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MSC.4/Circ.52
3 June 2004

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

First quarterly report (January to, and including, March 2004)

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. Further and as instructed by the Committee (MSC 75/24, paragraph 18.41), the Secretariat has, since July 2002, started classifying separately any reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery **at sea** (international or territorial waters) *vis-à-vis* acts of armed robbery allegedly committed **in port areas**, as well as **attempted** acts of armed robbery.

2 Annexed hereto is a composite report covering all reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships which occurred between 31 December 2003 and the end of March 2004, 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 (24 incidents), South America (12 incidents in total, 9 incidents in the Caribbean Sea area, 1 incident in the Pacific Ocean area and 2 incidents in the Atlantic Ocean area), the Indian Ocean (11 incidents), West Africa (20 incidents), the Malacca Strait (17 incidents) and East Africa

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 (resolution A.922(22), Annex, paragraph 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 incidents). Most of the attacks were reported in port areas while the ships were at anchor or on berth.

4 During the period under review, 23 crew members and passengers were killed, 41 crew members were injured, 30 missing, two vessels were sunk and one vessel was set ablaze. In several of the incidents reported, crew were violently assaulted/attacked by individuals or groups of two to ten persons carrying guns or knives. In one incident, all crew members were forced to jump overboard while several of the incidents were kidnap cases for ransom.

5 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 3,521, out of which 87 occurred during the first quarter of 2004. Of these 87 reported acts, 26 constituted alleged 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 FIRST QUARTER OF 2004**

		FAR EAST			AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA			
		Malacca Strait	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	West Africa	East Africa	Atlantic	Caribbean	Pacific	
Location of incident										
	In international waters	6	4	2	6	2		2		
	In territorial waters	1	3	4	4					
	In port areas	2	11	3	2		2	6	1	
Status of ship when attacked										
	Steaming	7	7	6	5	2		2		
	At anchor or on berth	2	11	3	7		2	6	1	
	Not stated									
Number of persons involved in the attack										
	1-4 persons	3	7	1	6		2	3	1	
	5-10 persons	2	6		2	1		2		
	More than 10 persons	1								
	Not stated	3	5	8	4	1		3		
Consequences to the crew										
	Actual violence used against crew	5	7	4	9	1	1	5	1	
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)		4	1	1	1		1		
	Ship missing			1						
	Ship hijacked	1	2	2						
	None/not stated	3	5	1	2		1	2		
Weapons used by attackers										
	Guns	3	6		1	2		4	1	
	Knives	3	7	1	2		1	2		
	Other		1	1	1					
	None/Not stated	3	4	7	8		1	2		
Parts of the ship raided										
	Master and crew accommodation	7	6	2	2	2		1		
	Cargo area	1	8	7	7		1	7	1	
	Store rooms	1	3		3		1			
	Engine room		1							
	Not stated									
Total number of incidents reported per areas		9	18	9	12	2	2	8	1	
Total number of incidents reported		61								

