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MSC.4/Circ.69
27 May 2005

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

First quarterly report (January to, and including, April 2005)

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 1 January and the end of March 2005, and a regional analysis thereof, including a distinction between acts of piracy, acts of armed robbery against ships and attempted attacks.

3 In general terms, there has been a decrease in the number of incidents in comparison with the last quarterly report. The areas most affected over the period under review were, South China Sea (25 incidents, one up from the 24 of the previous quarterly report), the Malacca Strait (5 incidents, a decrease of 11 from the 16 incidents of previous report), West Africa (3 incidents, down 9 in comparison with 12 incidents of the previous quarter), South America (5 incidents in

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."

total, 2 incidents in the Caribbean Sea area, 1 incident in the Atlantic Ocean and 2 incidents in the Pacific Ocean area, 6 down from the total of reported last quarter). In the Indian Ocean there has been an increase in the number of incidents (16, up from 10 incidents of last report) and East Africa (2 incidents, same as last quarter). Most of the attacks were reported in port areas while the ships were at anchor or on berth.

4 During the period under review, more than 20 crew members were kidnapped, eight crewmembers were injured/assaulted and one vessel was hijacked. In several of the incidents reported, the crew were violently assaulted/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 3,787 out of which 56 occurred during the first quarter of 2005. Of these 56 reported acts, 11 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 2005**

		FAR EAST			AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA		
		Malacca Strait	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	West Africa	Atlantic	Caribbean	Pacific
Location of incident									
	In international waters	4	2	1	1				
	In territorial waters		6	2				1	
	In port areas		14	8		2	1	1	2
Status of ship when attacked									
	Steaming	4	9	2	1			1	
	At anchor or on berth		13	9		2	1	1	2
	Not stated								
Number of persons involved in the attack									
	1-4 persons	1	11	2	1	1		2	2
	5-10 persons		5	6					
	More than 10 persons	2		1					
	Not stated	1	6	2		1	1		
Consequences to the crew									
	Actual violence used against crew	3	5	1					
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	1	10	4		1		2	1
	Ship missing								
	Ship hijacked				1				
	None/not stated		7	6		1			1
Weapons used by attackers							1		
	Guns	3	3	1					
	Knives		9	5		2		2	1
	Other		1	1					
	None/Not stated	1	9	4	1		1		1
Parts of the ship raided									
	Master and crew accommodation	3	2		1				
	Cargo area		4	2				1	1
	Store rooms	1	12	8			1	1	1
	Engine room								
	Not stated		4	1	1	2			
Total number of incidents reported per areas		4	22	11	1	2	1	2	2
Total number of incidents reported		45							

