make strides against human trafficking. But conflict on the continent tends to divide resources and attention. With the exception of Southern Africa, all subregions of the continent have included countries in turmoil recently, he said. "Now we have the situation in Mali, which has the potential to destabilize. We still have the situation between north and South Sudan. We have the unrest in North Africa. In Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is still in chaos. Central African Republic has cropped up. So while political leaders are concerned with some of these issues, sometimes things come up that deserve a higher attention. So these are the types of obstacles that we are encountering on the continent." $\hfill\square$

CULTURE & SPORTS



WORLD MOURNS "FATHER OF MODERN AFRICAN LITERATURE"

Hundreds of mourners gathered on May 23, 2013, in the hometown of Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe for the funeral of the man regarded as the father of modern African literature and the author of the classic novel *Things Fall Apart*.

Heavy security was in place throughout the small southeastern town of Ogidi, with President Goodluck Jonathan and foreign dignitaries attending the service at the local Anglican church.

Access inside the church was granted only by invitation, but several thousand people flocked to tents with loudspeakers set up outside. Achebe, who died in March at age 82 in the United States, is viewed as an iconic figure in Nigeria and abroad, and his death led to tributes worldwide.

Achebe had lived and worked as a professor in the United States, most recently at Brown University in Rhode Island. A 1990 car accident left him in a wheelchair and limited his travel. Some 2,000 people packed a stadium in the Anambra state capital Awka where Achebe's coffin was on display.

Although he was known worldwide mostly for *Things Fall Apart*, a novel about the collision of British colonialism and his native Igbo culture in southeastern Nigeria, Achebe also wrote nonfiction that tackled his country's problems. His work earned him praise from some of the world's most respected leaders, including Nelson Mandela, who described him as a writer "in whose company the prison walls fell down."

South African writer and Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer called Achebe the "father of modern African literature" in 2007, when she was among the judges to award him the Man Booker International prize for fiction.

A man reads

a Nigerian

newspaper

featuring a

the death

Achebe.

of Nigerian

headline about

novelist Chinua

Things Fall Apart, his first novel, traced an Igbo tribesman's fatal brush with British colonialists. Originally published in 1958, the book has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 50 languages. *The Guardian* of London wrote in 2007 that the novel "turned the west's perception of Africa on its head — a perception that until then had been based solely on the views of white colonialists."

It has become required reading at many universities in various countries, and Achebe is credited with profoundly influencing a generation of Nigerian writers who followed him. Agence France-Presse

CRICKET catching on among

NIGERIA'S POOR

Cricket, once the preserve of Nigeria's educated elite, is finding favor in schools for poor children and on city streets. Cricket has a long history in the country. British colonialists introduced the game to boarders in Nigeria's top secondary schools in the 19th century. Nigeria played its first recorded international game in 1904 against present-day Ghana, local cricket officials say.



A cricket equipment maker in Lagos has new customers for his work as cricket grows in popularity in Nigeria.

A lack of cash to buy equipment, however, limited cricket's appeal over the years, leaving most Nigerians today puzzled by the bat-and-ball game. That is changing as cricket federation officials such as coach Joseph Oche Onoja adapt the game and seek to make it more affordable. Fielders at Onoja's matches don't wear uniforms, and batsmen don't don helmets. They use an \$8 version of the professional bats that can cost \$250 to \$400. Instead of a hard leather ball, his players make do with tennis balls.

He has even worked to win over new cricket fans in places such as Borno State, which faces near-daily attacks by the radical sect Boko Haram. The violence has prevented the federation from organizing games there in recent months, but it continues to donate free gear to those determined to keep playing.

The efforts to develop cricket are bringing results. In 2002, Nigeria graduated from being an affiliate member to an associate member of the International Cricket Council, bringing it one step closer to the league of such cricket powerhouses as South Africa, India, Pakistan, Australia and the West Indies. In 2008, Nigeria was ranked for the first time among cricketplaying nations, in 39th place. It is now ranked 37th out of 106 cricket-playing countries and fifth in Africa.

