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# Indian Ocean Watch

*A Monthly Newsletter on the Indian Ocean Region*



**idsa**

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STUDIES & ANALYSES

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## **Editor**

Ruchita Beri

## **Contributors**

Keerthi Sampath Kumar

Princy Marin George

Saurabh Mishra

### **This Newsletter tracks developments in the following countries of the Indian Ocean region**

Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

### **Disclaimer**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Some interesting developments were witnessed in the Indian Ocean region in the month of March 2013. India is firming up its plans to expand its naval base on its eastern coast, in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, an academic report called India and Australia to lead the formation of a new strategic order in the Indian Ocean region, with China included as an active participant. Separately, Indonesia announced the purchase of more than a dozen Russian-built Sukhoi fighter jets and missile-equipped patrol ships in an effort to modernise its military. In other developments, Sri Lanka and Japan have agreed to strengthen their maritime security alliance.

In the sphere of economic cooperation, India's Tata Group plans to set up new assembly lines for commercial and passenger vehicles in Africa. According to reports, Sri Lanka's navy commander called for expansion of maritime and trade cooperation between Colombo and Tehran. Separately, Tanzania and China have signed 19 agreements including the development of ports at Bagamoyo.

In other developments, Kenya was elected as the co-chair of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Meanwhile, Drydocks World of UAE has announced the launch of a new initiative called the Dubai Maritime Green Initiative for maritime sustainable development.

We look forward to suggestions and comments from our readers.

**Ruchita Beri**

**Editor**

## MARITIME SECURITY

### India firming up plans for a base on its eastern coast

India, on its eastern seaboard is firming up its “expansion plans” for a base located near Rambilli on the Andhra coast, called “Project Varsha”. This strategic base is likely to have underground pens or bunkers to protect nuclear submarines both from spy satellites and enemy air attacks. Some bill the base as an answer to China’s massive underground nuclear submarine base on Yalong in the southernmost tip of Hainan Island. Work on the base is reported to take off in a major way with the construction of tunnels, jetties, depots, workshops and accommodation.<sup>1</sup>

### India and Mauritius to increase security cooperation

India and Mauritius vowed to step up security cooperation including anti-piracy operations and also agreed that the bilateral line of credit must be seen as a vehicle to realise the untapped potential in trade and economic ties. India’s President, Pranab Mukherjee in a meeting with the Mauritian Prime Minister, Navichandra Ramgoolam discussed potential areas for cooperation such as exploration of marine

resources, renewable energy and environment-friendly technologies.<sup>2</sup> President Mukherjee also reiterated India’s support for Mauritius’ efforts to fight Somali pirates.<sup>3</sup>

### Academic report calls for intensification of Australia-India security relationship

In a report recently brought out by the Australia India Institute at Melbourne University titled ‘The Indian Ocean Region: Security, Stability and Sustainability’, a panel of academic and policy experts called Australia and India to lead the formation of a new strategic order in the Indian Ocean. It added that the new security order should include China as a an active participant. It also called for intensification of the Australia-India security relationship and that the two countries could join to lead the development of Indian Ocean regionalism.<sup>4</sup> The two countries were also urged to set up a security regime for the Indian Ocean to deal with threats such as piracy, people trafficking, failed states and rising sea levels.<sup>5</sup>

### Indian Coast Guard ship visits Oman

The Indian Coast Guard ship, *Samudra Prabari* arrived in Oman on March 7 for a four-day

<sup>1</sup> “India readies hi-tech naval base to keep eye on China”, *The Times of India*, March 26, 2013 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-03-26/india/38039841\\_1\\_akula-ii-ins-chakra-underground-nuclear-submarine-base](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-03-26/india/38039841_1_akula-ii-ins-chakra-underground-nuclear-submarine-base)

<sup>2</sup> “India, Mauritius agree to step up security cooperation”, *The Economic Times*, March 12, 2013 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-03-12/news/37651554\\_1\\_india-and-mauritius-mauritius-national-day-port-louis](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-03-12/news/37651554_1_india-and-mauritius-mauritius-national-day-port-louis)

<sup>3</sup> “India’s president praises Mauritius’ fight against pirates”, *Khabar South Asia*, March 14, 2013 at [http://khabarsouthasia.com/en\\_GB/articles/apwi/articles/newsbriefs/2013/03/14/newsbrief-03](http://khabarsouthasia.com/en_GB/articles/apwi/articles/newsbriefs/2013/03/14/newsbrief-03)