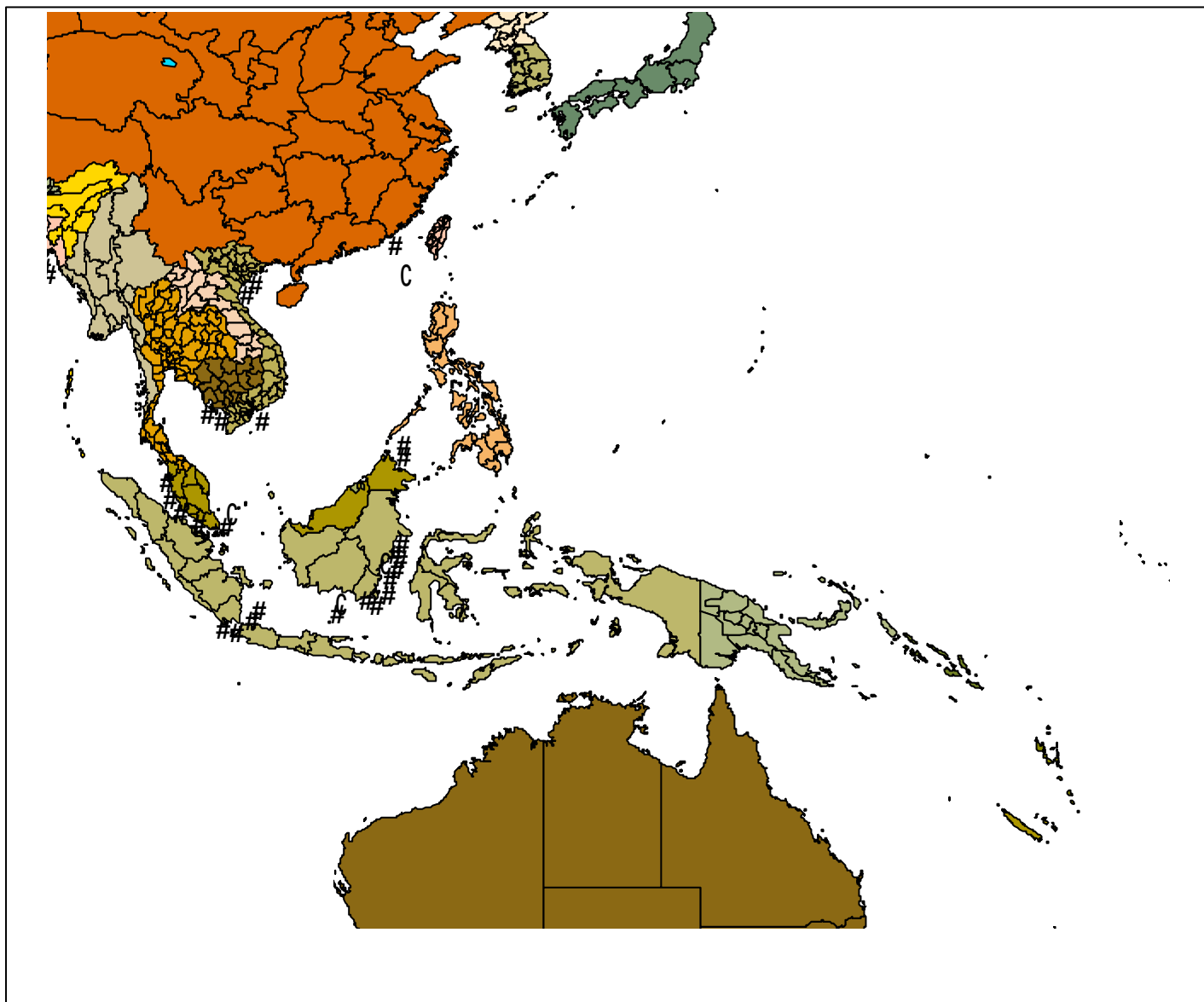
ANNEX 2

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**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 2005**

		FAR EAST			AFRICA	
		Malacca Strait	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	West Africa
Location of incident						
	In international waters	1	2	4		
	In territorial waters		1	1	1	1
	In port areas					
Status of ship when attacked						
	Steaming	1	2	5	1	1
	At anchor or on berth		1			
	Not stated					
Number of persons involved in the attack						
	1-4 persons		1	1	1	
	5-10 persons			2		1
	More than 10 persons		1	1		
	Not stated	1	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	2	1	
	Ship missing					
	Ship hijacked					
	None/not stated	1	2	1		1
Weapons used by attackers						
	Guns			3	1	
	Knives		1			
	Other					
	None/Not stated	1	2	2		1
Parts of the ship raided						
	Not boarded	1	3	5	1	1
Total number of incidents reported per areas		1	3	5	1	1
Total number of incidents reported		11				

