



STOP ILLEGAL FISHING

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2016**



STOP ILLEGAL FISHING - ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Stop Illegal Fishing undertake on-the-ground investigations, research and share Africa-based evidence of what is really going on at sea, and work with fisheries officers to build capacity to tackle illegal fishing. With this approach Stop Illegal Fishing are making an impact; we are leading the debate, informing policy processes and creating awareness of the issues, and of how they can be addressed.

Stop Illegal Fishing has also assisted in identifying and stopping illegal fishing operations as well as creating a supportive network for the fisheries professionals who are dealing with challenging situations – corruption, threats, pressure and inadequate legal frameworks – to stop illegal fishing.

In moving forward Stop Illegal Fishing will build on the successes and momentum achieved. We will continue to work closely with coastal, port, flag, and market States and key stakeholders such as industry, retailers, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, and regional fisheries management organisations to stop illegal fishing.

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OUR VISION AND MISSION

STOP ILLEGAL FISHING WORKS TO ENSURE THAT FISH ARE CAUGHT, TRADED AND PROCESSED LEGALLY SO THAT AFRICAN NATIONS AND THEIR PEOPLE ENJOY THE FULL BENEFITS OF THEIR FISHERY RESOURCES.

THE OBJECTIVES OF STOP ILLEGAL FISHING ARE TO:

- PROVIDE EVIDENCE BASED ADVICE TO FEED INTO POLICY REFORM AND IMPROVED DECISION MAKING TO FIGHT 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.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Stop Illegal Fishing has been at the forefront of fighting illegal fishing since 2007. As an African-based and Africa-focused organisation we see first-hand the issues as well as the impacts of illegal fishing, and experience the challenges in tackling these. We work with many dedicated and impassioned individuals who strive to make a difference. Stop Illegal Fishing provides support where it is needed, by providing expertise, advice, resources, information, analyses and by creating awareness both of the issues and of progress made.

Illegal fishing continues to damage the economies, growth and potential of developing countries as illegal operators take advantage of a system full of flaws and loopholes. The current system allows changes to a vessel's identity or changes in flag State to go unchecked, and to be used to cover up a history of illegality, or to hide the true identity of a vessel.

The legal system is often inadequate with complex multi-jurisdictional cases resulting in little accountability in the judicial system, so even when violations, illegalities and crimes are identified the chances of an effective sanction are small.

Our approach is leading to success, particularly through the FISH-i Africa Task Force, where we have worked on over 30 investigations and are increasingly identifying common modus operandi as well as identifying the most effective means of disrupting the illegal operators.

Our work in the Western Indian Ocean, one of the world's hot spots for illegal fishing, is showing that information sharing and cooperation are effective means of increasing compliance in the fisheries sector.

In 2016, the UN FAO Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA) entered into force. While many of the key African port States are already party to the agreement, we look forward to seeing improved port State controls as implementation moves forward in 2017. Support for developing States will of course be crucial to the success of the Port States Measures Agreement, and Stop Illegal Fishing looks forward to providing support in this process.

We look forward to continuing the close collaboration with our partners in the region, and to continuing to provide a network of colleagues working together to fight illegal fishing in 2017.

Elsa da Gloria Patria
Chair, Stop Illegal Fishing





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Nations



LETTER FROM THE SECRETARIAT

In 2013, Stop Illegal Fishing was established as a not for profit organisation, its primary purpose was to strengthen cooperation and coordination between governments and partners, as well as to support the African Union's (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordination Agency's initiatives and other community, national, regional and international processes to stop IUU fishing in African waters.

Having begun life as a project supporting the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministerial Conference to Stop Illegal Fishing in 2008 and later developing into a working group of the NEPAD's Partnership for African Fisheries, Stop Illegal Fishing developed a unique network and is well placed at the heart of African fisheries processes.

As a not for profit Stop Illegal Fishing continues to play a leading role in fighting illegal fishing in Africa. For example, it coordinates the AU Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group and coordinates the FISH-i Africa Task Force in the Western Indian Ocean.

Stop Illegal Fishing is now governed by an Executive Committee drawn from a range of experts with extensive experience in combatting illegal fishing. In 2016, our new Chairperson, Elsa da Gloria Patria was elected. Elsa brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and commitment to the role of Stop Illegal Fishing Chair.

Elsa began her career working in fisheries monitoring and control in her native Mozambique, and has worked with the SIF Secretariat on both operational and administrative matters. Elsa's experience includes working for government, private and non-governmental organisation sectors.

The Secretariat of Stop Illegal Fishing continues to be hosted by NFDS Africa, a Botswana-based fisheries and natural resources consultancy group that has been working to stop illegal fishing for the past two decades. NFDS Africa also provides strategic, technical and operational expertise to SIF as part of their ongoing corporate social responsibility commitment.

In this annual report we have focused on our work in a few key areas, highlighting the success of the FISH-i Africa Task Force, the development of the West Africa Task Force (WATF), and the policy strides made with the entry into force of the PSMA.

Per Erik Bergh
Coordinator and Executive Secretary, Stop Illegal Fishing



KEY MILESTONES

Since its formation in 2007 Stop Illegal Fishing has been involved in the key processes and mechanisms tackling illegal fishing in Africa.

2007 — Stop Illegal Fishing is launched with funding from the UK's Department for International Development with the specific aim to support a Southern African political commitment to stop illegal fishing.

2008 — Stop Illegal Fishing supports the 2008 SADC Ministerial Conference which results in their 2008 Statement of Commitment to Combat IUU Fishing.

2009 — Stop Illegal Fishing becomes a core component of the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF) which was established with UK funding and was coordinated by the AU's NEPAD.

2010 — In March, the first meeting of Stop Illegal Fishing as a Working Group of the PAF is held in Gaborone.

The First Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture, takes place in The Gambia. Stop Illegal Fishing were able to facilitate information sharing in selected technical areas and engage at a political level to ensure dialogue and a concerted voice on illegal fishing and related issues.

2011 — Stop Illegal Fishing organises, and provides expertise to, the initial negotiations on the establishment of the Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre for Southern Africa.

2012 — The FISH-i Africa Task Force is established with five founding members - Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania. This pioneering initiative facilitates regional cooperation and information-sharing that has led to significant enforcement actions and increased compliance in the region.

2013 — Stop Illegal Fishing is established as an independent not for profit organisation, registered in Botswana. An Executive Committee are elected by the organisation's voting members. The Secretariat, responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation and the implementation of their initiatives, is hosted by NFDS Africa, a Botswana-based fisheries and natural resources consultancy group.

2014 — Stop Illegal Fishing receives an award at the International MCS Network's Stop IUU Fishing Award Contest, recognising our major and unique contribution in Africa's efforts to overcome illegal fishing.

Stop Illegal Fishing becomes the Coordinator of the AU MCS Working Group.

2015 — Based on the success of FISH-i Africa, a West Africa Task Force to stop illegal fishing is established with the six Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) member countries. of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo. With funding from Norad, Stop Illegal Fishing forms part of the Technical Team that supports the Task Force.

Together with South Africa's Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and PescaDOLUS, Stop Illegal Fishing organise the First International Symposium on FishCRIME. Bringing together 200 participants from 31 countries, the Symposium increased awareness of the issues and considered options for tackling fisheries crime.

Stop Illegal Fishing is awarded the 2014-2015 Margarita Lizárraga Medal. Awarded biennially by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the award recognises those who have served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Stop Illegal Fishing's achievements were described as 'outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic'.

2016 — Stop Illegal Fishing launches two new initiatives: VISIBLE is our campaign to make sure that fishing vessels cannot hide behind false identities and the Stop Illegal Fishing Investigative Unit formalises the work we have been doing over the last decade to support investigations into illegal fishing and to bring the offenders to justice.

Somalia becomes the eighth member of FISH-i Africa.

ISSUES

Global losses to IUU fishing are estimated to be as high as USD 23.5 billion annually. Illegal operators are driven by financial gain and as a result large-scale illegal fishing often goes hand in hand with other criminal activity. Either the criminal activity is a result of the illegal fishing operation (e.g. tax evasion, money laundering) or fishing is used to cover the activities of transnational organised crime, such as drugs smuggling, human trafficking or trade in illegal wildlife products.

Some of the key issues that Stop Illegal Fishing is working to address are:



VESSEL IDENTITY

Illegal operators use vessel identity fraud to get away with illegal fishing. For example, one vessel may illegally be using several names or flags, or several vessels use the same name. Mandatory IMO numbers is one way to reduce identity abuse.



FLAGS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Flag States who sell their flag to fishing vessels without checking the history of the vessel, that it is safe and seaworthy, that it is the vessel it claims to be, and who do not take responsibility for the actions of the vessels, are known as flags of non-compliance.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking occurs when workers on board fishing vessels are forced to live and work in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, their wages unpaid and they are far from land for months or years at a time with no opportunity for escape.



TRANSHIPMENT

At-sea transhipments are one of the major missing links to understand where and how illegally caught fish finds its way to the market. Unauthorised transhipment enables illegal operators to avoid the scrutiny of port controls and to maximize profits.



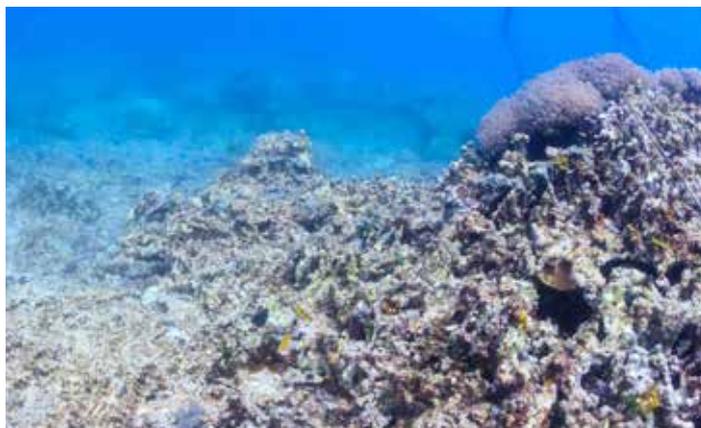
SECURING CONVICTIONS

Identifying illegal activities and operators is difficult, but bringing the culprits to justice, securing convictions and achieving sanctions that match the severity of the violations and that act as a deterrent is equally challenging.



