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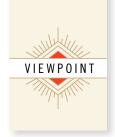
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ON THE COVER:

This ADF illustration highlights the various aspects of illicit commerce threatening the African continent. These include poaching, firearms trafficking, drug trafficking and human trafficking.



weak point anywhere can create problems everywhere. This is the lesson of Libya. Since 2011, the North African nation has become a haven for extremists, a thoroughfare for drugs and a launching point for migrants. Some of the profits from these crimes ended up in the hands of ISIS, which "taxes" contraband and human trafficking. Weapons looted from Libya's depots have spread across the Sahel and fueled conflict. The exploitation of the poor by human traffickers and international crime syndicates contributes to instability, corruption and lawlessness.

As Libya tries to restore order, it offers a valuable reminder to security professionals everywhere: Work with your neighbors. In an interconnected world, the failed state next door can quickly take down the entire neighborhood.

African security professionals are realizing that sharing resources and intelligence is the only solution to transnational crime. In East and Southern Africa, 22 countries joined in 2016 for Operation Usalama, which put away 4,500 criminals in 48 hours. In West Africa, countries are setting up Transnational Crime Units to coordinate enforcement, exchange information, and gather intelligence internally and across borders.

These partnerships help countries build trust and see the value in sharing information to dismantle criminal networks that span continents. African police chiefs are making progress in creating "Afripol," a continental nerve center to coordinate actions against cross-border criminal threats.

Libya may be the worst-case scenario, but it is far from unique. Areas of lawlessness exist throughout the continent in bustling cities and at desert outposts the state cannot reach. It is the responsibility of Africa's security professionals to unite to deny criminals these safe havens. Libya has shown us all that, when it comes to transnational crime, there is no such thing as "someone else's problem."

U.S. Africa Command Staff



Libyan inspectors collect weapons that had been buried at a military base in Tajura during the rule of Moammar Gadhafi. REUTERS



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Illicit Trafficking

Volume 10, Quarter 2

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U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

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Uniting to Stop Drug Trafficking

and Related Crimes



Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas of Ghana is the United Nations secretarygeneral's special

ns the United Nations secretary-general's special representative and head of the U.N. Office for West Africa and the Sahel. He spoke on September 19, 2016, in New York. His remarks have been edited to fit this format.

Allow me to commend the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, ECOWAS member states and Mauritania, and the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for their constructive collaboration that led to the development of two complementary programs. This is a clear indication that there continues to be a close coordination and collaboration between the U.N. and the ECOWAS in the definition of strategic objectives, as well as programming, to assist member states in the fight against illicit trafficking and organized crime.

Throughout the development of the ECOWAS
Regional Action Plan 2016-2020, member states have renewed their commitment to combat illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and

drug abuse. I congratulate them for their determination: This, indeed, is the most auspicious signal they could provide to their population — in particular the youth — who too often fall victim to drugs or to criminal activities related to them.

The fight against illicit trafficking and drugrelated crimes contributes to improving the overall conditions for peace and security in the region. This is the core of the mandate of the U.N. Office for West Africa and the Sahel, which I lead.

We are all too aware that illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime is an evolving threat — its corruptive power is devastating. It claims lives and destroys the fabric of society on the African continent and beyond. We cannot emphasize too much the necessity to unite our efforts to reduce the impact of drug-related crimes.

Drug trafficking is a global issue for which no region has yet the perfect solution. As a blatant reminder of what is at stake, in January 2016, Bolivian authorities seized more than 8 tons of cocaine destined for Côte d'Ivoire. In March, not less than 500 kilograms of cocaine were seized off the coast of Cape Verde. In the port of Dakar, Senegal, over \$380,000 in counterfeit medicines

were seized. More cooperation, information exchange, and combining regional and international expertise could be pioneering a solution for West Africa, which could be replicated elsewhere.

Given the transnational dimension of drug-related crimes and the linkages with terrorism, maritime crimes and corruption, the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan 2016-2020 and the UNODC Regional Programme provide for a common approach that will facilitate concerted activities on the ground. I appeal to member states, in this regard, to commit sufficient resources for the implementation of those plans. Strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies is a requirement.



Workers prepare 4 metric tons of counterfeit and illegal medicine for destruction in Dakar, Senegal. The drugs were among those seized as part of a multinational operation.

APP/GETTY IMAGES

Let me commend the international partners, including the European Union, for the support they have provided to these initiatives. I encourage other donor countries and relevant stakeholders to join and support the rollout of the ECOWAS Action Plan.

I thank UNODC for the technical support and leadership it has provided on the issue and for having put together the event that brings us together today. I assure you of my personal commitment to support the efforts of ECOWAS and the member states to achieve the objectives set out in the Action Plan.



South Africa's Child Book Star Brings Hope to Children

outh African Michelle
Nkamankeng, 7, has become
one of the youngest published
authors on the continent with a short
novel she wrote largely in secret, Waiting
for the Waves.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Michelle wrote of Titi, a little girl fascinated by the ocean and its huge waves, which Amazon.com bills as "an epic tale" recounting "the inner struggle of love and fear."

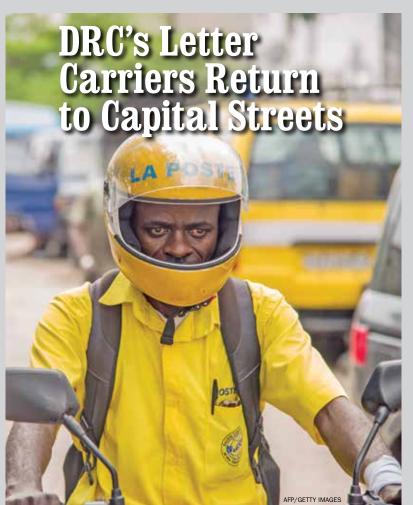
"My brother and sisters knew because they always came in my room," Michelle said. "They are like, 'What are you doing?' I told them not to tell Mummy and Daddy. I wanted it to be a surprise."

Her mother, Lolo Nkamankeng, said that when Michelle gave her the book, she "took it and put it inside the bookshelves" amid the Bibles, dictionaries and a few magazines. A few weeks later Michelle brought her parents a second, then a third book. "I said to my mother if you don't take me seriously, I will never write books again."

Her dream came true a year later when her parents helped her self-publish *Waiting for the Waves*, a glossy, 58-page novel with illustrations by South African artist Megan Venter.

The tale of how little Titi conquers her fear of waves with love and support from her family caught the public's attention. Michelle suddenly was on a round of book launches, press interviews and speaking engagements.

Michelle shared her advice for other children wanting to write books: "to follow their dreams, always believe in themselves, don't let anybody get in your way, and if you can't read you can't write."



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

After 30 years of turmoil for the postal service in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), letter carriers clad in canary-yellow shirts have finally returned to the streets of the capital.

Anifa Kayumba, head of Kinshasa's sorting office, recalls "dark times" during her 33 years on the job when dispirited workers would routinely go without pay.

Customers lost all confidence in the service "because [most] of the packages were pilfered or lost," said Elisabeth Lengema, a postal worker with 26 years of experience. At that time, employees came to work only to "rummage through" the parcels, taking whatever valuables they could find.

The handful of packages that escaped dishonest sorters were delivered to recipients' homes only after the payment of special "transport costs."

Today, letter carriers in the capital of 10 million people have once again taken to the city on foot, bicycles and mopeds to deliver the mail.

Despite significant progress, the postal service is for the time being able to handle only post between overseas destinations and Kinshasa; there is not yet a functioning operation outside the capital. A nationwide postal service will come in later.

The DRC's postal service is far from profitable and is dependent on state funds — mainly fees charged to telecom operators. To grow, the postal service hopes to sign deals with DRC's water and electricity companies.

RESIDENTS BRING COLORFUL NEW LIFE TO OLD TANGIERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Wall paintings, colorful facades and flowery alleys are brightening up the centuries-old Tangiers medina as residents bring new life to the neglected streets of the Moroccan port city.

Standing on a hill overlooking the port and the Strait of Gibraltar — one of the world's most strategically vital waterways — the old city of Tangiers has few green spaces. But residents of 13 neighborhoods have launched a campaign to spruce it up.

"The initiative came from the residents, without any intervention from political parties or associations," said Rafih al-Kanfaoui, 33, of the city's Ibn Battouta neighborhood. "The neighborhood has taken on a beauty that nobody imagined."

Along the city's winding alleys, house fronts are decked out in different colors, and pots of flowers sit outside doors and in windows.

The walls of Ibn Battouta — named after the 14th century explorer who was the city's most famous son — have been daubed green and purple, and residents fitted a wheelchair ramp.

"We all worked together, men and women, children, young people, old people, to make the neighborhood beautiful," said Soufyane Abdel-Mottalib, 30.

Residents funded the operation themselves, and now four neighborhoods in Tangiers have won awards from Morocco's Observatory for Environmental and Historical Monuments.

Mohammed Salmoun, a local civil society activist, said the project has changed the face of several marginalized parts of the city. "This kind of initiative has shown its potential to make districts stand out both locally and nationally," he said.

Inspired by pictures of the project on Facebook, inhabitants of other Moroccan cities, including Casablanca, have launched similar projects.

Tangiers residents are proud of their city's long history, particularly the story of Ibn Battouta, who left the city in 1325 at age 21. He crossed North Africa and traveled as far east as China. Defying distance, hardship and the Black Death, he returned to his home city and wrote a book about his travels.

The city has experienced a revival since King Mohammed VI launched an ambitious four-year, \$1 billion redevelopment plan in September 2013. The waterfront now shines with new buildings, and the city center has been transformed, with wide avenues and white painted sidewalks.







THE EFFECTS OF LIBYA'S

LAWLESSNESS ARE

FELT THROUGHOUT THE

REGION AND THE WORLD

ADF STAFF

he year 2017 began the same way 2016 ended, with staggering numbers of African migrants boarding flimsy boats in Libya in an attempt to escape to Europe.

In the first 25 days of January, 246 migrants drowned in the Mediterranean. Of the 181,000 migrants who crossed the region in 2016, almost 90 percent began the journey in Libya, according to the International Organization for Migration. The United Nations reports that more than 5,000 drowned that year.

The core of the problem is Libya's lawlessness, which began after the 42-year dictatorship of Moammar Gadhafi ended in 2011. Since that time, three rival groups have fought to take control of the country, while ISIS has also increased its presence in the region. Migration from Libya to Europe quadrupled starting in 2013, which has been attributed to the lack of law and order in Libya.



The current government has almost no control over vast reaches of the country, which has made Libya a land of human trafficking, terrorist attacks and weapons sales. It also has become a depot for the movement of drugs from Morocco and West Africa to Europe.

Political analyst Tarek Megerisi, writing for *Foreign Policy* magazine, said Libya's instability made the country a breeding ground for "numerous other threats to itself, its neighbors and the surrounding region."

"But it's not just terrorists who benefit from the general anarchy," Megerisi wrote. "So, too, do those who make a living in Libya's shadow economy."

Analysts said that Libya's civil war is one in which no side can seem to gain a lasting, decisive advantage.

Typically, such deadlocked wars eventually run out of momentum, as the money, weapons and young volunteers willing to die dry up. But forces outside Libya, sympathetic to various extremist groups, continue to arm and fund some factions, keeping the fighting alive.

THE MIGRANT EPIDEMIC

The epidemic of migrants leaving Libya's port cities has created a humanitarian disaster that has overwhelmed rescuers. The boats leaving Libya are no longer intended to make the trip to southern Italy — they aren't seaworthy. Instead, smugglers launch the crowded boats and rubber rafts into the Mediterranean, where search-andrescue teams pick them up. Authorities have no choice but to come to the rescue of the migrants, who would otherwise perish at sea. Even when the migrants are returned to Libya, conditions there are so bad, the migrants often make another attempt to get to Europe. The cycle begins anew.

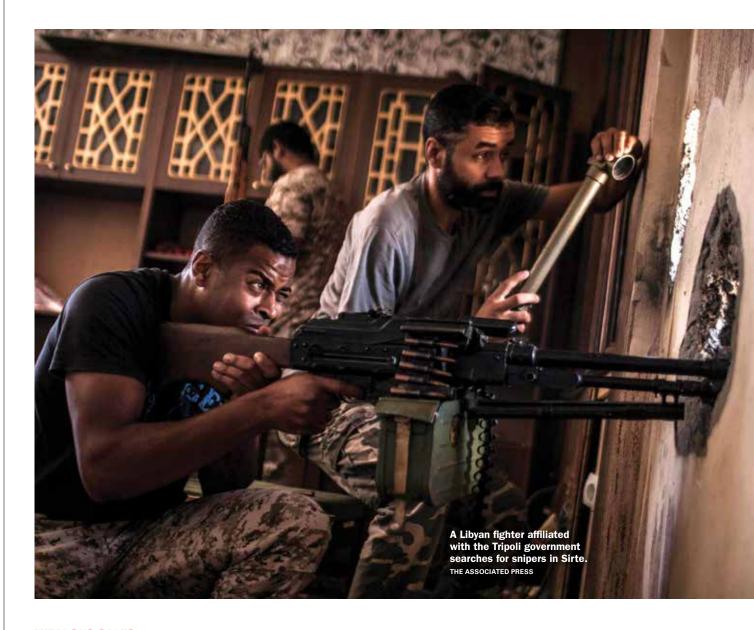
The United Nations says refugees make their way to Libya largely from Sub-Saharan Africa, generally from Eritrea, Niger, Nigeria and The Gambia. But the Libyan launchings truly affect a larger part of the world. A January 2017 sea rescue near the town of Sabratha included migrants from Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Palestine, Agence France-Presse reported.

A 2016 European Union (EU) military task force study projected that Libya's coastal cities make as much as \$300 million to \$350 million annually from people-smuggling.

European nations are trying to help the Libyan Coast Guard stop the migrants. In January 2017, the EU announced that it would help train the Libyan Coast Guard by pledging \$3.4 million in aid. The EU launched a naval operation named Sophia in 2015 to crack down on smugglers, but the operation is not allowed to intervene in Libyan waters.

Many migrants reach the Libyan coast only after hot, exhausting desert journeys from Niger and Nigeria and other Sub-Saharan countries. Along the way, migrants often hide out at way stations set up either by sophisticated smuggling operations or farmers trying to make some easy money. Some of the human smugglers have branched out into other types of smuggling, including drugs, alcohol and exotic animals.

The people-smuggling has devastated what little economic structure still remains in Libya. At any time, as many as 20,000 migrants may be sitting in detention centers, waiting for deportation. The migrants are held in wretched, crowded camps. The German weekly Welt am Sonntag reported in January 2017 that detained migrants face torture and execution in the camps.



WEAPONS SALES

Gadhafi was an obsessive weapons buyer and hoarder. During his years of power, he is believed to have spent more than \$30 billion on arms, and weapons from his Libyan depots have made their way throughout the continent. They have been found in conflicts as far west as Mali and as far east as Syria.

The BBC has reported that there is a growing market for Libyan guns and other weapons on social media sites, especially Facebook. Most of the weapons are offered for sale within closed or secret Facebook groups. Such sales are a violation of Facebook's policies.

Libyan weapons trading on social media began to take off in 2013, the BBC reported. Although Facebook is the social medium of choice, just about any social site has been used, including Yahoo, Instagram, Telegram and WhatsApp. Most of the weapons changing hands are handguns and rifles, with an AK-47 rifle typically

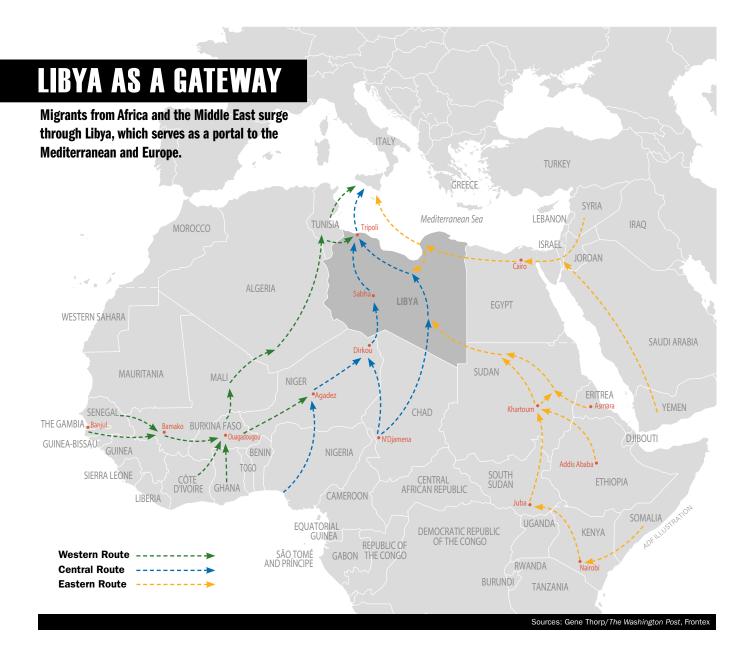
selling for about \$1,300. A Kenyan naval officer told *ADF* that the AK-47 is now such a common weapon, "the 'AK' has become short for 'African Killer.'"

