



African Organized Crime:

Extending Outside

the Continent

Actors, Markets, Flows

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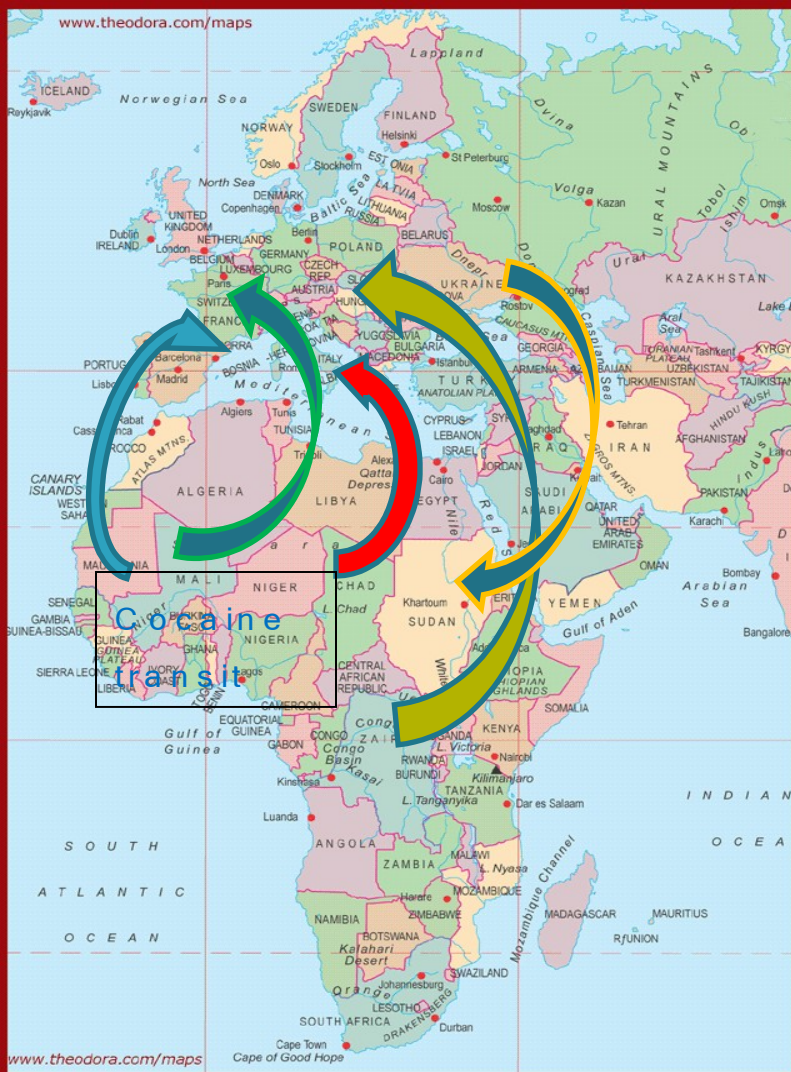
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African Actors – Europe IO C connections looking at the inter-continent experience..

| Five Criminal Hubs in EU | Major OC Activities | Non-European Union Connections | Types of OC groups Involved |
|---|--|---|--|
| South West Europe (Iberian peninsula: Portugal , Spain , Andorra) | Cocaine, cannabis, trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration | West and North West Africa (suppliers of illicit drugs and immigration) | West Africa has geographically significant position in the chain between South America, the source of cocaine, and the EU destination market. Human smuggling route passing through Libya, Algeria to Spain, Malta, and Italy. Libya and Tripoli are supply route for illegal immigration & human trafficking across Mediterranean. |
| South East (Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary) | Illegal immigration, synthetic drugs, counterfeit Euros and payment card fraud, cocaine trafficking | Albanian groups in cocaine distribution chain but West Africa also a transit zone. Romania is gateway for immigration into the EU. Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Turkey synth drugs | Cocaine enters EU through Turkey or the Balkans. Ukraine is a transit point for heroin into the EU. Heroin is trafficked through Turkey by Turkish groups, often cooperating with Bulgarian groups via the Balkans. The South East criminal hub is key entry point for counterfeit and genuine smuggled cigarettes from the Ukraine, Moldova, the Balkans, and the Far East. |
| Southern (Italy) | Trafficking of cocaine and cannabis, illegal immigration, smuggling of counterfeit goods, cigarettes, and counterfeit Euros. | All main Italian OC groups are active in drug trafficking and the they cooperate with Albanian, Colombian, Turkish, and African criminals | Mafia-type groups based in Italy use both systematic violence and intimidation plus influence on local societies and economies. These groups cooperate with multiple criminal groups outside Italy. |



Major Africa IO C links to Europe

looking for African IO C involvement

1. Illicit migration, human trafficking.
2. Drugs (cocaine in transit to Europe, cannabis from Nigeria)
3. Gold, cassiterite from central Africa.
4. Firearms from Ukraine.

