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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Maritime Drug Trafficking & Irregular Human Migration

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Overview

- Push and Pull Factors
- Vulnerable Maritime Routes
- Maritime Drug Trafficking
- Irregular Human Migration
- Enforcement Challenges
- The Golden Key: Information Sharing



Push and Pull Factors

PUSH	PULL
Domestic Instability / Disparity / Inequality	Vast and complex maritime zones - exploitation of coastal features
Requirement for Survival / Livelihood	Appeal of rising demand: pursuit of better life / affordable drug prices
Increasing interconnectivity between perpetrator and 'consumer'	COVID-19 Pandemic
Established trafficking / movement networks	Low enforcement and monitoring levels

Vulnerable Maritime Routes

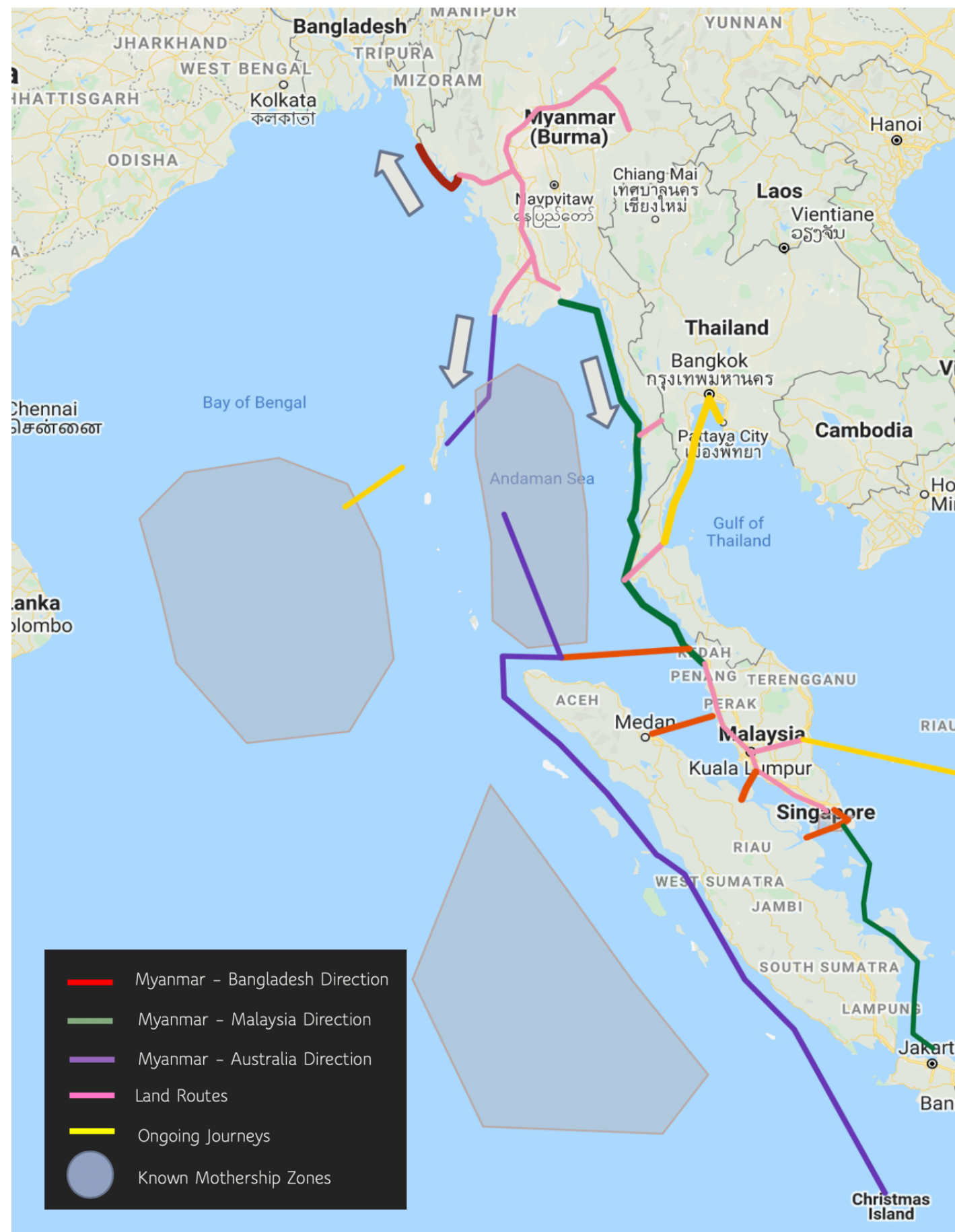
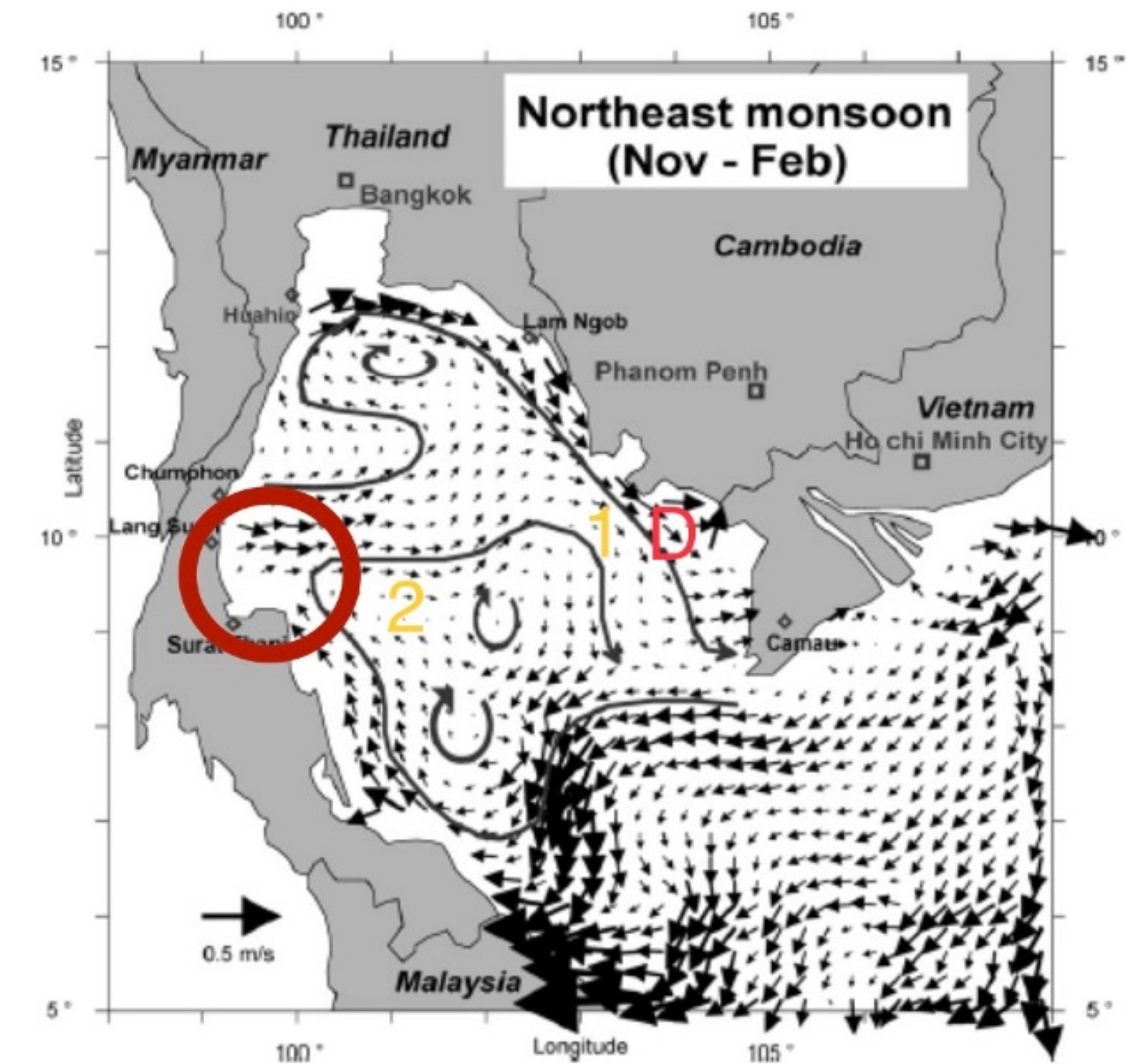
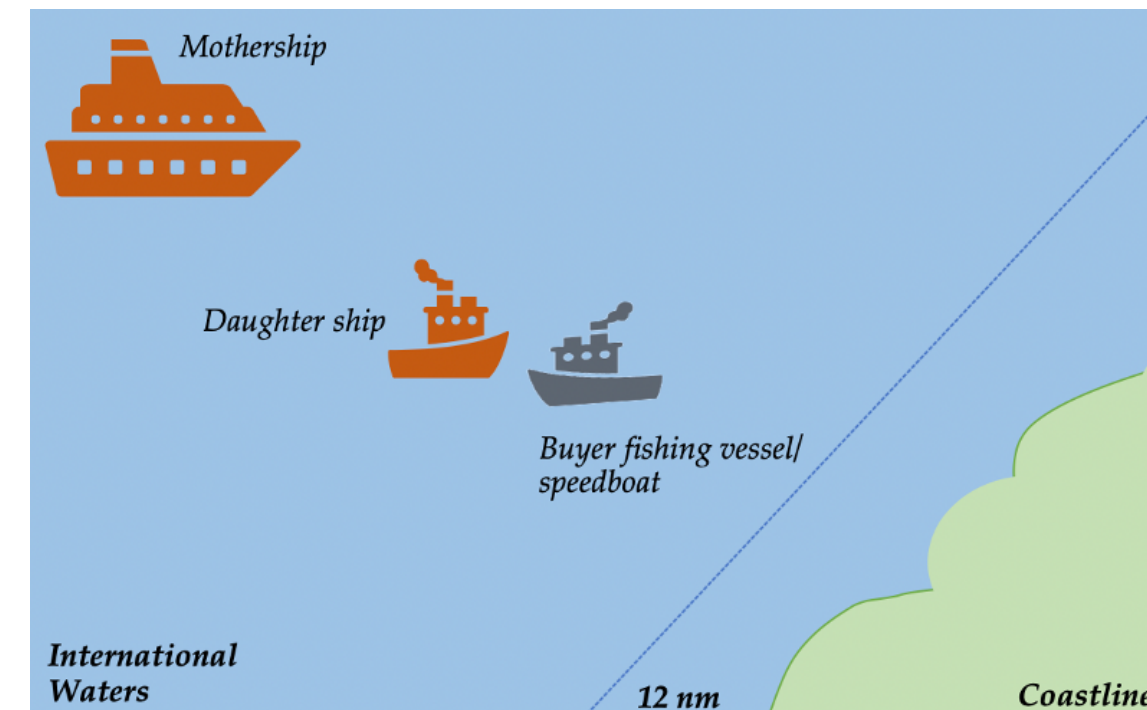


