

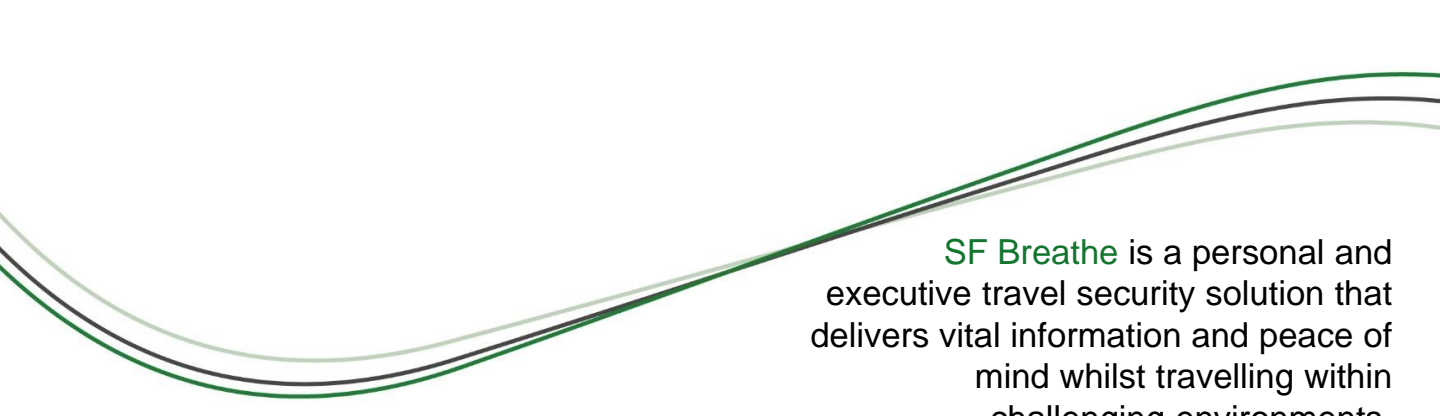
# Maritime Threat Report




06<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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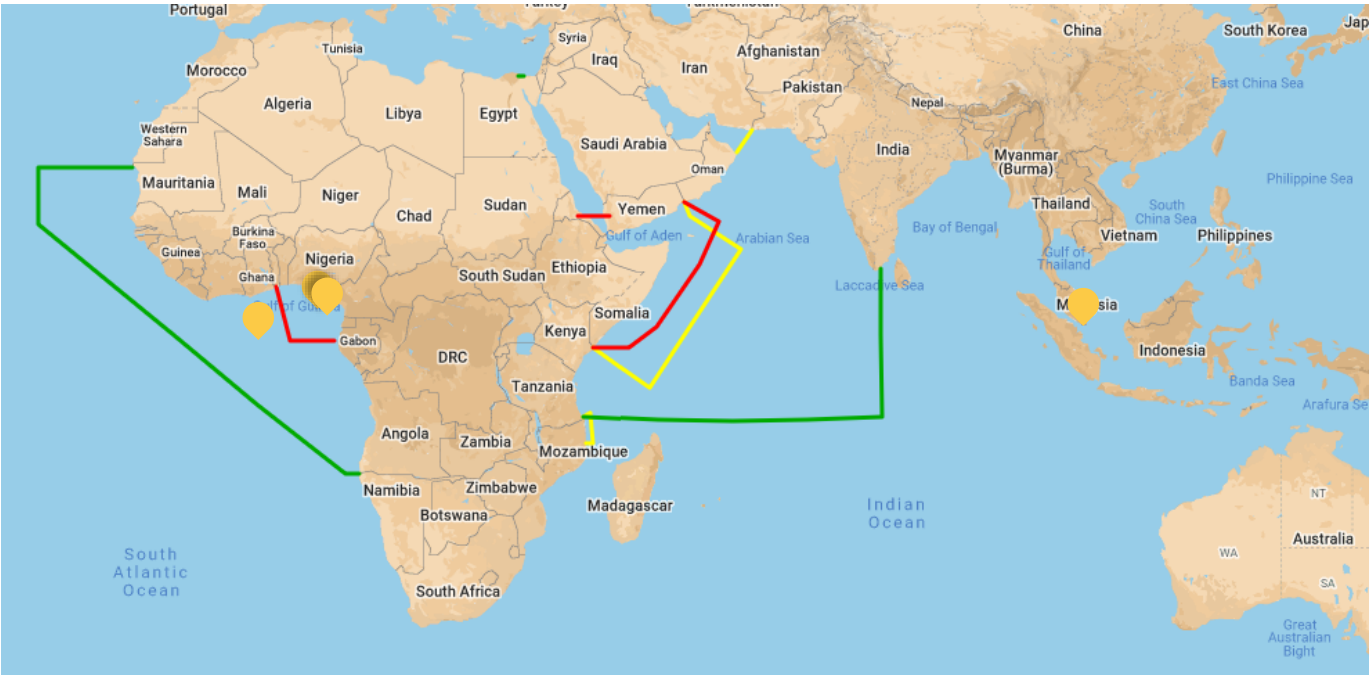
# Global Overview