Source: Europol + UN

USA – Africa IO C connection

- Nigerian enterprises involved in drug trafficking and financial frauds in USA (advance fee, credit card, 419, insurance, auto accidents).
- Ivory smuggling from Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Uganda into USA.
- Instances of labor trafficking young women from Nigeria.



Source: USDOJ

South America – Africa connections



- Use of West Africa as transshipment point for cocaine headed to Europe.
- Also efforts to direct ship cocaine to Europe via West Africa.
- Female human trafficking mostly from Brazil, Paraguay to Europe.

Source: UNODC

Asia – Africa Connections

- Ethnic Nigerians in India, Pakistan, and Thailand involved in heroin trafficking.
- Ivory and rhino horn smuggling to Southeast Asia from central & south Africa.
- Counterfeit medicine from India and China.
- Cassiterite from Congo to Europe and Southeast Asia.
- Gold from Africa to Middle East.

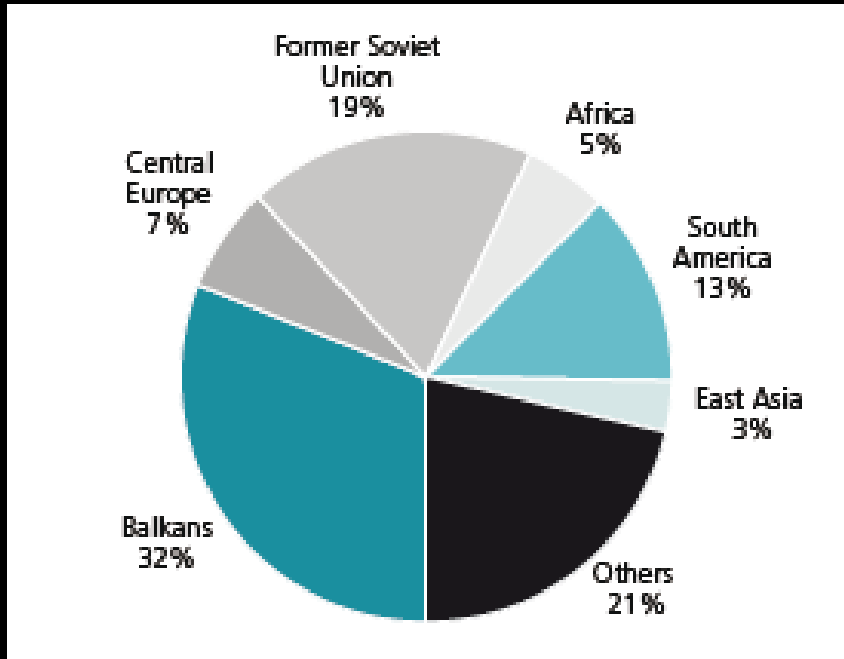




How to make sense of scattered sightings?

- Moving from ethnicity/national origin (actors) to markets...
- Ethnicity trap: describing OC in terms of ethnicity of participants, rather than by the activity engaged in.
 1. Most groups are networks of small to moderate size.
 2. Many networks lack ethnic ties.
 3. Most engaged in relatively few different criminal activities.
 4. Most work with other criminal groups (source, transit, destination).
 5. Many have contacts in other countries.
- “Strategies aimed at the groups will not stop the illicit activities if the dynamics of the market remain unaddressed.”
(UNODC, 2010)