The Associated Press



RUNNERS COMPETE IN THE

TOUGHEST RACE IN THE WORLD

ADF STAFF

What do you do next after you've won the toughest footrace in the world five times?

If you're Moroccan runner Mohamad Ahansal, who won the 2013 Marathon des Sables in April, perhaps you contemplate the record of your brother, Lahcen Ahansal, who has won the race an astonishing 10 times.

The event, also known as the Sahara Marathon, is a six-day, 251-kilometer ultramarathon, the equivalent of running nearly six regular marathons. The longest leg of the Southern Morocco race is 91 kilometers. Started in 1986, the desert event is considered the most grueling of any footrace on earth.

The 2013 competition featured 1,024 competitors from 50 countries, running in conditions that included blinding sandstorms, rolling sand dunes and blazing temperatures approaching 50 degrees Celsius. Amazingly, fewer than 50 runners failed to finish the A child cheers on runners during the last stage of the 28th Marathon des Sables on April 13, 2013, in Morocco.

race. As CNN reported, competitors were provided with a water supply and a tent for sleeping at night. The equipment they were required to carry included food, sleeping gear, antivenin pumps and glow sticks.

The Moroccan runners have some advantages in these races. *The New York Times* noted that the natives know to run zigzag up the dunes, instead of exhausting themselves running up them head-on. And after a lifetime in the desert sun, the Moroccan runners say they have no need of sunscreen.

WORLD OUTLOOK

World Tech Leaders Team Up to Create

African <u>Smart</u>phone

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

U.S. tech giant Microsoft Corp. is joining Chinese manufacturer Huawei to offer an affordably priced smartphone in Africa. The phone is intended to tap into the continent's exploding mobile market.

Introducing the phone at an event in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, a Microsoft executive said the aim was to have the 4Afrika phone priced less than \$200. The Huawei phone model is not exclusive to the continent, but the 4Afrika version will be adapted to African markets with applications geared toward specific countries.

At the Nigerian launch, officials demonstrated apps including a dictionary for the local Yoruba language and local news. There also would be an app related to the country's popular movie industry, called Nollywood. "The key aspect of this is not price," said Gustavo Fuchs, mobility director for Microsoft in the Middle East and Africa. "It's really the content and the applications that we are working through our innovation pillar to make sure the phone becomes locally relevant."

On a corporate blog, Microsoft's top executive for the Middle East and Africa, Ali Faramawy, called it a "full-functionality Windows Phone 8 preloaded with select applications designed for Africa, by Africans."

Africa has been the world's fastest-growing mobile market, in addition to being home to the globe's most rapidly expanding population. In countries such as Nigeria, landlines are almost nonexistent, with infrastructure left to decay as mobile phones expand. However, the high cost of smartphones, which can sometimes run more than \$700, has kept penetration of the devices on the continent relatively low. Microsoft estimates that smartphone penetration in Africa is about 10 percent. The IDC research firm says sales of the devices accounted for 45.5 percent of total mobile phone sales globally last year.

Huawei is known for building affordable phones, and the first in the series of the 4Afrika brand will be available in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa.

HUAWEI ChannelsTV Headlines | 4th Feb. 2013 FG Unveils Emblem For

Centenary Celebrations



Channels Territion | 496 Fee, 2013 0458 per A colourful ceremony was held to herald the events marking Nigerias centenary celebration today (Monday) at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

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Left: A photo of Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan is displayed on the Huawei 4Afrika smartphone. The device, one of the first smartphones designed for the African market, will include applications tailored to specific countries. Below: Gustavo Fuchs, an executive with Microsoft Corp., introduces the Huawei 4Afrika smartphone in Lagos, Nigeria, in February 2013.



Annan Launches Commission to Counter Narcotics Trafficking

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan launched a commission to tackle drug trafficking in West Africa because the region has increasingly become a stopover for cocaine and marijuana shipments from the Americas to Europe.

"The massive surge in drug trafficking over the last decade presents a serious and growing threat to the region's stability and development," Annan said when announcing the creation of the commission in January 2013.

The 10-member commission, headed by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, will raise awareness, promote regional capacity to deal with the problem, and develop policy recommendations for political leaders.

> Kofi Annan AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in a 2012 report that cocaine trafficking in West and Central Africa generates about \$900 million annually for criminal networks. In July 2012, the executive director of the UNODC, Yury Fedotov, said about 30 tons of cocaine were trafficked to West Africa in 2011. He also reported an increase in heroin trafficking, as evidenced by an upsurge in seizures from 20 kilograms in 2008 to almost 400 kilograms in 2011. Methamphetamine laboratories have also recently been discovered in West Africa, he said.

Annan said drug traffickers have linked with terrorist groups in the region, which are threatening regional stability as they try to take power in Mali and other parts of the Sahel.

BRICS Countries Aim to Create New Bank

ADF STAFF

After a much-anticipated meeting in March 2013, the emerging economically powerful nations known as the BRICS continued to express interest in creating a joint development bank.

"There is a lot of convergence on key issues," said Anil Sooklal, South Africa's deputy director general at the Department for International Relations, prior to the meeting in Durban, South Africa. Brazil, Russia, India, China and newest member South Africa appeared earlier to be in agreement on the toughest issue regarding the bank: how much money each would put in. But at the summit, the BRICS leaders decided only that the initial investment would be "substantial and sufficient for the bank to be effective," the Arabic television network Al-Jazeera reported.

During the meeting, the leaders from the five countries agreed in principle to create a joint infrastructure



From left, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Chinese President Xi Jinping, South African President Jacob Zuma, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and Russian President Vladimir Putin join hands during a BRICS meeting in Durban on March 27, 2013.

lender but said further talks were needed on how the seed money would be used and where the bank would be based. Both South Africa and China have said they would like the bank based in their countries.

The next BRICS summit will be in Brazil in 2014, but the leaders will also meet on a less-formal basis in Russia during the G20 international finance conference in September 2013.

World Bank chief economist Kaushik Basu has said the bank is needed but cautioned that setting it up will be a "humongous task."

DEFENSE & SECURITY

SANDF LENDS HAND TO FLOOD-RAVAGED MOZAMBIQUE

DEFENCEWEB

In the first weeks of 2013, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) dispatched military elements to flood-stricken Mozambique, where thousands of people were displaced and in danger from rising floodwaters.

The South African Air Force (SAAF) provided airlift capability to the disaster relief organization Gift of the Givers. C-130 transport aircraft moved more than 150 tons of food for the nongovernmental organization. The SANDF deployment included Navy divers, SAAF Oryx helicopters and crew, as well as primary health-care nurses, dietitians and environmental health officers from

the South African Military Health Service.

"The joint operation has made it possible for the SANDF rescue team to distribute food as flood levels have been receding, and search-andrescue operations are now making way for food distribution actions," SANDF Brig. Gen. Xolani Mabanga said in January.

Speaking to the Afrikaans-language daily newspaper Beeld, Col. Andre Pieterse said the SANDF had rescued at least 500 people from the raging Limpopo River in Mozambique. This work included hoisting people to safety from rooftops and out of trees.

A South African Oryx helicopter is unloaded at the Chibuto Airport in Mozambique on January 30, 2013. The South African Air Force provided relief after floods left 150.000 people displaced and 70 dead in the country.

GALLO IMAGES/FOTO24/THEANA BREUGEM



U.N. Lifts Arms Embargo on Somalia REUTERS

he U.N. Security Council agreed in March 2013 to partially lift a decades-old arms embargo on Somalia for one year, allowing the government in Mogadishu to buy light weapons to strengthen its security forces. The 15-member council unanimously adopted the Britishdrafted resolution.

Somali government Soldiers trained by the **European Union Training Mission** team march during their passing out ceremony at Bihanga army training camp in Uganda.