## This Reporting Period

West Africa

Indian Ocean

Southeast Asia



**Three incidents were recorded:**

- 1 – Illegal Boarding
- 2 – Suspicious Approaches/Activity

**No incidents were recorded**

**One incident was recorded outside the reporting period:**

- 1 – Illegal Boarding



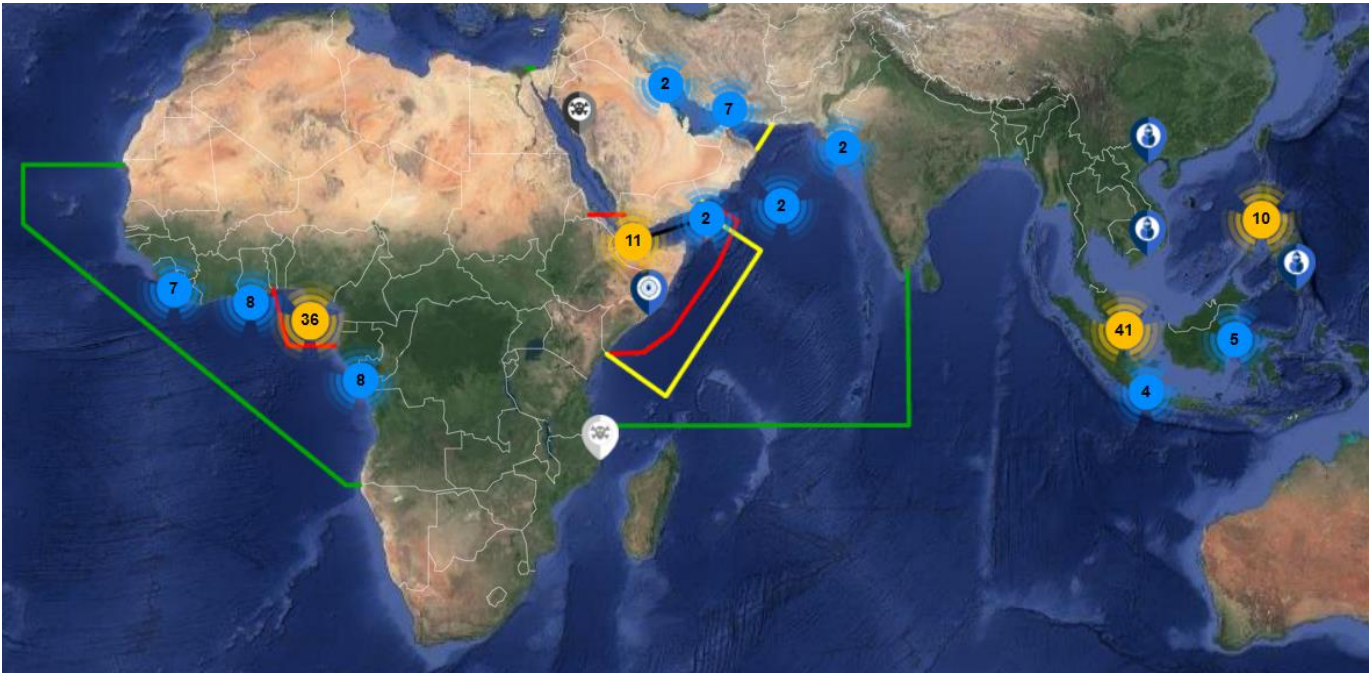
# Global Overview

## 2021

West Africa

Indian Ocean

Southeast Asia



**59 incidents recorded:**

- 20 – Suspicious Approaches/Activity
- 16 – Robberies
- 13 – Illegal Boardings
- 5 – Kidnappings
- 4 – Attacks
- 1 – Hijacking

**29 incidents recorded:**

- 12 – Suspicious Approaches/Activity
- 8 – Terrorist Attacks
- 5 – Illegal Boardings
- 3 – Robberies
- 1 – Attack

**63 incidents recorded:**

- 35 – Robberies
- 27 – Illegal Boardings
- 1 – Suspicious Approach

# Executive Summary



## Indian Ocean

No additional maritime security-related incidents were recorded within or outside the reporting period.

- On 07<sup>th</sup> November, an Indian fisherman was killed, and another was injured off Gujarat, by PMSA personnel for allegedly encroaching on Pakistan territorial waters.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> November, the UAE, Bahrain, Israel, and US NAVCENT commenced a multilateral NAVEX in the Red Sea.

## Gulf of Guinea

Three maritime security incidents and one announcement were recorded within the reporting period.

- On 11<sup>th</sup> November, an unknown number of assailants boarded an MV (details withheld) approximately 63nm southwest of Brass, offshore Nigeria.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> November, two unidentified craft believed to have been launched from a nearby FV approached an MV (details withheld) approximately 208nm south of Takoradi, offshore Ghana.
- On 09<sup>th</sup> November, MDAT-GoG issued a notice to mariners warning of an increased threat of piracy in a bounded area offshore Brass, Nigeria.
- On 07<sup>th</sup> November, a small unidentified craft approached an MV (details withheld) approximately 37nm north of Neves, offshore São Tomé and Príncipe.
- On 01<sup>st</sup> November, an unknown number of assailants on board a small craft targeted a passenger vessel transiting the Delta Waterways, near Oroba Island, stealing personal belongings and the vessel's outboard motor before escaping.

## Southeast Asia

One additional maritime security-related incident was recorded outside the reporting period.

- On 04<sup>th</sup> November, two perpetrators attempted to board a bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the TSS area of the Singapore Strait. The assailants fled the vessel with no stolen items after having been sighted by an on-duty crew member.

# Indian Ocean Analysis



## Within the reporting period:

NIL

## Outside the reporting period:

NIL

### Analysis

No significant maritime security-related incidents were recorded over the reporting period in the Indian Ocean, marking a decline in activity in the area compared to previous weeks. However, one event of note during the reporting period occurred on 07<sup>th</sup> November, when an Indian fisherman was killed, and another was injured off Gujarat, by members of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) for allegedly encroaching on Pakistan territorial waters. Reports suggested that six other fishermen on the fishing craft, identified as JALPARI, were detained during the incident. Both India and Pakistan have released conflicting statements regarding the interaction, with Pakistani officials claiming that the craft had “illegally transgressed” into the country’s territorial waters, despite several warnings issued to those on board. In response, Indian officials commented that the attack was “unprovoked”, and that the government would raise the issue diplomatically on the international stage.

The Gujarat coast has been historically susceptible to incidents where foreign fishing craft have been intercepted by the PMSA for not abiding by the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), with over 350 fishermen currently in Pakistani jails, and previous alleged cases of assaults, abductions, and killings. However, opening fire on such craft is a clear violation of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea. As a result, local police authorities in India have filed a murder case against the ten PMSA personnel involved in the 07<sup>th</sup> November incident.

### Iran conducts annual military exercise in the Gulf of Oman

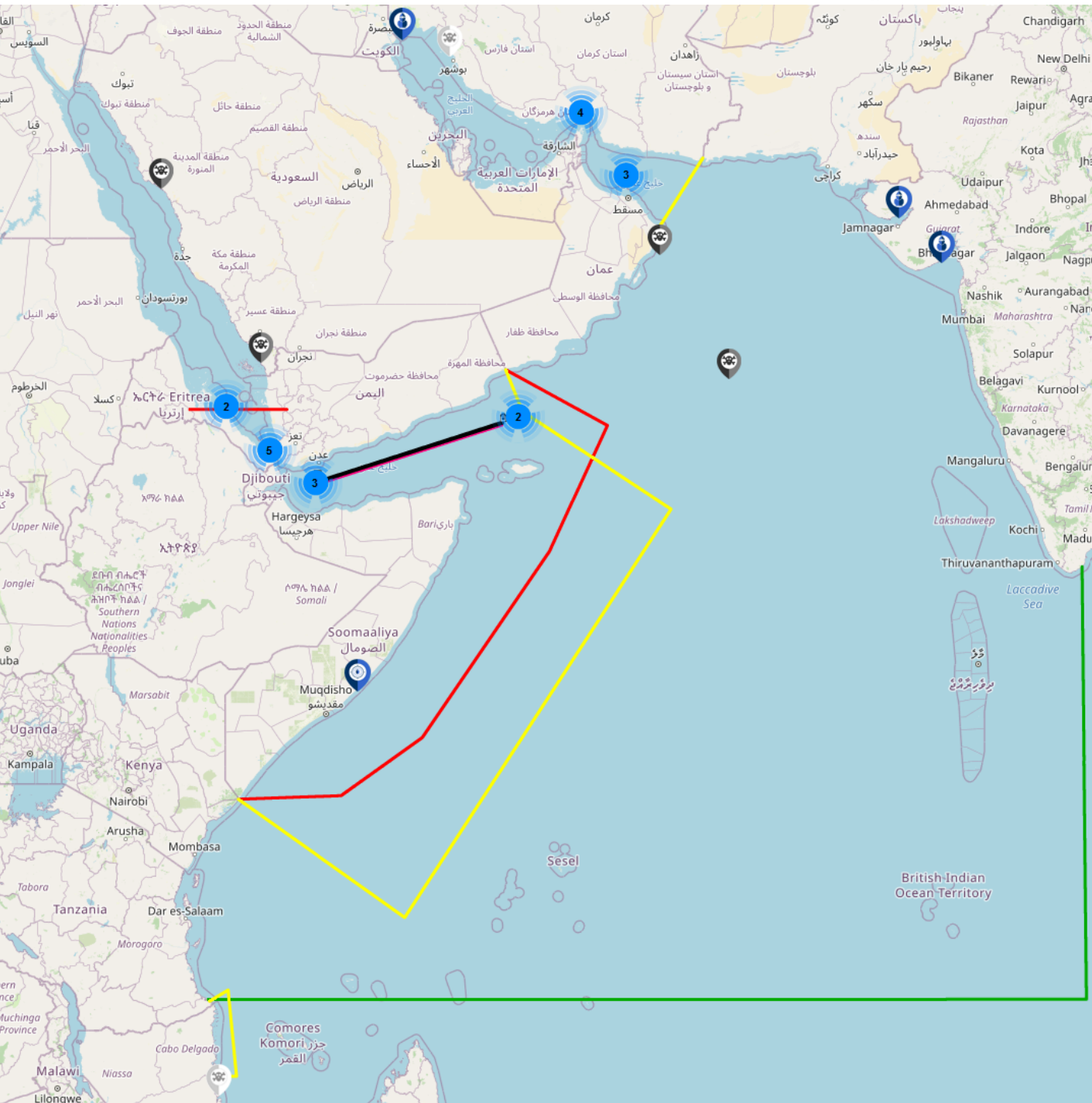
During the reporting period, Iran conducted their annual military exercise in the Persian Gulf. In a statement regarding the exercise, dubbed ‘Zolfaghar-1400 Drill’, Iranian officials commented that the purpose of the NAVEX was to demonstrate country’s military “might and readiness”. The Exercise comes a few weeks before talks between Iran and world powers are set to resume regarding the 2015 Nuclear Deal.

