Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) is a project of the One Earth Future Foundation, a self-funded, non-profit organization based near Denver, Colorado, USA. OBP was launched in 2010 with the mission of assisting in the development of a sustainable, long-term solution to maritime piracy. While piracy affects several regions of the world, OBP currently focuses on piracy originating from the east and west coasts of Africa, concentrating our work on:

- Engaging and mobilizing stakeholders from the maritime community, including representatives from the maritime industry, governments, international organizations, seafarer groups, NGOs, and academia.
- Promoting public-private partnerships to advance long-term solutions at sea and ashore.
- Advocating for sustainable deterrence based on the rule of law and the development of economic opportunities.

OBP believes that the solutions to piracy should come from within the community of stakeholders. We are working with an extensive - and growing - number of experts to find a solution to piracy.

Maritime piracy remains a challenge with global reach but regional characteristics. Piracy affects not only the global economy, but also risks the lives and well-being of countless seafarers and their families. Additionally, piracy negatively impacts regional maritime communities as the criminal culture of pirate gangs works against stabilization and security.

OBP works to address maritime challenges in three ways: OBJECTIVE REPORTING, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION, and REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

OBJECTIVE REPORTING

The State of Maritime Piracy

Since its launch in 2010, OBP has produced annual reports on both the economic and human cost of maritime piracy. Its latest installment, The State of Maritime Piracy 2013, was released in May 2014. These cost of piracy studies serve as an objective analysis of the piracy problem and provide a baseline for policy-makers to better understand issues surrounding piracy off the east and west coasts of Africa.

Maps & Infographics

In addition to its cost of piracy studies, OBP also aims to provide stakeholders and policy makers with a clearer picture of the maritime environment in which they operate. OBP achieves this aim through the ongoing development and distribution of maps and infographics that can be used to promote dialogue and help identify opportunities for cooperation.

All of OBP’s reports as well as other stakeholder resources can be found at www.oceansbeyondpiracy.org.
OBP actively supports the CGPCS and the inclusive approach to address Somalia-based piracy involving governments, NGOs, international organizations, and the maritime industry. OBP’s support to the CGPCS includes the development of coordination tools, co-sponsoring workshops and seminars, and objective analysis of counter-piracy frameworks. Additionally, OBP co-authored a report on “Burden-sharing Multi-level Governance: A Study of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia.”

OBP’s West Africa initiative was formed in 2012 to address concerns over the persistent piracy activity in the Gulf of Guinea. While the challenge of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea differs significantly from Somalia-based piracy, OBP supports addressing this challenge from the same multi-stakeholder model. In December of 2012, OBP brought together stakeholders from industry, government, and the private sector in order to provide a forum for openly voicing their concerns regarding maritime crime in the region. OBP continues to host the Working Group on a semi-annual basis and also lends its support to individual stakeholder initiatives.

In order to increase public awareness about the violence against seafarers committed by pirates, OBP facilitated a declaration, signed by four of the top five largest Flag States by tonnage in 2011. The data collected as a result of the Declaration has been released in OBP’s The Human Cost of Piracy Report 2012 and The State of Maritime Piracy 2013. In September 2014, signatories agreed that the Washington Declaration should be extended to include seafarers operating in Western Africa as well.

In 2013, OBP assisted in the UN-led development of the Somali Maritime Resource and Security Strategy (SMRSS). OBP, along with UNSOM and EUCAP NESTOR, continues to support the implementation of the SMRSS through the Maritime Security Coordination Committee. The committee aims to support capacity building efforts across the full Somali maritime spectrum and effectively coordinate developmental funding.

Launched by OBP in 2014, Secure Fisheries works to ensure sustainable fisheries in Somalia, and the greater Indian Ocean region by providing science-based assessments of living marine resources, promoting best management practices in fisheries management, and enhancing monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) capabilities that reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

OBP has developed web-based tools for the coordination of maritime capacity-building activities in both the Western Indian Ocean Region and the Gulf of Guinea. These transparent databases help regional States and the international community identify and prioritise capacity-building efforts and minimise duplication of effort. The platforms are administered by the Capacity-Building Coordination Group of the CGPCS and the G7++ Friends of Gulf of Guinea (GoG), respectively.