<sup>4</sup> “Australia and India ‘could lead region’”, *The Australian*, March 20, 2013 at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/australia-and-india-could-lead-region/story-fn59nm2j-1226601040340>

<sup>5</sup> “Australia, India urged to secure Indian Ocean”, *Radio Australia*, March 21, 2013 at <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2013-03-21/australia-india-urged-to-secure-indian-ocean/1104802>

friendly visit that included exchange visits with the Royal Oman Police Coast Guard and discussions on ways to strengthen mutual cooperation. The ICGS *Samudra Prabari* is the first pollution control vessel of the Indian Coast Guard and in the region. It was built indigenously by ABG shipyard in Surat and commissioned in 2010. The vessel is equipped with state of the art pollution control and response equipment that includes oil recovery operation tanks and barges, which make it capable of unhindered oil recovery operations with storage capability of 502 KL. The ship has so far been involved in four pollution response operations, one fire fighting operation and one SAR operation in Indian waters.<sup>6</sup>

### Indian Navy ship completes 6-month voyage to southeast Asia

The Indian Navy's *INS Sudarshini* returned to India on March 25 after completing a six-month voyage to nine countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). The ship began its journey from Kochi in September last year and made port calls in Bali, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Myanmar. The three-masted sail training ship was flagged in at Kochi by Defence Minister AK Antony and Chief of Southern Naval Command Vice Admiral Satish Soni among others. Antony said that the voyage was an indication of India's commitment to deepen engagement with Asean countries in the areas of trade, culture, and security.<sup>7</sup>

### Indonesia to purchase Russian-made patrol boats and fighter jets to bolster maritime security

Indonesia's defence minister, Purnomo Yusgiantoro, has announced that the country plans to purchase more than a dozen Russian-built Sukhoi fighter jets and missile-equipped patrol ships as part of a US\$15 billion campaign spread over five years that aims to modernise the Indonesian military. Indonesia's defence spending has spiked to US\$7.54 billion in 2012, up by 30 per cent from 2011, as the military bolsters its capacity to protect shipping lanes, ports and maritime boundaries. Yusgiantoro warned delegates at a military conference that increasing defence spending by countries in the region, including China, Singapore, Vietnam, and Thailand, could lead to rising distrust and rivalry among these countries and fuel an arms race.<sup>8</sup>

### Iranian warship intercepted by Australia

In the month of March, it was confirmed that two of Iran's warships had encountered a Royal Australian Air Force reconnaissance aircraft in the Indian Ocean but no confrontation was reported. The Iranian Navy ships were reportedly heading back to Iran and while they were nearing Sri Lanka they were intercepted by the Australia aircraft.<sup>9</sup>

### HMS Kent sails for anti-piracy mission

*HMS Kent*, a Royal Navy frigate, has left from Portsmouth for a six-month anti-piracy mission

<sup>6</sup> "Indian pollution control vessel begins visit", *Oman Observer*, March 7, 2013 at <http://main.omanobserver.om/node/155861>; Also see "Oman-India co-operation in tackling oil spillage crucial", *Oman Observer*, March 10, 2013 at <http://main.omanobserver.om/node/156246>

<sup>7</sup> "Indian Navy Ship Returns After 6-Month Voyage To South East Asia", *National News Agency of Malaysia (BERNAMA)*, March 26, 2013 at <http://maritime.bernama.com/news.php?id=937351&lang=en>

<sup>8</sup> "Indonesia To Buy More Russian Jet Fighters, Patrol Ships", *The Maritime Executive*, March 20, 2013 at <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/Indonesia-To-Buy-More-Russian-Jet-Fighters-Patrol-Ships-2013-03-20/>

<sup>9</sup> "Australia confirms Iranian warship interception", *DefenseNews*, March 22, 2013 at <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130322/DEFREG03/303220020/Australia-Confirms-Iranian-Warship-Interception?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

in the Indian Ocean. It will visit India and the Seychelles to maintain UK Navy's presence along the shipping routes passing through the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. Mr. Ben Ripley, commander of the frigate, said his crew was "looking forward to the challenges of counter-piracy operations". It is *Kent's* first venture since it has got a new sonar and medium-range gun.<sup>10</sup>

### **Sri Lanka and Japan strengthen maritime security alliance**

Sri Lanka and Japan have agreed to strengthen their maritime security alliance by upgrading and enhancing their bilateral cooperation. The two countries also agreed to share responsibility in ensuring stability in the Indian Ocean region and seek to enhance cooperation between Sri Lanka's maritime security and the Japan Coast Guard and between the Sri Lankan Navy and Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force.<sup>11</sup> The government of Japan has agreed to provide Sri Lanka US\$ 426.2 million in loans and US\$ 28 million in grants for the island's infrastructure development and disaster prevention.<sup>12</sup>

### **Italian Navy ship in Dar es Salaam for anti-piracy training**

*ITS San Marco*, NATO's Italian counter-piracy flagship, visited Dar es Salaam to help develop capacity of countries in the region to counter sea piracy as part of Operation Ocean Shield. It had a joint counter-piracy training operation with the

Tanzanian Navy. The frigate had plans to conduct a series of exercises with the Tanzanian Navy. NATO is involved in the international anti-piracy effort off the Horn of Africa since 2008. The mission has expanded beyond Operation Allied Provider and Operation Allied Protector which escort UN and World Food Programme ships and protect merchant traffic in the Gulf of Aden respectively. The NATO has agreed to extend Operation Ocean Shield for two more years i.e. till the end of 2014.<sup>13</sup>

### **Political stability in Tanzania makes Dar es Salaam port safe for transport**

Due to the prevailing political stability in Tanzania, the Dar es Salaam port has earned the reputation of being the most conducive harbor for food transport for aid and relief, especially for South Sudan and Uganda. This was proclaimed during the meeting of the Tanzanian Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda in separate sessions with the heads of the World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).<sup>14</sup>

### **Yemen claims "inhumane" treatment of captured fishermen and boats by Eritrea**

Yemeni authorities have claimed that Eritrean forces have detained more than 200 Yemeni fishermen and confiscated over 850 vessels since 2006. The Fishery Cooperative Union, a non-

<sup>10</sup> "HMS Kent leaves Portsmouth on anti-piracy mission", *BBC News*, March 25, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-21924647>

<sup>11</sup> "Japan, Sri Lanka to beef up maritime security alliance with eye on China", *The Asahi Shimbun*, March 13, 2013 at [http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/south\\_east\\_asia/AJ201303130056](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/south_east_asia/AJ201303130056)

<sup>12</sup> "Sri Lankan President and Japanese PM discuss enhancing security in Indian Ocean", *Colombo Page*, March 14, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/Mar14\\_1363284760CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Mar14_1363284760CH.php)

<sup>13</sup> "Italian Navy for counter-piracy training in Dar es Salaam", *Daily News Online*, March 12, 2013 at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/15409-italian-navy-for-counter-piracy-training-in-dar-es-salaam>

<sup>14</sup> "Dar es Salaam Port considered safe and secure", *Daily News Online*, March 24, 2013 at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/15794-dar-es-salaam-port-considered-safe-and-secure>

governmental syndicate comprising Yemeni fishermen, along with another fisheries organisation, have also claimed that detained fishermen experience inhumane treatment, with inadequate provision of food, water, medicine, and sleep. The Yemeni Parliament has tasked the head of parliament to resolve the issue with President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi while Yemen's Fishery Wealth Ministry has requested the Eritrean government to investigate the incidents. Yemen has a 2,500 kilometer shoreline and the fishing industry is a source of income to more than 400,000 Yemenis and their families.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> "Hundreds Of Yemeni Boats And Fishermen In Custody Of Eritrean Marine Forces, Claims Of Inhumane Treatment", *Yemen Times*, April 1, 2013 at <http://www.yementimes.com/en/1664/news/2177/Hundreds-of-Yemeni-boats-and-fishermen-in-custody-of-Eritrean-marine-forces-claims-of-inhumane-treatment.htm>

## ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### **New cargo transit corridor to pass through Iran**

The Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmedinejad has pointed to a new transit corridor that is being constructed between Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Russia to European countries. The Iranian portion of this rail corridor was expected to be completed by the end of March. The corridor will be connected to Iran's internal rail network, thus allowing transit of cargo to the country's southern ports, and then to the Persian Gulf and beyond. Iran hopes to use the corridor and its rail and road network to transport as much as 50 million tons of cargo.<sup>16</sup>