Researchers studied internet arms trading for a report commissioned by the Small Arms Survey, a group that monitors weapons around the world. One of the researchers noted that in addition to the sales of handguns, rifles and machines guns, "there were also the more significant systems that could have battlefield impacts or terrorism use." Some anti-aircraft systems — although largely obsolete against modern military planes — were offered for up to \$62,000.

DRUG DROP-OFF POINT

Libya's lack of law enforcement has made it a valuable dropping-off point in the drug trade.

In 2013, Italian Sailors, acting on a telephone tip, boarded a huge freighter headed for Libya. The



freighter was virtually empty — except for 16 tons of hashish.

"There was so much of the drug that we didn't know where to put it," investigator Francesco Amico told *The New York Times*. "We had to go out and rent a warehouse."

The Italians had uncovered a new drug trafficking route that, instead of the usual quick path to Spain, stretched along the coast of North Africa, from Morocco to Libya. The ships moved through areas controlled by competing armed groups, including ISIS.

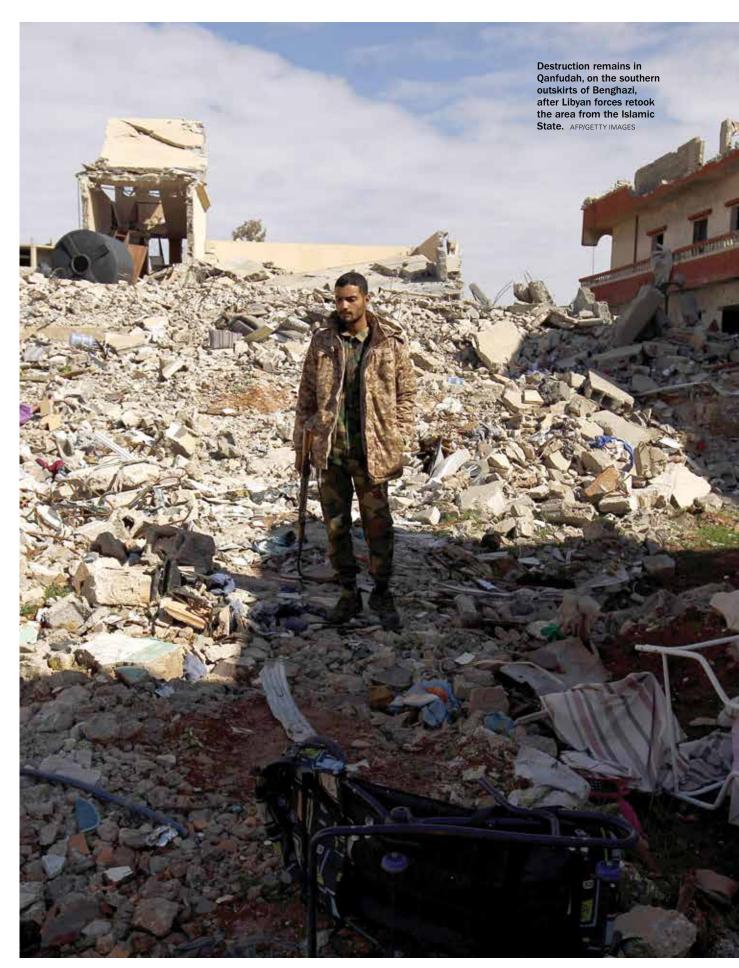
That the hashish was moved on otherwise-empty ships — some as long as a soccer field — is a testament to the drugs' value. One official compared the shipments to using an 18-wheel tractor-trailer to transport a single pack of cigarettes.

Over the next three years, acting on more tips, officials intercepted 19 more ships carrying hashish.

The total drugs cargo came to more than 280 tons, valued at \$3.2 billion. The tips have stopped coming in, but officials believe the shipments continue. They believe the hashish is removed from the ships in Libya and transported over land through Egypt and on to Eastern Europe.

Officials told the *Times* that they believe that in some cases, ISIS was able to "tax" the shipments in exchange for safe passage. That would match the group's practice of taxing drugs in Iraq and Syria. The intelligence group IHS Markit said that ISIS got 7 percent of its revenue in 2015 from the production, taxation and sales of drugs.

"Libya is not a land where people consume hashish," Italian prosecutor Maurizio Agnello told the *Times*. "So that cargo of drugs is definitely a method of payment, a kind of coin." Referring to ISIS, he added, "It frightens us because they don't have limits. They do stuff that would be unthinkable for a Mafioso."





SOME POSITIVE SIGNS

Amid the chaos, there are some signs of attempts to re-establish a stable government.

- In January 2017, Libya announced it was ending its self-imposed moratorium on foreign investment in its oil industry and would begin looking for partners. With oil production at a three-year high of 715,000 barrels a day, the country could be an attractive investment. It hopes to produce 1.3 million barrels a day by year's end. Mustafa Sanalla of the Libyan National Oil Corp. told *Forbes* magazine that foreign investment was in "the best national interest for the Libyan oil sector and for Libya as a state." Analysts say that increased oil production is a cornerstone in any plan for the recovery of the debt-crippled Libyan economy.
- In January 2017, Turkey and Italy reopened
 their embassies in Libya. Turkey returned
 more than two years after closing its embassy
 because of a lack of security. Turkey released
 a statement saying, "The reopening of the
 embassy will allow Turkey to make stronger
 contributions to efforts to build peace and
 stability, as well as reconstruction in Libya."
 Italy closed its embassy in 2015.
- As of early 2017, France and England were re-establishing formal diplomatic relations with Libya but keeping their offices in Tunisia. Several other countries said they planned to reopen embassies in Libya at some point in 2017.
- The country's forces are beginning to have success in stopping ISIS. In particular, Libya has taken control of the coastal city of Sirte, which had been controlled by ISIS since June 2015.

TIME AND EFFORT NEEDED

Libya can have a functioning government again, but it will require time, money and effort. Investment in its oil industry is a start, but with a world glut of oil as of early 2017, oil revenue will not solve all the country's problems.

Analysts say the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the international community will have to work with Libya's community and tribal leaders, as well as its faction leaders and its militia commanders, to restore order.

Political analyst Megerisi said any powersharing agreement in Libya also will require the help of key institutions such as the Central Bank and the National Oil Co. Internationally, he said, Libya's arms blockade must be enforced, and the United Nations must be recognized as "the sole channel for international diplomacy with Libya."

Libya has two competing governments and numerous ethnic and regional divides. The international community must help the country restore order under the banner of a single, unified government.

"There is a connection between the smuggling, migration and terrorism," said Sanalla, as reported in *The Guardian*. "The volume of money the smugglers are now gathering is hundreds of millions of dollars. With this, they can make terrorist attacks on Europe. It's a well-organized, systematic, criminal machine. We need international help to bring it to an end."

A friend and a medical volunteer comfort the relative of a Libyan fighter who was killed while battling the Islamic State in Sirte.

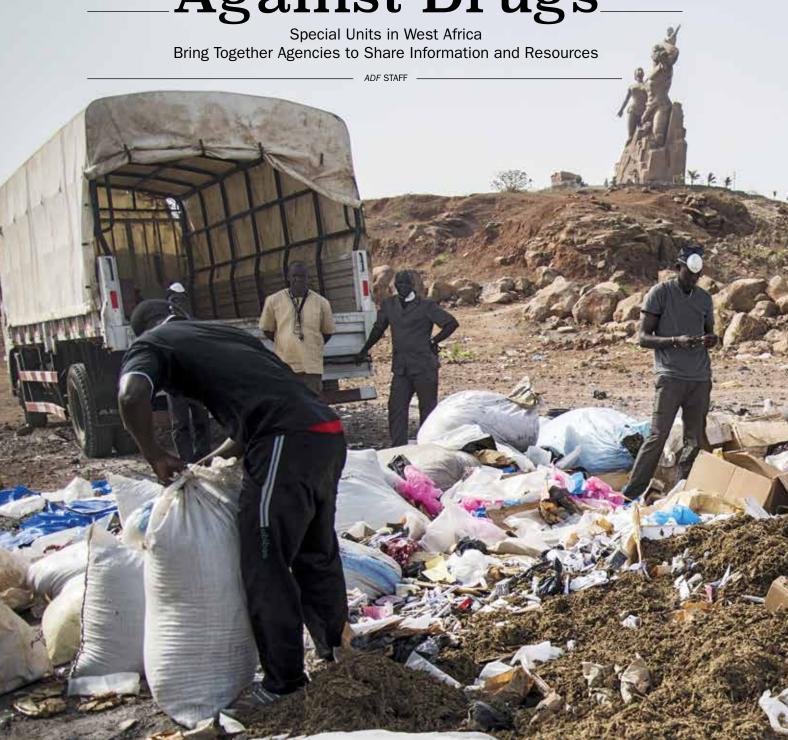
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Illegal migrants headed for Europe are detained at a camp in Gheryan, outside Tripoli, Libya.

REUTERS

JOINING HANDS

Against Drugs





frica stands as a transit point in a global drug trafficking network that funnels cocaine and other drugs into Europe. The drugs come into West Africa, usually from Brazil, and land in one of several nations, such as Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. From there, the product is moved via air, land and sea toward its final destination.

A major drug shipment intercepted in Mali in 2016 followed this trend. The investigation began in May 2016 when Mali's Central Office for Narcotic Drugs (OCS for Office Central des Stupéfiants) confiscated 2.7 tons of cannabis in Bamako. Authorities also arrested several people in Bamako and Accra, Ghana, where the drugs originated, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Officials found the drugs on a vehicle whose driver was paid \$230 per trip between the two capitals, well above the regional monthly salary. The investigation continued, and in October 2016, Malian authorities arrested the drug ring's alleged kingpin. Agents from the OCS and a similar agency in Senegal shared information, resulting in the arrest in Niamey, Niger.

Authorities credited two things for their success in smashing the network: information sharing and ongoing training. Experts agree that success will depend largely on African nations' ability to do both successfully, among their own national agencies and with their neighboring countries.

A fairly new effort in West Africa has further developed interagency cooperation, and the work is paying off.

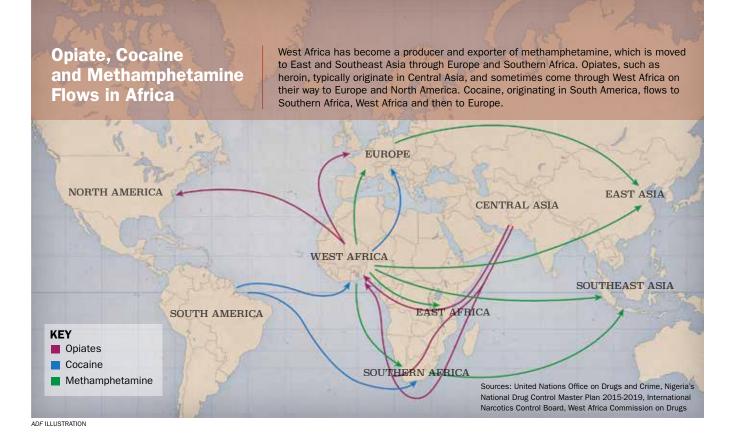
THE PROBLEM IN WEST AFRICA

A 2014 report published by the West Africa Commission on Drugs (WACD) says cartels have joined with local partners to make the region a transit route for moving drugs from South America to Europe and to North America from Asia. Traffickers have moved beyond marijuana and cocaine and are now dealing in synthetic drugs, such as amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), according to the report.

The first ATS labs to be dismantled in the region were in Guinea in 2009, according to a 2016 UNODC report. Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency has dismantled at least a dozen since mid-2011. ATS seizures in West Africa increased by 480 percent from 2012 to 2013,

Authorities prepare to incinerate illegal drugs seized in Dakar, Senegal.

REUTERS



and authorities in Côte d'Ivoire

confiscated 86 percent of the 1,414 kilograms seized during that time.

The drug trade is worth hundreds of millions of dollars in West Africa, where many countries are emerging from years of political conflict and violence. The region's recent history has produced weak government and security institutions that trafficking networks easily exploit and circumvent. Traffickers "also benefit from extensive networks of enablers and fixers in the formal and informal sectors,

which provide them easy access to airports, ports, storage and transport facilities, communication systems and official documentation," the WACD report states.

Nigerian organized crime groups often are at the forefront of cocaine trafficking and now are "on par with Latin American groups in their ability to source, finance and transport bulk quantities of cocaine from Latin America to Africa, Europe and elsewhere," according to the 2016 "EU Drug Markets Report: In-Depth Analysis." Nigerian gangsters also are among the most active groups involved in global methamphetamine trafficking.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Illicit trafficking, including drugs, continues to be a major problem in West Africa. The presence of such crimes threatens and destabilizes social and political institutions. Much of the region has been plagued with violence and civil war for years. Exacerbating that problem,

Traffickers have moved beyond marijuana and cocaine and are now dealing in synthetic drugs, such as amphetamine-type stimulants.

according to UNODC, are differences in language, national rivalries, a lack of technical communication capacities, and knowledge and training deficits among regional law enforcement agencies.

"Such forms of transnational organized crime can only be fought by proactive and well-coordinated law enforcement agencies, utilizing all the information and resources available within a country, as well as international forms of operational cooperation," according to the UNODC.

The West Africa Coast Initiative

(WACI) is the result of collaboration among UNODC, other U.N. offices and Interpol working to support Economic Community of West African States goals to address drugs and organized crime. WACI's aims include:

- Building capacity for better national, regional and international law enforcement cooperation.
- Creating Transnational Crime Units (TCUs) to coordinate enforcement, information exchange and intelligence gathering among national agencies.
- Increasing regional and national capacity building, primarily in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

TCUs are at the heart of efforts to curb drug trafficking in West Africa. The first opened in Sierra Leone in 2010, and Guinea-Bissau and Liberia established TCUs in 2011. The UNODC is providing ongoing advisory assistance for the establishment of a functional TCU in Côte d'Ivoire as



well. Leaders have been nominated for its center, and it could open by the middle of 2017.

"We've seen very good operational results that have been achieved," said Pierre Lapaque, regional representa-

tive for UNODC's Regional Office for West and Central Africa, in Dakar, Senegal.

The plan is to add a TCU in Guinea as well, but government negotiations still are underway, and donor funding has not been secured. It is not likely to open this year, Lapaque said.

The TCUs allow a wide variety of law enforcement and security agencies to share space and work together. National police forces, gendarmes, national intelligence personnel, customs,

People destroy 4 metric tons of seized counterfeit and illegal medicine in Dakar, Senegal.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES







Liberian drug officers show drugs seized in 2015 at Bo Waterside, a border crossing between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

immigration, port and airport authorities, and anticorruption officers all can be part of TCUs. "It's the call of the individual country to decide which agencies should be part of the TCU," Lapaque said.

The thinking is that having various agencies represented together will avoid the "silos" that keep information from being shared. Breaking down the walls of these silos is the main purpose of the TCUs. That brings results, Lapaque said, as staffers start to trust each other. Information also flows from various agencies into the TCUs, where it can be analyzed, disseminated and used to conduct operations, either by the TCU itself or by TCU member agencies. The process can be slow, but things are improving, and results are evident.