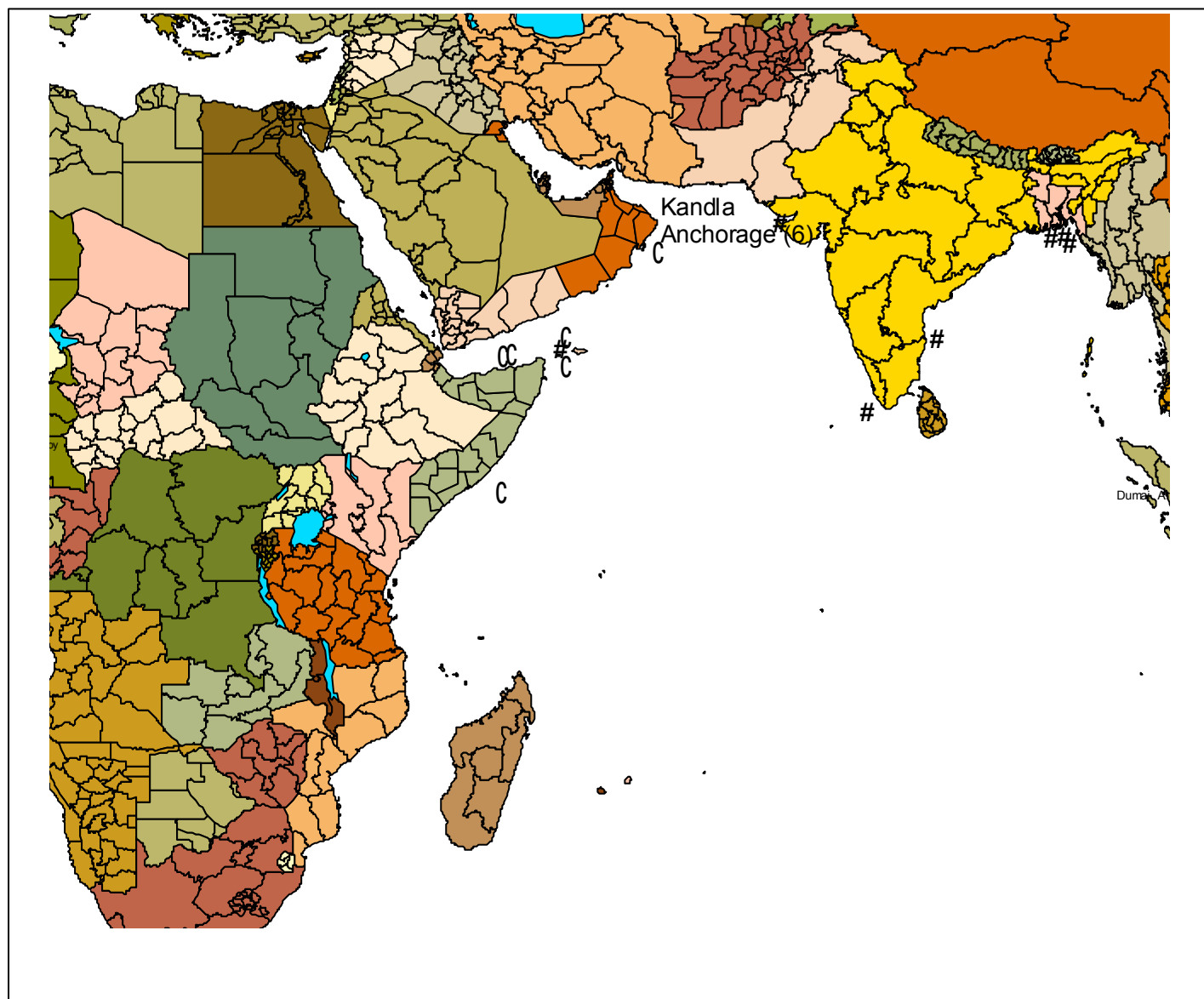
ANNEX 3 SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

c Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

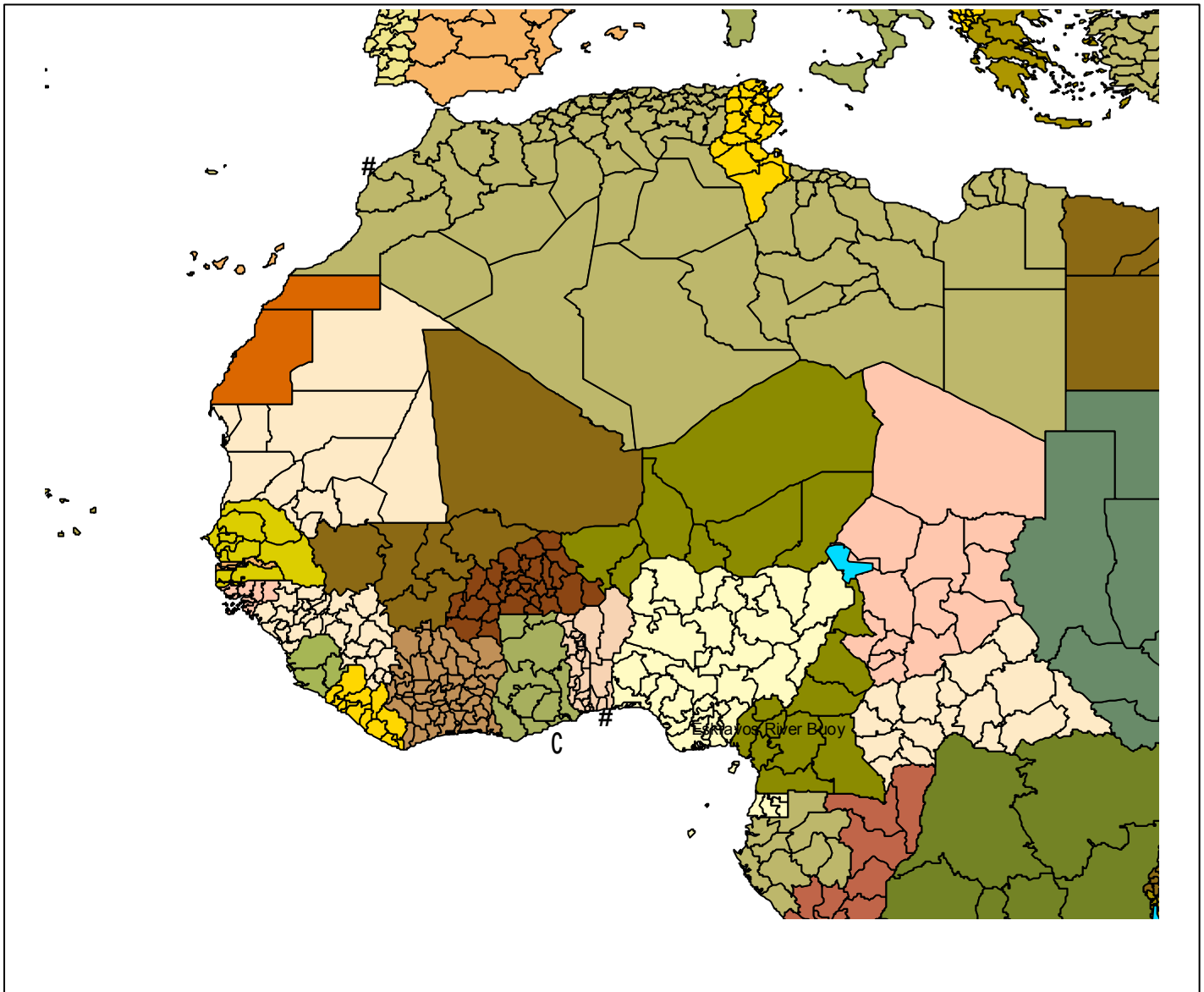
INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

C Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

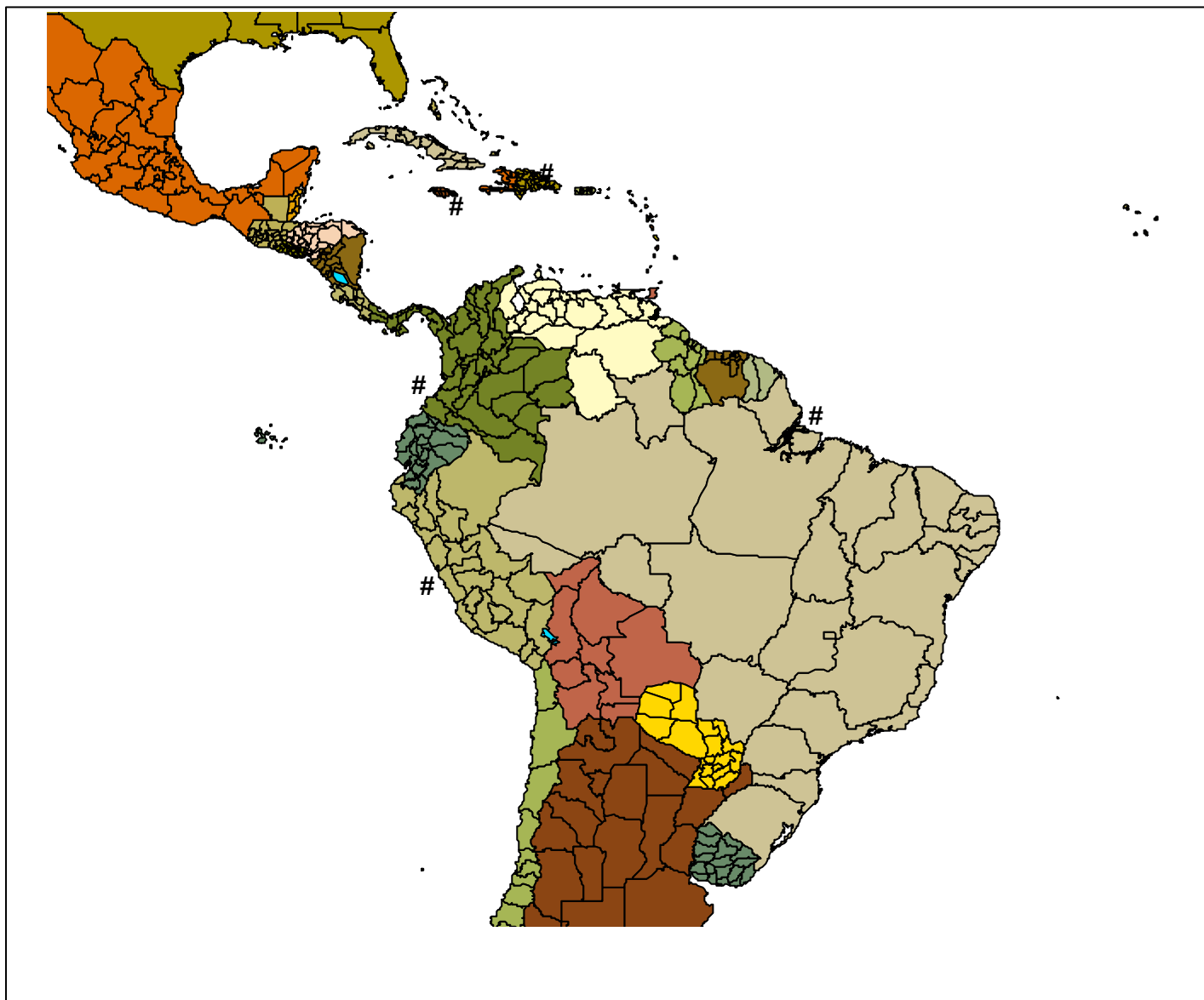
WEST AFRICA



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

C Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



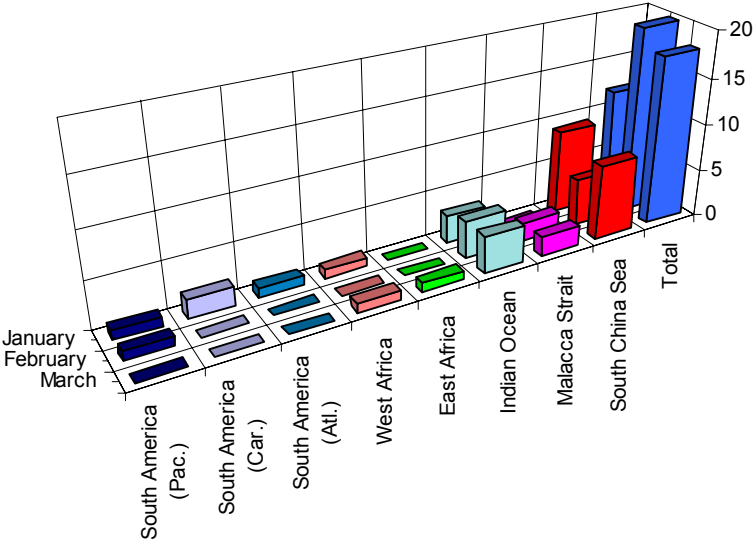
Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

c Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

ANNEX 4

ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED OR ATTEMPTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2005

ACTS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED



ACTS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED

