



Knowing the Sea

Notes on Maritime Domain Awareness

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Sources

- **2018 Capacity Building best practice toolkit**
 - Organize maritime security governance
 - Lessons from WIO
- **2019 Guidelines for Capacity building in MDA (in progress)**
 - Why MDA?
 - How to do MDA?
- **2019 IFC Anniversary volume (in progress)**
 - How to do regional MDA?
 - What can be improved?

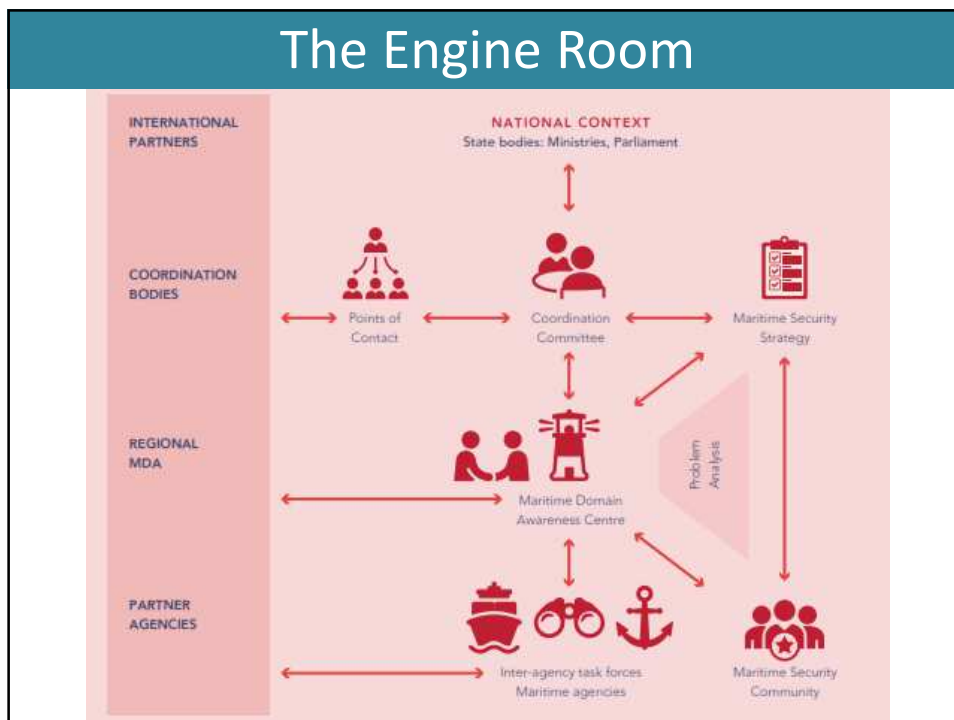




Understandings of MDA

- **Narrow Understanding:**
 - Surveillance of Maritime for law enforcement operations
 - A tool of law enforcement agencies
 - Focus on technology
- **Wide understanding:**
 - Knowledge Production of the Sea
 - Engine Room of maritime (security) governance
 - Tool for society
 - Focus on human-machine relations and politics

The Engine Room



Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)

- **A vital nodal point**
 - Center of governance
 - National and regional
- **Links actors together**
 - Creates trust
 - broader maritime security communities
- **Addresses seablindness**
 - Education programmes
 - Public events
 - Policy makers

DATA FUSION

Sensors
Human resources



Regional MDA



Policymakers

DATA ANALYSIS

Incident response
Trend analysis



MDA CENTRE



Operative
Agencies

AWARENESS

Inter-agency reports
Policy briefings
Public dissemination



Criminal Justice
Sector

ENGAGEMENT

Maritime security
community
Public awareness
campaigns
Education programmes



Public



Maritime Security
Community

Assessments

4 assessments as part of a broader maritime strategy and reviewed frequently.

- **Data:** What data needs do maritime agencies have? Already available? How accessible?
- **Legal:** What laws govern the use of existing data? Implications for sharing and using in prosecution?
- **Technology:** What technologies are used to collect, store and fuse data? Are they frequently maintained and sustainable?
- **Governance:** Which governmental authorities oversee information and need to be part of MDA structure?

Hurdles

- **Unintended use:** Concerns over privacy, confidentiality and institutional exposure that lead to alternative performance evaluations or public scrutiny. Data might be protected under dedicated laws.
- **Data is organisation bound:** Information is influenced by mandates, values and traditions. It is cast within organisation specific categories or bespoke metrics. Risk of misinterpretation or data loss. Classification and high administrative burdens for declassification.

Hurdles II

- **Resources.** Suspicion towards initiatives that drain resources, and have unproven outcomes, especially if no additional external funding.
- **Organisational identity and autonomy.** Information sharing impacts the hierarchy between agencies. It can be seen as threat to autonomy. Internationally concerns over national sovereignty or international status.
- **Career incentives.** Allocation of insufficient skills or motivations to sharing activities.

Coordination Bubbles

- **Situation in the WIO**
 - 8 centers with regional ambitions, 3 main MDA systems, 6 Coordination forums and several regional organisations
- **Situation in Southeast Asia?**
- **Can we reduce complexity and duplication?**
- **How do we learn to live with it and organise it better?**

Solutions

- **Standard operating procedures** which consider the hurdles explicitly
- **Shared terminology and threat assessments** (securitisation)
- **Communities of practices** enabled through training and in-official tools (WhatsApp)

Conclusions

- Recognise the **broader context of MDA**
- More efforts to **convince policy makers and society** of the benefits of MDA
- Address known hurdles and **exchange promising practices**
- Discuss how to **live with duplication of systems and efforts.**

Visit www.safeseas.net

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Further information and reading

1. SafeSeas. Mastering Maritime Security. Reflexive Capacity Building and the Western Indian Ocean Experience. A best practice toolkit, Cardiff: SafeSeas, February 2018, doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1157961.
2. Bueger/Walker. From Djibouti to Jeddah, the Western Indian Ocean needs security and Beyond, ISS Today, 23.05.2018, <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/from-djibouti-to-jeddah-the-western-indian-ocean-needs-security>
3. Bueger/Edmunds. Beyond Seablindness: A New Agenda For Maritime Security Studies, International Affairs, 93(6): 1293–1311, 2017, doi: 10.1093/ia/iix174 [open access]
4. Bueger. Effective Maritime Domain Awareness in the Western Indian Ocean. Policy Brief 104, June 2017, Institute for Security Studies: Pretoria, <https://issafrica.org/research/policy-brief/effective-maritime-domain-awareness-in-the-western-indian-ocean>
5. Bueger. From Dust to Dawn. Maritime Domain Awareness in Southeast Asia, Contemporary Southeast Asia 17(2), 157-182, 2015
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