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MSC.4/Circ.29
27 January 2003

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Fourth quarterly report (October to, and including, December 2002)

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-fifth session in May 1995, instructed the Secretariat to issue, as from 31 July 1995, monthly reports of all incidents of piracy¹ and armed robbery against ships² reported to the Organization and, in addition and on a quarterly basis, composite reports accompanied by an analysis, on a regional basis, of the situation and an indication whether the frequency of incidents was increasing or decreasing and advising on any new feature or pattern of significance.

2 Annexed hereto is a composite report covering all reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships which occurred between 1 October and the end of December 2002, and a regional analysis thereof, including a distinction between acts of piracy, acts of armed robbery against ships and attempted attacks.

3 The areas most affected over the period under review were, once again, South China Sea, South America³, the Indian Ocean, West Africa, the Malacca Strait and East Africa. Most of the attacks were reported in port areas while the ships were at anchor or on berth.

¹ "Piracy" is defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (article 101) as follows:

"Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed:
 - (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;
 - (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;
- (c) any act inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b)."

² "Armed robbery against ships" is defined in the draft Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (MSC/Circ.984) (article 2.2) as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any unlawful act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of "piracy", directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such ship, within a State's jurisdiction over such offences."

³ As from the first quarterly report for 2003, acts allegedly committed in South America will be distinguished between those reported in South America (Pacific) and those reported in South America (Atlantic).

4 During the period under review, two crew members were killed and seven went missing. Eleven crew members were seriously injured and fourteen were thrown overboard. Three ships were hijacked and one ship went missing. In several of the incidents reported, the crew were violently attacked by individuals or groups of two to ten persons carrying guns or knives.

5 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 2,933, out of which 107 occurred during the fourth quarter of 2002. Of these 107 reported acts, 18 constituted allegedly attempted attacks.