### **US expands sanctions on Iranian insurance services**

The United States has expanded sanctions on Iranian insurance companies in a latest effort to restrict Iran's nuclear program. The US State Department announced in the third week of March that it had imposed sanctions on two companies that provide insurance to oil shippers, and a visa ban on several corporate officers working with the companies. The US treasury and state departments had earlier slapped sanctions on a Greek shipping tycoon who is suspected of secretly operating a shipping network avoiding sanctions, on behalf of the Iranian government. The sanctions have so far halved Iran's daily oil exports, and led to soaring inflation. Proponents of the sanctions hope that leading

buyers of Iranian oil, such as India, will decrease purchase as a result. Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd, India's biggest purchaser of Iranian crude oil, announced in mid-March that it has decided to stop further purchases.<sup>17</sup>

### **Kenyan President-elect would not privatise Mombasa Port**

Kenya's President-elect, Uhuru Kenyatta affirmed that Mombasa Port's effectiveness and efficiency would be improved to make it a world class facility. He also assured that he would not privatise the Mombasa Port. He asked the Kenyans to maintain peace to sustain the development momentum. He asserted that only an improved economy would guarantee efficient delivery of services and create jobs for the youth.<sup>18</sup>

### **Tata Group plans for setting up assembly lines in Kenya**

Tata Group from India is in talks with companies in Africa to set up new assembly lines for commercial and passenger vehicles. R.T. Wasan, head of international business, Tata Motors stated that his company would join others to sell commercial vehicles in Africa. It has identified partners in Kenya as well as Tunisia who would be assembling its small, light and medium commercial vehicles. The company is also evaluating available options for its brand Nano, the smallest car from the company. Raman

<sup>16</sup> "New transit corridor to be formed through Iran", (*Iran*) *Ports and Maritime Organization*, March 2, 2013 at <http://www.pmo.ir/en/news/18218>

<sup>17</sup> "U.S. Places Sanctions On Iranian Firms That Insure Oil Shipments", *The Maritime Executive*, March 18, 2013 at <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/US-Places-Sanctions-On-Iranian-Firms-That-Insure-Oil-Shipments-2013-03-18/>

<sup>18</sup> "Mombasa Port won't be privatised – Uhuru", *Capital FM*, March 19, 2013 at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/2013/03/mombasa-port-wont-be-privatised-uhuru/>

Dhawan, Managing Director, Tata Africa Holdings, told that new investments of around \$1.7 billion had been planned for various projects by the group in Africa. It is to be noted that global brands are entering into the African market using Kenya as their base.<sup>19</sup>

### Kenya is safe for tourism

Anthony Njaramba, member, Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers Executive Committee said that they are sure of receiving many guests this season and the tourism plays in the country are optimistic. The peaceful completion of the presidential elections is the main reason for this optimism. The Mombasa Cultural and Tourism Association executive officer, Millicent Odhiambo reflected the same view. He said that the peaceful polls brought back confidence to the locals and foreign tourists. Earlier, the industry feared a small number of visitors this year as violence was expected during or after the Kenyan presidential elections.<sup>20</sup>

### South African food service group plans to step into India

Famous Brands, a South African food service group, plans to expand into India in July 2013. It would first launch five pilot Debonairs restaurants in Mumbai with Diwa Hospitality as its licenced partner for management and business growth. The Debonairs has been re-engineered according to the Indian market. The South African company received investment enquiries from several emerging markets but selected India to expand

into for a number of reasons like increase in disposable income, intensified urbanisation and the exponential growth in the population segment most likely to consume processed food.<sup>21</sup>

### Sri Lankan navy commander calls for stronger maritime cooperation with Iran

Sri Lanka's navy commander has called for expansion of maritime and trade cooperation between Colombo and Tehran. Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage was visiting the 24<sup>th</sup> fleet of the Iranian navy which was docked in Colombo. The *Sabalan* destroyer and *Kbarg* helicopter carrier had successfully completed missions in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The Iran Navy has in recent years expanded its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for Iranian tankers and other vessels. It has also conducted joint anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden to safeguard vessels involved in maritime trade.<sup>22</sup>