### UAE, Bahrain, Israel, and US conduct joint NAVEX

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Israel and the United States (US) Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) commenced a multilateral interoperability Naval exercise in the Red Sea. An Israeli Naval officer who is Spokesperson for the Exercise commented that the military cooperation would help to counter Iran’s “power projection” in the region. The five days of Naval drills will include the participation of the *San Antonio-class* USS PORTLAND.

# Indian Ocean – Incident Map

## 2021



**RED:** High-Risk Area (HRA) as designated by [BIMCO](#) et al

**GREEN:** Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) as designated by [MSCHOA](#)

**YELLOW:** Listed Areas as designated by the [JWC](#)



# Gulf of Guinea Analysis



## Within the reporting period:

11<sup>th</sup> November – Illegal Boarding – MV –  
Approx. 63nm SW Brass – Offshore Nigeria –  
03° 23.22 N / 005° 41.03 E – 0100 LT/UTC

10<sup>th</sup> November – Suspicious Approach – MV  
– Approx. 208nm S Takoradi – Offshore  
Ghana – 00° 41.15 S / 002° 05.5 W – Time  
Unknown

## Outside the reporting period:

07<sup>th</sup> November – Suspicious Approach – MV  
– Approx. 37nm N Neves – Offshore São  
Tomé and Príncipe – 00° 59.15 N / 002° 05.5  
E – 1305 LT/UTC

## Incident Summary

11<sup>th</sup> November – An MV (details withheld) was boarded by unidentified assailants approximately 63nm southwest of Brass, offshore Nigeria. The incident is completed, and the vessel is reportedly en route to Port. Further details currently remain unclear.

10<sup>th</sup> November – Two unidentified craft believed to have been launched from a nearby fishing vessel approached an MV (details withheld) approximately 208nm south of Takoradi, offshore Ghana. The MV notified relevant maritime authorities of the situation and departed the location. No further details were made available, while the time of the incident remains unclear.

07<sup>th</sup> November – A small unidentified craft approached an MV (details withheld) at a speed of 25 knots, approximately 37nm north of Neves, offshore São Tomé and Príncipe, at around 1305hrs LT/UTC. The craft pursued the vessel after changing course, before eventually abandoning its approach. The crew and the vessel were reported as safe.

## Analysis

Following the 25<sup>th</sup> October robbery at Conakry Anchorage, three additional maritime security-related incidents were recorded within the reporting period in the Gulf of Guinea seas areas, marking a total of eight recorded thus far in Q4 of 2021. Incident figures are set to surpass those of Q3 (13) and Q2 (13) if currently observed trends are sustained, which is expected as the dry season

commences. Piracy-related activity has historically risen between the months of November and April due to the absence of consistent rains, with Q1 generally recording the highest incident numbers of the year. Despite this, incidents of maritime crime and piracy are anticipated to be repressed in comparison to previous years due to more concerted efforts on the part of regional Navies to combat such activity in the waters offshore West Africa.

On 09<sup>th</sup> November, the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) issued a notice to mariners warning of an increased threat of piracy in a 22,549nm<sup>2</sup> bounded area offshore Brass, Nigeria, encompassing sections of northeastern Zone E and a smaller area of northern Zone D in the vicinity of the Nigeria-São Tomé and Príncipe Joint Development Zone (JDZ). The notice was connected to a series of previous advisories issued by the maritime reporting agency on 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October; and again on 31<sup>st</sup> November, related to the suspected presence and movement of a Niger Delta-based pirate action group (PAG) operating in the waters offshore Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, and São Tomé and Príncipe – where the initial short-term 'high risk area' was centred on before shifting closer to Nigeria's territorial waters, likely as a result of the PAG's movement back to their disembarkation point in the Niger Delta.



# Gulf of Guinea Analysis

## Analysis (cont'd)

Two days following the 09<sup>th</sup> November MDAT-GoG notice, an MV (details withheld) was boarded by an unknown number of assailants on board a skiff approximately 63nm southwest of Brass, offshore Nigeria (~7nm SE Agbami Terminal). Subsequent unverified reports further suggested that the assailants had remained on board the vessel – which may have been involved in a previous kidnapping incident in 2020 – for approximately 30 minutes before disembarking and sailing northward towards the Niger Delta. It remains unclear whether any of the vessel's crew were abducted by the attackers, however, it is assessed as likely that the incident was a kidnapping-for-ransom of seafarers.

If confirmed, the 11<sup>th</sup> November incident would mark the sixth kidnapping recorded year-to-date in the Gulf of Guinea, with the most recently recorded incident occurring on 05<sup>th</sup> September, offshore Gabon at the Owendo Anchorage, in which a group of armed assailants boarded the St Kitts Nevis-flagged TAMPEN (IMO: 9276896) and abducted one crew member after opening fire upon the vessel injuring the Chief Officer and Cook.

