



Trans-national organised crime in Africa: the foreign fabrics in the quilt

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May 12, 2011



Synopsis

- Perceptions and the realities of organised crime as experienced in Africa
- Trans-national crime as experienced in Africa
- Foreign actors in organised crime in Africa
- Main criminal markets and industries
- Suggestions on how we should be responding

Perceptions

- 'International crime intelligence and seizures of contraband, suggest that Africa may have become the continent most targeted by organized crime,' UNODC (2005 - *Crime and Development in Africa*.)
- 'West Africa is under attack from Latin American drug traffickers' UNODC (2008)
- The death of Uwe Gemballa 'points to [a] sinister international syndicate of money launderers.' *Sunday Times (SA) 3 October, 2010*
- 'It is clear that only a combination of public and private pressure, well coordinated with our diplomatic allies, will move this government to even attempt to kick its increasingly dangerous drug habit.' *Wikileaks December 2010*

Organised crime as experienced in Africa

Organised crime generally manifests itself as conduct

- by a group of persons who share a common goal to commit crimes in a planned, ongoing, continuous or repeated i.e organized manner;
- of significant proportions in terms of volume or value of proceeds or harm
- motivated by the prospect of material benefit
- much of which brings the legitimate and illicit economies into close contact (and therefore frequently involves corporate entities)

'Foreign' actors

Foreign

- In the broad sense: non nationals of the various African countries
- In the narrow sense: non-Africans, irrespective of the place or country of ordinary residence

Actors

- Natural as well as juristic (corporate) persons

Trans-national crime: manifestations of involvement of foreign actors

- Arrests and completed case records
- Gruesome, occasionally complex homicide cases
- Tracking sources of trafficked commodities
- Extradition requests
- Requests for mutual legal assistance
- Increased investments in certain sectors, such as real estate, that is not supported by identified legitimate income sources
- Confessions of accomplices



Market: Narcotics trafficking

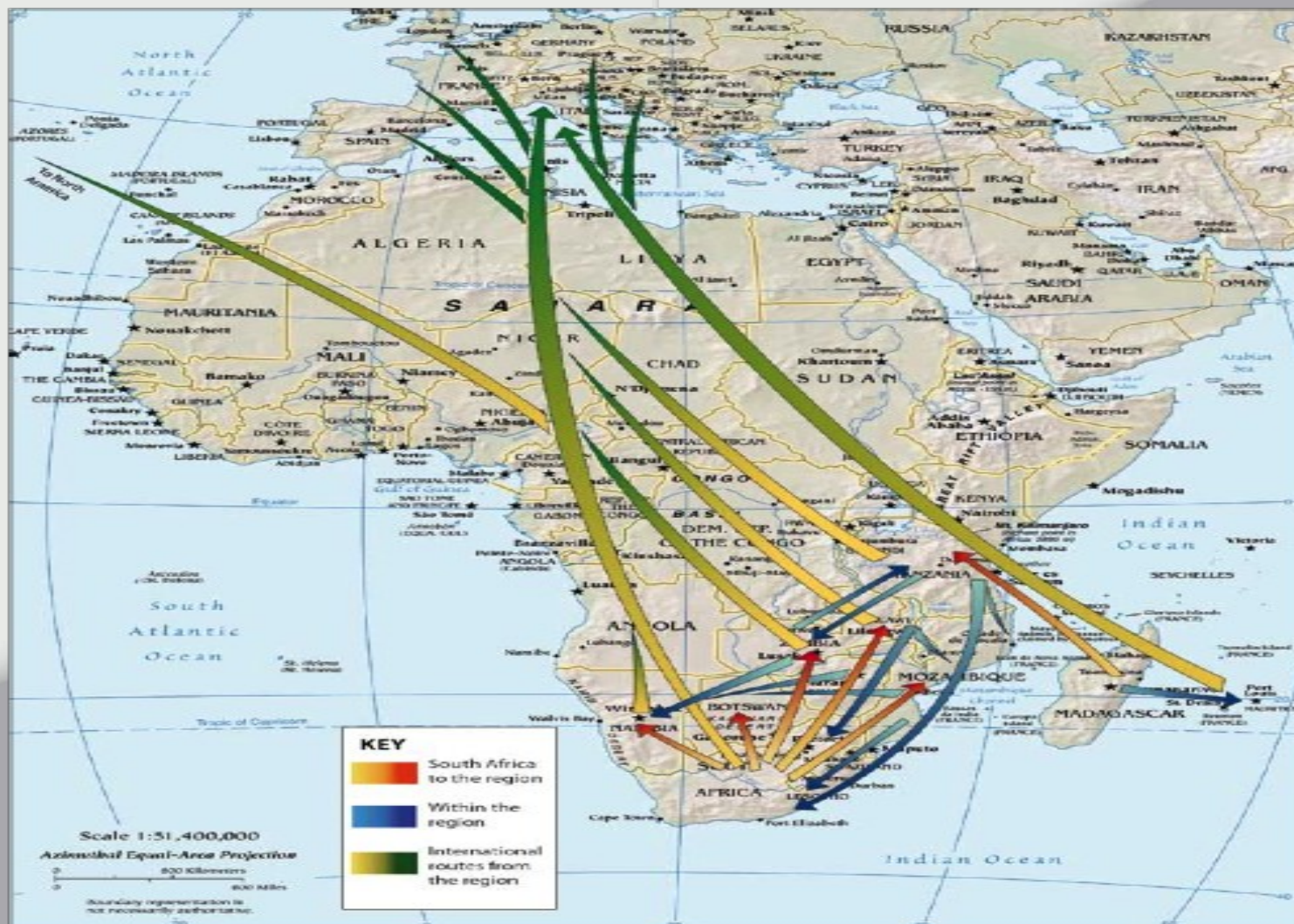
Regional actors

- Local farmers
- Corrupted police officials
- Corrupted customs officials
- Narcotics entrepreneurs (full- time and amateurs)
- Fishermen
- Transport operators
- Couriers

Foreign actors

- Suppliers in foreign continents – South America, Asia
- Merchant naval vessel operators
- Narcotics entrepreneurs (full- time and amateurs)
- Distributors in foreign continents - Europe
- Couriers

Figure 3: Southern African cannabis trafficking routes



transit point for cannabis smuggled to Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, the DRC, Ethiopia and Sudan. Consignments of cannabis destined for North America and Europe are smuggled from Dar es Salaam via the Comoros Islands to

the final destination. Tanzanian nationals dominate the operations of the local cannabis market, sourcing cannabis from northern Tanzania and transporting it on buses and trucks to major towns and cities.

Market: Wildlife and products of wildlife



Trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products: the actors

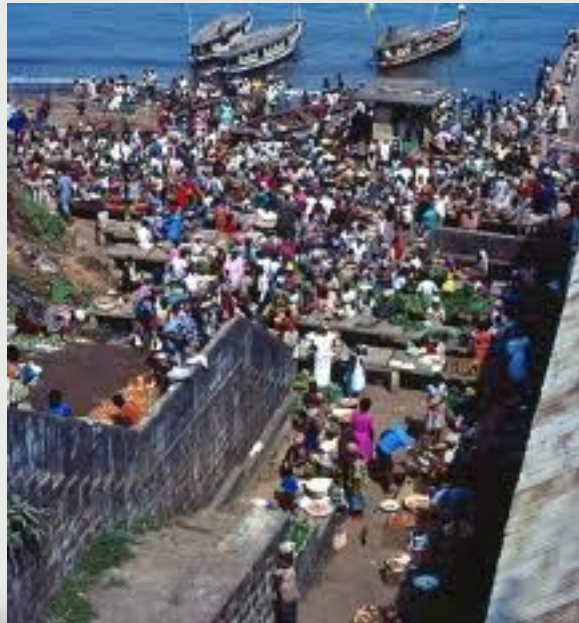
Regional actors

- Poachers
- Corrupted political elites and bureaucrats

Foreign actors

- *East Africa*: Criminal networks from the US, France, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan
- *Southern Africa*: Criminal networks from China, Germany and DPRK

Market: marine resources



Trafficking in marine resources: manifestations and actors

Interceptions within
the region/
Revelations in court
cases/Disparities
between recorded
exports and imports

Fishing companies
(foreign registered)