Figure 1: Map of Maritime Border Area that North Sulawesi borders,
Source: Google Maps



Maritime Drug Trafficking

- Maritime states are vulnerable to drug trafficking from all angles and entry points.
- Type of vessels: local fishing vessels, motorbancas, luxury yachts,
- Common/emerging methodologies:
 - pick and drop method,
 - ship to ship transfer.
 - Underwater operations?
 - Modified vessels
- Annual volume of seized drugs is estimated to overtake or reach similar levels as the volume of drugs seized the year before.



Irregular Human Migration

- No universally accepted definition. Defined as “movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit, and receiving country” (IOM, 2011)
- Often a symptom of greater inequalities taking place in the sending country.
- Can be linked to other transnational crimes such as human smuggling, illegal fishing, or even drug trafficking
- Lack of reliable data make estimating the volume of irregular migration very difficult to assess



Enforcement Challenges

Lack of actionable information

Whac-a-mole

Limited patrolling assets

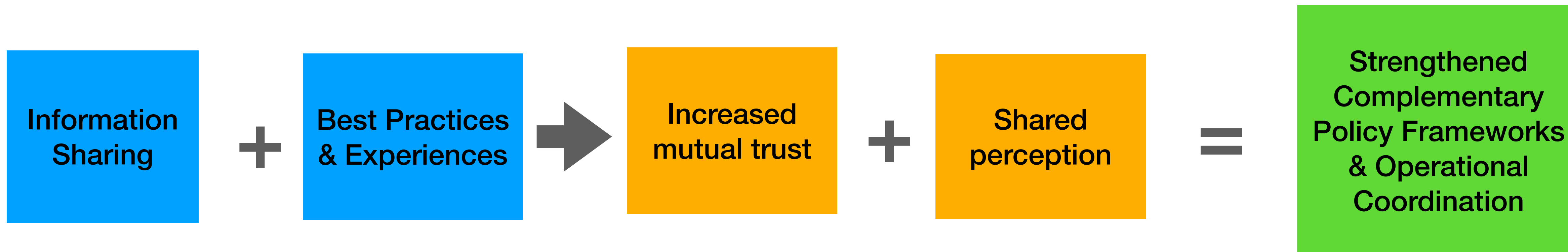
Low monitoring capabilities

Balancing coastal welfare

High traffic volumes

The Golden Key: Information Sharing


- Existing international cooperation provides the strong foundation for further advancing regional coordination and information sharing
- Effective regional cooperation is premised on robust national coordination
- Formula for greater operational coordination;



MTR-SEA Regional Plenary & DMX



MTR-SEA Modalities

49.	Date of Seizure	23-24 Apr 2022	Location of Seizure	Selangor and Johor
	Drug Type(s)	Volume		
	Crystalline methamphetamine	287 kg		
	Connection to Maritime Trafficking			Images Related to Seizure 
	Maritime routes were to be used to smuggle drugs			
	Identification Feature			
	Yellow and green chinese tea packaging			
	Items Accompanying Seizure			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 vehicles valued at RM168,000- Cash of RM5,000- Other items- Total value of items seized is RM10.5 million			
	Additional Information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The drugs were intended for onward smuggling to a neighbouring country, suspected to be Indonesia, onboard a vessel, upon departing from Johor• The drugs were valued at RM10.3 million•				
Sources				
[1] https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/04/835841/jurulatih-renang-dalangi-pengedaran-287kg-syabu-metrotv				



MTR-SEA VESSELS OF INTEREST LIST

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the Maritime Trafficking Routes - Southeast Asia Vessels of Interest (MTR-SEA VOI) List.

The MTR-SEA VOI List includes details on only post-detection vessels that have been involved in drug trafficking offences.

The information you share will be carefully collated and compiled into a database. The database will then be shared with you and other counter-narcotics and maritime law enforcement agencies.

By collating information on this shared platform, this MTR-SEA VOI List will prove especially useful in generating awareness of previous activities of suspicious post-detection vessels in the event that maritime law enforcement agencies encounter such a vessel at sea.



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Thank you

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