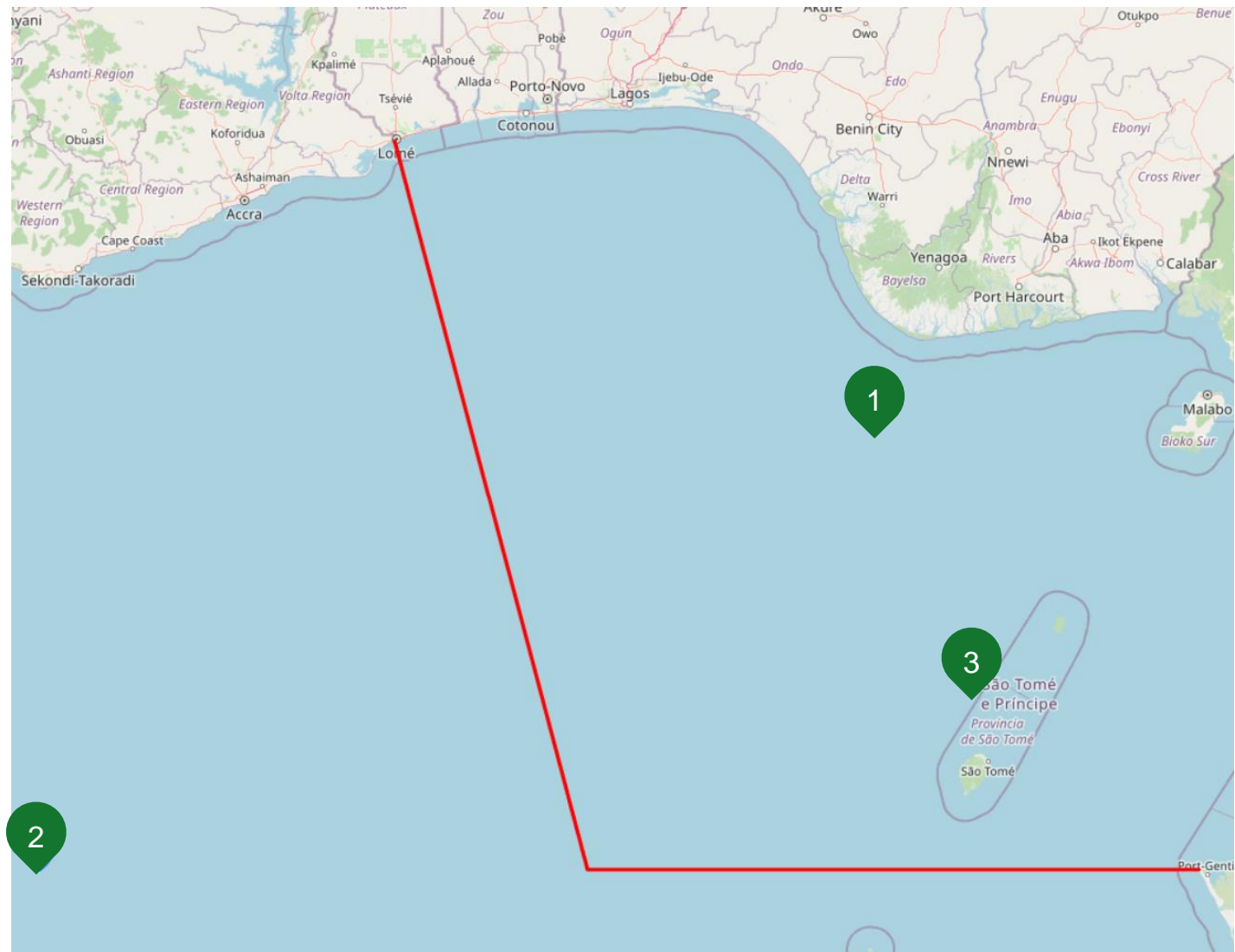
While the frequency of kidnapping incidents on the high seas in the Gulf of Guinea has declined year-on-year, the threat to vessels and their crew – particularly those of foreign nationality – transiting the region cannot be dismissed as illustrated by the 11<sup>th</sup> November illegal boarding. It is noted that waters nearshore the Niger Delta continue to remain most at risk of such activity. Prior to the boarding, on 01<sup>st</sup> November, gunmen on board a small craft intercepted a passenger vessel in the vicinity of Oroba Island, within the Delta Waterways. The assailants stole the personal belongings of those on board, as well as the vessel's outboard motor, before escaping. The robbery stands to demonstrate a high intent on the part of PAGs and other criminal groups to conduct

operations despite a heightened presence of maritime security forces across the region.

Moreover, two suspicious approaches were recorded during the reporting period on 10<sup>th</sup> and 07<sup>th</sup> November, offshore Ghana and São Tomé and Príncipe respectively. While additional details regarding either incident remain unclear, information suggests that both events may have been related to fishing activity. Of particular note, two small craft that had been launched from an FV approximately 208nm south of Takoradi, approached an MV (details withheld) whose Master subsequently alerted nearby authorities and sailed the vessel out of the area. The suspicious craft reportedly ceased their pursuit and the crew and vessel were reported as safe. Because the MV was not approached in an aggressive manner per available reports, the incident is not assessed to be piracy-related. Vessels and their crew are nonetheless advised to maintain Best Management Practices West Africa (BMP WA) procedures in such situations, and employ appropriate anti-piracy measures as conducted by the Master and crew of the involved MV in order to mitigate against the threat of piracy and maritime crime.

