

26th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)  
Space Assets and Disaster Management (5)

Author: Prof. Carlo Golda  
Università degli Studi di Genova, Italy, lupo\_stefano@hotmail.it

Dr. Stefano Lupo  
Italy, wulfen@hotmail.it

REMOTE SENSING AND MARITIME POLLUTION: INTEGRATED PARTNERSHIP OF OIL  
COMPANIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THE CASE STUDY OF NIGER DELTA.

**Abstract**

The Niger Delta, due to the high frequency of maritime traffics connected to the relevant oil business of the region and industrial activities, among which irregular refineries have a leading role in compromising the local environment and in powering the black market of energy and unlawful practice of commerce and piracy, is facing a substantial decrease in security levels. Thus, it is a perfect case study. Piracy and oil pollution are threatening both the coastline and the sea and therefore they should be considered one common security menace to be addressed by issuing an integrated framework connecting maritime pollution data and vessel traffic monitoring systems through a stronger partnership between oil companies in the Niger Delta and local authorities. The purpose should be to elaborate a sort of vessel traffic management and information system (VTMIS) taking as example the Ghana's Government idea, implemented for countering piracy and assessing the menace presented by maritime pollution, as the dual use could be easily achieved by a remote sensing observation. The paper will explore the legal possibilities of connecting oil companies data and efforts within the Niger Delta's authorities intelligence on piracy together in a common valuable framework as a base of awareness for action. The paper will also inquire through an accurate analysis of the interconnected praxis examples whether an implementation of the strategy could find a common source of inspiration in the legal application of MARPOL Convention