### Sri Lanka and Seychelles discuss expansion of bilateral relations

Sri Lanka and Seychelles discussed the expansion of bilateral relations, especially on Indian Ocean cooperation and in promoting tourism and trade. In a meeting between the Seychelles President James Alix Michel and Sri Lanka's External Affairs Minister Prof. G L Peiris, the immense scope for collaboration was noted and the two countries expressed satisfaction with the accomplishments made in the last few months. Seychelles also welcomed Sri Lanka's plans to join the Indian

<sup>19</sup> "Tata draws up plans for Kenyan vehicle market", *The Star*, March 20, 2013 at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-113038/tata-draws-plans-kenyan-vehicle-market>

<sup>20</sup> "Kenya is safe, tourists told", *The Star*, March 14, 2013 at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-111986/kenya-safe-tourists-told>

<sup>21</sup> "SA's Famous Brands moves into India", *SouthAfrica.info*, March 18, 2013 at <http://www.southafrica.info/business/trends/global/debonairs-india-180313.htm#.UW5pGErLvAU>

<sup>22</sup> "Sri Lanka Navy commander visits Iran 24th fleet", *Press TV*, March 22, 2013 at <http://www.presstv.com/detail/2013/03/22/294800/sri-lanka-navy-cmdr-visits-iran-fleet/>

Ocean Commission. Health tourism and eco-tourism were identified as priority areas for cooperation. Seychelles also welcomed inputs from Sri Lanka into its Marine Training Institute.<sup>23</sup>

### **Tanzania and China sign 19 agreements including port development**

A US\$ 800 million bilateral deal on infrastructure package has been signed between Dar es Salaam and Beijing which is expected to give a spurt to Tanzania's economy. The Chinese President visited Tanzania from March 24-25, 2013, and signed 16 agreements with Jakaya Kikwete, the Tanzanian President for development projects on mainland Tanzania. He also signed three different agreements for Zanzibar during his visit. The agreements clear the way for China to build a US\$10 billion port at Bagamoyo and several other infrastructure projects. Tanzania expects that the building of this port would enable it to handle twenty times more cargo than the port in Dar es Salaam, currently the largest in the country. China commits US\$ 500 million as the amount for starting the construction in 2013 while the rest of the package would follow in 2014 and 2015. The agreements include the creation of a modern agricultural and industrialisation zone, interest-free loans and loan agreements between the Export-Import Bank of China and the Bank of Tanzania and the establishment of a Chinese cultural centre in Tanzania.<sup>24</sup>

### **Third World Ports and Trade Summit held in Abu Dhabi**

The third annual edition of the World Ports and Trade Summit took place in Abu Dhabi between March 19 and 20. The summit brings together global ports, key industry players, and members of the International Association of Ports and Harbours. This edition of the summit took place in the background of increasing foreign non-oil trade volumes and expanding port infrastructure and capacity development in the Gulf region, playing a crucial role in long term economic prospects for the region. More than US\$36 billion has been invested into port transformation in the region's maritime hubs. The summit highlighted the increasing importance of the region as an anchor in sea and airborne trade, and as a vital link in the economic chain between the East and West.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>23</sup> "Sri Lanka, Seychelles discuss expanding Indian Ocean cooperation", *Colombo Page*, March 28, 2013 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/Mar28\\_1364414616CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Mar28_1364414616CH.php)

<sup>24</sup> "Tanzania and China sign port development package", *Sabahi*, March 27, 2013 at [http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/03/27/feature-01](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/03/27/feature-01)

<sup>25</sup> "UAE: World Ports & Trade Summit Kicks Off Today", *World Maritime News*, March 18, 2013 at <http://worldmaritimeneeds.com/archives/79218/uae-world-ports-trade-summit-kicks-off-today/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS/ DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

### Kenya elected as the co-chair in Open Working Group on SDG

Kenya has been elected for co-chairing the United Nations General Assembly's intergovernmental Open Working Group which would formulate global sustainable development goals. The UN has also changed the name of the Governing Council of United Nations Environmental Programme as the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP. Kenya which was elected along with 30 other member states on March 14 will take the lead in developing a report on sustainable development goals [SDG]. The Kenya Mission to the UN in New York said that it would strengthen the UNEP by giving it a political voice and making it the lead authority in setting the global environmental agenda.<sup>26</sup>

### Port Louis flooded by sudden deadly rains

Sudden and heavy rains flooding in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, killed at least 11 people on March 30, 2013. According to the meteorologists, 152mm of rain fell in less than an hour, 70mm less than the average of a normal month of March. Prime Minister Navin Rangoolam related the havoc with the effects of climate change.<sup>27</sup>

