



A complex web of activity lies behind an illegal fish.

Untangling that web to explore what drives the illegal fish trade is part of the work of *Stop Illegal Fishing*.



# Can **you** stop illegal fishing?

*Stop Illegal Fishing* is committed to ending the devastating impacts of illegal fishing across all African fisheries.

It is only through the eradication of illegal fishing that African nations and their people will enjoy the full benefits of stable and increased revenues from their fishery resources.

Join us, and put an end to the crime of illegal fishing.



[www.stopillegalfishing.com](http://www.stopillegalfishing.com)



# Can **you** spot the illegal fish?

**1 out of every 4 fish in Africa is caught illegally**



**Global decline in fish stocks, the increasing demand for fish and seafood and the low chance of detection for illegal activity has fuelled a thriving illegal market in fishery products.**

One out of every four fish in Africa is caught illegally – this illegal industry has got to stop. It threatens the sustainability of the resource that it exploits and undermines the social and economic wellbeing of those legitimately dependent on the industry. Only through its eradication can African countries enjoy the full benefits of stable and increased income from their fishery resources.

Illegal fishing is a complex web of actions and entities including the illegal harvesting of fish and the shipment, processing, landing, sale, distribution and marketing of fish and fishery products. The illegal fishing fleet that roams the oceans, breaking international laws and putting local fishers in danger, has become so good at finding and selling its catch that it leaves little behind, apart from wasted by-catch and damaged ecosystems. The true extent of the losses is not known, but estimates place the value of stolen fish, for Africa alone, at over a billion dollars a year, depriving families of food, income and opportunities.

However, illegal fishing is not only taking place in the commercial fisheries, but also in small-scale and subsistence fisheries. The illegality may lie in the fisher breaking a law or regulation established to protect the fishery, such as using an illegal net, dynamite or fishing in a closed or protected area. Various reasons may be behind this type of illegal act, including desperation as catch is reduced over time or simply lack of awareness of regulations.

These challenges are not easy to overcome and African countries are some of the hardest hit: vulnerable to the impact of diminishing fish stocks, targeted by foreign illegal vessels for fishing grounds and cheap labour, and often faced with issues of unemployment, conflict, food insecurity and HIV and AIDS, countries struggle to find practical solutions and answers.

**At Stop Illegal Fishing we know there is no silver bullet, and there are no easy answers – but through a well coordinated approach that intertwines the elements of robust policy making with building capacity, tools and mechanisms to implement change – Stop Illegal Fishing intends to make an impact.**

**Stop Illegal Fishing focuses on illegal fishing in Africa, but this is just one aspect of overcoming the fisheries crisis.**

The Partnership for African Fisheries, an initiative led by the African Union's implementing programme, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), is working to drive policy reform to improve the overall benefits from fisheries for African countries and their people. *Stop Illegal Fishing* is a Working Group of this partnership.

Launched in mid-2007 to assist Southern African Ministers responsible for marine fisheries to respond to the plague of illegal fishing: *Stop Illegal Fishing* – through a mix of facilitation, campaigning, empowerment and support for ongoing and new initiatives – is harnessing the necessary interest and commitment to change.

Our strategy focuses on five areas – our Working Group outputs – that are all essential elements of transparent policy making as well as key aspects of overcoming illegal fishing in Africa.

Our commitment is that *Stop Illegal Fishing* will:



**build knowledge and understanding** on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing issues, as well as its drivers and its impacts, among a wide network of players in order to define where change is needed and how it could be achieved;



**share successful tools and processes to build human and institutional capacity, based on analysis of practical experiences**, to demonstrate that change is possible and that it can result in a situation better than today;



**demonstrate practical and effective mechanisms and processes for cooperation** between individuals, institutions and regions to form the building blocks of lasting, continent-wide change;



**create space for the forming of a well argued, well considered and fully owned African voice** that offers options and pathways to stop illegal fishing as an integral part of African fishery reform; and



**facilitate awareness and outreach to share policy options and advice and to prepare people for change.**

**Stop Illegal Fishing** receives core funding from the UK government through the Partnership for African Fisheries programme. We have many partners drawn from government and intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, fishing community organisations, African and international governments as well as research institutes, the fishing industry, fishery-related programmes, the private sector and regional organisations. Together, we form a group of strategic, financial and implementing partners committed to working together in the fight against illegal fishing. A coordination team runs the day-to-day implementation of the work programme and coordinates the links between partners.

**Partnership is at the core of the Stop Illegal Fishing approach, and our partnership projects come in all shapes and sizes, such as;**

- identifying options and mechanisms for small scale fishers to enhance cooperation with government in order to fight the illegal fishing that is destroying their livelihoods;
- facilitating preparation and dialogue to form a coherent African voice in relevant international policy negotiations;
- mapping and analysing success stories in stopping illegal fishing, such as consumer and fisher led initiatives, environmental courts, regional policy development and overcoming the challenges of prosecuting IUU vessels;
- bringing international workshops and meetings on monitoring, control and surveillance and illegal fishing to Africa;
- identifying methodologies and mechanisms for implementing international policy across the continent; and
- strengthening national inter-agency cooperation as building blocks for regional and continental cooperation.

To discuss working with us please contact [pct@stopillegalfishing.com](mailto:pct@stopillegalfishing.com)