Somalia's government had asked for the arms embargo to be removed entirely, and the United States supported it, but other U.N. member states were wary about completely lifting the embargo on a country that is already awash with weapons, diplomats said. "What we have tried to do is draw a balance between those who wanted an unrestricted lifting of the arms embargo and those who felt it was premature," Britain's U.N. Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant told reporters. "It is a good and strong compromise."

The embargo on Somalia was imposed in 1992 to cut the flow of weapons to warlords, who a year earlier had ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and plunged the country into civil war. In 2012, Somalia held its first vote since 1991 to elect a president and prime minister.

The Security Council resolution leaves in place a ban on surface-to-air missiles, largecaliber guns, howitzers, cannons and mortars, as well as guided anti-tank weapons, mines and night-vision weapon sights.

U.S. PARTNERS WITH KENYA, COMOROS FOR TRAINING

STAFF SGT. DEVIN DOSKEY/U.S. AIR FORCE

envan and Comorian defense forces worked with Combined Joint Task Force — Horn of Africa units in January 2013 to exchange training techniques for combat medicine, ordnance disposal and other skills.

In Nairobi, the U.S. Navy and Kenyan Army instructors and trainees gathered for a threeweek exchange of best practices for safely removing land mines and explosive remnants. The Humanitarian Mine Action Train-the-Trainer mission at the Humanitarian Peace Support School included classroom sessions and hands-on exercises.

The Kenyan Army has more than 5,000 troops deployed in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia. Students in the session expected to return to their units and share the information they learned. The engagement was designed to offer familiarization with International Mine Action Standards and help develop the

Kenyan military's combat capabilities locally and on missions throughout the continent.

In Moroni, Comoros, 20 Comorian military officers and Soldiers worked with U.S. Army Medical Soldiers to complete a one-week instructional program on basic first aid, combat field lifesaver operations and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

At the time, members of the Comorian military were preparing for a deployment to Mali as part of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali and said these skills will be vitally important. "This exchange helps us with our mission; like in Mali, we have people there, and it will help us push out extreme terrorists organizations," said 1st Lt. Yasser Said, a Comoran liaison officer. The Comorian military has identified combat medical skills such as the proper application of a tourniquet, evacuating a casualty and providing CPR as necessary to their success in upcoming missions.



STAFE SGT, DEVIN DOSKEY/U.S. AIR FORCE

PATHS OF HOPE

A man waters beet plants in a garden in Gao, Mali. REUTERS

African soil diversity MAPPED FOR THE FIRST TIME SCIEVNET



up the *Soil Atlas of Africa* — the first such book mapping the key natural resource — to help farmers, land managers and policymakers understand the diversity and importance of soil and the need to manage it through sustainable use. They said that despite soil's importance, most people in Africa lack knowledge about it, partly because information tends to

team of international experts has drawn

about it, partly because information tends to be confined to academic publications read only by scientists.

"There was an existing database on soil that had not been updated by soil science experts from Africa, so we asked them to provide us with new information, which we translated into a form understandable to key stakeholders," said Arwyn Jones, a member of the soil team at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, which produced the atlas.

The project began in 2009 and involved experts from the European Commission, the African Union and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. The atlas was released at the meeting of the African Union and European Union commissions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2013.

Researcher Robert Zougmoré said the atlas displays the diversity of African soil for both agricultural and nonagricultural purposes.

"We documented all the different types of soils and mapped them so that our decisionmakers at national and regional levels can use the maps to decide where to invest in terms of food production and urbanization," he said. "For example, using the atlas, we can identify regions such as Central Africa, some parts of West Africa, and Southern Africa where a type of fertile soil called vertisol, which maximizes crop yields, can be found in greater quantities."

Zougmoré said the soil bureaus of most African countries are inadequately resourced, making it difficult to generate new soil information. He is now calling for more support from African governments.

The atlas is available as a set of PDF documents for download or as a printed copy that can be ordered from the European Union's publication office.