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2002**

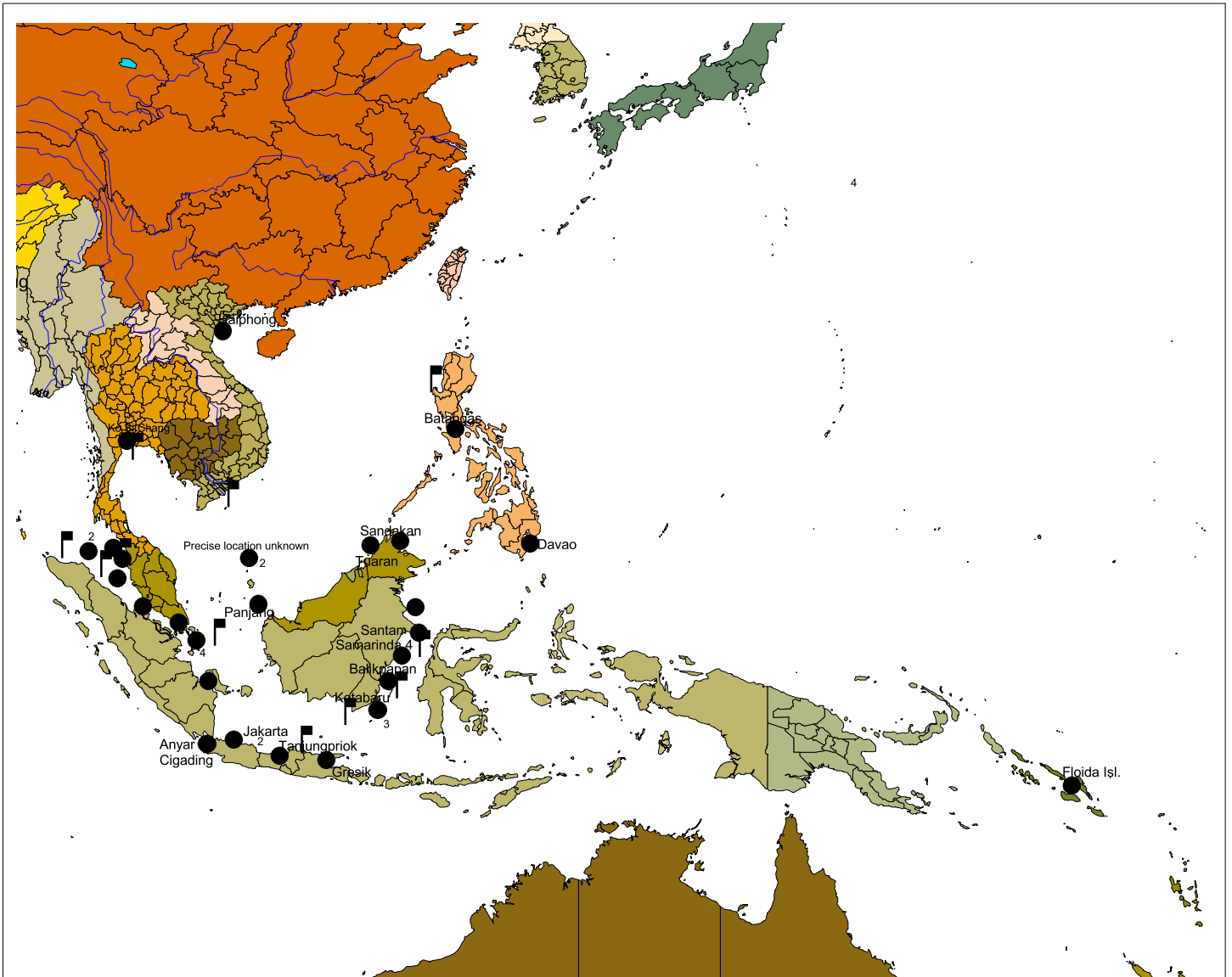
		FAR EAST				AFRICA			
		MALACCA STRAIT	SOUTH CHINA SEA	OTHER FAR EAST	INDIAN OCEAN	EAST AFRICA	WEST AFRICA	SOUTH AMERICA	OTHER
Location of incident									
	In international waters	4	2			1			
	In territorial waters	2	7	1			2	3	
	In port areas	1	28		13		5	17	3
Status of ship when attacked									
	Steaming	5	8	1	1	1	1	3	
	At anchor or on berth	2	28		12		6	17	3
	Not stated		1						
Number of persons involved in the attack									
	1-4 persons	2	19	1	4	1	1	7	1
	5-10 persons	1	11		4		3	5	
	More than 10 persons						2	1	
	Not stated	4	7		5		1	7	2
Consequences to the crew									
	Actual violence used against crew	3	7		1	1	4	4	1
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	1	11	1	7		2	10	
	Ship missing	1							
	Ship hijacked	2	4						
	None/not stated		15		5		1	6	2
Weapons used by attackers									
	Guns	4	5					5	1
	Knives	1	14		7		5	6	
	Other		2		1		1		
	None/Not stated	2	16	1	5	1	1	9	2
Parts of the ship raided									
	Master and crew accommodation	2	3	1	1	1	1	4	3
	Cargo area		12		3		1	1	
	Store rooms	2	13		5		4	15	
	Engine room		1						
	Not stated	3	8		4		1		
Total number of incidents reported per areas		7	37	1	13	1	7	20	3
Total number of incidents reported		89							

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2002**

		FAR EAST		INDIAN OCEAN	AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA
		MALACCA STRAIT	SOUTH CHINA SEA		EAST AFRICA	WEST AFRICA	
Location of incident							
	In international waters	2			2		1
	In territorial waters	1	2				
	In port areas		6	1		1	2
Status of ship when attacked							
	Steaming	3	2		2		1
	At anchor or on berth		6	1		1	2
	Not stated						
Number of persons involved in the attack							
	1-4 persons	1	3				
	5-10 persons	1	1		1	1	2
	More than 10 persons						
	Not stated	1	4	1	1		1
Consequences to the crew							
	Actual violence used against crew	2					
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	1	3			1	1
	Ship missing						
	Ship hijacked						
	None/not stated		5	1	2		2
Weapons used by attackers							
	Guns	3				1	
	Knives		1				1
	Other						
	None/Not stated		7	1	2		2
Parts of the ship raided							
	Not boarded	3	8	1	2	1	3
Total number of incidents reported per areas		3	8	1	2	1	3
Total number of incidents reported		18					

