



Activity brief (December 2014)

UNODC Maritime Crime Program Legal Officer Training Project

1 April 2014 – 30 April 2015

Background: Piracy off the Horn of Africa has become an increasingly serious problem in recent years. The lack of rule of law in Somalia, which has been without an effective central government since 1991, has resulted in significant piracy in the waters in and around the Gulf of Aden.

In 2009, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) established the Maritime Crime Program (MCP), with the objective of providing support to the criminal justice systems of states in the Eastern Africa/Indian Ocean region that have entered into agreements to receive transfers of suspected Somali pirates for prosecution.

Australia has made several financial contributions totaling in excess of AUD 3 million to the MCP. Australia has also supported the MCP through secondments of Australian Federal Police (AFP) Officers, who have worked to build capacity and mentor the police forces of Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania and Mauritius.

Objective: The objective of this activity is to improve the capabilities of the criminal justice systems of Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania and Mauritius, enabling them to conduct fair and efficient trials, and provide humane and secure imprisonment of piracy suspects within a sound rule-of-law framework.

Activity description: A key component of this activity will be training of legal officers (prosecutors, judges and court officials) from the four prosecuting states. The activity will fund 52 students to complete short courses and 12 students to complete Graduate Certificate courses delivered through distance learning.

Sector: Public policy

Participating countries and organisation: Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania and UNODC

Expected outcomes:

The activity will:

- improve sustainability of the Regional Maritime Crime Program, due to enhanced knowledge and qualifications of key national criminal justice professionals; and
- strengthen relationships between key justice institutions in the prosecuting countries and established centres of learning, and improved professional learning networks for justice professionals in the prosecuting countries.

Results to date:

- The University of Wollongong has delivered two legal short courses for 52 students.
- An evaluation and selection of students for extended distance learning courses has been completed.
- Delivery of graduate certificate courses to 12 selected candidates by distance learning – one of two courses has been delivered to date, with the second course on track for delivery in 2015.

Date approved: 02/10/2013

Implementation partners: UNODC and the University of Wollongong

Total cost: AUD 168 000

