

**The Economics of Transnational Organised Crime (TOC)  
in the Maritime Domain: Drug Trafficking in Africa and  
the Southern African Continent**

**Sultan Khan and Shanta B. Singh\***

*University of Kwazulu-Natal, Howard Campus, Durban, South Africa*  
*\*Cell: +27836925817, \*E-mail: singhsb@ukzn.ac.za*

**KEYWORDS** Narcotics. Illicit. Security. Policy. Governance

**ABSTRACT** As globalization has expanded international maritime trade, so has the range of criminal activities broadened and diversified. By their very nature, security issues such as transnational organised crime are a challenge for many nations. Issues such as piracy, terrorism, trafficking in illicit drugs, human beings and arms, threatens necessary infrastructure, are interconnected and transcend boundaries. In particular, drug, human trafficking and piracy are activities of organized crime groups, generating enormous economic gains by criminal cartels and syndicates. The wide range of maritime related activities are inter-related to some extent, and have a potential impact on the prosperity derived through their contributions to security, stability and safety. The main aim of this paper is to raise awareness on the nature of transnational organised crimes and their socio-economic consequences on a regional, national and international level. Specifically this paper examines the nature, extent and policy relating to illicit drug trafficking as a form of criminal activity broadly in the maritime world in Africa and particularly in South Africa. It is of scholarly importance that research in the maritime sector be effectively utilized as a basis for policymaking, thereby, narrowing the gap between research and policymaking on a wide range of maritime challenges facing Africa as a continent which is emerging as a global economic actor in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The paper concludes that national, regional, continental and international organisations need to establish or improve existing mechanisms for 'maritime governance'.