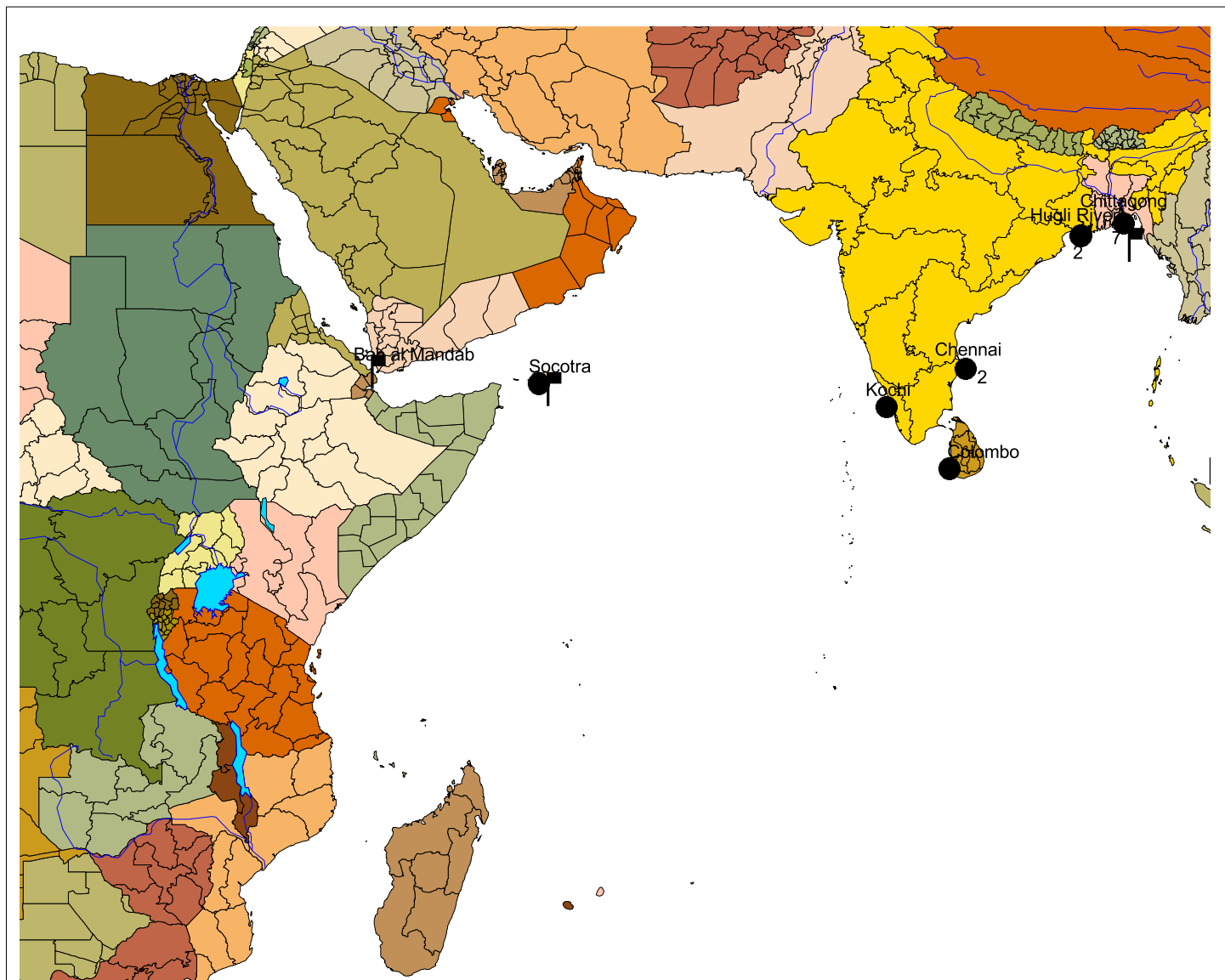
ANNEX 3

FAR EAST, SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



