



stop illegal fishing

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is to ensure that fish are caught, traded and processed legally, so that African nations and their people can enjoy the full benefits of their fisheries resources and blue growth.

Our mission is to:

- Provide evidence-based advice to feed into policy reform and improved decision making to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in African waters;
- Coordinate an African Voice to influence international fishery policy processes;
- Facilitate communications and education to create awareness and advocacy for compliant fisheries;
- Build, develop and assist with practical and effective cooperation tools, mechanisms and processes to curb IUU fishing;
- Provide capacity building to support the fight against IUU fishing;
- Facilitate improved information and intelligence exchange to improve the effectiveness and timeliness of states' responses to IUU fishing; and
- Grow and support a network of professionals, experts and champions to lead the African campaign against IUU fishing.

Through our work in these areas and through our ongoing involvement with policy development, and practical support of enforcement officers we aim to stop illegal operators in the fisheries sector. With the increased emphasis on growing the blue economy it is vital that the fisheries resources are protected and developed sustainably as a source of much needed revenue and nutrition.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As we look back on 2019 Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) has taken time to stop and reflect on the global ambition to end IUU fishing by 2020, which was formulated as part of the United Nations (UNs) sustainable development goals (SDGs). This goal is at the heart of SIF's vision to create sustainable and equitable fisheries in Africa.

With a growing world population, a global climate emergency and ocean pollution all placing pressure on our land and marine resources the need to ensure that fish are caught, landed, traded and processed legally, abiding by national and international legal frameworks and complying with conservation and management measures, has never been greater.

SIF was initially established to provide support to regional policy processes: to galvanise action and commitment. More than a decade later this remains our focus and we have developed proven models of working that put national monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) efforts at the heart of what we do.

We have seen, through the development and evolution of both the FISH-i Africa and West Africa Task Forces that national efforts need to be linked in and work cooperatively with neighbouring States. Cooperation is also necessary at the international level - to share information, to take enforcement action, and to influence and inform the global efforts to stop illegal fishing.

As more regions look to adopt the 'task force' model of working we hope that we can share our knowledge and make connections around the world of like-minded groups who are fighting IUU fishing.

2019 has been an exciting year for our organisation as we work closely with partners in Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique to support the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). In force since 2016, the PSMA offers a tangible, practical process for blocking market access for illegally caught fish. By helping to establish interagency mechanisms for PSMA and by working with fisheries inspectors in port we are building on the ground capacity, identifying common stumbling blocks, and gaining real insight and practical tools that we hope will come to inform and support implementation of port State measures around the world.

In recent years we have seen an explosion of interest in the blue economy. As expectations of blue growth place new pressure on the marine environment it is important to remember that a thriving and sustainable blue economy assumes a compliant marine and fisheries sector.



The systematic and persistent nature of many illegal fishing operations and the close links to other criminal activity such as drug, wildlife and human trafficking make a compelling case to prioritise action against illegal fishing in order to protect all ocean based economic activity.

We welcome the opportunity to share this overview of our activity during 2019 with you. We have focussed on our key activity areas and include links to our reports and publications that will provide you with further insight into the issues we work with and our approach to tackling them.

Elsa Patria
Chair, Stop Illegal Fishing





KEEPING ILLEGALLY CAUGHT FISH OUT OF AFRICAN PORTS

All industrially caught fish must pass through a port to be traded and consumed. Preventing vessels carrying illegally harvested fish from accessing ports around the world is one of the most effective means available to prevent and deter IUU fishing.

Denying port entry or denying access to port services for vessels identified as operating illegally not only prevents illegal seafood from entering trade it also increases the costs associated with illegal fishing operations and removes the financial incentives for engaging in these activities.



Stop Illegal Fishing, with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is implementing an initiative: 'Supporting the implementation of the PSMA in selected African countries', known as PSM-SIF.

Initially working in Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique, PSM-SIF supports the development of legal frameworks for robust implementation of port State measures (PSMs); the development of national interagency cooperation and global information sharing; building human and institutional capacity to support effective PSMs; creating awareness; and providing tools and mechanisms to operationalise the PSMs. We are working in cooperation and coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to develop and implement National Strategies and Action Plans to implement the PSMA in PSM-SIF partner countries.



By working in close cooperation with the FISH-i Africa and West Africa Task Forces, experiences, tools and lesson learning will be shared regionally. This will help to identify and overcome the many shared challenges faced by fisheries inspectors working on the frontline of stopping illegal fishing.

Led by fisheries authorities with enhanced liaison with allied authorities, the implementation of the PSMA brings with it institutional, organisational and operational benefits that will lead to more stringent and more effective port procedures for dealing with fishing vessels to improve control of the fisheries sector.