ANNEX 2

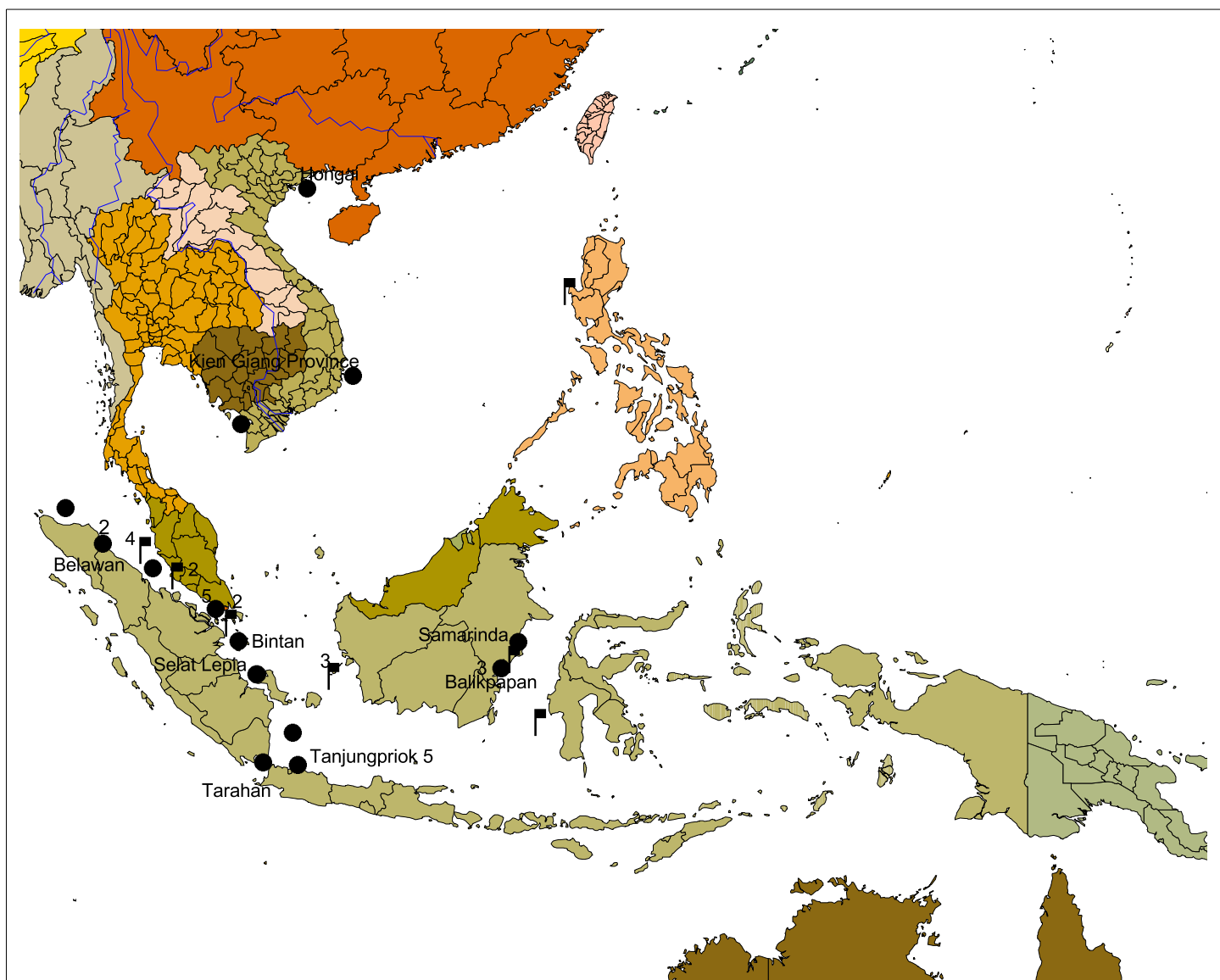
MSC.4/Circ.52

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2004**

		FAR EAST			AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA			
		Malacca Strait	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	West Africa	East Africa	Atlantic	Caribbean	Pacific	
Location of incident										
	In international waters	6	3	2	1	1				
	In territorial waters	1	2							
	In port areas	1	1		7			1		
Status of ship when attacked										
	Steaming	7	5	2	1	1				
	At anchor or on berth	1	1		7			1		
	Not stated									
Number of persons involved in the attack										
	1-4 persons		1	1	2			1		
	5-10 persons	3	4		2					
	More than 10 persons	1			1					
	Not stated	4	1	1	3	1				
Consequences to the crew										
	Actual violence used against crew	4								
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	1	3		1			1		
	Ship missing									
	Ship hijacked									
	None/not stated	3	3	2	7	1				
Weapons used by attackers										
	Guns	5	2		1					
	Knives		1					1		
	Other			1	3					
	None/Not stated	3	3	1	4	1				
Parts of the ship raided										
	Not boarded	8	6	2	8	1		1		
Total number of incidents reported per areas		8	6	2	8	1	0	1	0	
Total number of incidents reported		26								