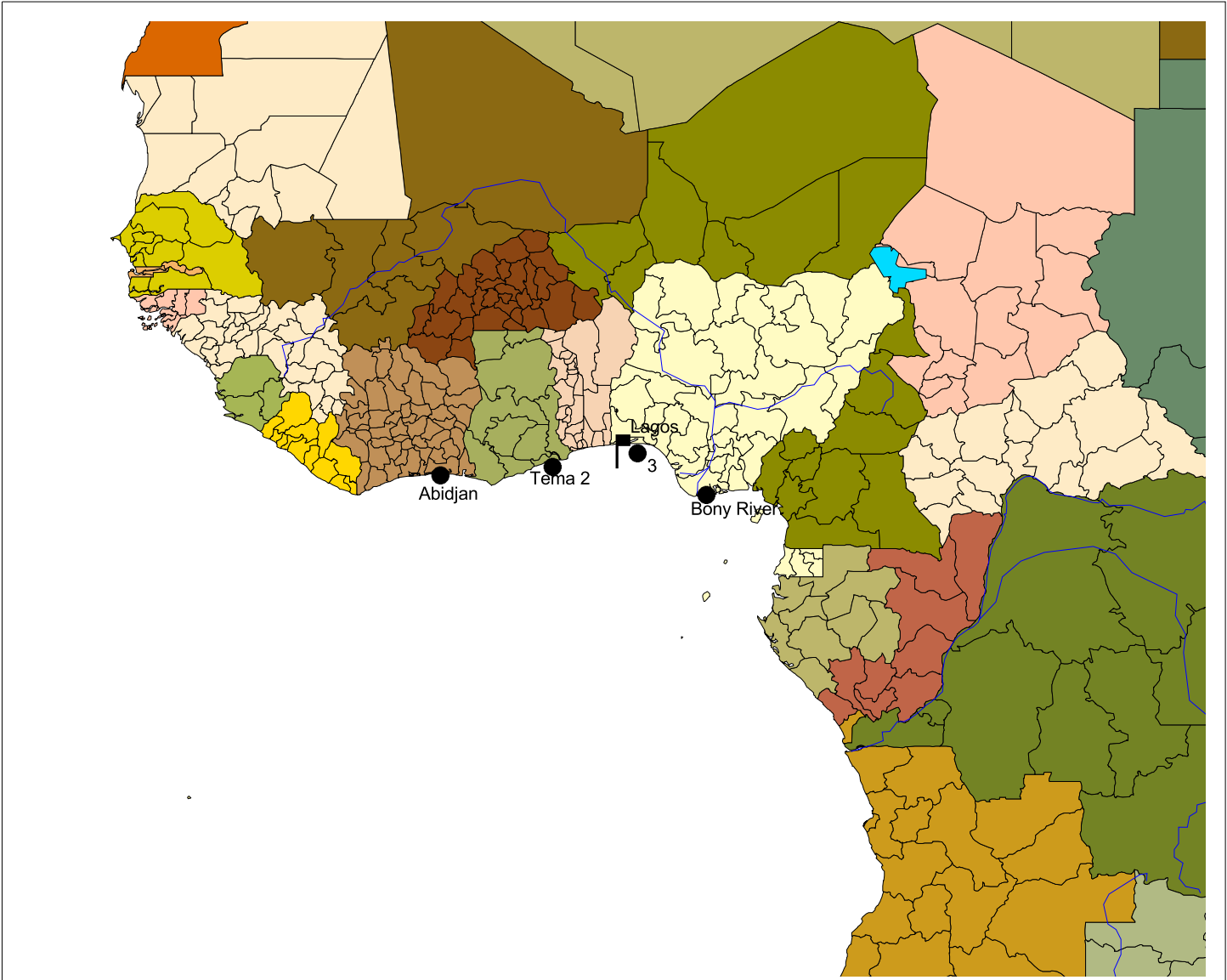
- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- ▮ Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