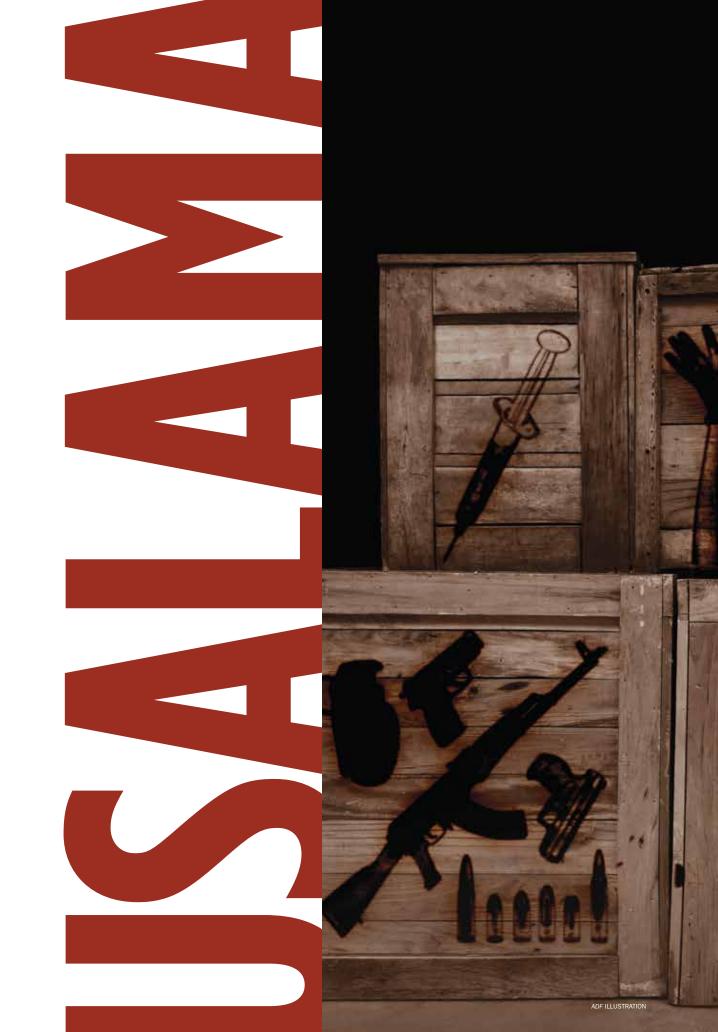
In June 2016, Sierra Leone's TCU supported an international drug trafficking investigation in partnership with Spanish authorities that led to the seizure of a boat sailing under a Sierra Leonean flag in the Mediterranean Sea. The boat was carrying more than 2 metric tons of cannabis resin, and authorities arrested seven crew members. Since the Sierra Leone TCU was established in 2010, it has investigated more than 500 cases, prosecuted about 350 people, and seized 28 tons of marijuana, 142 kilograms of cocaine and 3 kilograms of heroin, Lapaque said.

Guinea-Bissau's TCU has investigated more than 70 cases and prosecuted 83 people. Liberia has handled 59 cases and arrested and prosecuted 59 people.

So far, TCUs have operated nationally and regionally, and that's important in a region that now faces a complex array of drug-related crimes. Twenty-five years ago the region mostly saw marijuana used and trafficked. Now, every type of drug is trafficked, and West Africa is not only a transshipment region. It is a region that produces, traffics and consumes all kinds of drugs.

There also has been an increase in connections between drug trafficking and violent extremism, Lapaque said.

"It is very important to understand that it's not going to be easy to stabilize the world if Africa is not stable," Lapaque said. "So that's something which has to be clear and has to be on everyone's radar. We cannot leave behind any weak points or regions." \square



Takes Aim at Traffickers

A CONTINENTAL OPERATION BACKED BY INTERPOL

RESULTS IN 4,500 ARRESTS IN TWO DAYS

ADE STAFF



t was a dragnet operation on a continental level. Over the course of 48 hours, 1,500 police officers fanned out across 22 countries and made 4,500 arrests.

Some of the crimes they discovered were small: In Eritrea, officials stopped a man at an airport with a fake passport. Some were serious: Tanzanian officials charged nine people with possessing 1.2 metric tons of ivory. Some of the

crimes revealed global links and professional organization: During a cargo check of a flight arriving in Sudan, authorities found 88,000 tablets of the narcotic Captagon hidden inside cellphone chargers.

Code-named Usalama III, the operation took aim at the drug traffickers, human smugglers, poachers and transnational criminals that plague Africa. These criminals have historically taken advantage of a lack of police cooperation and porous borders.

Usalama, which means "security" in Swahili, was led by the police chiefs' organizations of Southern Africa and Eastern Africa and backed by Interpol, the international police organization. It was planned over the course of several meetings in 2016, including a two-day conference in Maputo, Mozambique. To aid the preparation, Interpol and local officials combed through its global database to look for items reported stolen or individuals known to be involved in crossborder trafficking.

"Access to Interpol's databases played an important role in the success of the operation and again has shown the need for international information exchange," said Inspector General Joseph Boinnet of the Kenya Police Service. "Operations like Usalama show what can be achieved when law enforcement agencies work closely together."

The operation on June 29 and 30, 2016, involved police officers and officials from customs, immigration, wildlife agencies, counterterrorism units and mining authorities. Participating nations blanketed national points of entry, including airports, seaports and land borders to check as many people, vehicles and containers as possible. Interpol also provided on-the-ground support from its offices in Harare, Zimbabwe, and Nairobi, Kenya.

"Operation Usalama III is a true reflection of the importance of interregional and multilateral cooperation fighting organized and transnational crime," said Julio Dos Santos Jane, chairman of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation and general commander of the Mozambique Police. "The results also show it is vital to look beyond borders to both prevent crime and stop criminals escaping from justice."

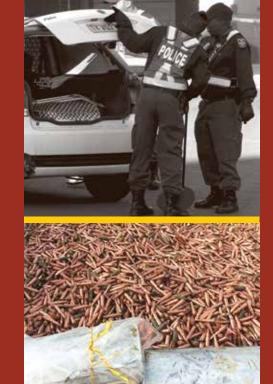
Success in Uganda

In landlocked Uganda, authorities participating in Usalama uncovered a wide range of crimes. Police discovered cars stolen in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe that had been shipped into the country, stripped of identifying details and resold.

"This is a huge problem. For me to sit here and say that

this problem is light would be deceiving," said Asan Kasingye, director of Uganda's Interpol office, during a press conference. "People are losing cars. Vehicles are stolen from car parking yards; vehicles are stolen from people entering their gates."

Kasingye said over the past two iterations of Usalama, cooperation between his office and the National Crime Agency of the U.K. has improved leading to regular information sharing and the U.K. sending vehicle trafficking experts to train Ugandan



Officers from the South African Police Service search a car in Pretoria. South Africa was one of 22 countries that participated in Usalama III, a two-day operation targeting transnational crime.

Sudanese authorities found illegal ammunition during Usalama. INTERPOL

officers about alternative ways to identify vehicles. After Usalama, 23 vehicles were repatriated to the U.K.

"In the last two years of operation we have seen our cooperation move from a mere exchange of information to an exchange of experts," he said. "Now that we are working together we are able to realize that even the amount of vehicles that are being stolen from the U.K. to Uganda is going down."

During the operation, Ugandan officials discovered a separate international car theft and smuggling ring linked to neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). They determined that, over the preceding five years, 414 vehicles were stolen in Uganda and taken to the DRC to be resold. Kasingye said this trafficking thrives due to porous borders, a permissive environment in the eastern DRC, differing laws, corruption and limited cooperation between the two countries.

"Cars are stolen by people entrusted with them," Kasingye said. "The racket of car smugglers in DRC involves senior security officers. That is why we have decided that the Foreign Affairs Ministry takes over the engagements and possible repatriation procedures."

Kasingye hopes the DRC will accept the invitation to participate in the next iteration of Usalama and, perhaps, join the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization. He also would like for Ugandan border guards to have access to Interpol's database to check vehicles crossing into the DRC against lists of those known to be stolen. For that, they will need internet access in remote areas. "If we could have maybe

"It can start creating an environment where governments actually believe in this," he said. "Usalama had a certain amount of stunt involved, but it can also be used, I would argue, as proof of concept for further cooperation that might go on for a longer period."

Cline has researched and written about intelligence sharing in Africa. He said regional cooperation among police forces has historically been a challenge due to a variety of

Sudanese officials found 88,000 tablets of the narcotic Captagon inside phone chargers during Usalama III. INTERPOL

Officials inspect elephant tusks discovered in wooden crates filled with wax and chalk powder to hide the illegal goods. Authorities seized the crates at Kenya's largest commercial port, Mombasa. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"THE RESULTS ALSO SHOW IT IS VITAL TO LOOK BEYOND BORDERS TO BOTH PREVENT CRIME AND STOP CRIMINALS ESCAPING FROM JUSTICE."

JULIO DOS SANTOS JANE, chairman of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation and general commander of the Mozambique Police

accessibility at about two or three points on the border, we could reduce the problem by something like 70 percent," he said.

Additionally, the Usalama operation shut down a wildlife smuggling ring in Uganda and seized 20 kilograms of ivory, three tortoises, six gray geese, 12 ostrich egg shells, leopard skins and other wildlife products. In separate stings, authorities discovered

and burned 55 acres where drugs were being grown, impounded more than 1,000 kilograms of narcotics, and identified 17 victims of human trafficking.

'Proof of Concept'

This was the fourth iteration of Usalama, with the first operation taking place in 2013. Experts say it is not practical to marshal this level of security resources across this many countries regularly. However, Lawrence Cline, a retired U.S. Army intelligence officer and instructor at Troy University, said an event like Usalama has a larger purpose.

factors. These include a divisive colonial legacy, mistrust, language barriers and pressures from outside partners who prefer bilateral partnerships to regional ones.

"I don't see anything close to long-term, regular, daily, national-level police cooperation anywhere in the region," he said. "But what I do see is if the governments will more or less get out of the way of the police in terms of these sorts of issues, then we probably can make some significant progress."

Cline sees the future of security partnerships in Africa as being built from the ground up. He thinks police forces will develop partnerships across borders, which will lead to governments being more willing to share information bilaterally and, eventually, regionally.

"Where I've seen the most active cooperation has been at the lower levels, essentially where the people who are actually working on the ground are able to do it, and they tend to do it more effectively than government to government," he said.

African police chiefs are working to develop a continental police cooperative organization known as "Afripol." A document signed by 40 African police chiefs in 2014 echoed the need for such a body to "promote African police coordination at strategic, operational, and tactical levels through the assessment of threats, analysis of criminal intelligence, planning, and implementation of actions." In December 2015, Afripol inaugurated its headquarters in Algiers, Algeria.

Although Afripol is still facing bureaucratic hurdles, successful events such as Usalama may provide the momentum it needs to get off the ground.

"Operation Usalama III demonstrated what can be achieved through the commitment of countries and the expertise of front-line police backed by Interpol's global capabilities," said Elizabeth Kuteesa, director of Interpol's Global Outreach and Regional Support unit. "This was a strong, coordinated response to tackle the serious crime challenges facing these regions, and Interpol will continue to provide its support as these arrests are followed up."



CONTINENTAL COOPERATION

A CONVERSATION WITH

ASAN KASINGYE





Uganda's Director of Interpol

Asan Kasingye is Uganda's director of Interpol and International Relations. He also serves as assistant inspector general for the Ugandan Police Force. He spoke to ADF by phone about Operation Usalama and his country's efforts to fight transnational crime. After this interview was conducted, Kasing ye accepted a new role as police spokesman. His remarks have been edited to fit this format.

ADF: During Usalama III, your officers impounded more than 1,000 kilograms of narcotics. How big of a problem are drugs in Uganda and East Africa as a whole?

KASINGYE: I think one of the biggest challenges is that Uganda is both a transit country and a country where drugs are being consumed. As a result, we are now seeing a growing trend of narcotics in the country, especially cannabis plantations. Cannabis sativa is

almost becoming a cash crop, especially in the eastern part of Uganda and some central parts

of the country. With the poverty levels in the country, you see more people turning to the growing of this plant. I also know that this kind of trafficking is linked to many other crimes. Our region, the Great Lakes region, has had political problems and wars, and some of these groups

use transnational crimes and environmental crimes like trafficking in ivory, theft of motor vehicles, and now drugs to acquire firearms that they use in these wars. That is the biggest problem that we face. We also have legal challenges. The legal regime is a little bit weak. In Uganda if you are caught with

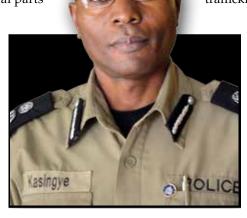
narcotic drugs, I think the maximum penalty is the payment of 1 million Ugandan shillings, which is about \$300, or imprisonment for one year and, in extreme cases, both. These are not deterrent measures to stop traffickers from doing what they are doing.

ADF: The operation located 17 victims of human trafficking. Is that a large problem in Uganda? Are the victims kidnapped or do they go willingly?

> **KASINGYE:** We have not seen many cases of kidnapping for trafficking to other countries.

> > What is going on is 99 percent of the victims of human trafficking are trafficked with their consent. But of course this is still trafficking. They don't tell them the truth; they lie to them that they are going to find well-paying jobs in the Middle East, and some of the companies are not registered

at all. They are taken out of the country. They go to Oman, they go to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Indonesia, and there are so many problems associated with that. To inform people, we have increased our education and sensitization programs on the radio, on TV, on social media. But the rate seems to be





A Ugandan police officer stands guard on the streets of Kampala. REUTERS

going up. And I think one of the reasons could be lack of jobs. People tell you even when you find them being trafficked, you ask them the reasons why and they say, "We don't have jobs. So we go out of the country and we try our luck."

ADF: This operation represents a significant partnership between the Eastern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) and Interpol. How would you describe the partnership among these groups? Is it growing and improving with time?

KASINGYE: From the first operation four years ago, EAPCCO was able to see that it was very important to cooperate permanently. It called for total cooperation between all regions in Africa, and I assure you that's how Afripol was born. The headquarters for Afripol was opened last year in Algiers, Algeria. Police chiefs from 54 African countries signed the cooperation mechanism. If we can now share intelligence within Africa and share databases within Africa, we are going to see a reduction in the number of crimes taking place. For example, it is very easy for international criminal traffickers in narcotic drugs to operate between West Africa and East Africa because the cooperation between these two regions is limited. As a result, we see a lot of drugs coming to our region from Nigeria, Liberia, Guinea, Togo, Senegal and Côte



d'Ivoire. But with this kind of mechanism, I am sure we are going to see a big reduction. The second point is terrorism. This mechanism is going to help make sure that we coordinate and share intelligence relating to terrorists and foreign fighters. In order to solve this problem, we need all of Africa to see how we can share intelligence and see how we can make sure to stop this problem. This kind of cooperation between SARPCCO and EAPCCO has been very important but more important was the birth of Afripol, and I think that Interpol is stronger because Africa is becoming one formidable body that deals with international crime rather than Interpol seeing Africa as four subregions. We are now proud to have the Afripol mechanism coordinating the whole of Africa.

ADF: How far along is Afripol in terms of being fully operational?

KASINGYE: It has come from a temporary kind of experimental mechanism, and it has now fully been



launched. I am sure that many African countries have nominated staff members to go to Algiers to start working on different programs within Afripol. Later on, we are going to use the Interpol communication network to share data, share intelligence and coordinate more. We are not yet there, but I can guarantee that in one year probably we should be able to have it fully operational.

ADF: It seems that one of the most important aspects of Usalama is the breaking down of barriers and building bridges of trust. Now that you have worked with other police chiefs in the region, how important are these professional relationships to dismantling transnational criminal networks?

KASINGYE: Yes, it's a big accomplishment. For example, I know each and every head of the National Central Bureau (NCB) within the EAPCCO region and the SARPCCO region. I can pick up my phone and call the head of NCB in Pretoria, who I know by name, who I know by appearance; I can call someone in Mozambique

who I know by name and appearance, in Angola, in Swaziland, in Lesotho, Malawi, etc. I can call all these people. We know each other. For example, I talk on a daily basis with the head of NCB in Malawi. She tells me about the issues of motor vehicles that have been diverted from Malawi and are coming to Uganda. I quickly send my staff to go and look for these vehicles. We have been able to share information about the theft of motor vehicles directly from Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa, coming to Kampala. And we have been able to solve this problem.