Origins of trafficking victims found in West and Central Europe

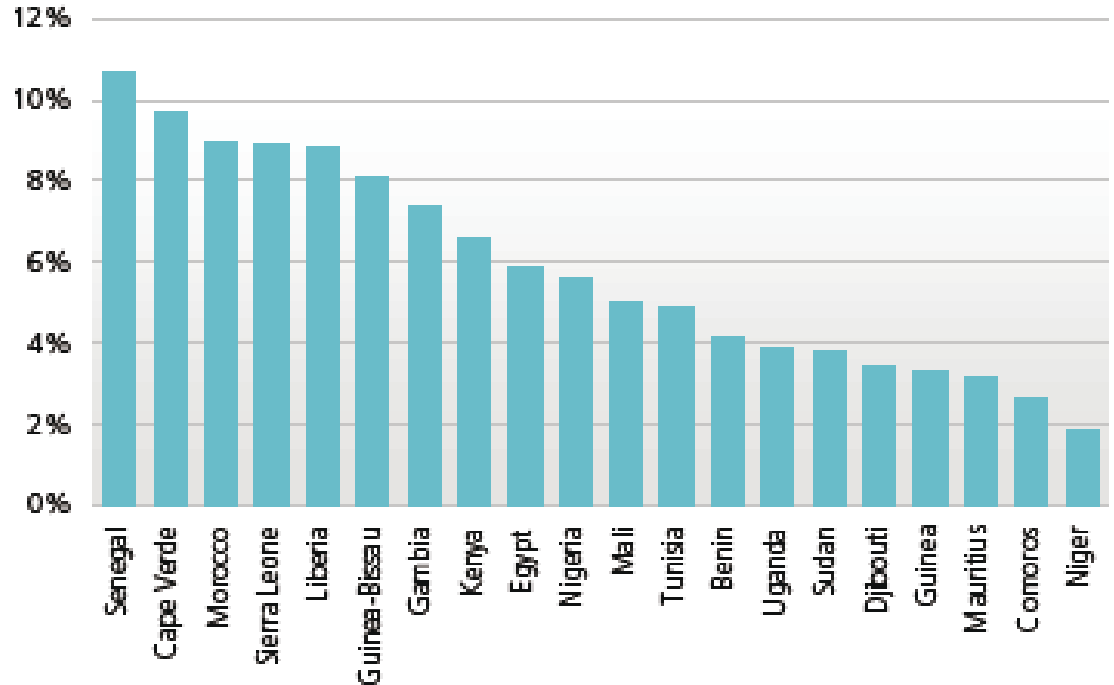


Source: UN GIFT

- Family, social networks promote human trafficking in West Africa to Europe.
- Europe hosts the largest African-born population outside Africa.
- Migrant smuggling usually involves short water voyages to European islands, then seek illegal passage.
- UN estimates 55,000 migrants from Africa to Europe in 2008.

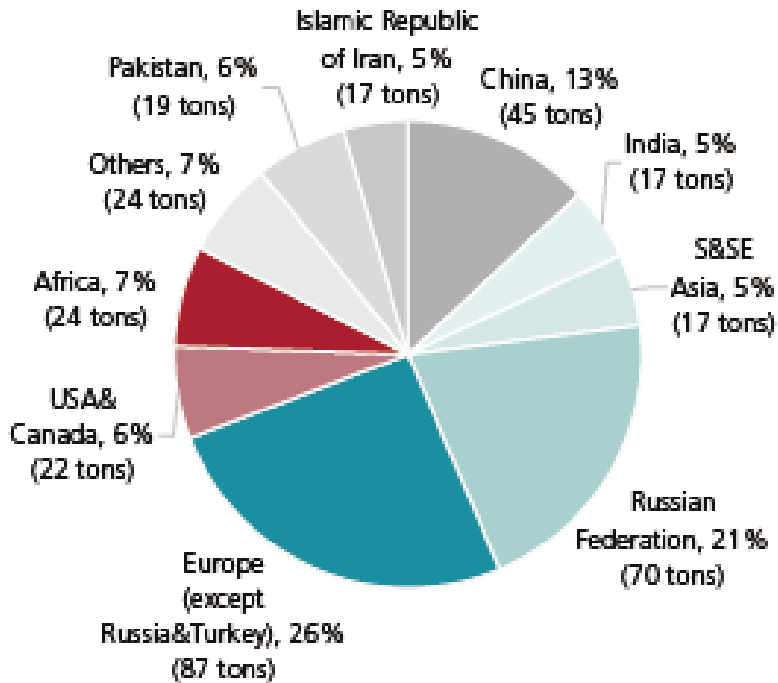
Remittances as a percent of GDP

- Remittances important to African economies!
- Therefore, strong economic incentive for migrant smuggling and human trafficking to continue.



Source: World Bank

Global heroin consumption

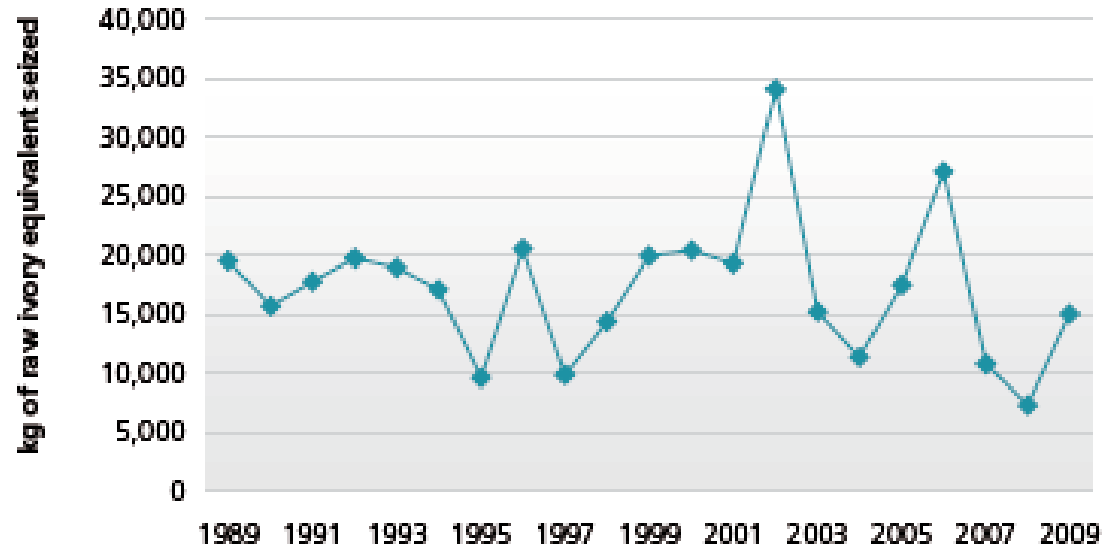


Source: UNODC

- 340 tons global total.
- Europe, Russia, China consume 60% of total.
- Africa consumes 24 tons annually, although largest IO C role is in distribution chain between source and destination.

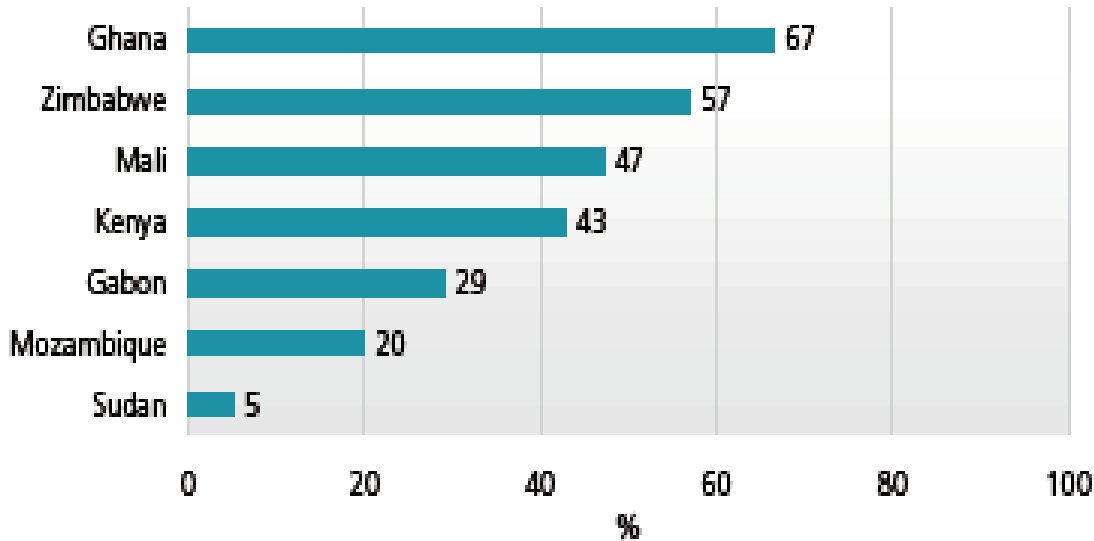
Ivory seizures (annual kg)

- Central Africa is the main source of elephant ivory.
- Most is produced by organized poaching.
- Despite a world-wide ban, ivory seizures remain high.
- Evidence of militants involved in the trade from Somalia and Sudan.