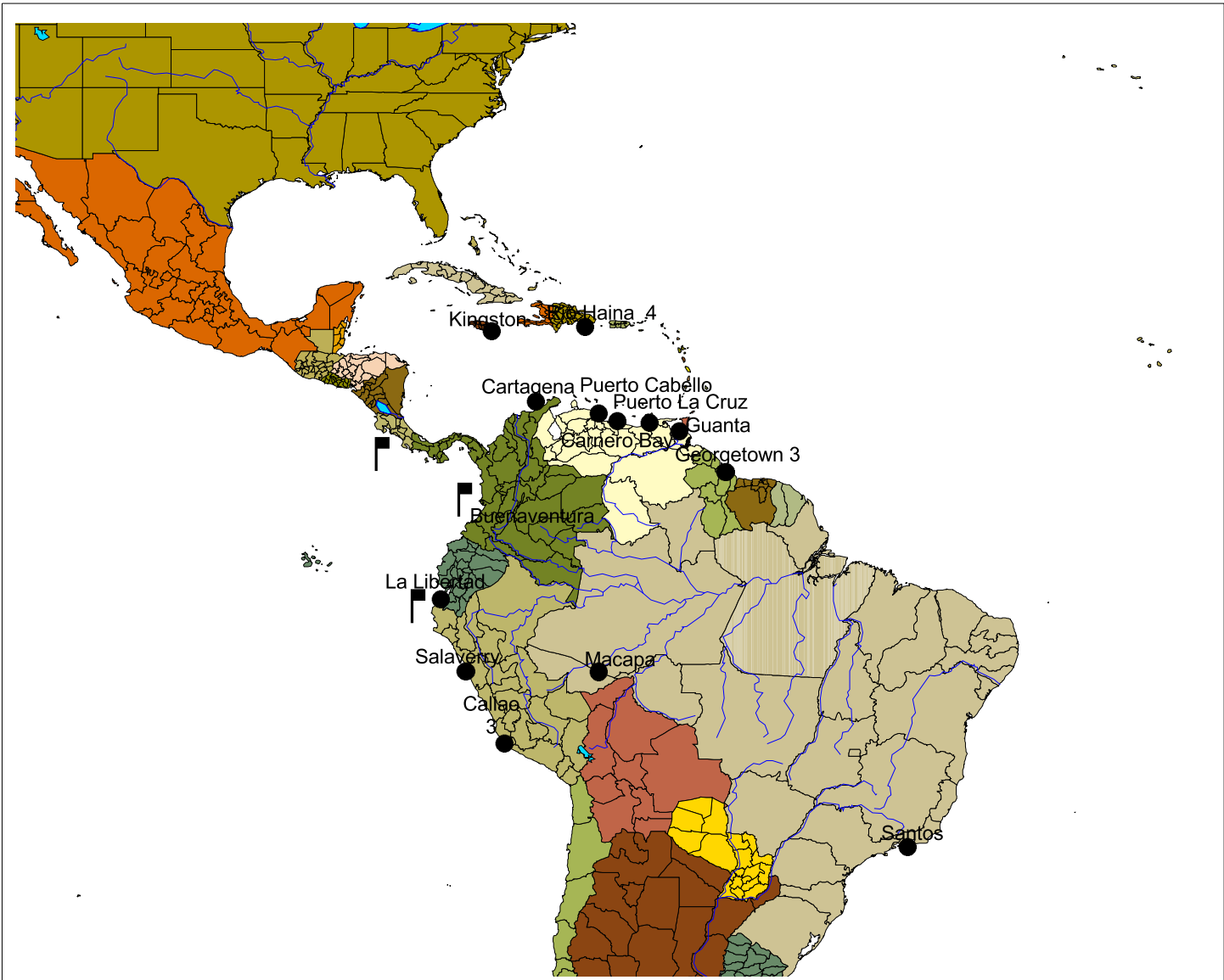
- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- ┐ Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