ADF: What is an example of intra-African trafficking you are looking to dismantle?

KASINGYE: We are beginning to see new routes of human trafficking. Instead of going to the Middle East, we are seeing people from Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, they are going to South Africa. They call it the "Pursuit of the Southern Route." Two years ago, about 50 people were suffocated in a vehicle, a wagon that had come from Ethiopia and was going to South Africa. By

the time they reached Tanzania, they suffocated and died. I think about 48 people died. That's when it occurred to us that the problem was becoming big. How do you take people in a container on a vehicle from Ethiopia through all these countries? We are now looking specifically at making sure we take on this problem. It's a huge problem that we need to solve.

Lastly, we share a lot of information about environmental crimes. Most of the traffickers of ivory and rhino horn have bases in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Now we can cooperate more with those countries. I think we are becoming more organized, more robust, sharing more intelligence and becoming more successful, and, therefore, we are reducing the problem. Yes, this Usalama program is becoming successful, and I only wish that we will be able to do it every year and share intelligence because one of the challenges is that some countries have a level at which they share national data to other countries. I know with time the law is going to allow them to share with us, and that's how we can solve this problem. We are better off now than we were four years ago. \square





ADF STAFF

Each October, as the South African spring gives way to summer, the sky in Cape Town becomes a kaleidoscope of colors. A surprising mix of creatures — both real and imaginary — joins the birds in taking flight.

Fish fly by, as do raccoons, cats, squids, tigers and whales. Sometimes, a dragon appears, its serpentine body swaying to and fro. Each is tethered to a string and climbs and swoops with the caprices of the city's seasonal breezes.

People come from all over the world to participate in the annual Cape Town International Kite Festival. The 22nd annual event, in October 2016, included kite enthusiasts from Canada, England, Germany, New Zealand and Singapore, the Cape Times reported. The event benefited Cape Mental Health to raise "awareness of the importance of mental health and highlights the link between physical and mental well-being," according to the event's Facebook page. Cape Mental Health, a nonprofit, offers free health services to those living in Western Cape.

In addition to the airborne arrays, those attending can see shows and participate in kite workshops and contests.

"Our mission is to help people realize their potential and overcome mental health challenges they may encounter," Cape Mental Health Director Ingrid Daniels told the *Times*. "Kites are one of the tools we use. Almost everyone feels lighter when they simply lift their heads and look up."

ANCIENT RIVALS





But in recent years this practice has grown deadlier. Firearms have replaced the traditional arrows and spears. Water, always scarce, has dried up. Herders have grown desperate.

The world got a glimpse of this violence in 2015. At dawn on May 4, hundreds of Turkana men raided the tiny village of Nadome, spraying its mud huts with bullets. Residents recalled that attackers formed a ring around their dwellings to prevent escape and fired wildly.

"I heard the first gunshot but before I could respond, the sounds of deafening firepower engulfed the entire manyatta as the raiders fired indiscriminately," a 36-year-old man told The Standard. "I retreated a bit, and the bullet hit me on the left side of my head."

In the end, the raiders made off with 3,000 goats, but the loot came at a terrible price. More than 60 people were killed. A journalist who visited the village described the overwhelming stench of death and the heartbreaking scene of a slain mother with her child, also dead, strapped to her back. "It's a scene straight from hell," reporter Vincent Mabatuk wrote.

In revenge, Pokot men rode off to confront the attackers and killed dozens more, The Standard reported.

In response to this and other massacres, the Kenyan government launched an initiative to confiscate illegal weapons in four northwest counties. Illegal firearms abound in the country. On the outskirts of Nairobi, an illegal pistol sells for \$80 or less. Weapons such as AK-47s sell for \$140. Pastoralists regularly trade cattle for weapons,

researcher Mbugua Njoroge found, and there is a steady supply of guns streaming in from conflict areas in nearby Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.

A 2016 National Security Report submitted to Kenya's Parliament estimated that between 580,000 and 650,000 illicit arms are circulating in the country, posing "significant socio-economic, political and security risks." The authors also conceded that disarmament initiatives by the government "have not yielded the desired results."

So, what can be done? The answer lies in Kenya's own National Policy on Small Arms and Light Weapons and other best practices that have been adopted across the continent. Many of these best practices are laid out in the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons, signed by 11 African countries in 2004. The United Nations also outlines proven strategies for arms control in its program of action to halt illegal weapons traffic. These documents are the framework for a plan to stop the flow of illegal weapons. This generally includes marking and tracing legal weapons, regulating weapons brokers, securing government stockpiles, strengthening border security, and shutting down the artisanal blacksmiths who make new guns or illegally retrofit old ones.









BROKERS

Kenya is one of many African countries that has called for more regulation and licensing of weapons brokers. The Nairobi Protocol outlines that states should maintain a database of all weapons brokers, including passport and company information. Registered brokers must obtain authorization for any weapons transfer. States should never authorize a transfer domestically or internationally if weapons are likely to be used in violent crimes, violations of humanitarian law or against regional stability.

Recent history shows that many illegal weapons can be traced to a small number of unscrupulous brokers with international ties. In January 2017, an importer at the Apapa Port in Lagos, Nigeria, was found to be transporting 661 illegal pump-action shotguns concealed inside steel doors. Authorities arrested three men and traced the shipment to China and Turkey.

After the seizure, Nigeria's comptroller general of customs, Ahmed Ali, called for a crackdown on illegal weapons brokers and asked for the public's assistance in identifying illegal shipments. "We must now put all our hands on deck," he told Nigeria's The Guardian. "The security problem of this country must be addressed by all of us, and we must contribute our quota by ensuring that we give the right information. If we see an issue, an item or suspicious movement, we should let the authorities know. That is the only way we would be able to ensure we do our job. Without information, there is no way we can curb this menace."

COOPERATION

Weapons traffickers tend to exploit weakness, wherever it exists. This weakness could be a failed state in which warring parties buy arms in bulk, or it could be a porous border where arms can be shipped undetected. Africa's security leaders have identified the need to share resources to shore up weak points.

In its national arms policy, Kenya calls for cooperation with its neighbors, sharing information relating to arms movements, and developing legal uniformity in the region so traffickers can be prosecuted wherever they are caught. Progress can be seen in the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, which develops common strategies for shared threats in East Africa and quickly disseminates information on transnational crime. The group and its partner organization in Southern Africa have held joint operations to clamp down on trafficking. They are backed by Interpol, the international policing organization.

At a 2016 meeting of regional Interpol heads in Kigali, Rwandan Assistant Commissioner of Police Tony Kulamba said partnerships and intelligence sharing are the way of the future on the continent. "Deepening cooperation and quick response to each other's requests is the only message to criminals that there is no hiding place for them anywhere," Kulamba said.

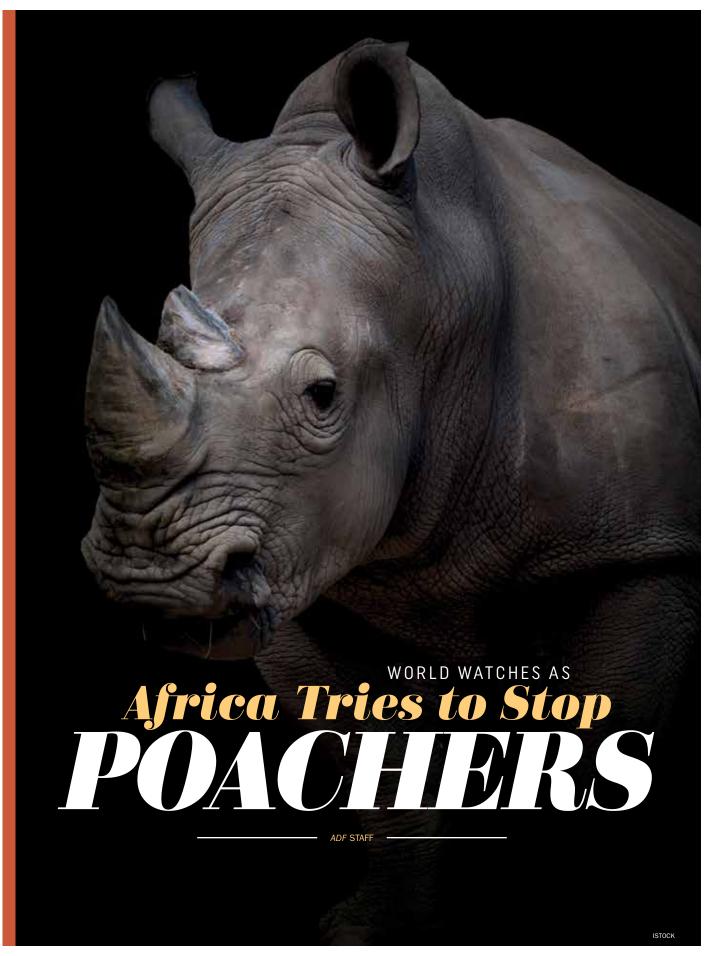
DEMAND FACTORS

Research shows that demand for weapons increases when citizens lack security. This is particularly true when they feel the state cannot or will not protect them. In places like northwest Kenya, it is vital to address insecurity and the underlying causes of weapons demand.

Pastoralists believe "national law is not adequately enforced by Kenyan police in their marginalized regions," Njoroge wrote. "The only option they have is to arm themselves for personal, communal, clan or larger family defence requirements. They do this as a defensive measure against bandits and other clans as well as to advance their own interests."

Governments, Njoroge said, cannot simply collect illegal weapons in insecure places and assume peace will follow. In regions such as rural Kenya, pilot projects stressing traditional dispute resolution, peacebuilding and development initiatives that give all groups a shared purpose are needed to give people the confidence to choose development over weapons.

One such initiative was the "peace caravan" launched soon after the Nadome massacre. In it, 15 regional politicians and elders from pastoralist communities traveled around three affected counties to discuss strategies to end the killings. The caravan recommended the creation of a ministry to oversee pastoral areas and investment to build a lasting peace. "Cattle rustling has enormously contributed to poverty and has left more orphans and widows," said Gov. Benjamin Cheboi of Kenya's Baringo County. "The region must be free from gunfire. Those who have been buying guns and bullets must now channel the money to education and business."



Asian countries that have allowed the sale of ivory and rhino horn are feeling the heat.

hina, the world's largest market for ivory, has announced that it plans to ban all ivory trade by the end of 2017, a move aimed to discourage elephant poaching.

An estimated 70 percent of illegal ivory goes to China, where a pair of ivory chopsticks sells for \$1,000 and a skillfully carved tusk can sell for about the cost of a new Ferrari.

For years, China, along with other countries in Asia, has been under worldwide pressure to stop the ivory trade. Vietnam and Japan have policies in place to discourage the trade but have yet to stop it completely. Still, China's move is seen as a significant step toward saving Africa's elephants.

Elly Pepper of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a United States environmental group, wrote that China's decision "may be the biggest sign of hope for elephants."

Poachers have devastated Africa's elephant population. Scientists believe that Africa may have had as many as 20 million elephants in the mid-19th century. By 1979, the continent had only 1.3 million elephants. Today, the elephant population in Africa is believed to be well under 700,000. The Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania once had the largest elephant population in the world, with 109,000 in 1976. By 2013, the reserve had only 13,000 elephants.

Not everyone is convinced that China's ban on ivory will

be effective. Dr. Daniel Stiles, an anthropologist who has studied world ivory markets for more than 15 years, told ADF that "it's a misconception that it's a total ban."

"Antiques can be sold at auction even after 2018, plus 'cultural relics,' which are not clearly defined, but seem to include even recently crafted items," he wrote in an email. "Certain workshops are also going to be allowed to operate to maintain the 'cultural heritage' of ivory working."

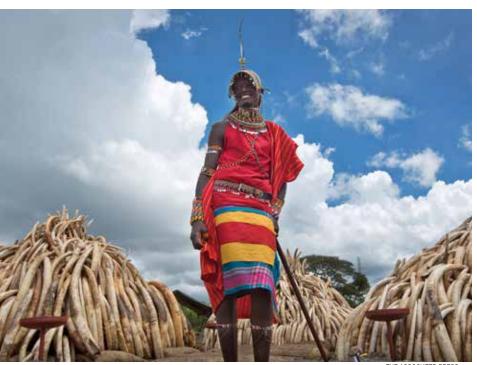
As for concerns that the ivory trade in China will go

underground, Stiles said that it has already happened. He said that most of the illegal ivory sold in China is sold online in members-only chat rooms and other websites.

"The existing black market in China is already about 10 times bigger than the legal market," he said. "I don't see much changing, except that it might just grow larger in the absence of legal competition."

JAPAN'S POLICIES TROUBLING

Japan is another country where the ivory trade continues to thrive. In October 2016, when delegates to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in South Africa voted to close all domestic



A Maasai man in ceremonial dress poses in front of stacks of ivory in Nairobi National Park, Kenya. The Kenya Wildlife Service burned 105 tons of ivory consisting of 16,000 tusks and 1 ton of rhino horn.

ivory markets, Japan, which says it rigorously polices its ivory market, was given an exception. The country has a passion for hanko, personal stamps and seals used as formal "signatures," and ivory is one of the preferred



A wildlife officer recruit drills at the Southern African Wildlife College on the edge of Greater Kruger National Park in South Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Trained dogs like this one at the Southern African Wildlife College are a crucial weapon in the war on poachers. A dog can track a poacher for a full day after picking up a scent from an animal kill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

materials used to make them. But Japanese trade officials contend that despite its large ivory industry, Japan does not traffic in poached ivory.

Digital news magazine TakePart reported that, as of early 2017, Japan still had 500 ivory wholesalers and 8,000 ivory retailers. Private online trading in ivory remained a legal, and highly profitable, business.

Japanese officials maintain that the ivory traded in their country was legally acquired before a 1989 ban on "new" ivory. But critics say that a large percentage of the ivory poached since 1989 has found its way to Japan.

"The supposedly rigorous controls in Japan are nonexistent," said Allan Thornton of London's Environmental Investigation Agency, a nongovernmental organization. He told TakePart that one Japanese online auction website sold 28,000 ivory products in 2015, compared with just 3,800 products in 2005.

Japan is under considerable pressure from other countries to do more to get out of the ivory business. Masayuki Sakamoto of the Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund told TakePart that the Japanese media have taken up the cause, "and the opportunity for Japanese people to know about conservation of elephants has increased." But Japanese government officials contend the country has nothing to be embarrassed about.

"Right now, they show no signs of caving in to pressure," Stiles said. He said he has met with Japanese ivory industry people, "and they fully expected to carry on but were worried about legal supply."

"As a result of global collective efforts, trading in illegal ivory and rhino horn is shifting from low risk, high profit to high risk."

 John Scanlon, head of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

In September 2016, members of the U.S. House of Representatives urged Japan to enforce its rules on the ivory trade, saying that ivory provides a source of money for "rebel militias and terrorist groups like the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), al-Shabaab and Boko Haram."

Defectors from the LRA tell of killing 25 elephants for their tusks in a summer raid in 2014 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The group swapped the tusks for ammunition. The LRA also reportedly kills elephants and buries the tusks for future use, as a type of "bank account."

VIETNAM TAKES BOLD STEPS

In December 2016, Vietnam destroyed more than 2 tons of seized ivory and rhino horns believed to be worth more than \$7 million on the black market. The contraband came from 330 slaughtered African elephants and 23 slain rhinos. The ivory and horns were crushed and then burned on the outskirts of Hanoi, The Associated Press reported. Vietnam has now joined 20 other countries worldwide in destroying seized wildlife products. John Scanlon, head of CITES, said the burning shows that "Vietnam is not prepared to tolerate this illegal trade, and that illegal traders now face significant risks along the entire supply chain — in source, transit and destination states.

"As a result of global collective efforts," he added, "trading in illegal ivory and rhino horn is shifting from low risk, high profit to high risk."

The current poaching situation is not unprecedented. In the 1970s, demand for ivory soared throughout the world, resulting in two decades of elephant slaughtering that reduced Africa's elephant population by half.

AFRICA'S POPULATION Tunisia Morocco Algeria Libya Egypt Western Mauritania Mali Niger Eritrea 96 - 104 Sudan Chad Gambia Burkina Faso Djibouti Guinea Somalia Nigeria Bissau Ethiopia 628-848 South (Sudan 7,054 - 12,636 Central \ African Republic Cameroon Sierre Leone Togo Ghána Benin Uganda Libéria 1.201 - 1.339 964 - 1.152 Democratic Republic of the Congo Equatorial Guinea Rwanda Republic of Rurundi the Congo 38,177 - 49,208 BLBPHANT Population Density Angola 1,619 - 2,471 Zambia 7,942 - 21.05 1 - 1,000 elephants 1,001 - 10,000 . Zimbabwe Namibia Mozambique elephants 10,000 or more elephants Madagasca waziland Lesotho Source: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species ADF ILLUSTRATION

In 1989, CITES banned all international ivory sales.

In 1999, CITES allowed Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to make a one-time sale of 50 tons of ivory to Japan. In 2008, CITES allowed the three countries, plus South Africa, to sell 102 tons in Asia. The thinking was that the sales would satisfy the market for ivory and reduce the animal slaughter. It didn't work. The limited sales had the reverse effect; demand and prices soared, and poaching increased dramatically. Since then, CITES has officially opposed such limited ivory sales.

Stiles said he thinks it is time to try another approach. "The poaching can be greatly reduced by introducing a legal, regular, regulated international and national trade — legal raw ivory replaces poached ivory," he said. "This has never been attempted. A one-off CITES sale is not a regulated trade system. They should not have been allowed, nor should they recur. Only a long-term, predictable raw ivory supply will work. It can be designed to satisfy all stakeholders. Instituting bans inflicts harm on almost all stakeholders; elephants suffer most of all."

In addition to the slaughter of animals and the loss of world prestige, poaching is bad for Africa in other ways. A 2016 study published in the journal *Nature Communications* looked at tourist visits in Africa and

how they had declined as poaching increased. "Across Africa the annual, direct economic losses due to elephant poaching run to a mean of \$9.1 million [annually]," the study reported. "Indirect costs — in losses to the people and industries that support tourism, run to \$16.4 million."

The study concluded that although the costs of protecting the elephants is high, it would be more than offset by the income from tourism — but only in the continent's

58 protected areas with more than

1,000 elephants each. The numbers do not work out for elephants in the heavily forested areas of Central

Africa, with few tourists but the highest rate of poaching. There, the study showed, the cost of saving elephants would be double the income made through tourism. For those elephants, the study found, survival will depend on "public concern."

SUCCESS STORIES

There are some success stories on the continent. In **Tanzania**'s Tarangire National Park, the elephant population has doubled over the past 20 years, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The group credits the rebound to the growing tourism

"Conservation efforts are having a powerful impact, thanks to strong national park law enforcement and grass-roots efforts by conservation partners in the area," the society reported.

industry there.

The WCS has helped Tanzania establish a dog detector unit to help track and find ivory, other animal parts, and weapons and ammunition. The group also has deployed an airplane to help with aerial surveys. Parts of Mozambique, South Sudan, and the Congo Basin are getting similar technologies.

In December 2016, Tanzanian wildlife officers took a wildlife crime scene investigation course to improve their evidence-gathering techniques, the *Tanzania Daily News* reported.



HE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators march in downtown Nairobi, Kenya, in support of preventing the extinction of elephants, rhinos and lions.

They are beginning to use crime scene evidence kits that include a camera, DNA sample collection kits, evidence bags and chain-of-custody forms.

In Tanzania and other parts of Africa, wildlife rangers are using a relatively new free open-source app called the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool, or SMART. The WCS said the app helps rangers document where patrols go, what they see and how they respond. The data is fed into a central computer at park headquarters and used to show where the greatest threats are and how best to deploy patrols. At its essence, it's a resource management tool.

"SMART gives protected area managers a more complete picture of the poaching pressures they face and the means to address them: providing wildlife rangers with a leg up in their fight against trafficking," the society reported. "By tracking how resources are used, how many arrests are made, and what impact this has on poaching, the system also holds governments accountable."

The WCS said that in **Gabon**, "there is considerable high-level political support for conservation, and the government has mobilized additional armed resources to protect its elephants."

"Gabon has placed a high level of importance on evaluating how effectively its wildlife protection efforts are being deployed, and it benefits from regular information provided through WCS and partners using SMART technology."

In **Zimbabwe**, officials charged 443 people with poaching in 2016. They included a South African, 31 Zambians and seven Mozambicans. Officials told defenceWeb that

the introduction of modern anti-poaching strategies, including sniffer dogs and drones, is helping to catch poachers. Zimbabwe said the preferred poaching method in recent years has been "silent poaching," killing elephants with cyanide poisoning.

In the **Republic of the Congo**, poachers are encountering a new breed of wildlife rangers who have been trained in small-unit tactics. In July 2016, rangers came upon a poachers' camp, where the poachers opened fire with AK-47s. The rangers, according to *The New Yorker* magazine, fell back, spread out and returned fire. They eventually took the camp. They

recovered 12 elephant tusks and used satellite phones to call for roadblocks to catch fleeing poachers.

The rangers' successes have been credited to the use of real-time communications, satellite phones in the field and a new Wildlife Crime Unit. The unit conducts undercover work against poaching rings and tracks cases through the courts to make sure justice is served.

In **Kenya**, the Kenya Wildlife Service has fitted 12 elephants with tracking collars to protect herds from poachers.

The GPS-equipped collars map the elephants' migration routes and help researchers determine how extensively the animals travel in search of water and food, according to the *Daily Nation* of Kenya.

TOO MUCH TERRITORY

The biggest problem with protecting Africa's elephants is the sheer size of the continent. The World Wide Fund for Nature says that 36 of Africa's 54 nations have significant elephant populations. Even if there were more wildlife officers in the field, there is just too much territory to monitor. Stiles said more people and groups will have to get involved to properly protect Africa's elephants.

"People have to get serious about long-term solutions that will work and that will satisfy all stakeholders," he said. "Stakeholders include elephants first, local communities who live with wildlife, African government economic needs, people who work in the ivory industry in some capacity, consumers, genuine conservationists."

Tom Milliken, an ivory expert with the wildlife trade monitoring group Traffic, told the British national newspaper *The Guardian*: "All the paper protection in the world is not going to compensate for poor law enforcement, rampant corruption and ineffective management."



All-Female Anti-Poaching Team Patrols Game Reserve ADE STAFF

he Balule Nature Reserve is a protected area in Limpopo Province, South Africa, and is part of the Greater Kruger National Park. The reserve has a group of guardian angels who are like no other the Black Mambas.

The Mambas, named after a fast-moving, venomous snake, roam the reserve looking for poachers. The all-female team of 36 rangers was founded in 2013. The group, formally known as the Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit, acts as an environmental monitor. Members patrol the entire 400 square kilometers of the reserve.

The unarmed Mambas go on foot patrols and observations, conduct vehicle checks at roadblocks, and gather intelligence from their communities. They also are instructors in wildlife conservation.

In the field, they look for tracks, snares, damaged fences and other signs of unwelcome guests to the reserve. As of the end of 2016, the Mambas had identified and destroyed 12 poachers' camps and reduced snaring and poisoning of wildlife by 76 percent, the digital media company Refinery29 reported.

Because they are unarmed, they are responsible for detection, not enforcement. They work with 23 armed guards in the reserve.

Their main targets are rhino and bush-meat poachers. The poachers use snares and poisons that kill antelopes, wild dogs and cheetahs. Poaching syndicates often stalk lions and giraffes. The Mambas also

look for signs of bush-meat "kitchens," where animals are slaughtered.

"When an incursion is spotted, they call in the armed unit and set up observation posts to assist that unit," Craig Spencer, head warden of Balule, told Refinery29. "The women's ability to pick up on subtle differences is often much better than the men."

The Mambas use VHF and GPS transmitters to track the location of rhinos and map them out prior to shift changes, to ensure that all anti-poaching units are deployed to the most critical areas.

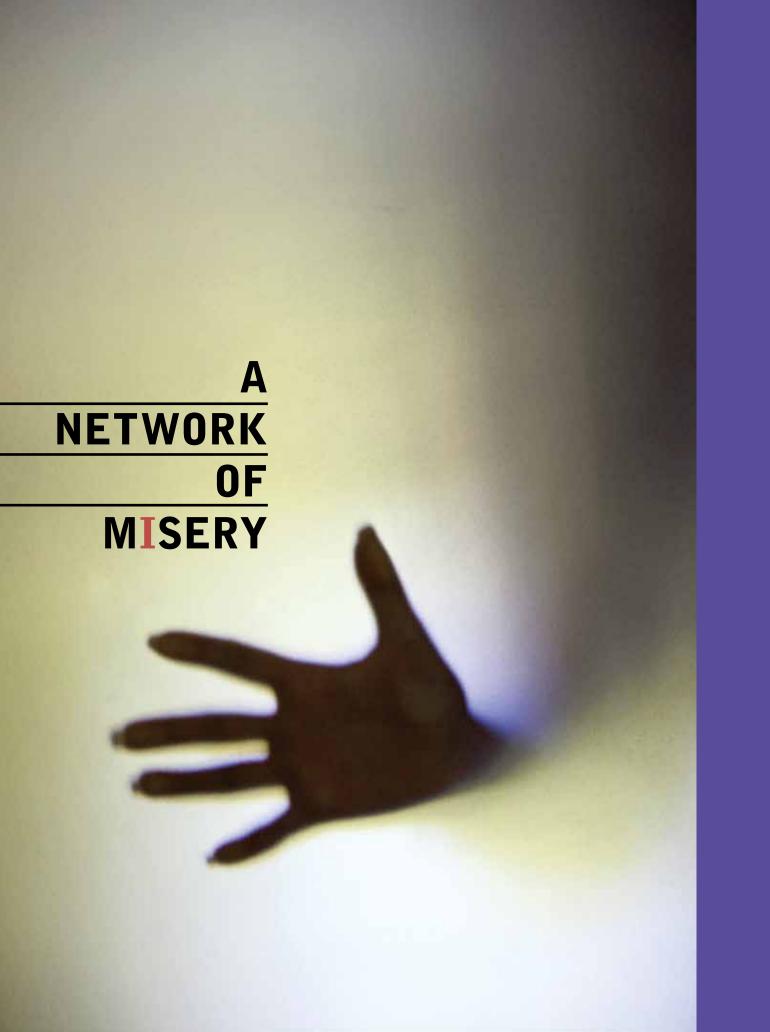
It is not glamorous work. The Mambas work in threeweek shifts, living in camp with few amenities. When their three weeks are up, they have 10 days off, then they go back to work. Many are the main breadwinners for their families.

All of the Black Mambas come from local, poor communities. They go through six weeks of classes before finishing their training with field experience.

One major problem the Mambas face is poverty. Arrests in the preserve show that the poachers are not just foreigners, but poor South African villagers.

"The problem really is that there is this perception that has developed in the communities outside the park," Spencer told The Guardian. "They see a uniformed official and think we are the sheriff of Nottingham; they see the poachers as Robin Hood.

"We are not going to police the problem away," he said. "This war will never be won with bullets."



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS

A GLOBAL PROBLEM, BUT ONE PROGRAM PROVIDES **HOPE**

ADF STAFF

When seasonal rains fall in Gloria Erobaga's small village in Nigeria's Edo State, the crude dirt roads soften and wash away, making access nearly impossible. The same rains form pools on the floors of her school, which sits in disrepair a 90-minute walk away. Homes have no electricity, and families live cramped in the small mud-brick structures.

So when someone visits with a promise that a girl can have travel to Europe, get a guaranteed job and a university education, some families are eager to agree. Finally, their daughters will get what they cannot get at home.

However, as Erobaga told Al-Jazeera's *People & Power* in 2013, the promises are empty. The only opportunities are the misery of prostitution and hopeless debt. "I dreamt about going to school and getting married, but it's not easy," Erobaga said. "A family friend came to meet my parents and said they needed a girl. My parents have a lot of children, so they said they just wanted to help my parents by taking me abroad. They said my dad shouldn't worry, that when I got there they'd put me in school, continue my education, going to university, I'll get a good job, and I said OK."

Once she made it to Italy, she met the man who had talked to her family. He told her she had to pay a madam \$35,000 to cover her debt. "So I said, OK, what am I going to do to get you that 35,000 U.S. dollars? They said there is no job here except prostitution."

The United Nations has estimated that 10,000 Nigerian girls are working as prostitutes in Italy. Many others end up scattered throughout Europe — in Spain, Greece, Belgium and elsewhere. Sometimes, the Nigerian girls end up in North America.



A Nigerian woman who was forced into prostitution stays in a social support center for trafficked girls near Catania, Italy, in 2016. Thousands of Nigerian girls are trafficked to Italy and other parts of Europe. REUTERS

Criminals force young women like Erobaga to work off their transit debts on the streets. These debts can be as high as \$80,000. The work also puts the girls under control of murderous criminal gangs, including some based in Africa that have spread to Europe and beyond. "I was so scared," Erobaga said. "Because the mafia just go out with guns on the streets, looking for who they are going to kill to collect their money and their blood. They kill them and just cut them and put them in the waste bin. Just like that. They treat us like slaves."

A CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE

Italian authorities eventually deported Erobaga, so she returned to her hometown, Benin City, Nigeria, the epicenter of West Africa's human trafficking industry. Most Nigerian women who end up on the European streets came from Benin City in Edo State. Many of the stories of how traffickers approach and lure them into prostitution are similar.

An intelligence official with Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) told Al-Jazeera that the process typically involves people working at three levels:

- An agent recruits the girls. He or she knows something about the victim, where she lives and her family.
- A trolley, sometimes known as a coyote, handles transportation for those being trafficked.
- A **madam** handles the girls once they reach their destinations. Sometimes these madams were trafficked themselves. They collect money and pay off Nigerian gangsters.

Once a girl is identified for transport abroad, agents will take her to a local "juju priest," who will collect pubic hair, blood and nail clippings for a ritual that binds her to a pledge. An escape attempt or any failure to pay off her debt, she is told, could result in her death or the death of family members. The psychological threat of the juju oath is so powerful that NAPTIP officials sometimes employ these same priests to perform a ceremony releasing the girls from their oaths so they will cooperate in prosecutions.

AFRICAN GANGS PARTICIPATE

Human traffickers make \$150 billion a year in profit, and nearly two-thirds of that comes from commercial sexual exploitation, according to the International Labor Organization.

Unsurprisingly, criminal networks often are involved at every level of the process. Among the

HUMAN

TRAFFICKING: A DEFINITION

ADF STAFF

Human trafficking is an insidious practice that takes many forms and affects people of all ages, male and female. According to the United Nations' 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, trafficking is the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons" by threat or use of force, fraud, coercion, abduction, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, or payment or benefits for the purpose of exploitation.

Despite the term, the condition does not require movement. A person born into servitude can be considered a trafficking victim, and people can be exploited without ever leaving their hometowns.

Human trafficking also can take many forms, depending on the intent of the criminal enterprise doing the trafficking. Interpol notes some of the ways this crime manifests itself in Africa and elsewhere:

Trafficking for forced labor: These victims mostly come from developing countries and are recruited through coercion and deception. Criminals keep them in slave-like conditions as they work as domestics or in construction, fisheries and agriculture.

Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation: This worldwide scourge lures women and children by promising good jobs in another region or country, such as the thousands of women who leave Africa for Europe. When they arrive, they find themselves hopelessly in debt and trapped in sexual slavery through prostitution.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism: This crime has been common in Asia for many years, but it has grown in Africa and Central and South America. It thrives because of "the relatively low risk of prohibition and prosecution in these destinations for engaging in sexual relations with minors."

Trafficking for tissue, cells and organs: Trafficking for organs, particularly kidneys, is a growing crime as traffickers exploit desperate patients and potential donors amid long transplant waiting lists. Often surgeries are performed without medical follow-up.

Migrant smuggling is closely connected to trafficking. Criminal networks take advantage of migrant flows to and through the Mediterranean region for financial gain.

However, there are four differences between human trafficking and people smuggling, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Smuggling involves **consent** and involves migrants arriving at their destination. Trafficking victims are **exploited** without consent. Smuggling always is **transnational**, but trafficking may not be. Finally, the two differ in terms of **profit sources**. In smuggling, profits are generated by the transportation, illegal entry or stay in another country. Trafficking profits come from exploitation.



Women learn to cook at Idia Renaissance in Benin City, Nigeria, in 2016. The nongovernmental organization works with human trafficking victims in a region notorious for the crime. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

most notorious and dangerous in Nigeria is a group known as the Black Axe, which emerged from the Neo Black Movement of Africa. This and other Nigerian gangs have spread beyond Africa and into Europe and North America in recent years.

Seventeen members of the Black Axe mafia were arrested in late 2016 in Italy, according to a *Los Angeles Times* report. "Our probe showed how gangs like the Black Axe are running the whole prostitution pipeline, which brings trafficked women from Nigeria to Italy," said an investigator in Palermo.

Nigerian gangs have been active in Italy for more than 10 years, according to Reuters. They are becoming increasingly violent and are building closer ties with Italian mafia groups such as the Cosa Nostra and the Camorra.

The groups also have taken root in Spain, Reuters reports. Organized crime controls virtually all prostitution in Catalonia, "much of it by a dominant Nigerian crime group known as the Supreme Eiye Confraternity or Air Lords."

Charlotte Baarda, a Ph.D. student at the University of Oxford in England who specializes in the study of human trafficking from Nigeria to Europe, told *ADF* that Nigerian gangs such as the Black Axe operate on both ends of the trafficking route, but in different ways.

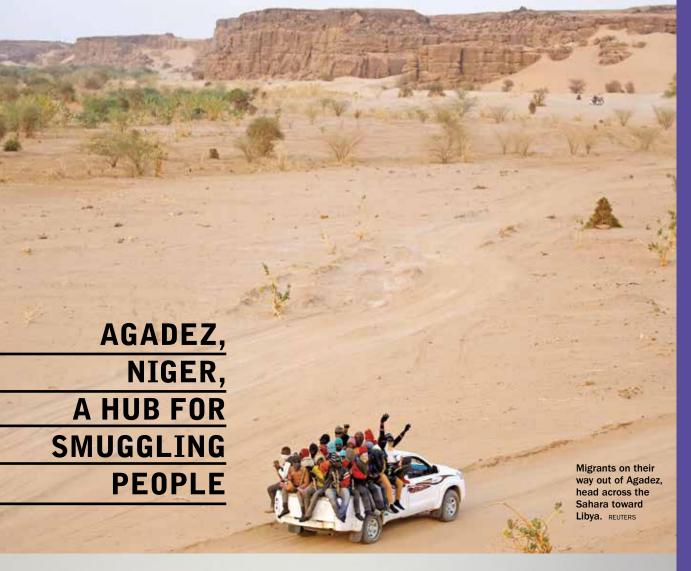
In Nigeria, the starting point, larger groups may operate a travel agency, recruit people for transit and

prepare them for the journey to Europe. In Europe, however, criminals are more likely to spread out the risk by breaking tasks into smaller segments. In fact, traffickers farm out some work to trolleys who may not even know they are consorting with a criminal network.

"So friends of friends are asked to house a couple of women for a few nights until they can be brought to the madam or asked to approach an asylum center and pick up a couple of people," Baarda said. "In the sense that these people who do that actual job are not part of the criminal group necessarily, but are just kind of on an ad hoc basis."

Human trafficking does not have to be master-minded by large transnational criminal networks to be successful. A 2014 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report shows that trafficking can be carried out by one or two people. For example, a shop owner could easily deceive a young girl and serve her up for sexual exploitation by his clients. Such "nonorganized" human trafficking is common around the world. The risks are lower because there is no need to send victims across national borders.

Criminals also can conduct trafficking subregionally. A case in Lithuania involved five local citizens who recruited underage girls from Baltic nations and sold them to other gangs in Western Europe, where they were exploited. So the crime occurs on multiple



ADF STAFF

Agadez, an ancient city in central Niger, has for centuries been a hub of trade routes for the Sahel and Sahara region. Those who smuggle migrants still use the city as the starting point for a perilous trek across the hot desert sands on the way into Libya, and eventually on to the Mediterranean. At the coast, a dangerous journey to Europe begins, one often fraught with tragedy and death.

People from all over West Africa make their way to Agadez, where smugglers load them into pickup trucks, often with other hidden contraband. Men and women wrap their faces against the sun and sand, then straddle wooden sticks lodged in the truck beds to keep from being thrown off and left behind. Those who willingly pay smugglers for transit can become unwittingly ensnared in human trafficking in conditions such as these.

In 2016, more than 300,000 people passed through Agadez on

their way to Algeria or Libya, *The New York Times* reported. Many of those continued on to Europe, and many came from Niger and Mali. Migrants pay smugglers about \$600 to get from Agadez to Libya. Smuggling, to which migrants voluntarily submit, can easily turn into human trafficking because migrants are vulnerable to exploitation on their journeys. Sometimes, migrants will arrive at their final destination or at a midpoint and find that artificial debts are being imposed upon them.

"We even see links between the illicit smuggling organizations and the trafficking organizations," said Aimée Comrie, policy lead for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. "They even sometimes diversify the labor amongst themselves." It is important to note, she said, that a migrant's consent at the beginning does

not absolve a trafficker of criminal culpability.

In Agadez, often the first stop for Nigerian sex traffickers, women sometimes are repeatedly raped by traffickers and others, an International Organization for Migration official told Huffington Post. The women earn \$3 per sex act, which goes to a pimp, whom they owe for "travel expenses." Then they are taken to Libya, where they suffer additional sexual violence until they board boats for European brothels.

In October 2016, Germany pledged support to Niger. Chancellor Angela Merkel said her nation would send \$86 million, military vehicles and other equipment to Niger to help it fight human traffickers and militant Islamists, Reuters reported.

President Mahamadou Issoufou welcomed the help, but he said Niger's financial needs are about \$1 billion, Reuters reported. "We need massively more aid," he said.

levels, each requiring different amounts of coordination and risk.

PROGRAM WORKS TO BUILD CAPACITY

Human trafficking and the overlapping but separate problem of migrant smuggling challenge nations and law enforcement officials all over the world. But in 2015, work began on a new program to combat the problem comprehensively. Efforts ramped up in January 2017.

The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) is jointly funded by the European Union and UNODC and will be delivered through 2019. GLO.ACT also works in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

GLO.ACT is working in 13 countries worldwide, including five in Africa: Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Niger and South Africa. The other countries are Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan and Ukraine.

Margaret Akullo, project coordinator for GLO.ACT in UNODC's Vienna office, told *ADF* the program intends to help build capacity and increase knowledge among criminal justice officials and others who deal with trafficking, organized crime and smuggling of migrants, while also supporting victims. The hope is that the number of investigations and prosecutions can increase, and national laws can be matched to international standards, while also raising awareness and supporting victims. The program will work toward those goals through six objectives:

- Strategy and policy development: UNODC will work with countries to develop strategies and policies to address human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Legislative assistance: UNODC will work with governments to make sure domestic laws, policies and strategies meet international standards for criminalizing human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Capacity building: Governmental authorities and UNODC will build the capacity and knowledge of criminal justice practitioners to combat human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and to also help and protect victims.
- Regional and transregional cooperation: UNODC will promote cooperation and information-sharing with law enforcement on the identification, investigation and prosecution of offenses related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Protection and assistance to trafficking and smuggling victims: The IOM will work with governments and civil society to develop assistance and support programs for victims.

• Help to children who are victims of trafficking and smuggling: UNICEF and IOM will work with victim support services and relevant government authorities to help develop ways to protect children.

Aimée Comrie, a crime prevention and criminal justice officer at UNODC and the policy lead for GLO.ACT, said there has been "tremendous progress" in addressing human trafficking. Most countries have laws addressing the crime, "But we don't see those numbers in terms of the cases; we don't see the victims being identified or the cases going forward or being successful," Comrie said. "So it's kind of a question of taking that structure that's already existing and trying to tailor our work to each country, to the context, and see how can we make it more effective in that country."

The program already has been able to log a few early successes. In November 2016, Morocco passed a new trafficking law, so GLO.ACT held a capacity-building workshop on human trafficking in Rabat for 23 social workers and others employed by the criminal court system. In Cairo, GLO.ACT and government officials held an event in December 2016 to raise awareness about a new law on combating illegal migration and smuggling of migrants.

THE ROLE OF MILITARIES

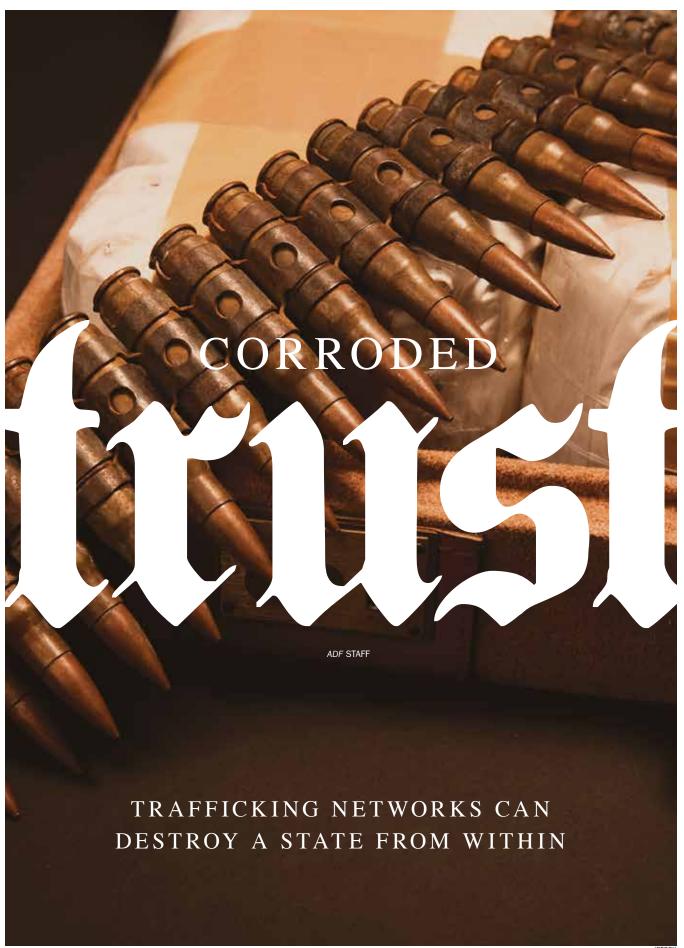
GLO.ACT is guided primarily by ongoing consultations with national governments, so whether the project's work involves militaries and gendarmeries will depend on the needs and desires of individual countries, Akullo said.

A December 20, 2016, United Nations Security Council Resolution calls on member nations to work together to combat human trafficking, especially in conflict zones that involve peacekeeping missions. Conflicts produce migrants and a breakdown in law and civil order, so it is likely that Soldiers will encounter human trafficking at some point. Militaries also work border posts and provide coastal security, which is where they are likely to detect migrant smuggling and trafficking.

Human trafficking victims will be mixed with asylum seekers, smuggled migrants and irregular migrants, so this means predeployment training will be crucial.

National militaries also may encounter human trafficking in other ways, including through procurement and supply chain activity. Human trafficking and forced labor exist in various sectors such as manufacturing, fisheries, construction, clothing and domestic work. Large-scale military procurement will have to avoid supporting trafficking.

"I think there's a role for everyone," Comrie said.
"It's a crime that crosses all sectors of society, all regions of the world, all countries of the world; there's nowhere that's immune to the problem."



In the early 2000s, West Africa became the preferred point of entry for traffickers moving narcotics from South America to Europe.

This brought a new type of economic activity into countries along the Gulf of Guinea, and many living there saw it as a chance to make money. Taking bribes from drug traffickers or offering smugglers safe passage were commonly viewed as victimless crimes. After all, the deadly product wasn't destined for African consumers. These traffickers were just passing through.

Some locals who participated in the drug trade gained high social status in their communities.

"When you are able to successfully send drugs outside Ghana and come back, you are given traditional titles of honor, and my favorite title is an *osammerea*, meaning a successful warrior," said Dr. Kwesi Aning, director of the faculty of academic affairs and research at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana.

"You've gone to war in the European or American terrain," Aning told *ADF*. "You've infiltrated, sold your drugs and come back. You've built a nice house, you've contributed a little bit to building a school or church. Therefore, you are seen as a victor in war."

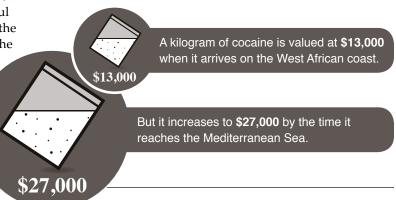
But it wasn't long before the cost of this war became apparent. Public officials and the security sector became more corrupt. Shadow economies sprang up where goods were moved and sold untaxed. Disaffected citizens lost faith in their governments and law enforcement officers. In places such as Guinea-Bissau and northern Mali, the traffickers became more powerful than the state itself. This led to a breakdown of law and order and, ultimately, the collapse of the state.

Experts say the corrosion of the state by transnational criminals happens slowly, which makes it easy to overlook. It is not like a war or terror threat that can be fought directly, but it is no less dangerous.

"Powerful transnational criminal networks constitute a direct threat to the state itself, not through open confrontation but by penetrating state institutions through bribery and corruption and by subverting or undermining them from within," wrote Peter Gastrow, a former South African parliamentarian and director of programs at the International Peace Institute. "Governments that lack the capacity to counter such penetration, or that acquiesce [to] it, run the risk of becoming criminalized or 'captured' states."

CORRUPTION

To move illicit goods, traffickers need the help of officials at the ports, along roads and at borders. Fortunately for traffickers, they have money to make this happen, and poorly paid officials often are tempted to accept bribes.



"In a fairly poor African country, \$100 to a police constable is a lot of money," former Nigerian President Olesegun Obasanjo told IRIN. "All he has to do is turn his eyes."

The cost of corruption is so high that a kilogram of cocaine is valued at \$13,000 when it arrives on the West African coast but increases to \$27,000 by the time it reaches the Mediterranean Sea, according to the West Africa Commission on Drugs. Much of the additional cost is due to bribes paid to officials along the way.

"All public sector institutions become corrupted by these networks," Aning said. "From the police to customs, immigration, the military, judges, chiefs, the educational sector. What it means is the most sophisticated narcotics [traffickers] can selectively shift their drugs from one country to the other, knowing that the country is weak in certain areas."





Once corruption takes root, it can quickly spread to the highest levels. Notable figures arrested for trafficking in recent years have included the Air Force chief of staff in Guinea-Bissau, the deputy director of Liberia's Drug Enforcement Agency and the son of the president of Guinea. In 2016 on the tiny island of Mauritius, seven police officers were found guilty of trafficking narcotics, including one officer who was caught returning from Madagascar with 3 kilograms of heroin. That officer later was found dead in his prison cell, leading some to allege a cover-up by other crooked officers.

"When police, who are supposed to be the guardians and protectors of society, enmesh themselves in this type of traffic, that poses a major problem for society," Anil Gayan, Mauritius' minister of health, told Radio France Internationale.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT A COUNTRY THAT TRAFFICS IS A COUNTRY THAT CONSUMES, AND A REGION THAT TRAFFICS IS A REGION THAT CONSUMES."

> - Adrienne Yandé Diop Former Commissioner, ECOWAS

DISAFFECTED PEOPLE

Once citizens recognize that the state is rife with corruption, they tend to distance themselves from it. They vote less because they don't trust the candidates or the system. They don't apply for business licenses because they fear they will be forced to pay a bribe at the license office. And they tend not to report crimes, believing the police will not help them.

"People just pull away from the state," Aning said. "Most citizens will have very little to do with the state because they are simply not sure. I assure you it's a very disturbing, dehumanizing and increasingly threatening development."

Average people bear the brunt of the damage done by trafficked goods. In recent years, the myth that drugs simply pass through West Africa and do not affect the people living there has been shattered. A 2008 United Nations report found that one-third of the cocaine bound for Europe stayed on the African market for domestic use. More recently, laboratories have sprung up where dealers make synthetic drugs bound for Asian markets. Addiction, overdoses and drug-related street crime all have increased.

"It is a known fact that a country that traffics is a country that consumes, and a region that traffics is a region that consumes," said Adrienne Yandé Diop, former commissioner for Gender and Human Development of the Economic Community of West African States. "Our region is becoming a consuming region, and our youth [are] the most affected."

SHADOW ECONOMY

Fundamentally, trafficking is an economic enterprise that takes place outside the reach of the state. This leads some to classify it as a "shadow economy" and when this dark commerce grows to a size that is nearly as large as the formal economy, it causes problems.

At the drug trafficking peak in 2008, an estimated 50 tons of cocaine, valued at \$2 billion, were transported into West Africa. By comparison, the combined foreign direct investment for eight West African nations was \$1.15 billion in 2011. This tidal wave of drug money has a distorting effect on local economies.

In his research, Aning found that narcotics money entering West African economies increased costs by 10 to 15 percent. The phenomenon also inflates local currency, making everyday goods more expensive.









"It makes doing business more expensive, it undermines profits, it effectively undermines social capital and trust," Aning said. "It makes the environment very unstable."

Furthermore, the state does not tax or control trafficking money, and a few individuals keep profits. The state steadily sags, becomes less effective and poverty expands. As employment opportunities shrink in the formal economy, more and more people search for work in the shadow economy. The impact on the state's ability to provide for its citizens' health and well-being can be devastating.

ALTERNATE CENTERS OF POWER

Once the state is weakened, traffickers step in to fill the void. A 2016 Brookings Institution report by Lansana Gberie found that in northern Mali before the 2012 crisis, traffickers sat at the top of a pyramid of power that included extremists, kidnappers, police and army officers, legitimate business people, tribal leaders, and politicians.

A "protection economy" developed in northern Mali, and all involved had an incentive to protect the routes through which illicit goods were transported.

"Enormous profits, rather than ideology, have held the alliance together," Gberie wrote. "Therefore, counternarcotics efforts ... were bound to fail as some of those entrusted with enforcing these measures were themselves complicit in the trafficking."

Unsurprisingly, alliances developed in Mali between traffickers and violent extremist groups. One of the most notorious examples of this is Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who became a kingpin smuggling cigarettes in northern Mali and charging protection taxes to other smugglers. He used the profits from this commerce to finance terror attacks. Other extremist groups, including al-Shabaab, ISIS and al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, have formed working partnerships with traffickers to finance their activities.

Aning said he witnessed this trafficking-terror nexus during field

research in Mali and Burkina Faso. "The radical groups know the terrain very well because they are always hidden," he said. "They know where the water holes are, they know where you can drive your 4x4 across the desert. They also know most of the tiny communities. There's an opportunistic set of interests that comes together. ... Both parties find out that they can do business together."

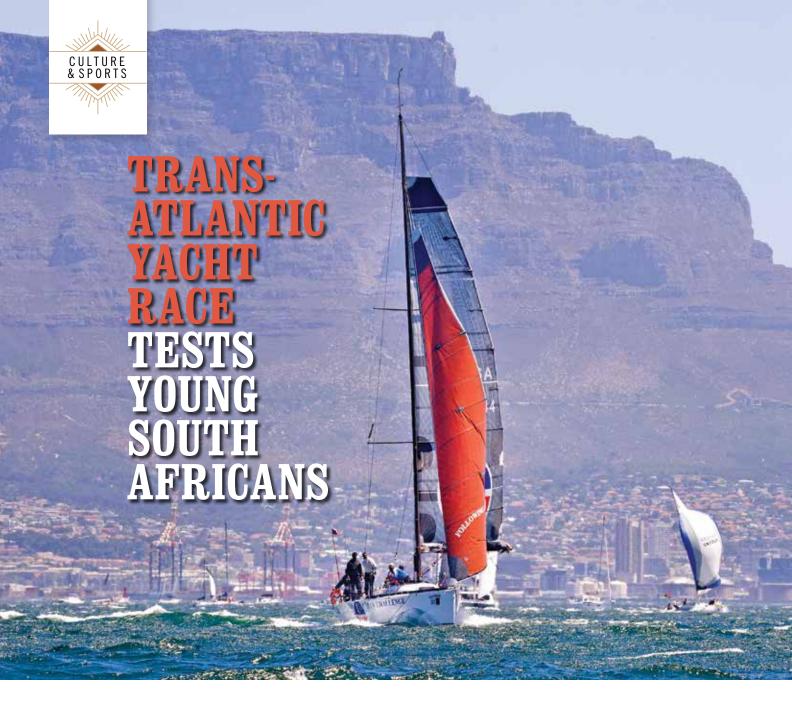
In northern Mali the alliance proved untenable. In 2012, Malian Army officers declared they were fed up with underfunding and chronic state corruption. A captain launched a coup and overthrew the government of President Amadou Toumani Touré. In the ensuing chaos, Tuareg residents of northern Mali rebelled, voicing long-standing anger at a lack of representation, public investment and the absence of the state in their region. Mali became a failed state requiring an international intervention.

HOLLOWED OUT

When it comes to defeating illicit trafficking, the stakes are as high as they get. Gastrow of South Africa compared African nations infested with transnational crime to a common sight on the savannah: a termite mound. From the outside these mounds appear sturdy, but inside they are hollowed out and, thus, easy to topple over.

Nations that do not proactively fight trafficking networks risk becoming as hollow and weak as these mounds.

"While to the onlooker [it] appears to be in a relatively healthy state, it is in fact weakening due to a process of internal decay," Gastrow wrote in a study of Kenya's illicit trafficking challenges. "Endemic corruption and powerful transnational criminal networks are 'white-anting' state institutions and public confidence in them. Termites are at work, hollowing out state institutions from the inside. As a result, development is being hampered, governance undermined, public trust in institutions destroyed, and international confidence ... constantly tested." □



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

oung, determined and from parts of Cape Town known for gangs rather than yacht clubs, seven sailors took part in an epic ocean race to Brazil.

The crew of the 43-foot Gryphon boat competed in the Cape2Rio race — a 5,600-kilometer adventure across the South Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro.

Twenty-eight yachts started the race, which mixed professional sailors with enthusiastic amateurs on a continent-to-continent passage. The Gryphon team was put together by the Hout Bay Youth Sailing Development Trust, just outside Cape Town, as part of its work with disadvantaged young people.

"The sailing training is to keep some of the kids off the street," said Theo Yon, Gryphon's skipper. "We have kids from the disadvantaged communities and then some kids who have money, so it's a mix."

Yon, 27, who is from Hangberg, a tough district next to Hout Bay, rose up through the training system himself and now helps bring on other youngsters.

For months, the crew trained off the Cape Town coast for the race, which traditionally takes about 20 days of relentless work, little sleep and constant danger.

Cole Davids, 16, who is not in the race crew, said the Hout Bay sailing trust offered an alternative to life in some of Cape Town's most violent and poverty-stricken areas.

"It keeps me from the bad things that happen on the streets — the drugging, the killing, the stabbing," he said.

The Gryphon came in 10th out of 20 finishers in the January 2017 event.

CONGOLESE SCULPTOR LOOKS TO THE PAST

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo's war-scarred Great Lakes region, carpenterturned-sculptor Sauveur Mulwana has left a trail of monumental statues over the past decade as part of his selfstyled mission to revive local history and boost peace.

The 42-year-old moved back home to Butembo, a teeming city of more than a million near the borders of Rwanda and Uganda, when his carpentry business was razed by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in the city of Goma.

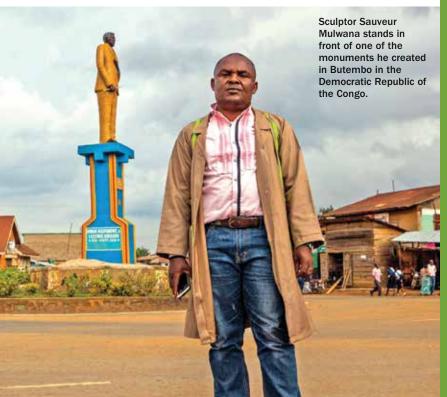
Butembo is home to the ethnic Nande people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, so it follows that one of the most eye-catching works by Mulwana — himself a Nande — is an immense portrayal of a Nande king. Set on a bright blue pedestal on a city roundabout, it shows mwami (king) Kighombwe II Lusengo Kirugho, who died in his 80s in 2010 after a lengthy reign, wearing a Western-style suit as he stares into the distance.

The mwamis still wield power, notably allocating land in this predominantly agricultural region that now must accommodate huge numbers of landless refugees after two decades of conflict.

Mwami Kighombwe "helped keep the Nande together" and "is a symbol of tolerance," Mulwana said. The mwamis' old beliefs and customs were vital to Butembo's peaceful future.

When Mulwana and his wife moved to Butembo in 2002, he was struck by the fact that the city "had absolutely no works of art." He said he felt "vulnerable" when he realized that the new modern way of life had led to an end of traditional African storytelling. He decided he would step in to help the people of Butembo keep their history, culture and heritage.

He spent the next three years reading books and interviewing elders. The result in 2007 was Butembo's Historical Monument, erected on a square in the heart of the city. It highlights the Nande farming and hunting tradition, their evangelization during the Belgian colonial era, and their modern-day traders.





FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

BBC NEWS AT BBC.CO.UK/NEWS

iyad Mahrez was crowned the BBC African Footballer of the Year 2016.

Fans from across the world voted for the midfielder, who plays for Algeria's national team, nicknamed the Fennecs, as well as for Leicester City in the English Premier League. He came in ahead of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Andre Ayew, Sadio Mane and Yaya Toure in the voting.

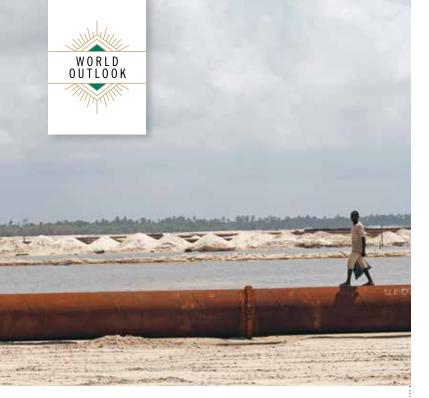
The award caps an exceptional year for the 25-year-old winger, who had already won the Premier League title and was voted the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year.

It was further recognition for his outstanding form as Mahrez, whose family comes from the small town of El Khemis in Algeria, took the Premier League by storm. He was a driving force in Leicester City's shock title triumph, scoring 17 goals and providing 11 assists as the Foxes pulled off what had been a 5,000-to-1 shot before the season.

In May 2016, Mahrez became the first African to be voted the best player in the league by his fellow professionals, only two years after he had joined Leicester from Le Havre for more than \$500,000.

Mahrez has risen from playing street football as a youngster to shining in the company of some of the world's best footballers. In 2016, he proved he could thrive at the highest level, scoring four goals in his first five games in the Champions League.

He also has excelled on the international stage. In five matches for Algeria, he scored two goals, provided five assists and helped the team qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations.



Nigeria-Morocco Pipeline Opens New Possibilities

REUTERS

Nigeria and Morocco have signed a joint venture to construct a gas pipeline that will connect the two nations and other African countries to Europe.

The agreement was reached during a visit by Morocco's King Mohammed to the Nigerian capital, Abuja, said Geoffrey Onyema, Nigeria's minister of foreign affairs.

Onyema said the project aims to create a competitive regional electricity market with the potential to be connected to European energy markets. No time-

A man walks on an oil pipeline near Akodo Beach on the outskirts of Lagos, Nigeria. line was given for when the pipeline construction will start and how much it will cost.

"Nigeria and the kingdom of Morocco also agreed to develop integrated industrial clusters

in the subregion in sectors such as manufacturing, agro-business and fertilizers to attract foreign capital and improve export competitiveness," Onyema said.

Nigeria is rich in oil but produces little electricity, making its industries less competitive. Its economy faces a recession caused by a plunge in crude prices.

Militants in the oil-producing Niger Delta have blown up pipelines in a quest for a bigger share of Nigeria's oil wealth, which also cut crude output in 2016.

Nigeria's Environment Minister to Play Leadership Role at U.N. VOICE OF AMERICA

Nigerian Environment Minister Amina Mohammed has been named deputy secretary-general of the United Nations. The appointment made by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was part of his pledge to reach gender parity among senior leadership within his five-year term. He also appointed Brazilian diplomat Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti as chef de cabinet and Kyung-wha Kang of South Korea to a newly created position as special advisor on policy.

"We must empower youth to participate in and shape the political and economic lives of their countries and communities, to be the agents of peace and development," Mohammed said in her first address in the new position. "Solutions from the past will not, alone, meet the challenges of the future."

As of 2016, 35 percent of the 40,131 members of the United Nations secretariat staff were women, and 17 of the 79 undersecretariesgeneral, or 21.5 percent, were women.

Before her appointment as environment minister in 2015, Mohammed served as special advisor on post-2015 development planning for former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon — a role that ended with the adoption by the General Assembly of sustainable development goals for the next 15 years.



France Donates Vehicles to Cameroon for Boko Haram Fight

STORY AND PHOTO BY EMBASSY OF FRANCE, CAMEROON

To bolster the battle against extremism, France donated 10 tactical vehicles and five transport trucks to the Cameroonian Armed Forces. The vehicles, including an all-equipped sanitary unit, were handed over to Cameroonian Minister of Defence Joseph Beti Assomo by French



Ambassador Gilles Thibault in November 2016.

The vehicles are equipped with weapons and transmission equipment, and are accompanied with precision rifles, helmets and bulletproof vests. They are valued at \$705,000 and are destined for the Cameroonian Army special units.

It marked the second transfer of 2016 and was

part of the bilateral Franco-Cameroonian military cooperation, reinforced by the signature of a defense partnership agreement on May 21, 2009. It complemented the training carried out throughout 2016 by the French military in Gabon.

This support is evidence of the strength-

ening of France's solidarity with Cameroon in its fight against Boko Haram. In addition to the training and equipment of special units, military cooperation between France and Cameroon has increased in the field of mine clearance and information sharing to support the fight against armed extremist groups.

Investors Look Toward Future at Tunisia **2020**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

atar and France promised more than \$1 billion in financial support for Tunisia at an investment conference aimed at reviving the country's struggling economy. Nearly six years after its Arab Spring revolution, Tunisia is confronting high unemployment, low growth and a tourism sector hammered by jihadist attacks.

The two-day Tunisia 2020 conference in November 2016 aimed to put the North African nation "back on the investment map of the Mediterranean," officials said.

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani pledged \$1.25 billion in financial support at the opening session. He said the money would "support the Tunisian economy and strengthen its process of development." He did not give details about the form of the assistance.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said the French Development Agency would invest "at least \$265 million every year" in Tunisia.



French Prime Minister Manuel Valls arrives in Tunis for the Tunisia 2020 conference. REUTERS

"We will also implement operations to convert Tunisian debt into development projects," he said.

He praised Tunisia's "exemplary transition" after its 2011 revolution and said France had a "duty and a responsibility" to support it.

The Tunisian government hopes the conference, attended by more than 2,000 business, finance and political leaders from 40 countries, will attract billions of dollars of investment.

It is also seeking bids on 140 ventures from infrastructure and agricultural projects to high-tech projects worth about \$32 billion.



SIGNS OF PROGRESS

AS CAMEROON-NIGERIA BORDER REOPENS

VOICE OF AMERICA

The border between Nigeria and Cameroon has been fully reopened for the first time in three years. Officials from the two countries met in the Cameroonian capital, Yaounde, in December 2016 to review security issues and said the reopening was a clear sign of progress in the fight against Boko Haram.

"Only a secured environment can provide [an] avenue for meaningful trade and commercial activities as well as

unimpeded exchange of goods and services," said Gen. Abba Mohammad Dikko, head of the Nigerian delegation.

"The unflinching cooperation and support of Cameroon has indeed curtailed the menace of the Boko Haram sect in all its ramifications," he added. "Success against Boko Haram will end movement of refugees across boundaries and create an enabling environment for the return and repatriation of internally displaced persons back to their ancestral lands."

The Boko Haram insurgency began in northeastern Nigeria in 2009, eventually spreading to neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The conflict has displaced 2.7 million people, according to the United Nations. At least 20,000 people have been killed.

An end to the conflict, while welcome, will present fresh issues, said Professor Saibou Issa, a historian and member of the Cameroonian delegation.

"We know today that thousands of people, especially young men from Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad, joined Boko Haram," Issa said. "As progressively Boko Haram attacks are diminishing, it is maybe time to think about how the states are going to cope with these young people. There is the challenge of managing the vigilantes who are contributing a lot in fighting against Boko Haram."

Cameroon's northern border areas were hit hard by the insurgency. Farming and trade ground to a halt. The area is now slowly returning to life, said Midjiyawa Bakari, governor of the Far North region of Cameroon.

"We have been authorized by the heads of state to open the border between Nigeria and Cameroon, and people are very happy," Bakari said. "Schools have been reopened. We have trucks coming from Maiduguri to N'djamena through Fotokol, Cameroon, and from Cameroon to Nigeria."

Security concerns remain, with both countries warning about Boko Haram's continued use of female suicide bombers, described by officials as the last lashes of a dying monster.

KENYA BURNS ILLEGAL WEAPONS

REUTERS

enya set fire to 5,250 illegal firearms as part of a national effort to fight crimes such as cattle rustling, carjacking and terrorism.

The fire destroyed weapons that had been confiscated by law enforcement officials or voluntarily surrendered to agents who were collecting illegal small arms and light weapons.

"Here in Kenya, small arms are implicated in many deaths, in acts of armed violence, among them intercommunity conflicts, cattle rustling, violent crimes and poaching," Deputy President William Ruto said in a speech before the weapons were

set ablaze in November 2016.

"Their presence has also intensified the threats posed by transnational crimes such as terrorism, human trafficking, piracy and drug trafficking," Ruto said.

The Somali-based extremist group al-Shabaab, which seeks to overthrow Somalia's government and impose a strict version of Sharia, has carried out regular assaults in neighboring Kenya in recent years in retaliation for Kenya's participation in the African Union Mission in Somalia. Kenya held similar events to burn illegal weapons in 2003, 2005 and 2010.





REUTERS -

unisian security forces dismantled 160 terror cells in the first 10 months of 2016, about 45 percent more than during all of 2015, the Interior Ministry announced.

A ministry statement said the country arrested 850 terrorism suspects between January and October 2016, compared with 547 for all of 2015. Security forces stepped up efforts to track down militants after Tunisia suffered three deadly attacks, including two targeting foreign tourists.

In March 2016, security forces repelled the Islamic State's attempt to take over the town of Ben Guerdan near the border with Libya. Tunisia has been the only country to experience a relatively peaceful democratic transition after the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011, but it has struggled to contain Islamist militancy, partly because of a spillover of instability from Libya.



A Tunisian police officer guards a cemetery in Ben Guerdan, near the Libyan border.

UGANDA Makes History

with

FEMALE GENERAL

ADF STAFF

A LONG-SERVING OFFICER of the Uganda People's Defence Force has been named the country's first female major general.

President Yoweri Museveni announced in mid-January 2017 that Proscovia Nalweyiso, 62, was promoted to the new rank as part of sweeping changes in the military. She is also the first woman to hold such a rank in all of East Africa.

Maj. Gen. Nalweyiso came to national prominence in the 1986 Bush War, also known as the Ugandan Civil War, which led to Museveni becoming president.



Maj. Gen. Proscovia Nalweyiso CHIMPREPORTS

The general, one of 20 children, became active in politics about 1979 while working as a junior teacher and typist at a church. In 1980, as a member of the Democratic Party, she was stunned when the Uganda People's Congress won the elections, keeping President Milton Obote in power. The election, which Nalweyiso felt was rigged, was followed by attacks on Democratic Party members.

She joined the National Resistance Army (NRA) in 1982 as a guerrilla fighter. A year later, the women's wing was formed within the NRA, with Nalweyiso as its first commandant. Four years later, the NRA took control of the country, and she was promoted to captain of a women's unit of the Army.

She has since been a senior advisor on defense issues at the State House and is regarded as a trusted advisor to the president. A mother of four, she believes the Ugandan Army is a good career move for hardworking women in her country.



WORLD BICYCLE RELIEF

Kenyan Girls Get Bikes for School VOICE OF AMERICA

n western Kenya, children often travel great distances to attend school. Now, a program offering bikes to girls is helping them stay in school longer and avoid other issues such as early pregnancies.

Loise Luseno, a 16-year-old girl from Kakamega, Kenya, used to walk about 10 kilometers to reach school. In 2015, she dropped out temporarily because of the distance. Members of her family work as subsistence farmers and earn about \$30 a month — not nearly enough for food, school costs and transportation.

In mid-2016, Luseno went back to school — this time on a bicycle. Her new form of transportation was provided by World Bicycle Relief, a U.S.-based group.

Christina Kwauk, an expert on girls' education at the Brookings Institution, a research organization based in Washington, D.C., said that in many countries, girls face a long list of barriers to school attendance. Sometimes the issue is that a society has firm ideas about what girls "can and shouldn't do as they become young women," including whether they should receive an education at all.

Kwauk said another reason girls may not attend school

is family obligations. Parents might believe that losing children's help at home will reduce income. For example, a poor farming family grows less food without the help of children. There also are direct financial barriers, said Kwauk, such as school fees, books and meals. In places where families value boys more than girls, and parents have little money, only the boys are sent to school.

Even with the success of the bicycle program, there are still problems. Ainea Ambulwa, who teaches at the Bukhaywa secondary school in Kakamega, belongs to a bicycle supervisory committee at the school. He makes sure that the riders keep their bikes in good condition.

Ambulwa said defeating poverty remains a difficult issue. Some families will put heavy things on the bicycles, causing them to break down, he said. Because the family lacks the money to repair the bicycle, the girl can no longer get to school.

In 2015, two groups launched a bicycle production factory in Kisumu, Kenya. The cost of a bicycle is about \$180. That is a steep cost in rural Kenya, but with the help of donors, the program has given away about 7,000 bicycles throughout the country. Most of the people receiving the bikes are girls.



LIBERIAN POWER PLANT

Marks End of a Dark Era

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has inaugurated the first turbine of a hydroelectric plant destroyed during the nation's civil war.

"Thank all of you for being a part of this historic day — the day when big lights in a small way replaced small lights of yesterday," Sirleaf said during a ceremony at the Mount Coffee hydroplant in mid-December 2016.

The plant, built in 1967, served the Liberian capital, Monrovia, and other areas until it was destroyed in 1990.

Since the end of the country's devastating 14-year civil war in 2003, the generation of electricity has been the economy's biggest challenge, with homes, businesses, hospitals and schools all operating with generators.

The hydroplant, which is producing 22 megawatts of electricity and should produce 88 megawatts when it is completed, is composed of 10 turbines. Only one of the turbines was functional as of the end of 2016.





African App Aids Citizen Journalists

MEDIA CLUB SOUTH AFRICA =



new app called Pocket Reporter is aimed at citizen journalists, community journalists for independent publishers and those who

want to share their stories with the wider world. Touted as a "news editor in your pocket," it was launched in South Africa in October 2016.

Raymond Joseph, a journalist at Code for South Africa (Code4SA), says developers created Pocket Reporter because many journalists, especially freelancers, do not have access to a news editor.

Pocket Reporter was developed by Code4SA in partnership with the Association of Independent Publishers. Joseph says the partners conducted market research before building the app and tested it again before launching it.

The Pocket Reporter is an easyto-use tool that helps reporters collect all the information needed, Joseph explains. It makes sure that there are no gaps in the story, gives suggestions for improving content and makes sure that writers ask the right questions.

Since most smartphone users in Africa use Android phones, the app is available on Google Play as a free download. It has a selection of article types, such as crime, sports and news conferences. After selecting a category, the app "coaches" the writer through a series of questions.

If you don't have all the information to answer the questions asked on the app, Joseph says, you can return to the story. "It is saved on your app automatically. You can always go back to add information."

To overcome data costs, no internet connection is needed to use the app. A connection is only needed to send the information via email.



Rural Malawians **Get Better, Cheaper Internet**

CHARITY CHIMUNGU PHIRI/INTER PRESS SERVICE

For the first time, many Malawians living in rural areas are able to easily access the internet. It was the work of C3, a communication services provider and the first commercial entity to deploy nationwide TV White Spaces (TVWS) for a nine-month trial.

Only 6.5 percent of Malawians are connected to the internet. To reach rural populations, C3 built TVWS. The new network relies on unused frequencies in the television spectrum, and there are plans to extend it nationwide. Service is distributed to communities, and people access the network via Wi-Fi.

"It's a cheap and effective way of having internet," said 17-year-old Elizabeth Kananji, a student at Malawi Polytechnic. "Not all people are able to access the net, as they have to pay the service providers, which is a challenge with the high prices, but with TVWS you don't have to pay as long as you have your gadgets. You're good to go, which is amazing."

Malawi concluded the TVWS technical trial project in 2015, a collaborative effort of the Communications Regulatory Authority, the Chancellor College physics department and Marconi Wireless Lab T/ICT4D of Italy.

TVWS was piloted in Zomba in 2013. Malawi will be the first country in the world to deploy TVWS nationwide.

Globally, TVWS offers an alternative means of providing internet to remote and underserved areas without using traditional internet spectrum (radio spectrum), which experts say is becoming congested.



BOBBY KABANGO/IPS

Zambia Calls in the Air Force to Combat Pests



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ambia has ordered the national Air Force into action to fight pests that have invaded maize crops and threatened vital food supplies. The Air Force is transporting pesticides across the country so that fields can be sprayed to combat infestations of armyworms, a type of moth larvae that can decimate crops.

"The Zambia Air Force has since begun to airlift chemicals," President Edward Lungu's spokesman said. "The president has directed that the chemicals that were purchased under emergency operations should be distributed to all parts of the country."

Julius Shawa, permanent secretary of the Agriculture Ministry, told reporters that armyworms had damaged crops in four of the country's 10 provinces — Central, Copperbelt, Luapula and Lusaka.

Lungu's spokesman said the president was concerned that harvest volumes would be badly damaged "if the outbreak of the worms is not controlled speedily." Lungu also deployed teams of Zambian Soldiers to help farmers spray the crops.

Maize — or corn — is a staple crop across much of Africa.



Kenya Plants TOUGHER TREES to Hold Back Desert

JUSTUS WANZALA/INTER PRESS SERVICE

aced with growing degradation that is swallowing large swaths of land in arid and semiarid areas, Kenya is working to stop the encroachment of the desert and add trees suited to the climate.

Kenya launched a program in September 2016 targeting 5.1 million hectares of degraded and deforested land for restoration by 2030, said Charles Sunkuli, secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. He added that Kenya is increasing its forest cover from 7 percent to a maximum of 10 percent.

"We have introduced an equalization fund to help communities living in dry and degraded lands eke out a living and participate in rehabilitation initiatives," Sunkuli said. Kenya will apply the project mainly in the country's arid and semiarid areas, which make up 80 percent of the country's land.

Sunkuli said Kenya is implementing a program to promote drought-tolerant tree species such as Melia volkensii to increase forest cover. Officials said that a growing population and conversion of forest into farms has led to unsustainable land use, contributing to degradation and desertification.

At Tiva in Kitui County, eastern Kenya, the Kenya Forestry Research Institute has established a research center to breed tree species ideal for planting in arid and semiarid areas. A tree-breeding project, which started in 2012, gives farmers genetically improved seeds of two species, mukau and acacia.

Mukau timber fetches 100 Kenyan shillings (U.S. \$1) per foot. About 400 trees can be grown on one hectare, and when mature, can yield \$200,000 to \$250,000.

The two tree varieties have been overharvested. Mukau is the equivalent in value to mahogany and preferred by furniture makers, and acacia trees are treasured for charcoal. The aim is to develop fast-growing trees that can be ready for harvest in 15 to 20 years. Some 3,000 mukau trees and 1,000 acacias have been planted on 100 hectares at the Tiva research site. About 2,500 kilograms of seeds have been collected.

Researchers also are exploring breeding varieties from the two species, which can retain leaves for a long period to serve as fodder for livestock such as goats.

Côte d'Ivoire Signs New Constitution Into Law

VOICE OF AMERICA

Côte d'Ivoire adopted a new Constitution, with hopes it will support the nation's emergence as one of Africa's rising economic stars after years of violent upheaval.

In October 2016, voters overwhelmingly endorsed the new charter, with 93 percent of ballots cast for "Yes" out of an official turnout of just more than 42 percent. The new Constitution was one of President Alassane Ouattara's campaign promises during his re-election bid in 2015. It marks the third Constitution adopted by Côte d'Ivoire since independence in 1960, creating the country's Third Republic.

"The promises of the Third Republic are the promises of peace, stability, equality and modernity," Ouattara said after signing the document.

Côte d'Ivoire's previous constitution, drafted under military rule after a 1999 coup, was at the heart of a decade of turmoil that included two civil wars. In its most controversial clause, it said presidential candidates' parents must both be natural-born Ivorians — a swipe at northerners, many of whom, like Ouattara, have family ties that straddle borders with Burkina Faso and Mali.

The new Constitution scraps that rule, which was used to disqualify Ouattara from a vote in 2000. Now only one parent must be Ivorian. It also creates the position of vice president and a Senate. The president says these new measures will guarantee more political stability.

After six years with Ouattara at the helm, the world's top cocoa producer was on track to be Africa's fastest-growing economy in 2016. Critics, however, denounced the process of drafting the new Constitution and submitting it to a vote as rushed and lacking transparency.





Habib BOURGUIBA

Tunisia's 'Supreme Fighter'

ADF STAFF

abib Bourguiba was Tunisia's first president and remains a towering figure in the country's history. But like so many great leaders throughout world history, Bourguiba's desire to stay in office led to his downfall.

Wearing his trademark red fez, he was a flamboyant and shrewd politician who chose to outmaneuver his adversaries and critics, rather than bully them. He proved to be uniquely adapted to the Tunisian politics of his time.

Bourguiba was born in 1903, the son of a civil servant and the youngest of eight children. When he was a young adult, one of his brothers helped send him to France in 1924 to study law.

In France, he met his wife, acquired a taste for theater and French literature and a passion for politics. Returning to Tunisia, he founded the national Neo-Destour Party in 1934. As a vocal and conspicuous advocate of independence from France, he was frequently jailed and spent 12 years behind bars. Despite his mistreatment by the French, he always maintained that he admired them.

BEYOND TUNISIA'S BORDERS, HE WAS A VOICE OF REASON AND TEMPERANCE WHO WAS RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE MUSLIM WORLD.

Tunisia became an independent country — Africa's sixth at that time — in 1956. The governor, or Bey, of Tunis was the head of state; Bourguiba was the prime minister. A year later, Bourguiba became the country's first president.

The "Supreme Fighter," as he encouraged people to call

him, initially was viewed domestically and internationally as a good leader. He vastly improved the country's per-capita income. He was a champion of women's rights, outlawing polygamy and allowing women to sue for divorce. He helped raise

Beyond Tunisia's borders, he was a voice of reason and temperance who was respected throughout the Muslim world. He advocated good relations with the West.

national literacy rates.

Over time, his presidency came to lack the subtlety that had defined his earlier career. He became more of a dictator than the leader of a democracy. He began to obsess about his legacy. He declared that his birthday, August 3, was a national holiday. Streets and institutions were renamed in his honor. In 1975, he was declared president for life.

By the mid-1980s, his economy was misfiring. There were riots over the availability and cost of food. Young Tunisians could not find jobs. The International Monetary Fund had to bail the country out of a financial crisis in 1986.

In 1987, Prime Minister Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali seized power, saying that the 84-year-old Bourguiba was senile. For the next 13 years until his death, he was held under house arrest, with restrictions on who could visit him. He died in 2000.

As Tunisia has emerged from the Arab Spring and seeks to set a path for peace and prosperity, there has been renewed interest in the country's history, including the Bourguiba era. In 2016, a large statue of the former president riding a horse that had been removed in 1987 was returned to a central location in Tunis.

A spokesman for Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi said it was only right that the statue was returned to its "natural place," Avenue Bourguiba, on the occasion of Tunisia's 60th anniversary of independence.



The alkaline water in this lake is so caustic it can burn animals that have not adapted to it.

More than 2 million lesser flamingos build nests here on small islands.

The lake's temperature can reach 41 degrees Celsius.

This alkaline lake is one of two in the region, and it doesn't drain into a sea or river.



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