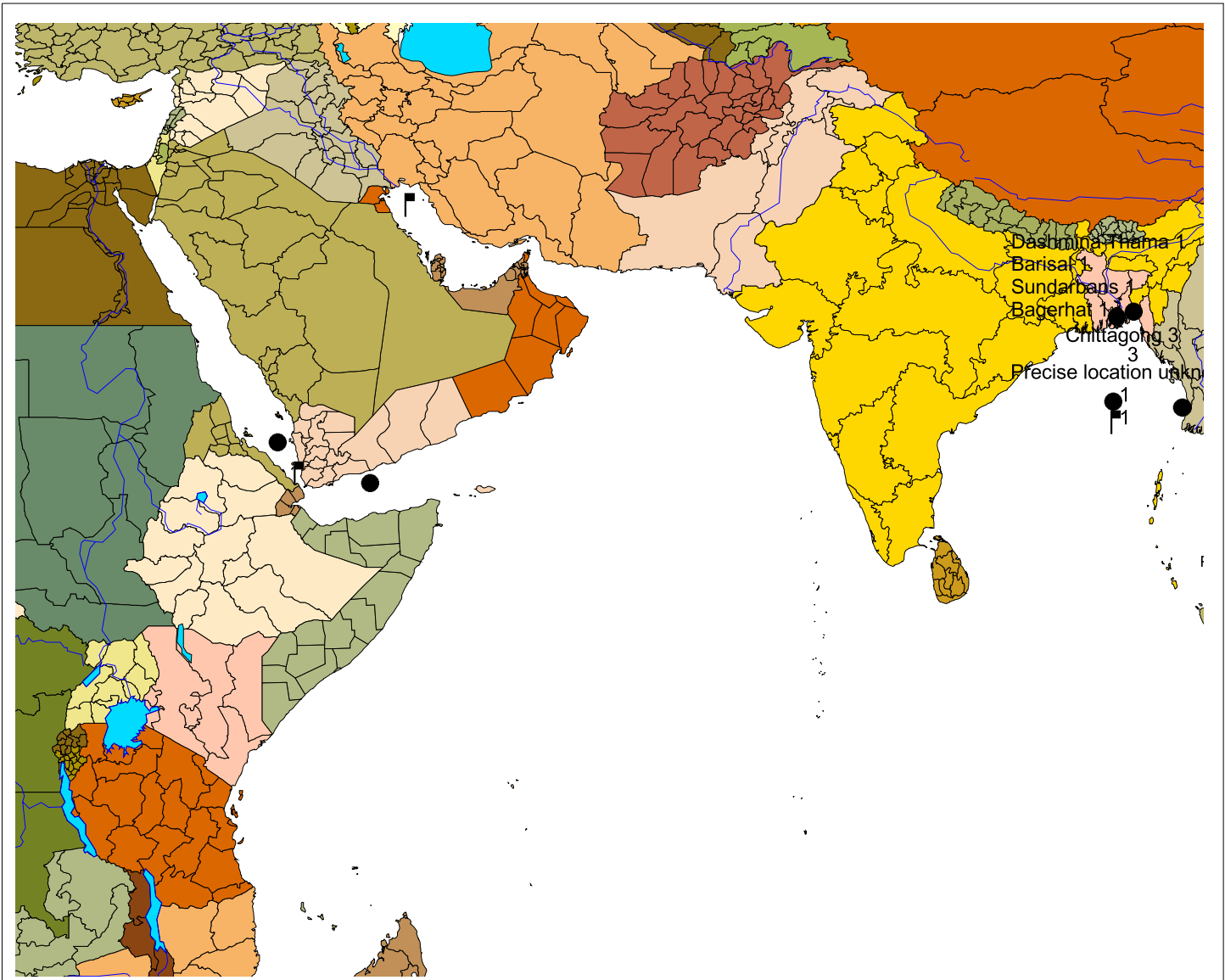
ANNEX 3

SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



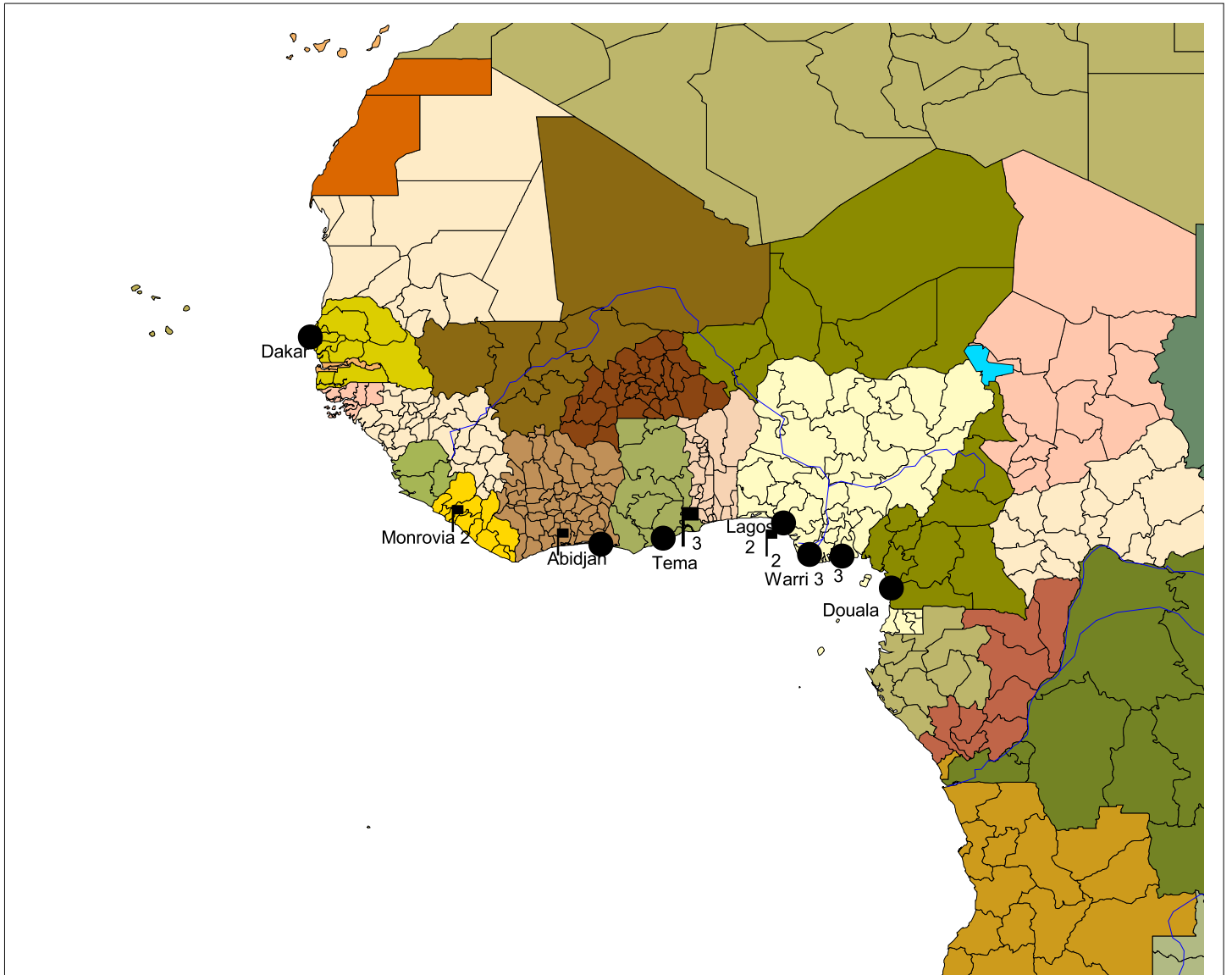
- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- ▧ Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