Source: Traffic

Chloroquine tablets failing potency tests



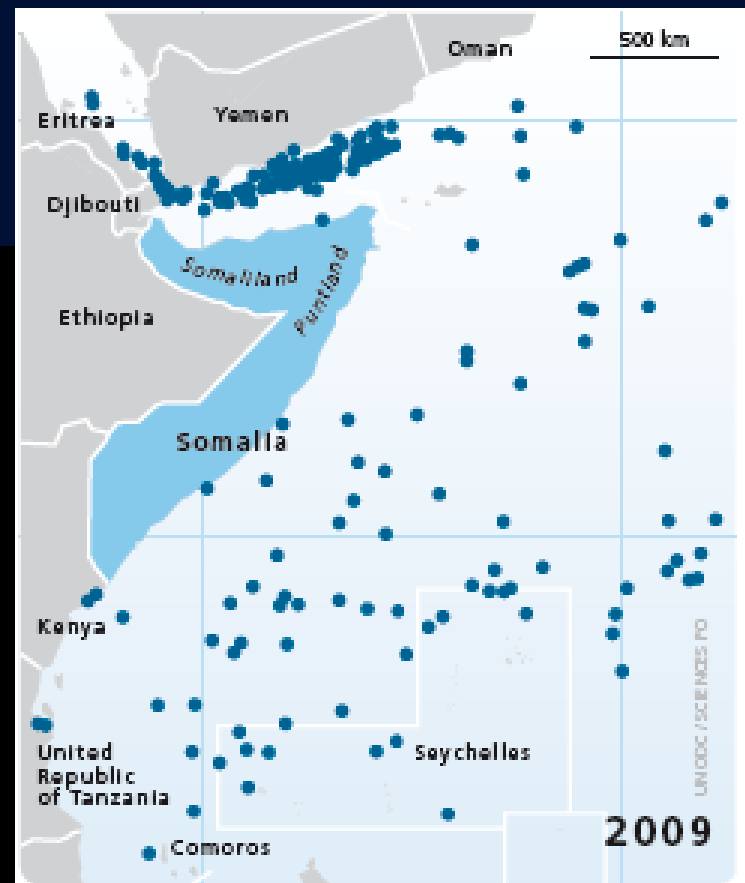
Source: World Health
Organization

- Counterfeit and diluted medicine from India and China into Africa.
- Much of this medicine has failed potency tests.
- IO C groups involved in deliberate fraud here.
- Diluted drugs fuel breeding of drug-resistant pathogens.

Sea piracy

- Not a trafficking issue, but virtually all Somali piracy involves kidnapping for ransom.
- A group activity with ties to insurgents in mainland.
- Political aims now secondary to IOC goal of profit?
- Evidence by growing distance from Somali coast and targeting commercial ships and pleasure boats, and even food aid shipments.

Source: ICC International Maritime Bureau



Number of pirate attacks
in the area, 2006-2009



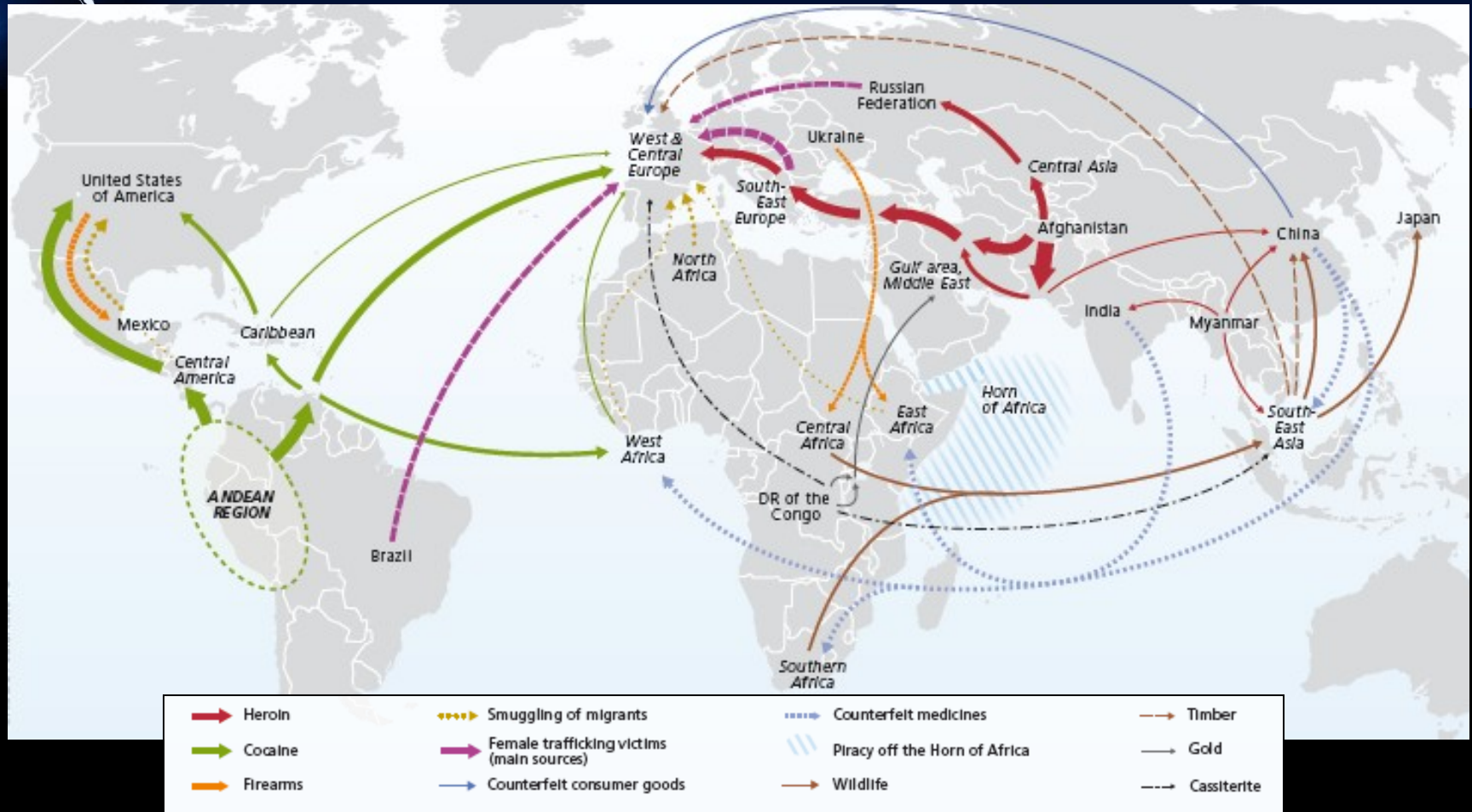


The individual markets can also appear chaotic for purposes of analysis !

- After moving from focus on groups to markets ---then we *move from focus on individual markets to **overlapping flows***.
- **Flows among markets enable assessment and prediction of impacts upon successful prosecution and prevention efforts.**