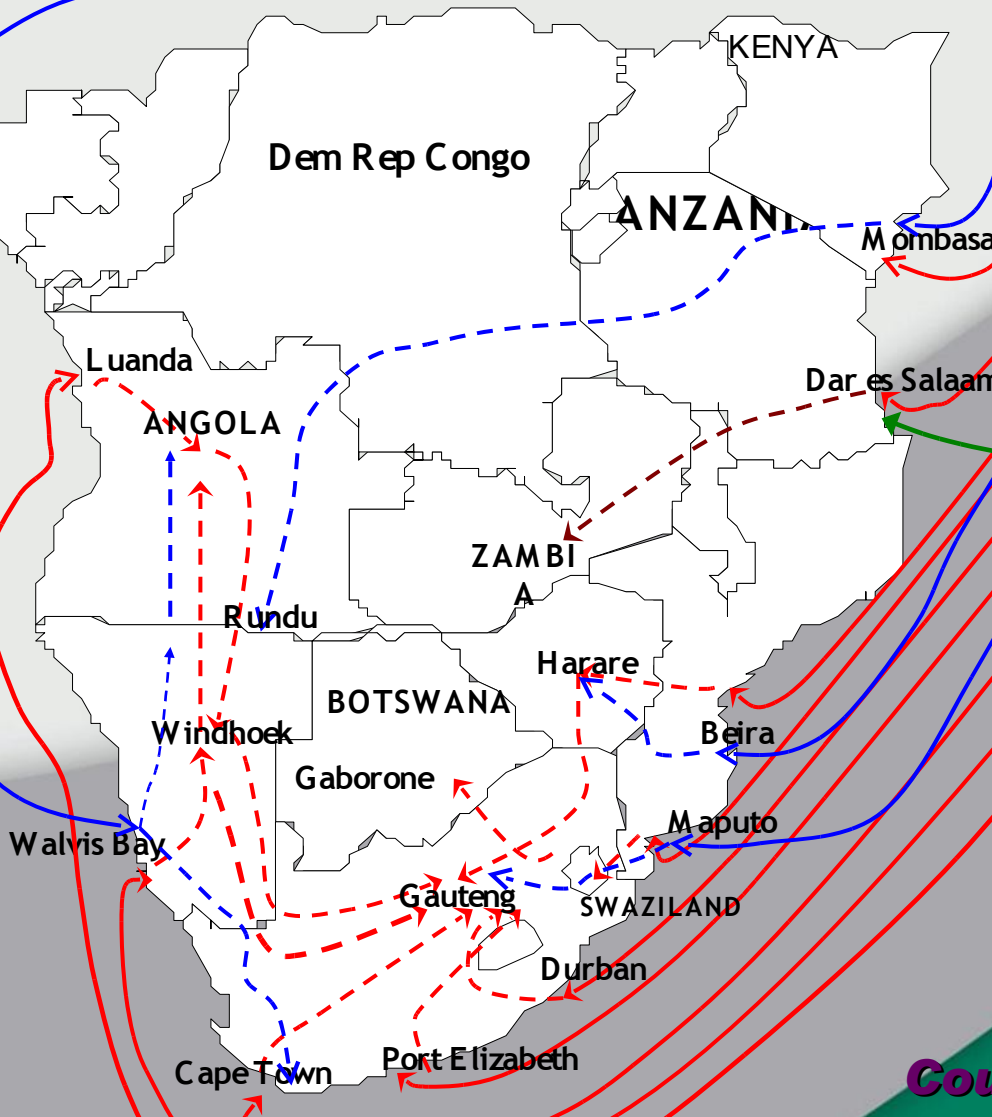
Corrupted regional
bureaucrats

Local criminals

Foreign criminal
entrepreneurs from
major consumer
markets

China

UAE (Dubai)



**Counterfeit commodities in eastern and southern Africa:
Routes from the East**

Market: counterfeit commodities

Regional actors

- Corporations
- Transporters
- Commodity manufacturers
- Corrupted bureaucrats and law enforcement officials
- Distributors
- Vendors

Foreign actors

- Multi-national corporations
- Crime syndicates in producing countries

Commodity smuggling

- Involves multiple commodity types
- Smugglers use the same techniques as those applied in drug trafficking
- Petrol tankers are cut and contraband stuffed in.
- Bureaucrats and politicians heavily implicated in commodity smuggling



Industry: cyber fraud

- A growing property crime, cyber fraud targets the economic hubs, and areas adequately saturated with consumers (Silber & Geffen, 2009)
- Regional criminals are involved in the predatory crimes preparatory to cyber fraud (theft, robbery, burglary, kidnapping & murder)
- Foreign criminals involved in hi-tech activities, including card cloning



Cyber fraud: the criminal value chain

The environment external to victims comprises:

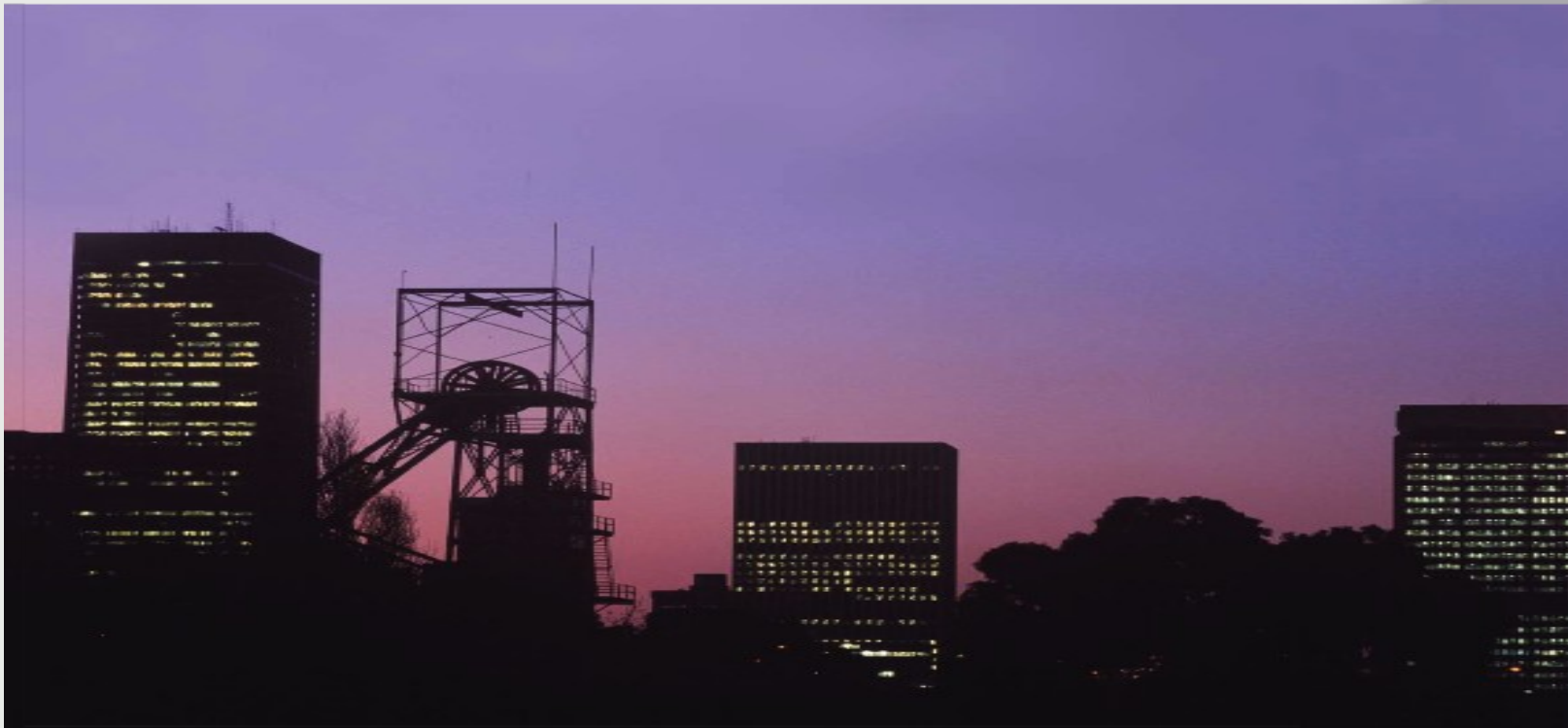
- Runners and grabbers (Regional actors)
- Waiters & till operators (Regional actors)
- Technicians (Mixture of regional and foreign actors)
- Counterfeiters (Mixture of regional and foreign actors)
- Shoppers (Regional actors)
- **Money launderers** (Predominantly foreign actors)
- **Crime managers** (Predominantly foreign actors)

Collaborators' circle comprises:

- Corrupted bureaucrats (regional actors)
- Insiders within IT corporate departments (regional actors)
- Recruiters (mixture of foreign and regional actors)
- Call centre employees (regional actors)
- Internal auditors (regional actors)

Market: smuggled mineral output

- Looting of unprocessed mineral output is bleeding African countries, as the smuggling of billions of dollars worth of
 - diamonds,
 - gold,
 - copper,
 - platinum,
 - emeralds,
 - tanzanite,
 - sapphire and
 - coltanfrom many parts of the continent in various ways persists.



The theft of precious metals from South African mines and refineries

Ben Coetzee and Riana Horn

Market: smuggled mineral output – the actors

Regional actors

- Illegal, largely artisanal miners
- Some registered mining companies
- Corrupted state officials, working in the mining industry and the security services
- Armed criminals (e.g in the Niger Delta)
- Bulk mineral transportation companies

Foreign actors

- Intermediaries purchasing output from artisanal miners
- Some mining companies procuring smuggled output and mingling with lawful output
- Brokers
- Refining companies located outside Africa (Europe, the Middle East, Asia)

Reducing foreign participation in trans-national crime in Africa?

Policy innovations

1. Laws to integrate response to organised crime, including 'new' kinds of crime, e.g. criminalising racketeering
2. Greater focus on proceeds of crime, and on funding initiatives to combat organised crime
3. Interventions in the markets, such, as:
 - Substitution of drug cultivation with other lucrative agro-based industry
 - Complement information exchange with procedures for trans-national investigation and law enforcement
 - Tracking trends and volumes of illicit trade
1. Combat corporate tax evasion facilitated by trade

Operational measures

- Enhanced training in strategic policing
- Improved documentation of trends of market-driven crime
- Roll-out enhanced crime intelligence sharing mechanisms in Africa



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