# Gulf of Guinea – Incident Map

## Outside Reporting Period



1. 11/11/2021 – Illegal Boarding, 0100 LT, MV (details withheld), 63nm SW Brass
2. 10/11/2021 – Suspicious Approach, Time Unknown, MV (details withheld), 208nm S Takoradi
3. 07/11/2021 – Suspicious Approach, 1305 LT, MV (details withheld), 37nm N Neves



# Southeast Asia Analysis

## Within the reporting period:

NIL

## Outside the reporting period:

04<sup>th</sup> November – Illegal Boarding –  
ROAMNDIE – Approx. 3.2nm NW Nongsa  
Lighthouse – Batam Island – Offshore  
Indonesia – 01° 15 N / 104° 3.53 E – 0102 LT  
/ 1802 UTC (-1)

## Incident Summary

04<sup>th</sup> November – Two perpetrators attempted to board an underway bulk carrier identified as the Swiss-flagged ROAMNDIE (IMO: 9542829), in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) area of the Singapore Strait, approximately 3.2nm northwest of Nongsa Lighthouse, Batam Island, offshore Indonesia, at round 0102hrs local time (1802hrs UTC -1). The assailants were sighted by an on-duty crew member climbing from the ship stern railing, and abandoned their operation following a raised alarm. No items were reported to have been stolen, while the crew and vessel were safe.

## Analysis

The total number of maritime security-related incidents recorded within the Southeast Asia seas areas rose to 63 thus far in 2021, following the late reporting of one additional incident outside the week under review. The 04<sup>th</sup> November illegal boarding marked the first maritime security-related occurrence in the month of the November, following a significant increased frequency in the reporting of such occurrences during the month of October that recorded a total of 11.

In continuation of the recording of low-impact incidents in the region, a single suspicious approach has been recorded thus far, while robberies accounts for the majority with 55.6 per cent of all incidents recorded and those classified as illegal boardings make up 42.9 per cent. On 04<sup>th</sup> November, two perpetrators attempted to board the underway Swiss-flagged ROAMNDIE (IMO: 9542829) bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the

TSS area of the Singapore Strait, approximately 3.2nm northwest of Nongsa Lighthouse, Batam Island, offshore Indonesia. The assailants however fled the vessel after having been sighted by an on-duty crew member.

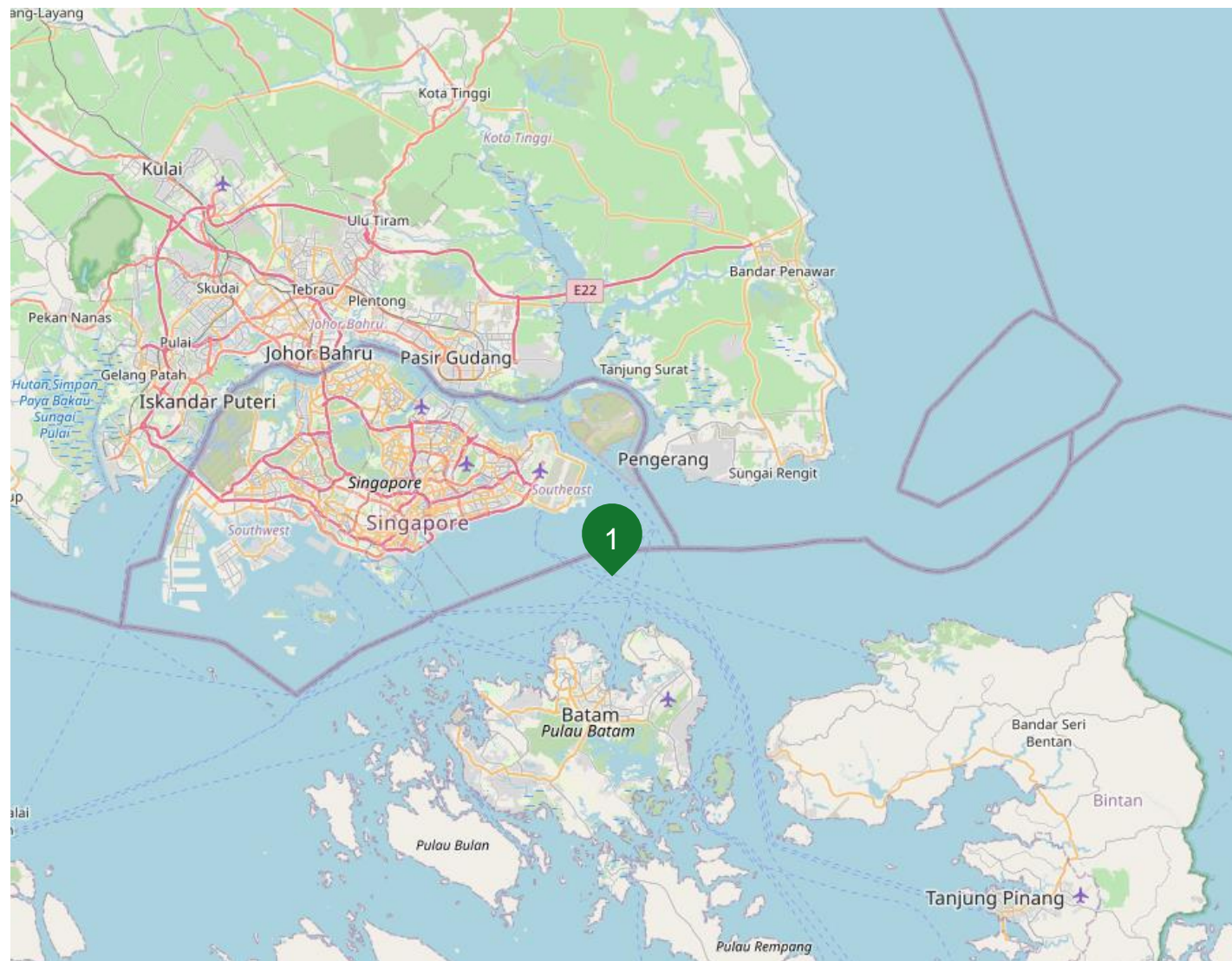
While nothing was stolen during either attempted robbery, and the crew the vessels were reported as safe, the ease with which assailants were able to board and later flee the vessel upon a raised alarm is again illustrative of the need for seafarers to exercise a heightened vigilance while traversing the region, particularly during night time hours. Further, the underreporting or delayed reporting of incidents is often motivated by the severity of an incident or lack of continuous reporting practices of security-related incidents by seafarers as well as local and regional authorities, rather than an improvement in the overall threat environment. Therefore, it is reminded that reporting of maritime criminal activity across the these waterways remains crucial in order to enhance the implementation of effective countermeasures against all types of high and low-impact threats that may be encountered in the region and bolster logistical response measures when alarms are raised.