THE AFRICAN UNION MARKS

50 YEARS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In an event that featured mass dance performances, speeches by foreign dignitaries and music from legendary Congolese artist Papa Wemba, the African Union celebrated its 50th anniversary.

On May 25, 2013, at the opening of a summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said the organization's original Pan-Africanist aspirations remain relevant.

"This historic day marks not only a great leap forward in the Pan-Africanist quest for freedom, independence and unity but also the beginning of our collective endeavor for the realizations of Africa's socio-economic emancipation," he said. "The major responsibility of the current and future generations of Africans is to create a continent free from poverty and conflict, and an Africa whose citizens would enjoy middle-income status."

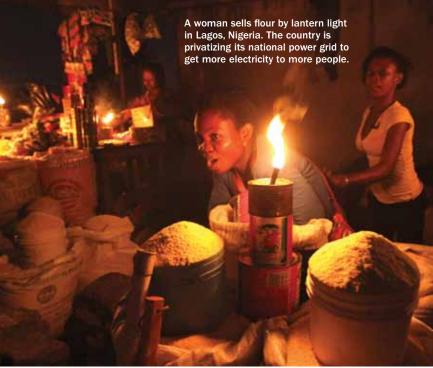
AU Chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said the Pan-Africanism championed by the organization "united and inspired our people across the continent and globe never to accept oppression."

Founded in May 1963 by a handful of liberated African nations, the Organization of African Unity as it was known then — was at the time preoccupied with ending apartheid in South Africa and colonialism across the continent. Now the AU is focused on Agenda 2063, a blueprint that officials say will eventually lead to the political and economic integration of Africa.

The 53-member AU has been trying to emerge as a force for stability on a continent regularly troubled by violence, conflicts and coups. As the AU strives to make peaceful transfers of power across Africa the norm, it often sanctions coup leaders and suspends membership of states. Although challenges persist, today the continent boasts nine of the world's 15 fastest-growing economies. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa said Africa's medium-term growth prospects remain strong, at 4.8 percent in 2013 and a projected 5.1 percent in 2014.



Leaders prepare for a photograph during the 50th anniversary of the African Union.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria Overhauling its **ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

REUTERS



igeria is breaking up its defunct state power company into 17 private generation and distribution companies and selling them for a total of \$2.5 billion. The effort could increase electricity output tenfold during the next seven years, and industry experts believe some improvements will be felt in two to three years.

If Nigeria gets the lights working, it would reduce business costs by up to 40 percent, add 3 percent to the country's economic output, and cut the mass unemployment that fuels unrest, economists say.

It could also spur a boom in labor-intensive areas such as manufacturing, food processing, textiles and pharmaceuticals, while opening up the opportunity for new low-cost service industries like the call centers that aided India's rise.

The \$13 billion per year that Nigerians spend on diesel, most of which is imported, would be a bill of the past. Power from generators costs more than twice as much as from the grid.

A glitzy ceremony in April 2013 hosted by President Goodluck Jonathan celebrated the first payment by private companies that are taking over the unbundled state electricity company and a deal by the World Bank to give an initial \$145 million risk guarantee for gas supply.

"Much has been achieved, yet the race will not be over until Nigerians can take electricity supply for granted," Jonathan told dignitaries and power companies.

Electricity capacity had been in steady decline for a decade when Jonathan launched his reform plan in 2010. Despite being Africa's top oil producer and holding the world's ninth-largest gas reserves, Nigeria's power output is 10 percent of South Africa's for a population three times the size.

"Given the scale of the challenge and the history of the sector, reform is progressing very well," said Fola Fabule, a Lagos-based investment banker focused on infrastructure finance. "The key will be commitment to see reforms through."

GROWTH & PROGRESS



Africa's commodity-producing countries have historically exported raw materials to the rest of the world, but products manufactured on the continent are still a rare sight on Western supermarket shelves.

One man trying to change that is Andrew Rugasira, a Ugandan businessman who aims to build his coffee company, Good African Coffee (GAC), into a multinational that can compete with giants such as Nestlé and Kraft.