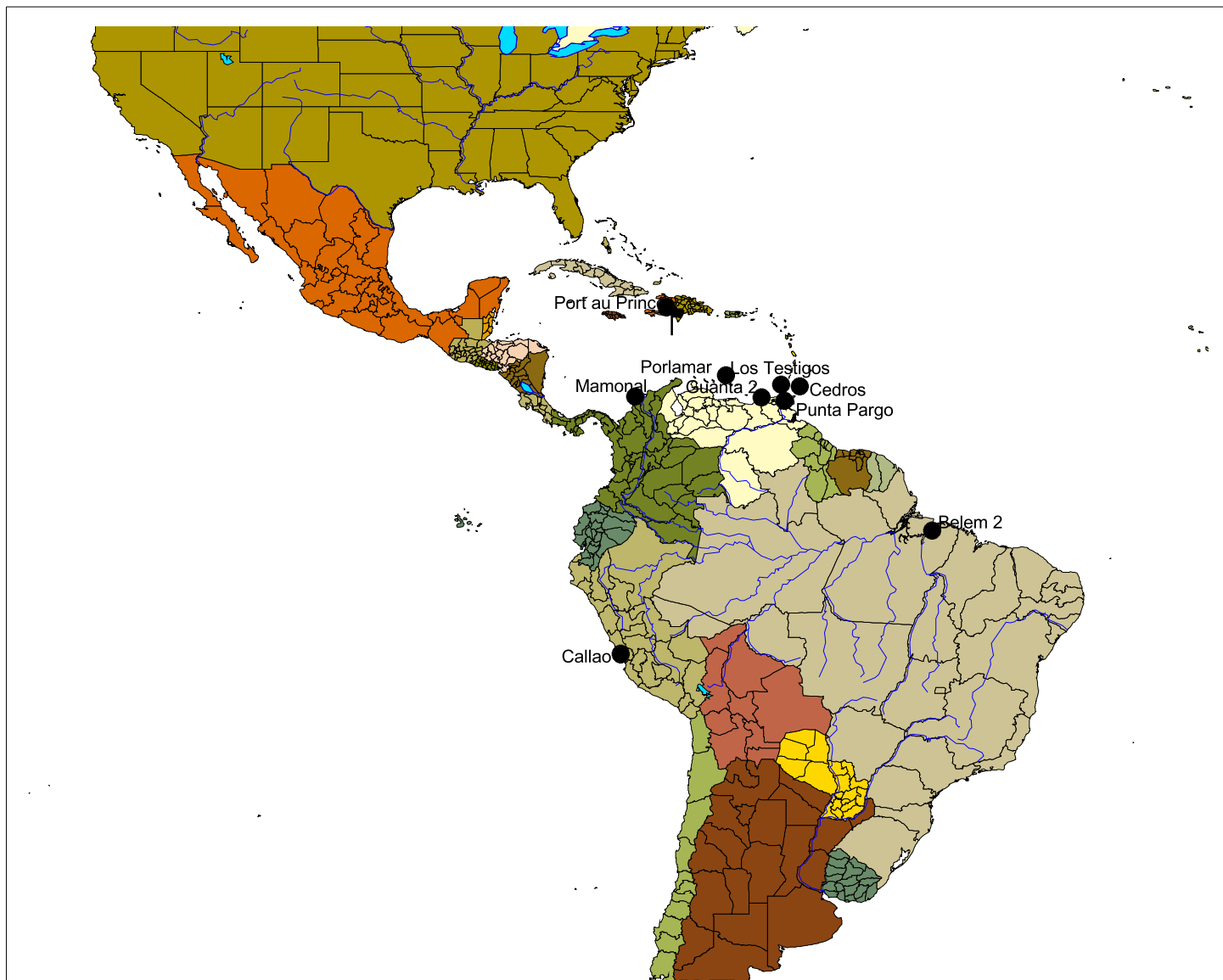
- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- ┐ Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

WEST AFRICA



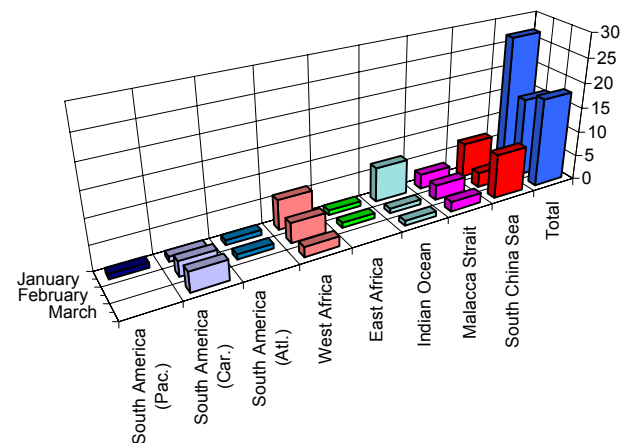
- Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- ▮ Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



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

ACTS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED



A 3D bar chart illustrating the number of ships passing through various maritime regions from January to March. The vertical axis represents the number of ships, ranging from 0 to 35 in increments of 5. The horizontal axis lists the regions: South China Sea, Malacca Strait, Indian Ocean, East Africa, West Africa, South America (Car.), and South America (Pac.). The depth axis represents the months: January, February, and March. The bars are color-coded: blue for South China Sea, red for Malacca Strait, green for Indian Ocean, purple for East Africa, orange for West Africa, light blue for South America (Car.), and dark blue for South America (Pac.). The chart shows a general increase in ship traffic over the three-month period, with the South China Sea and Malacca Strait having the highest counts.

Region	January	February	March
South China Sea	10	15	20
Malacca Strait	15	20	25
Indian Ocean	5	10	15
East Africa	2	5	8
West Africa	1	3	5
South America (Car.)	1	2	3
South America (Pac.)	1	2	3