A continuation of semi-organised criminal groups targeting commercial vessels at Anchorages or those transiting the Southeast Asia waters is likely in the short term given that the Singapore Strait continues to experience a heightened prevalence of low-impact attacks attributed to the highly-congested ports and shipping lanes in the region, making large commercial vessels susceptible to such attacks.



# Southeast Asia – Incident Map

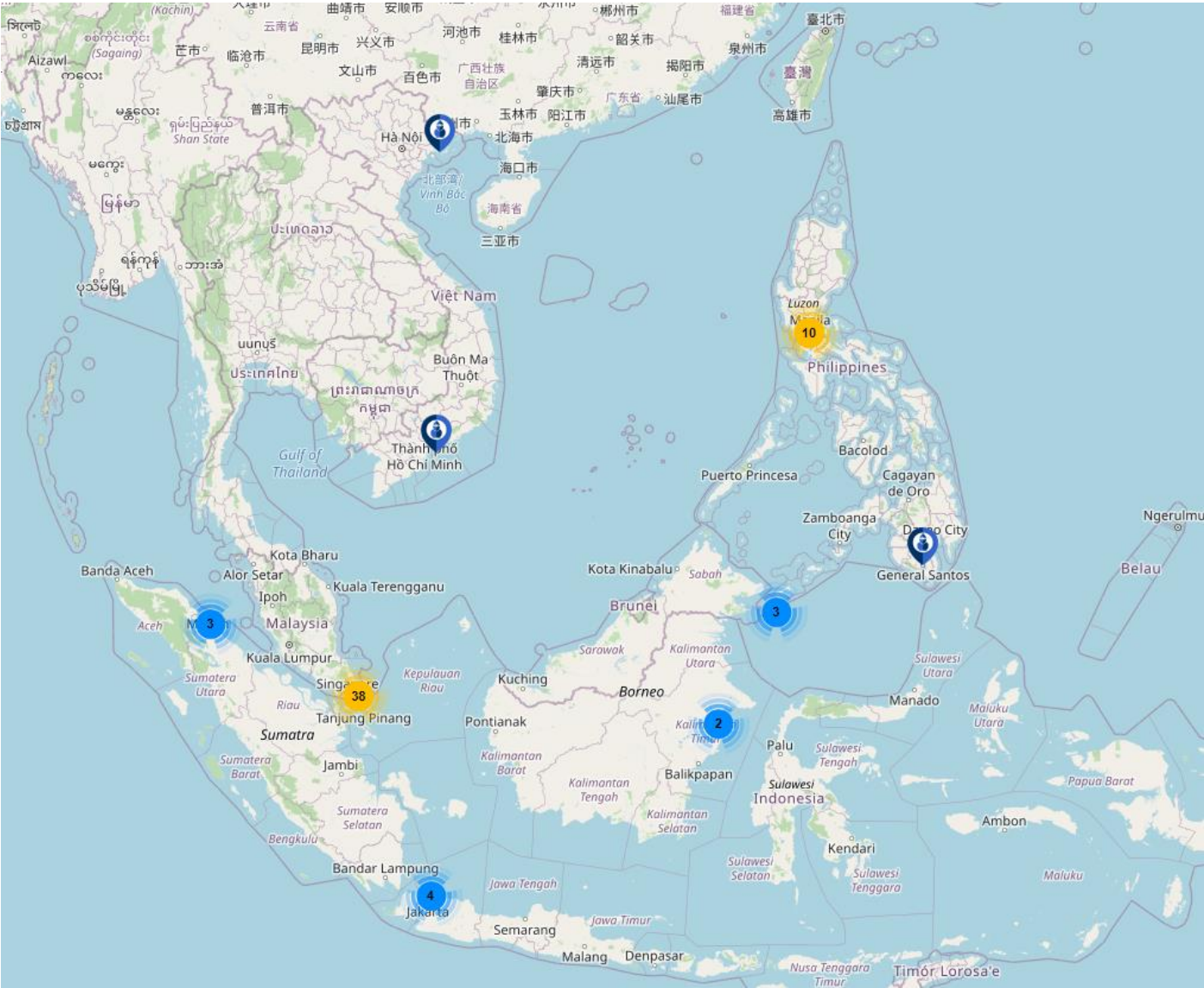
## Outside Reporting Period



1. 04/11/2021 – Illegal Boarding, 0102 LT, ROAMNDIE, 3.2nm NW Nongsa Lighthouse

# Southeast Asia – Incident Map

## 2021



# Significant Maritime Stories

## UK Naval patrol ship HMS TRENT arrives in Ghana

On 10<sup>th</sup> November, the United Kingdom (UK) Naval patrol warship HMS TRENT arrived in Accra, Ghana, after completing a joint military training with the Nigerian Navy. The vessel with 42 Commando on board is on a three-month deployment to the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) to deliver specialised military training to partner states in West Africa, including Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal and Cape Verde. British High Commissioner Harriet Thompson stated that the vessel's arrival in Ghana aims to strengthen the security partnership with the UK. A statement published by the British High Commission in Accra indicated that the vessel will also host an Ocean Dialogue event in a bid to mitigate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and pollution as well as support in the implementation of climate change policies outlined during the 2021 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP26).

Meanwhile on earlier 03<sup>rd</sup> November, the Nigerian Navy signed a contract with Turkish Company, Messrs Dearsan Shipyard Limited, in Abuja, Nigeria, to acquire two new High Endurance Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV). The vessels are expected to be handed over to Nigeria in 37 months when they are expected to be commissioned into service. During the event, the Nigerian Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo, stated that the additional two vessels will increase the Nigerian Navy fleet and likely assert the country's dominance in maritime security operations in the GoG. Additional reports indicated that the OPV will be fitted with Turkish systems and deployed to support maritime operations, surveillance, special forces operations, search and rescue, disaster relief, and providing fire support to land forces.

## Japan and Vietnam conduct joint maritime exercise

On 07<sup>th</sup> November, Navy officials from the Indo-Pacific Deployment 2021 (IPD21) of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted a joint maritime exercise with those from Vietnam People's Navy (VPN). Dubbed 'Japan-Vietnam Goodwill Exercise', the activity was conducted in the vicinity of waters off Cam Ranh Port in the central Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. Later, on 08<sup>th</sup> November, the JMSDF issued a press release confirming that the joint exercise aimed to improve JMSDF's tactical capabilities, enhance the bilateral diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam, and specifically improve the cooperation between the two countries in the maritime sector. Additional reports indicated that the joint exercise involved the sharing of best practices between the participants and entailed practical demonstrations around tactical manoeuvring and communication. IPD21 used helicopter carrier JS KAGA, which is 248 meters long and has the capacity to carry up to 14 helicopters, alongside the multi-purpose destroyer JS MURASAME, which is 151 meters long and has a capacity of 6,100 tons, while the VPN used the DINH TIEN HOANG Gepard-class frigate.



*DINH TIEN HOANG (left) and JS MURASAME (right)  
(Source: JMSDF)*



## Image of the Week



The SHABAB OMAN II of the Royal Navy of Oman sailing alongside the HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH of the Royal Navy, in the Indian Ocean  
(Source: Royal Navy)



# Appendix



## 1. Seven-Day Lunar Forecast

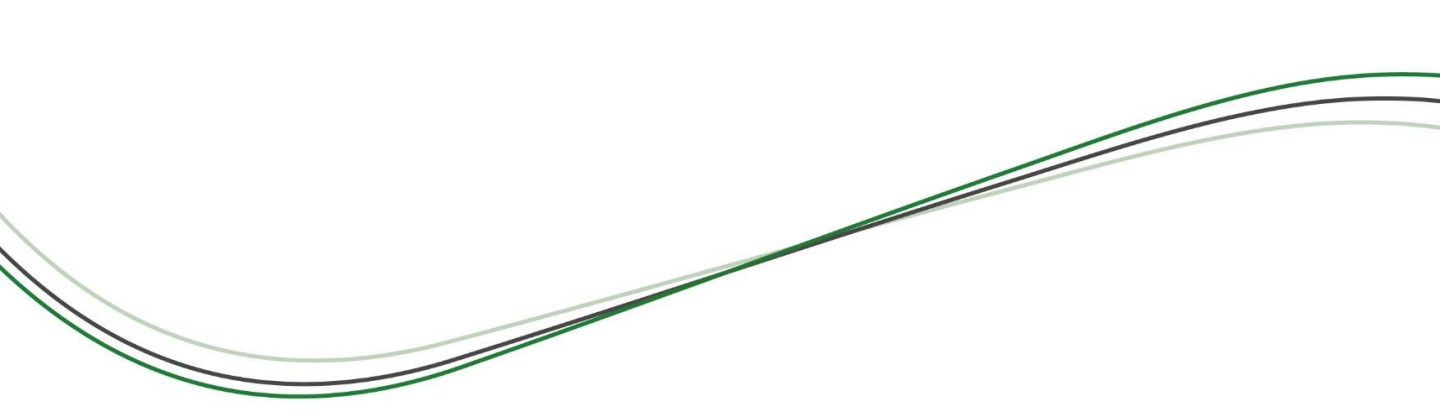
[Moon Phases Open Source Calendar](#)

The next full moon will occur on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## 2. Indian Ocean Meteorological and Lunar Outlook

<http://www.buoyweather.com/map/somalia-to-tanzania>

For further meteorological information, please request access to meteorological software from the officer on watch. If it is not available, then SF advises that one requests a copy of the Brown's Almanac from the Bridge. This document contains a guide on how to use it.



For any enquiries regarding this report or any other company deliverables, please contact:

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