PORT STATE MEASURES IN ACTION

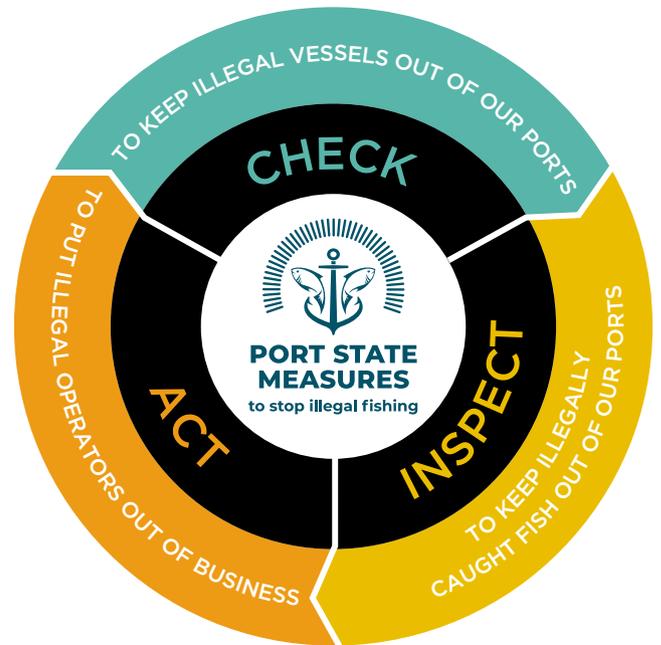
Port inspections are a useful tool in identifying illegally caught fish and illegal vessels. A sufficiently staffed, adequately trained and well-informed inspectorate is essential for effective implementation of PSMs.

To streamline inspections, Stop Illegal Fishing has been working closely together with national partners to identify three distinct processes to recognise and take action against illegally caught fish and illegal vessels: 'to check, inspect and act'. Stop Illegal Fishing is now developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for these processes, using on the ground mentoring and meetings of interagency groups to discuss current and best practices. SOP-development focuses particularly on the 'check' process as this can reveal illegal and unauthorised activity, often prior to a vessel entering port. Risk assessment SOPs assist fisheries officers to conduct comprehensive checks and to decide on appropriate follow-up action. These may include targeted inspections when high-risk vessels are identified or recommending the denial of port access when IUU vessels are found.



Ongoing training and mentoring for port inspections in Ghana, Mozambique and Madagascar provides the opportunity to integrate SOPs into work practices, review their practicability and collect ideas for further improvement.

In August 2019, the pre-inspection checking procedures were successfully used to identify illegal fishing of a Chinese flagged trawler in Mozambique territorial waters. A targeted inspection and analysis of on-board tracking systems then confirmed the illegal activity. Further identified infractions included the lack of flag State authorisation to fish outside of the China's exclusive economic zone and incomplete catch logbook entries. As a result, the entire catch was seized.

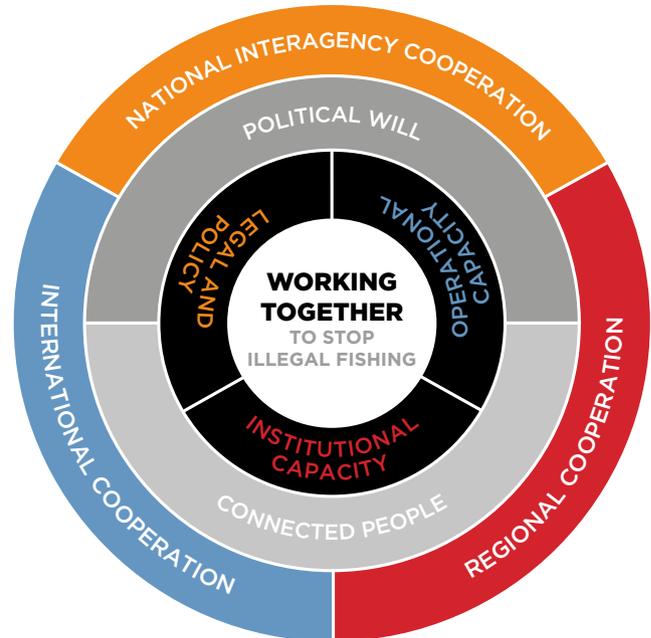


WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP ILLEGAL FISHING

Stop Illegal Fishing is an active network of MCS professionals who believe that working together is the only way that we will stop illegal fishing. We build, develop and assist with practical and effective cooperation tools, mechanisms and processes to stop illegal fishing.

It is well known in the fisheries sector that large scale illegal fishing often goes hand in hand with other forms of transnational organised crime such as drugs smuggling, human trafficking or the trade in illegal wildlife products. Therefore, stopping illegal fishing requires action from a range of stakeholders such as health, customs, immigration and defence authorities, coastal, flag, port and market states. By identifying needs, challenges, opportunities and solutions at the national, regional and international level Stop Illegal Fishing is making an impact in creating successful models for cooperation.

It will take a combination of political will, international agreements, strong implementation on the ground, and well thought through procedures to reduce the current massive disconnect between the necessary stakeholders in stopping IUU fishing.





WHY DO WE NEED NATIONAL COOPERATION?

To be effective, every aspect of fisheries MCS and enforcement requires cooperation with other agencies. This ranges from port authorities sharing notifications of advance requests for port entry, conducting at-sea patrols with navy or coastguard vessels and personnel, to working with the police or marine police to gather evidence and take statements.