WEST AFRICA



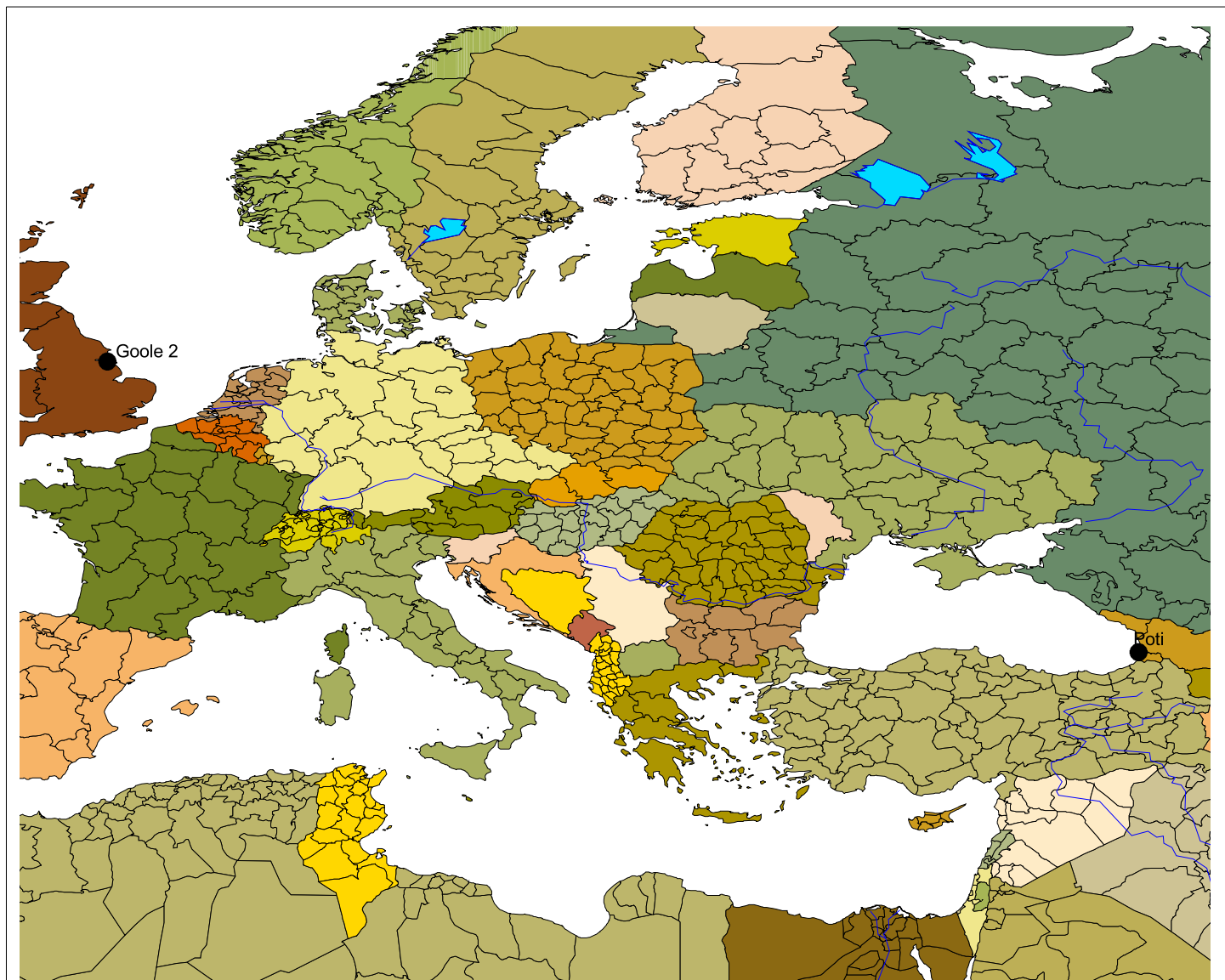
- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

SOUTH AMERICA



- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- ▮ Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

NORTH SEA AND BLACK SEA

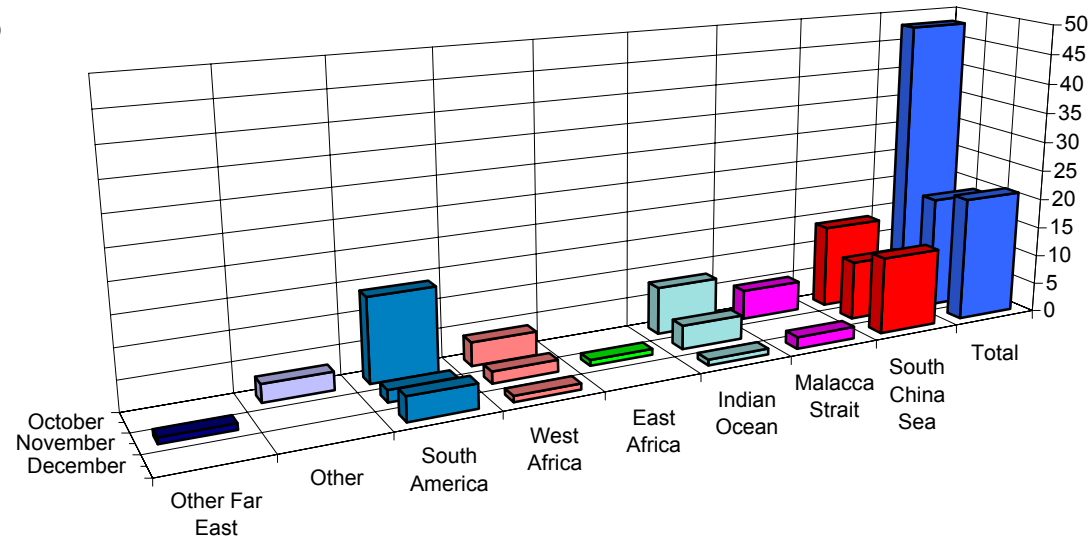


- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- ┐ Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

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ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS WHICH WERE REPORTED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2002

ACTS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED



ACTS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED