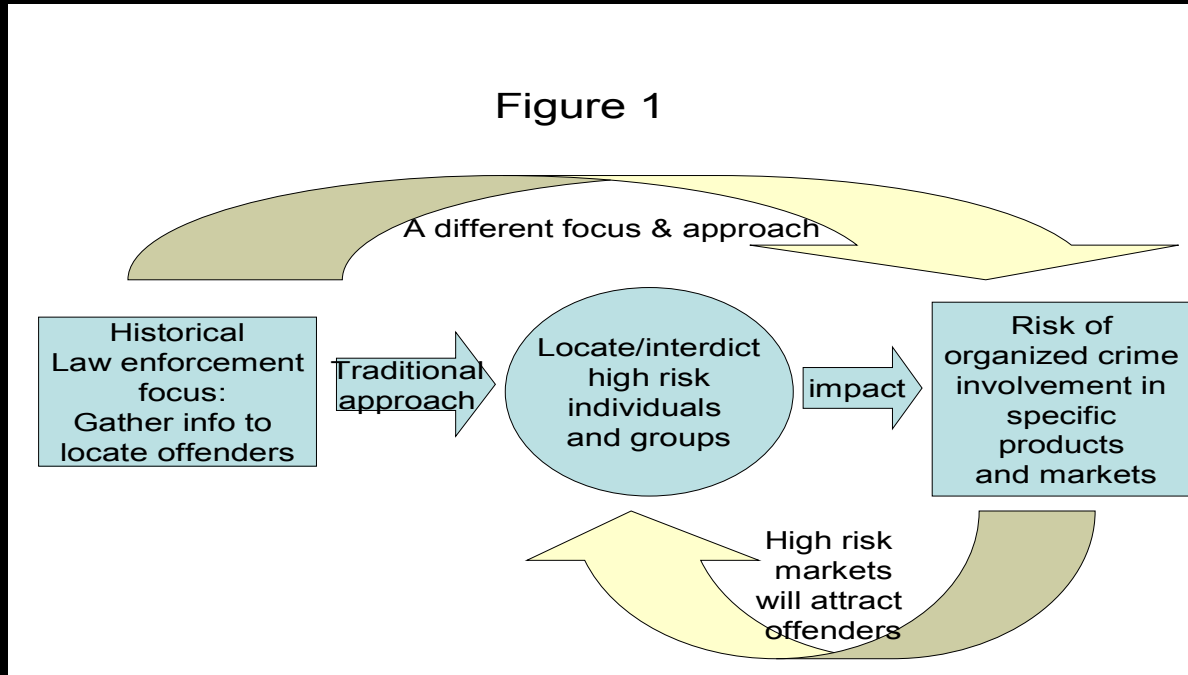


Trafficking flows by product-market



Making sense of a jumbled mix of individuals, groups, and products?

- Focus on product-markets *versus* groups and individuals. Identification of high-risk markets will lead us to the players.



Impacting OC enterprises

Prevention requires increasing pressures to reduce the size, influence, and existence of the market, and hence OC enterprises

Regulators

- +Ease of entry into market
- +Enforcement capability
- +Government corruption

Suppliers

- +Availability of product
- +Ease of movement/sale

Organized crime as enterprise
Goal: survive and make profit

Customers

- +Current product demand
- +Elastic/inelastic demand

Competition

- +History of OC in market?
- +Profitability
- +Harm

All OC operations seek to survive & profit, while controlling: suppliers, customers, regulators, competitors.



10 variables to be measured



- Summarized in another way, the figure offers a 10-factor model for risk assessment. The types of variables include:
 - supply indicators (1. objective availability of product or service, 2. ease of movement/sale);
 - regulation indicators (3. ease of entry into market by its regulation and the skills needed, 4. law enforcement capability and competence, 5. level of local government corruption);
 - competition indicators (6. history of organized crime in the market, 7. profitability, 8. harm);
 - demand indicators (9. current customer demand for product, 10. nature of the demand—whether elastic/inelastic).

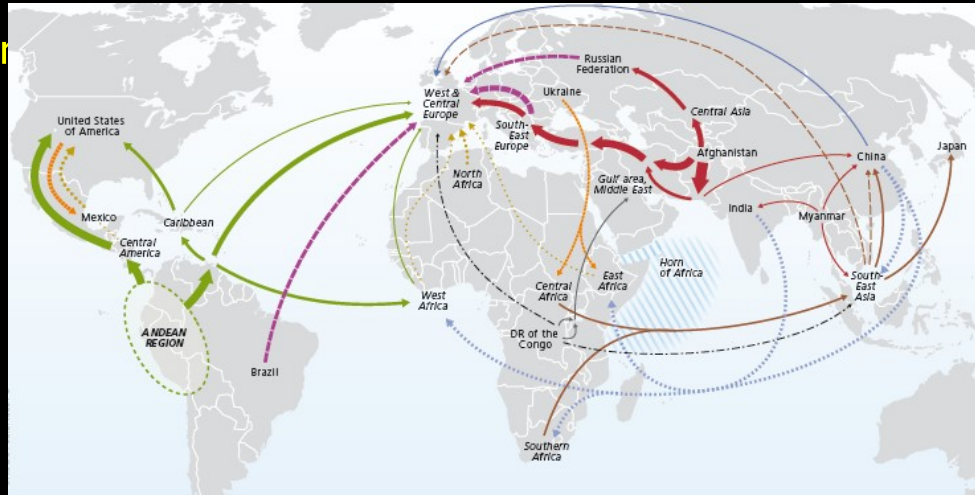
Building a Risk Assessment Tool for IO C



- The factors (variables) in the risk assessment model can be combined into an index for ease of use in practice.
- An index is a composite measure that summarizes and rank-orders scores assigned to attributes or characteristics.
- Index used when the variables studied do not have clear single indicators.
- Empirical: based on measures of the perceptions and experiences of those who have direct knowledge of illicit products and organized crime activity, i.e., citizens, business, police, offenders, known cases.

In conclusion...

- Empirical risk assessment moves us from an exclusive focus on offenders to a focus on markets and trafficking flows.
- Proper identification and updating of these flows will result in accurate targeting of the highest risk.



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Thank you for your attention!

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