Whilst there is general consensus on the need to adopt an interagency approach making it happen in real life is full of challenges. These can range from territorialism, lack of understanding, lack of continuity of personnel, competing agendas, lack of resources and lack of trust. Many of these issues come from a simple lack of knowing the people and knowing how agencies can help each other achieve their objectives.

Stop Illegal Fishing has been supporting the push to improve interagency cooperation at the national level through our engagement with the West Africa Task Force (WATF) and through implementation of PSM-SIF in Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique. This can be a long process as organisations come together to explore new and beneficial ways of working.

“It is easy to say that we need agencies to work together, but in practice this can be challenging. Through the Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing (PSM-SIF) initiative we have seen all too clearly that there is often a disconnect between government agencies. Overcoming this is going to take a combination of political will and support, strong implementation on the ground, and well thought through procedures with supporting training and tools.”



Per Erik Bergh
Stop Illegal Fishing





PORTS TASK FORCE GHANA

The fisheries sector is very important for Ghana's economy and coastal communities, with income derived from fishing and related activities, constituting around 60% of total household incomes. Tema and Takoradi are key ports providing offloading, transshipment, bunkering and repair services for fishing vessels, support vessels and reefers. The exports of high value fish such as frozen tuna, tuna loins and canned tuna loins, and crab and lobster bring valuable export earnings to Ghana's economy.

However, illegal operators target ports with weak controls and this in turn leads to possible identification as ports of convenience or ports of non-compliance. This happened in 2013, when the European Union imposed a warning or 'yellow card' to Ghana, identifying weak MCS and insufficient port controls as key challenges to identify and stop illegally caught fish from being caught and landed in Ghana's ports.

The Ports Task Force Ghana (PTFG) was established in 2019 and is coordinated by the MCS Division of Ghana's Fisheries Commission of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, and supported by Stop Illegal Fishing.

Stop Illegal Fishing provides technical expertise and support to the Ports Task Force Ghana through:

- A real time communications platform.
- Multi-agency standard operating procedures.
- A capacity building programme.
- Legal and operational mentoring expertise.
- Facilitation of interagency meetings and cooperation.
- Manuals and guides to provide easy to use practical information.
- Tools and equipment to support operations.

WHY DO WE NEED REGIONAL COOPERATION?

The Task Force model, adopted by FISH-i Africa and the WATF, is demonstrating the very real value of coastal states sharing information and intelligence on the vessel's that are fishing in their waters.

Sharing information on licensed vessels has exposed the routine use of forged documents, vessel identity fraud and fake licences. By investigating, collating and analysing the modus operandi used by illegal operators we have been able to make evidence-based recommendations on priority areas for MCS activity, policy development and legal reform.

The strength of taking collective action, particularly in denial of port access is powerful. Without a port to offload, take on supplies and fuel or get repairs fishing vessels are unable to operate. By providing real-time alerts on high-risk vessels FISH-i and the WATF have been able to disrupt illegal operations.

The harmonisation of approaches to fisheries controls such as mandatory use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) transmitters to increase oversight of vessel location and activity, or requirement of International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers to improve vessel identification is also bringing results in increased compliance and simpler regulatory regimes, that in turn will benefit operators and enforcement efforts.

SIF advocates internationally for a regional approach to stop illegal fishing, as it is proven to increase transparency and accountability and can make expert technical support more readily available to support on the ground inspectors.

In 2019 Nicholas Ntheketha, Chair of FISH-i Africa and Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu, of the WATF were able to share their experiences at the second ASEAN meeting on combating IUU fishing, where discussion on the establishment of an ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) were underway. Commenting on the success of FISH-i Africa Nicholas Ntheketha said, "The Western Indian Ocean and ASEAN regions are very different, but the tools and mechanisms that FISH-i established are proven to work. The sharing of information on licensed vessels, the identification of high-risk vessels and operators, and the easy communication between enforcement officers will no doubt bring real benefits to the ASEAN countries in their efforts to rid the fisheries sector of illegal fishing and labour abuses."

The experiences of the FISH-i Africa Task Force were also showcased at the Marine Regions Forum in Germany. The Forum provided an opportunity to explore ways to strengthen regional ocean governance to achieve a healthy ocean. Dr Kristin von Kistowski highlighted the importance of information sharing and the development of strong cooperation between neighbouring coastal States. She said, "Trust between MCS officers is a crucial aspect of regional information sharing and fighting illegal fishing. Regional task forces such as FISH-i and the WATF provide one of the cheapest and most effective tools against illegal fishing and fisheries crime."



FISH-i AFRICA: TRANSITION TO THE SADC REGIONAL MCS COORDINATION CENTRE

Founded in 2012, FISH-i Africa comprises eight East African coastal countries dedicated to fighting illegal fishing in the Western Indian Ocean. As an informal inter-governmental network of MCS officials FISH-i pioneered the routine sharing of information and intelligence and has taken cooperative action to stop illegal fishing.

2017 saw the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers approve the Charter that provides the legal framework for the establishment and operationalisation of an institution that will coordinate MCS in the SADC region; paving the way for the establishment of the SADC Regional MCS Coordination Centre (SADC MCSCC). In June 2019, SADC Ministers approved the recommendation to incorporate the FISH-i mechanisms into the MCSCC and a roadmap for operationalising this.

This marks a significant step for the sustainability of FISH-i and gives opportunities to build on existing systems for exchange of information and a widening of membership to incorporate the SADC coastal States of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, and South Africa. The model will also be adapted to benefit inland waters which face similar challenges with organised illegal fishing, destructive fishing practices and cross border trade through the establishment of a SADC Inland Fisheries MCS Task Force.

SIF continues to support the process to embed the FISH-i mechanism into the MCSCC and capitalise on the opportunity to continue the good work of FISH-i, formalise the processes and strengthen the regional controls to create compliant and sustainable fisheries. We work working closely with the SADC Secretariat and partners and are guided by their procedures, priorities and timelines.



What happened in 2019?

- The first combined FISH-i and SADC IUU Task Force meeting was held in partnership with the SADC Secretariat in Mozambique in May 2019.
- The SADC IUU Task Force, together with Kenya and Somalia (members of the FISH-i Africa Task Force) took the decision, in March 2019 to incorporate the FISH-i Africa Task Force mechanisms into the MCSCC.
- The SADC Secretariat, the SADC MCSCC's Interim Project Management Unit (IPMU) and SIF, with support from the WWF and The Waterloo Foundation held discussions to progress implementation and in particular to start the process of handing over the FISH-i Africa communications information exchange portal to the IPMU.
- SIF participated in the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries.
- The SADC International Cooperating Partners Dialogue Agriculture and Food Security Thematic Group gave SIF an opportunity to discuss with the Secretariat and other NGOs and international organisations how best to support implementation of the regions' strategies and priorities and to identify possible synergies and avoidance of duplication of work.

“Partnership with Stop Illegal Fishing and FISH-i Africa is of particular importance; FISH-i Africa has demonstrated the benefits of regional cooperation, through many successful cases and bringing illegal operators to book. We now look forward to bringing this cooperation and momentum into the MCSCC in Mozambique and expanding its impact and geographic area to benefit all SADC Member States.”



Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo
SADC Technical Adviser for Fisheries





Liberia National Working Group

THE WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE

The six member States of the Fisheries Commission of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) – Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo – form the core of the WATF, and are supported by a technical team made up of Stop Illegal Fishing and Trygg Mat Tracking, with financial support from Norad and from the EU, through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) hosted PESCAO project.

Established in 2015 the WATF has adopted similar principles and mechanisms to build a cooperative mechanism and common approaches and strategies to stop illegal fishing. Stop Illegal Fishing provides support and advice in the areas of communications and awareness, political anchoring and investigations and provides general research and input to the Task Force, as well as assisting in planning and capacity building of FCWC members States.

Seraphin Dedi, Secretary-General of the FCWC outlined some of the challenges in building regional cooperation, “Developing the WATF has involved operationalising agreements that have already been made by the FCWC Conference of Ministers. Of course, we have experienced challenges in moving beyond political commitment into action, as there was no clear political, legal and technical framework for this type of cooperation. But gradually with technical support and legal frameworks that have been developed we have been able to establish the WATF, that today is our key mechanism to combat illegal fishing.”





WATF meeting 9

What happened in 2019?

- Regional initiatives discussed by the WATF included the move towards a regional register of vessels, joint regional patrols, the installation of a regional vessel monitoring centre, and the implementation of a regional strategy on transshipment.
- Regular WATF meetings provided a real and valuable opportunity for officials from neighbouring coastal and port States in the FCWC region to establish contact, exchange information and progress the regional agenda to stop illegal fishing.
- Support to the implementation of the PSMA has been a focus in National Working Groups. With five of the six FCWC member States now party to the PSMA there is a real opportunity to close this region down for illegally caught and traded fish.
- Capacity building support to communications activity for the FCWC and WATF saw the launch of the FCWC Factsheet series, developed to provide a clear and simple overview of regional actions and initiatives.

“The WATF is an excellent platform for cooperation, collaboration and communication to end illegal fishing and improve governance. It is very important for us to encourage this platform and build on it.”



Dr Aboubacar Sidibe
ECOWAS

“Vessel registration, vessel monitoring, observer programmes and patrol missions at national level are not enough to fight against IUU. There is a need to expand our efforts beyond the national level to the regional level by forming synergies. The FCWC is driving this agenda for us.”



The Honourable Emma Glassco
Director General of National Fisheries
and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Liberia





WHY DO WE NEED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION?

International cooperation is vital to answer the fundamental questions of whether a vessel is the vessel it claims to be, whether it has the correct permissions to fish, and whether it has respected the laws and regulations. A lack of information exchange or slow responses, particularly from flag States, allow illegal operators to get away with their crimes.

With significant numbers of foreign flagged or foreign owned vessels operating in Africa developing cooperation and information exchange has become a priority.

Stop Illegal Fishing supports national and regional efforts to establish this more systematic way of exchanging information with flag States to support due diligence checks on their vessels, by starting with verifying their documents. The aim is to facilitate timely exchange of information to ensure investigations can be conducted effectively.

“Increasing the understanding between coastal, flag and port States is going to bring real benefits to us all, allowing us to act faster, and in cooperation against illegal fishing.”



Elsa Patria
Stop Illegal Fishing Chairperson



AFRICAN PORTS NETWORK

The African Ports Network is coordinated by Stop Illegal Fishing. Our aim is to connect people working to implement port State measures in Africa in order to keep illegally caught fish out of African ports.

Growing out of the PSM-SIF pilot initiative in Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique, the African Ports Network brings together the people, the tools, the knowledge and the experience needed to support all African countries to implement PSMs.

Cooperation between port States is crucial to stop illegal fishing. A critical part of implementing port State measures is conducting pre-port entry checks and risk assessment on the vessel, its catch and the owners and operators – the vessel, the fish and the players.

If a vessel, its catch or its operators are found or suspected to be engaged in or supporting IUU fishing it can be denied port access or port services. Informing other ports so that they too can deny the vessel permission to enter port or to use port services makes it more difficult for illegal operators to market their catch and it reduces their profit.



The African Ports Network is working to:

- Provide an African network for PSM information, knowledge and experience exchange.
- Promote the benefits of implementing PSMs for Africa and being a party to the global PSMA.
- Offer access to capacity building material developed specifically for supporting implementation of PSM in Africa, but with global relevance.
- Develop resources such as multi-agency standard operating procedures and templates for interagency agreements.
- Develop practical tools that help fisheries inspectors to check, inspect and act against illegal operators.
- Share alerts for information on high-risk vessels, catch and players.
- Share our PSM experiences internationally to influence policy and practical responses to ensure that African needs and challenges are considered.

Tools and resources for the African Ports Network have initially been developed through the PSM-SIF initiative with funding support from the GIZ on behalf of BMZ.



**AFRICAN PORTS
NETWORK**
to stop illegal fishing

MAKING SUSTAINABILITY

CENTRAL TO THE BLUE ECONOMY

The issues of blue development are of particular significance in Africa, with 38 of Africa's 54 countries being coastal States and more than 90% of import-export occurring via the sea. The territorial waters controlled by African nations stretch out over 13 million km, with a continental shelf of about 6.5 million km, including exclusive economic zones.



Our oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and other water resources hold great promise for contributing towards the success of the UN 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063. They can help drive economic growth, social prosperity and environment protection. While the world has not yet developed the full potential of these resources, unsustainable human activities are continuing to substantially threaten life under water and the resilience of aquatic ecosystems.

The blue economy represents a new frontier that is expected to play a major role in Africa's structural transformation, sustainable economic progress, and social development. The sea as an economic entity is a new concept in Africa. For a long time, the continent didn't have the means to exploit marine resources, or the means to assert political power over the seas. Whilst blue economic activities can be hampered by natural phenomena it is human activities such as illegal fishing, piracy, and trafficking that pose the most significant threats.



Stop Illegal Fishing is using its reach at national, regional and international fora to place sustainability firmly at the heart of the blue agenda. Additionally, in 2019, Stop Illegal Fishing was able to participate in the Blue Oceans Conference in Liberia and the Growing Blue Conference in Mozambique. Building on the international momentum begun by the United Nations Oceans Conference and the 2018 Nairobi Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, these events provided a much-needed platform to galvanize African action and find African solutions.

“We need politicians, businesses, international organisations, and fishers to work together to protect our oceans from over exploitation and overfishing.”



Per Erik Bergh
Stop Illegal Fishing

“The blue economy is currently on Africa's agenda. However, the significant opportunities of blue growth are matched by significant threats, as national governments are under pressure to deliver revenue and opportunity. Sustainability and compliance must be core pillars of the blue growth agenda.”



Sandy Davies
Stop Illegal Fishing

◀ *Norwegian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Jens Frølich Holte speaking at Mozambique's Growing Blue Conference*





AN AFRICAN APPROACH

Stop Illegal Fishing works to strengthen the 'African Voice' in international fisheries fora by supporting African governments in formulating and promoting common positions.

Such pan-African collaboration is important in order to ensure that international agreements and their implementation better take into account African needs and contexts. This in turn will provide greater incentives for African nations to ratify and implement the agreements and thereby contribute to sustainable and profitable fisheries in Africa. Improving fisheries governance will bring benefits for the continent in terms of more sustainable livelihoods, increased food security, increased revenues to the national budget and long-term viability of the fisheries sector.

Since 2007 Stop Illegal Fishing has been working with African States and partners to develop a relevant, coherent and continent-wide voice in international fishery processes.

In 2019 Stop Illegal Fishing Chair, Elsa Patria participated in the sixth African Leadership Forum, which was themed 'Promoting Good Natural Resource Management for Socio-economic Transformation in Africa'. The forum sought to provide a platform to deliberate on the prospects of sustainable development and transformation on the continent, for the continent, by the continent. Bringing together the former presidents of Tanzania, South Africa, Somalia and Madagascar and participants from the private sector, academia, government and civil society organisations, the threats, opportunities and challenges in delivering economic and sustainable growth in the sector were addressed.



Corruption and the Illicit Exploitation and Trade of Africa's Natural Resources: the case of Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife side event at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Union

Tanzanian President John Magufuli urged former African leaders to take the front seat toward the protection and development of the continent's vast resources for the benefit of its people. He stated, "African countries have gained political independence, the focus now should be attaining economic independence through good management of our resources, especially natural resources."

A high-level side event on the margins of the 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Union with the theme of Corruption and the Illicit Exploitation and Trade of Africa's Natural Resources: the case of Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife took place at the start of 2019. The event was hosted by a coalition of stakeholders including the FAO, Stop Illegal Fishing, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and WWF. Sandy Davies welcomed the initiative saying, "We see common challenges and threats across the resource areas. By pooling our experiences, ideas, energy and expertise Stop Illegal Fishing hopes to work with the African Union, FAO, TRAFFIC, UNEP, WWF and other partners to ensure that practical efforts to end environmental crimes are matched at the policy level continentally."

Her Excellency Ambassador Josefa Sacko, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, noted that 2018 had been marked as African Anti-Corruption Year, "Fighting corruption and illegal exploitation in the natural resources sectors continues to be of vital importance. It requires a collective effort, as no single country, institution or person can do it alone. Africa needs global support and collaboration to end the misappropriation of its natural resources."

"Stop illegal Fishing welcomes the focus of the African Leadership Forum on natural resource management. Fisheries, like many other sectors faces serious risk from illegal and criminal activity, corruption and weak enforcement. Africa needs healthy and sustainable fisheries to provide food, nutrition, employment and investment."



Elsa Patria
Stop Illegal Fishing Chairperson



FIGHTING FOR SAFE, FAIR AND LEGAL FISHERIES

Improving governance in oceans, fisheries and on fishing vessels can be strengthened by cooperation between fisheries, maritime safety and labour sectors.



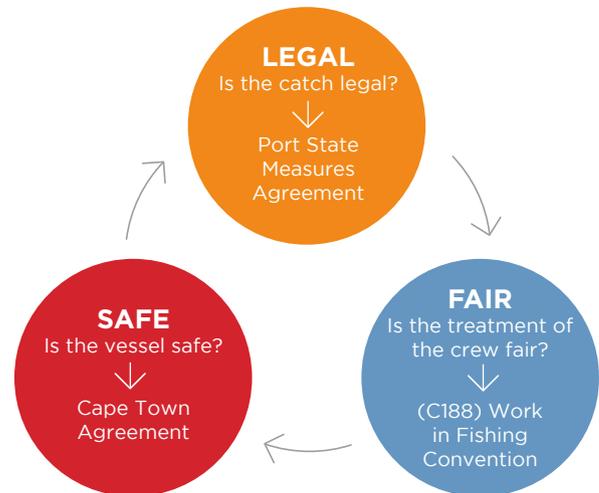
PSM-SIF representatives at the IMO Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and IUU Fishing

The IMO Cape Town Agreement (CTA) will address safety of vessels and provide a cooperative framework for vessel inspections, while the International Labor Organization (ILO) Work in Fishing Convention (C188) addresses human trafficking in the fishing industry. Ratifying and implementing these two instruments along with the PSMA will provide a State with different routes to increase the likelihood that it can identify IUU fishing practices and ensure legal, safe and fair fisheries.

Stop Illegal Fishing is supporting the ratification and implementation of these instruments to ensure that fishing vessels only participate in legal, safe and fair fisheries.

In 2019 the Torremolinos Declaration, made at the IMO Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and IUU Fishing, demonstrated a surge in support for the CTA. At the Conference, two States deposited their instruments of ratification and 48 States signed a political declaration committing to ratify the CTA by 2022 (10 years after its adoption). This commitment means that the CTA will exceed the 22 States and 3,600 eligible vessels needed for its entry into force in 2023.

IMO Secretary-General Lim, speaking at the Conference said, “There is no time to lose. If the fishing sector remains insufficiently regulated, fishing-related activities will continue to cause more fatalities; pollute our oceans; place search and rescue services at risk; and harm developing States affected by illegal fishing activities.”



INCREASING UNDERSTANDING AND SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES

Stop Illegal Fishing brings global attention to the issue of illegal fishing, and the work that is being done to stop it. We highlight issues and challenges as well as promote the many innovative ways that we are making change happen. Our publications and online presence help increase understanding of the African experience of stopping illegal fishing.

Ms. Judith Swan, an initiator of World Oceans Day and longstanding member of Stop Illegal Fishing delivering the opening keynote address at the United Nations World Oceans Day celebratory event
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Our 2019 event participation included the following:

International fora – Our experiences from Africa were shared through presentations and participation at international events such as Our Ocean 2019, Marine Regions Forum, Second ASEAN meeting on combating IUU fishing, the Sixth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop, organised by the International MCS Network in partnership with Thailand’s Department of Fisheries, and the AU Summit event Our Resources, Our Future: African coalition to fight corruption and the illicit exploitation of fisheries, forestry and wildlife resources.

International days – Stop Illegal Fishing celebrated World Oceans Day, which in 2019 had a focus on gender and the ocean. Delivering the keynote address at the United Nations World Oceans Day celebratory event, Ms. Judith Swan, an initiator of World Oceans Day and longstanding member of Stop Illegal Fishing, drew attention to the threats facing ocean health and the need for clear, immediate and long-lasting solutions. She said, “A world of gender equal ocean caretakers has a better chance to create and implement solutions that will address these changes and benefit humankind and the planet.”

Regional events – Stop Illegal Fishing has been able to contribute to a range of regional meetings. These include meetings organised for the FISH-i Africa and West Africa Task Forces, SADC, South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, blue economy events in Liberia and Mozambique, and an African experts meeting ‘Promoting human rights in fisheries and aquaculture in Africa’.



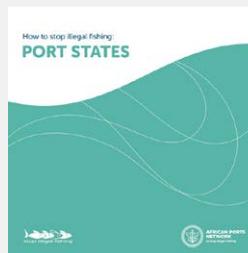
Our newsletter, social media accounts and the Stop Illegal Fishing website are valuable resources for anyone wanting to know more about illegal fishing in Africa.

Our 2019 publications include:



Keeping illegally caught fish out of African Ports

Provides a summary of the PSMA and the PSM-SIF project supporting its implementation in Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique.



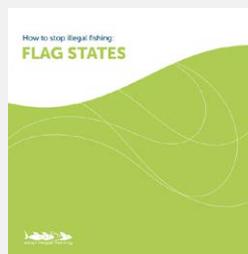
How to Stop Illegal Fishing: Port States

Highlights the roles and responsibilities of port States and identifies recommendations for effective port State control.



Ports Task Force Ghana

Gives an overview of the interagency group established in Ghana to oversee the implementation of the PSMA.



How to Stop Illegal Fishing: Flag States

Identifies why flag States are important, what they can do to stop illegal fishing, how these link to transparency and cooperation and finally provides key recommendations.



Document Verification Manual: Vessel identity

Produced by Stop Illegal Fishing and Trygg Mat Tracking to provide practical training and case studies illustrating how document verification can be used to uncover cases of illegal fishing. Document verification plays an important role in ensuring the legal operation of fishing vessels. Through visual analysis, crosschecking information and verifying information with issuing authorities, fisheries officials conducting due diligence checks or inspections can identify high-risk vessels and operators who are not complying with the regulations.

The SADC Task Force on IUU fishing has endorsed the Manual for use within the region as part of the integration of the FISH-i mechanism into the SADC MCSCC.

A group of fishermen are on a boat in the ocean, pulling in a large net. In the foreground, a young man stands in the shallow water, wearing a tank top with a portrait of Donald Trump and stars. The background shows other boats and a cloudy sky.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is comprised of up to eight members elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The duties of the Executive Committee include overseeing the activities of the Society; supervising the Secretariat; reviewing and approving work plans, reports and budgets; make, amend or repeal by-laws or regulations for the society and settle any disputes and problems that may arise.

Our 2019 Executive Committee were:

1 Chair

Elsa Patria

2 Vice Chair

Nicholas Nthekeha

3 Vice Chair

Markus Burgener

4 Treasurer

Sandy Davies

5 Secretary

Per Erik Bergh

6 Vice Secretary

Mark Ssemakula

7 Executive Committee Member

Victor Kargbo

8 Executive Committee Member

Zahor El Kharousy



1



2



3



4



5



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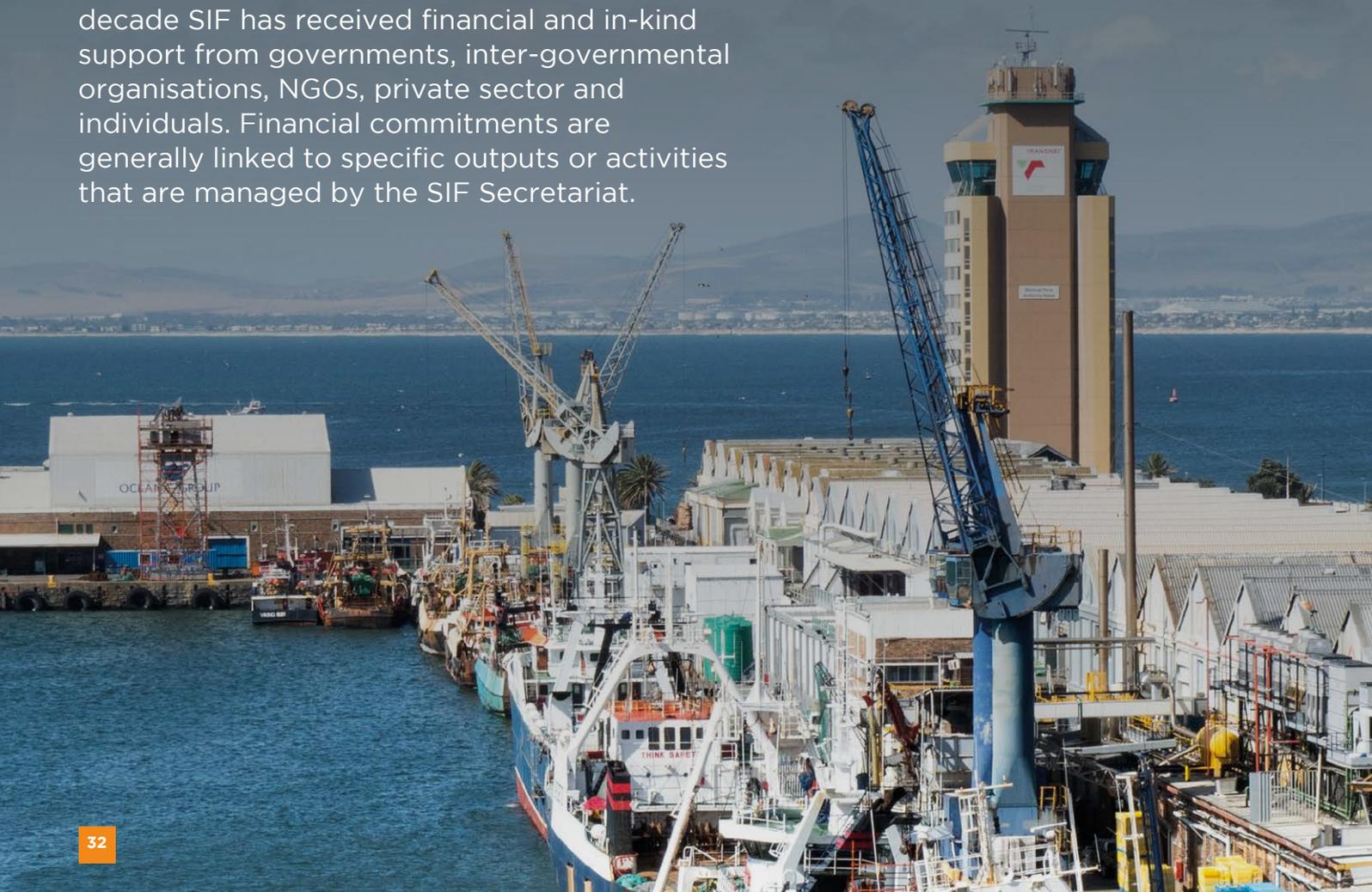
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

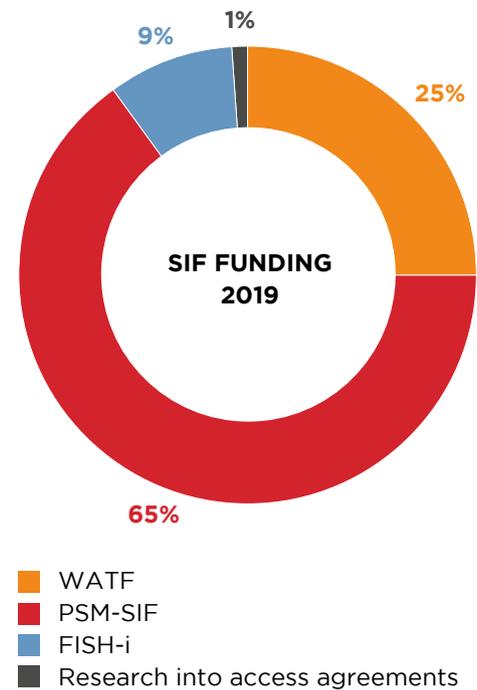
The work of SIF requires resources to ensure its continuation and growth. Over the past decade SIF has received financial and in-kind support from governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, private sector and individuals. Financial commitments are generally linked to specific outputs or activities that are managed by the SIF Secretariat.





The following table shows the financial grants provided to SIF in 2019:

Funder	Project	Grant to SIF (USD estimate)
Norad (Norwegian Development)	West Africa Task Force (WATF)	180,000
GIZ/BMZ (German Development)	Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing (PSM-SIF)	460,000
The Waterloo Foundation	FISH-i Africa Task Force (FISH-i)	60,000
Norad via WWF	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement Report (Research into access agreements)	10,000
TOTAL		710,000





ACRONYMS

AIS	Automatic identification system	MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
AN-IUU	ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing	NaFAA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
AU	African Union	PSM	Port State Measures
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
C188	Working in fishing Convention	PSM-SIF	Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing
CTA	Cape Town Agreement	PTFG	Ports Task Force Ghana
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	SADC	Southern African Development Community
EU	European Union	SADC	SADC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	MCSCC	
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea	SDG	Sustainable development goals
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
ICP	International Cooperating Partners	SFPA	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements
ILO	International Labour Organization	SOPs	Standard operating procedures
IMO	International Maritime Organization	SWIO	South West Indian Ocean
IPMU	Interim Project Management Unit	TWF	The Waterloo Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	UN	United Nations
		UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
		WATF	West Africa Task Force
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature





ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Find out more about the work of Stop Illegal Fishing,
get regular updates and get involved at:

www.stopillegalfishing.org

 facebook.com/stopillegalfishing/  twitter.com/S_I_F