

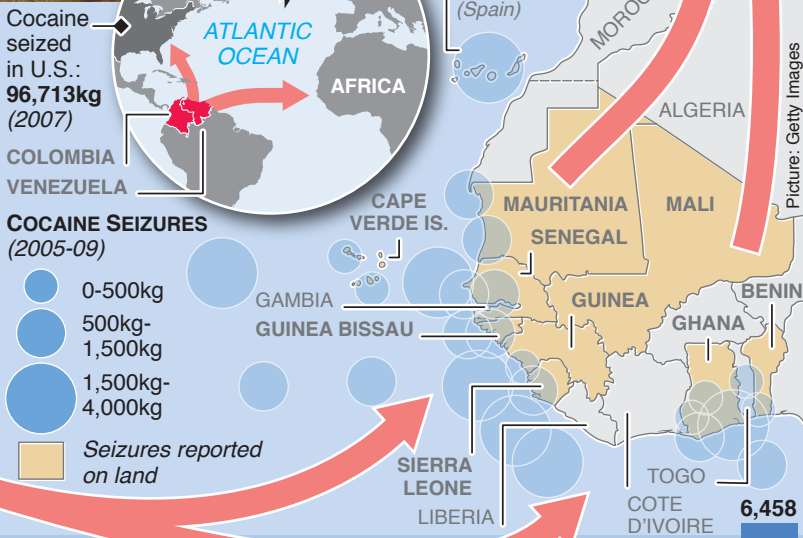
West Africa's growing role in drug smuggling

An audacious new trend in drug smuggling is emerging whereby South American gangs buy or rent old aircraft, and fly them across the Atlantic via West Africa to feed Europe's growing cocaine habit



Nov 2, 2009: Boeing 727 found burned-out in Mali, torched by smugglers after flying drugs from Venezuela

Lack of radar coverage over Atlantic allows planes to fly virtually undetected



ANNUAL SEIZURES (2000-07, kg)

Between 55 and 225 tonnes of cocaine are estimated to be trafficked through West Africa each year, yielding wholesale revenues of \$3bn to \$14bn