### Mozambique lowers the flood alert level from red to orange

The red alert activated in January due to the floods

crisis in central and southern Mozambique has been removed. But the government maintained an orange alert, a lower level. The orange alert remained in March as the situation needed to be monitored. According to Mozambique's National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) 117 people have died and around 246,966 people were affected by the torrential rains and flooding.<sup>28</sup>

### Changes along the beaches of Lake Tanganyika

Beaches of Lake Tanganyika remain unattended and undiscovered which could benefit local people living in this potentially rich area in tourism if well developed. Attention and care of the lake's shore could turn the area into a source of income for the locals who are suffering utter poverty due to poor rainfall following the adverse global environmental effects. Artisan farming and fishing in Isengule, Ikola, Karema in Mpanda Districts of West Tanzania has been adversely affected by climate change. Experts claim that the fish yield in the once productive lake has reduced due to the effects of global warming. The locals have been advised to shift from fishing or farming to tourism industry along the beaches. Activities like charcoal burning, overgrazing, deforestation and lumbering are the main causes of the environmental change in the region. The water level in the lake has significantly decreased and the shoreline has receded. Now, cultural tourism seems to be the only option for the people of this area for which the attractive beaches of Isengule

<sup>26</sup> "Kenya to co-chair UN group on sustainable development", *The Star*, March 20, 2013 at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-112940/kenya-co-chair-un-group-sustainable-development>

<sup>27</sup> "Deadly floods hit Mauritius capital Port Louis", *BBC News*, March 31, 2013 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-21989070>

<sup>28</sup> "Government lifts red alert", *All Africa*, March 13, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201303131384.html>

and Shukula need to be developed.<sup>29</sup>

### Devastation on Serengeti wildlife

Poaching has devastatingly affected the wildlife population in the Serengeti National Park of Tanzania. The population has drastically dropped in the Mara region. The official from Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) has informed that buffalo population has decreased from 70,000 to 40,000, elephants from 2,500 to 500 and rhinos from 1,000 to less than 20. The decrease, as per TANAPA analysis, is due to an intensive poaching perpetrated by local communities for subsistence and commercial purposes. The enforcement of law alone cannot tackle the poaching crisis. Therefore, the communities nearby the parks should be included in the efforts to curb poaching.<sup>30</sup>

### Drydocks World launches environmental excellence initiative for maritime and allied sectors

Drydocks World has announced the launch of a new initiative for environment management for

maritime sustainable development. Drydocks World and Maritime World is a leader in providing services to the maritime, oil, and gas industries. The initiative, called the Dubai Maritime Green Initiative, is a strategic movement aimed at encouraging all-round environmental excellence in the maritime and allied sectors, particularly in government departments, so as to arrive at environment-friendly policies. The initiative will also encourage companies engaged in research and development on green designs to disseminate green solutions for efficiency improvement in the maritime industry. The movement's immediate sphere of impact is projected to be in the MENA region, Indian subcontinent and Eastern Africa, with the secondary Sphere being Europe, South East Asia, Australia and Western Africa. The initiative is also expected to position the UAE as a leading maritime nation in future green shipping.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> "Lake Tanganyika beaches, paradise lost", *Daily News Online*, March 18, 2013 at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/features/popular-features/15584-lake-tanganyika-beaches-paradise-lost>

<sup>30</sup> "Serengeti wildlife devastated by poaching", *Sabahi*, March 26, 2013 at [http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/03/26/newsbrief-09](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/03/26/newsbrief-09)

<sup>31</sup> "UAE: Drydocks World Announces Launch of Dubai Maritime Green Initiative", *World Maritime News*, March 27, 2013 at <http://worldmaritimeneeds.com/archives/80171/uae-drydocks-world-announces-launch-of-dubai-maritime-green-initiative/>

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This newsletter, compiled by the IDSA covers the recent developments in the fields of maritime security, economic cooperation and environmental concerns/ disaster risk management in the various countries of the Indian Ocean region.



No.1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg,  
Delhi Cantt., New Delhi - 110 010  
Tel. (91-11) 2671-7983 Fax.(91-11) 2615 4191  
E-mail: [contactus@idsa.in](mailto:contactus@idsa.in) Website: <http://www.idsa.in>