In a book published in February 2013, Rugasira tells the story of how GAC, founded in 2003, became the first African-owned coffee brand to sell directly to British retailers, overcoming significant hurdles along the way. GAC works with 14,000 farmers in Uganda, the continent's top coffee exporter, and trains them to produce quality Arabica varieties. It also has a roasting and packaging facility in the capital, Kampala. Rugasira hopes his story will inspire other African entrepreneurs. Faced with barriers such as lack of access to capital, poor infrastructure, competition with heavily subsidized European producers and manufacturers, and tariff and nontariff barriers in developed countries, most African entrepreneurs opt to become job seekers rather than job makers, Rugasira said.

ANDREW RUGASIRA

"I don't see too many African-owned coffee brands on the shelves," he said. "It's just too difficult. People probably have better things to do with their time and their capital." Rugasira knows he has chosen a difficult sector but points out that agriculture provides a livelihood for 70 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's population and has huge potential to generate prosperity. He has seen the impact on the communities he works with, where farmers have become more financially secure and have been able to escape the clutches of rural loan sharks.

Rugasira has big ambitions for his company, including diversifying into tea and chocolate, expanding into the rest of Africa, and expanding its presence in Britain and the United States.

"We're looking to address the issue of how we can scale up, how can Good African become a global brand," he said. "That's the question that keeps me up every night. I want to become a multinational like Nestlé."

Nigeria's Satellites Could Help with PEACEKEEPING

BBC NEWS AT BBC.CO.UK/NEWS

In 2003, Nigeria announced its space program, and within a few years it had launched its first satellite, which eventually lost power and disappeared from orbit. Undaunted, Nigeria has continued the program and now has three satellites in orbit.

The first was NigComSat-1R, launched in 2011. It has boosted Internet and telecommunications services across the country. Next, the Nigerians turned to Britain's Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd., which has built two Earth-observation satellites, including the top-of-the-range NigeriaSat-2, which at the time of its launch was producing the highest-resolution images of any U.K.-built satellite.

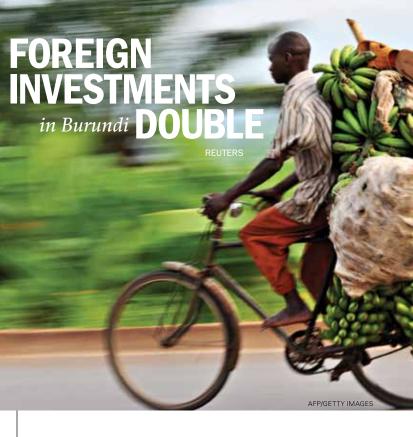
The other part of the project involved a trained team of 26 Nigerian engineers putting together the second Surrey satellite, NigeriaSat-X.

Both satellites are now providing data to help government agencies with planning. The satellites are tracking crops and weather across the country in an effort to protect the long-term food supply. There also is closer monitoring of the oil-rich Niger Delta, where there has been extensive crude oil theft and environmental damage from oil spills.



A Nigerian engineer works on the NigeriaSat-X at Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd.

This vantage point also could be useful in the Nigerian government's fight against militants in the north. "We've just collected images over Mali, which we've handed over to the armed forces because we believe they will be helpful to them in the peacekeeping mission over there," said Seidu Mohammed, director-general of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA). All of the satellite data is collated and analyzed at NASRDA headquarters in Abuja.



oreign direct investment into Burundi grew by 120 percent to \$229 million in 2012, thanks to reforms that allow businesses to be set up more quickly. The bulk of investment went into the processing industry, information and exting technology and agree business

communications technology, and agro-business. In 2011, the tiny tea- and coffee-producing Central African country collected \$104 million in foreign investments.

Burundi was ranked among the top five improved economies in the World Bank's 2013 Doing Business report, rising to 159th place out of 185 countries. "Today, someone can start a business in less than 24 hours, have a trade license in one hour, and the fiscal identification number can be issued in less than 15 minutes," Alexis Girukwishaka, investment promotion manager at Burundi Investment Agency, said in February 2013.

Domestic and combined investment climbed to 436.5 billion Burundi francs (\$267.04 million) in 2012, up from 229 billion francs (\$140.5 million) in 2011.

Girukwishaka said 69 foreign investment projects were processed in 2012, compared with 54 the previous year. He gave no projection for 2013, but his agency expects continued growth in such investments. He said his agency expected the 2012 investments to generate 1,366 new permanent jobs.

FLASHBACK

Africa's

ADF STAFF

Shamba Bolongongo did not like war. He did not much care for weapons, especially his kingdom's traditional throwing knife. He did not like polygamy, gambling, locusts or clothes made from the bark of trees. So he changed his world.

In about 1600, Shamba ruled the Bushongo, a federation of 17 tribes in what is now the southeast region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His visionary dedication to good government and prosperity made him his people's "King of Peace,"

and his reign is even now regarded as a golden age for the region.

Shamba was 19 and heir to the throne when he asked the king and queen for permission to travel outside the Bushongo Kingdom. They feared for his safety and only relented when he agreed to travel with a large retinue of servants, aides and Soldiers. He traveled for two years, learning about the world, about trade, about war, about peace. When he returned to his homeland, the king had died, and Shamba took the throne.

Until his rule, his people had clad themselves in a fragile cloth made from bark. Shamba taught them to weave cloth from palm frond fibers. He introduced them to cassava, whose roots locusts cannot reach, as an additional crop to pest-prone maize and millet. He encouraged arts and crafts and showed his people Mancala, a strategy game, to distract them from their practice of gambling.

But above all, Shamba abolished war, converting his Soldiers to police officers. He stopped the use of bows and arrows and traditional throwing knives, and made his Soldiers enforcers of the peace

instead of tools of war. He also made them a key part of his government.

Although bureaucracies were nothing new to Africa, Shamba's was unusually well-organized, with 118 officials serving as judges, police, tribal leaders, administrators, and representatives of trades and crafts. His 15 judges each presided over cases

involving a specific type of crime or dispute.

Women traditionally played a significant role in the Bushongo nation - a king's mother had more authority than did the king in some matters - and Shamba advanced their cause. Fourteen women were specifically included in the administration. His respect for women extended to converting the men of his kingdom to monogamy — a change the men were slow to accept.

Shamba's notions of government are remembered to this day, and his approach to trade was equally radical. His traders traveled outside his kingdom without armed guards, instead wearing symbols of the Bushongo as their only protection. If a Bushongo trader was murdered, Shamba took swift vengeance. As Dr. Morris Siegel wrote in Shamba Bolongongo: African King of Peace, Shamba would sound the war horn, and his warriors would go off "like a swarm of locusts."

"They burnt the villages, destroyed the crops, and cut down the plantain trees," Siegel wrote. "But bloodshed was avoided, for Shamba commanded, 'Kill neither man, woman nor child; are they not the children of Chembe (God) and have a right to live?' "

Shamba's kingdom of peace did not last. His successor, the son of Shamba's aunt, returned the kingdom to a familiar pattern of regional warfare, made only worse when colonialism began.

But Shamba has not been forgotten. Early in the 20th century, European writer Emil Torday traveled through the Democratic Republic of the Congo, conducting research for his book, On the

Trail of the Bushongo. Some 300 years after Shamba's reign, the Bakuba elders were still singing the praises of Africa's King of Peace as a man whose only conquests were "on the field of thought, public prosperity, and social progress."

Torday concluded that the king "must have been a remarkable man indeed."



BRITISH MUSEUM

Clues

- 1 This circular depression is more than 48 kilometers across.
- 2 It was originally thought to have been caused by a meteorite strike, but it was more likely formed by erosion.

WHERE AM I?

- 3 The formation, visible from outer space, has been used as a landmark by astronauts.
- 4 It is sometimes called the Eye of Africa.

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ANSWER: The Richat Structure in the Gres de Chinguetti Plateau in central Mauritania



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