SHARK FINNING

Shark fins attract a premium price in the Asian market. They are therefore often cut off whilst the rest of the shark is thrown overboard, frequently still alive. Unable to swim properly, the sharks suffocate or die from blood loss from the large wounds.



BLAST FISHING

Highly destructive and illegal, blast fishing destroys the marine environment, killing marine creatures indiscriminately, reducing future catches, affecting food security and the livelihoods of fishing communities.



WHAT WE DO – INITIATIVES, APPROACHES, IMPACTS

Illegal fishing is a complex issue combining poor governance systems with unscrupulous actors willing to take advantage of weaknesses in the law and the lack of capacity to monitor national waters. Finding solutions to these problems requires engagement and action at many levels.

SIF is working nationally with governments and enforcement agencies, regionally through the FISH-i and West Africa Task Forces, and internationally to influence policy and inform the debate, as well as with industry and the public.

Our main initiatives are:

FISH-i Africa — a partnership based on information-sharing and regional cooperation between eight East African countries with the aim to combat large-scale illegal fishing in the Western Indian Ocean.

THE WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE — formed in 2015 to provide a regional approach to fisheries enforcement in West Africa. Hosted by the FCWC it brings together Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

VISIBLE — Vessel identity fraud is a key factor in many cases of illegal fishing and fisheries crime. Stop Illegal Fishing is working to make fishing vessels VISIBLE by creating an accessible database of information on fishing vessels.

STOP ILLEGAL FISHING INVESTIGATIVE UNIT — Stop Illegal Fishing has created a team of fisheries specialists with legal, analytical and technical expertise. This team was formalised in 2016 to become the SIF Investigative Unit, with operational headquarters in Botswana.

AFRICAN VOICE — Stop Illegal Fishing works to strengthen the 'African Voice' in international fisheries fora by supporting African governments in formulating and promoting common positions in policy discussions and negotiations.

Our approaches are shared across all the SIF initiatives and engagement:

We base or thinking on **evidence** whether from our own research, analysis and investigations, or from other organisations and sources.

Sharing information and intelligence play a crucial role in all we do. Transparency and cooperation are core to successfully stopping illegal fishing.

Cooperative networks have been a key feature of the SIF approach, by bringing together individuals and organisations we are seeing real change in attitudes and opinions – this drives change on the ground and in policy processes.

Strengthening port State controls has been a particular focus for 2016, the drive to ratify and implement the PSMA has galvanised effort in this area, and SIF has provided support here as well as more broadly building capacity and supporting officers when and where they most need it.

And finally we **raise awareness** by telling people about what we are doing, whether that is explaining the issue, digging into the modus operandi of illegal operators or drawing attention to specific cases.



EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH

Stop Illegal Fishing compiles evidence from our own work and that of other organisations throughout Africa in order to inform decision-making and change both practically on the ground and in policy and legal frameworks. We contribute to improved understanding of the impacts of illegal fishing and related issues through assessing current knowledge, undertaking new research and analysing issues from an African perspective.

In 2016 a range of investigations, studies and analyses were carried out, including:

- FISH-i Africa: Issues, Investigations, Impacts – an analysis of the experiences by FISH-i Africa during its first years. This publication provides insight into the significant benefits derived from the cooperative approach used by the Task Force. Based on the analysis of ten FISH-i Africa investigations, the most important issues and challenges that the FISH-i Task Force is facing were identified.
- Research into the shark fin trade in Mombasa, Kenya, as an indicator of port State measures implementation and control. Challenges identified include the lack of clear provisions in Kenya's legal framework to implement Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) shark resolutions, a lack of awareness of the shark fin trade and lack of control of it.
- The SIF series of case studies provides practical lesson learning and advice to African and international policy makers. In 2016, two new case studies were prepared, both profiling the work of the EU-funded Indian Ocean Commission SmartFish project:
 - A Multi-Agency Task Team: working together to end destructive blast fishing focuses on the formation of a new inter-agency unit in Tanzania which has had significant success in tackling the pressing issue of destructive dynamite fishing.
 - Illegal fishing on Lake Victoria: how joint operations are making an impact follows progress made through a SmartFish intervention, working with authorities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to strengthen MCS of the lake fisheries through capacity building, team building and practice operations.



EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE

Improved information and intelligence exchange is vital to the effectiveness and timeliness of States' responses to illegal fishing. Information sharing is at the heart of the SIF approach, and forms the basis of the coastal States cooperation through the FISH-i and West Africa Task Forces. Sharing information on fishing licences, vessels, fishing activity, flag States, operators and agents enables us to identify anomalies, and target resources on high risk vessels, organisations and individuals.

SIF supports the development of various information-sharing platforms, equipping fisheries officers and policy makers in Africa with timely information and enabling targeted and prompt responses to IUU fishing as they occurred.

Vessel identity fraud is a key factor in many cases of illegal fishing and fisheries crime.

By sharing and misusing identities, vessels can and do get away with fishing without licences, catching fish illegally and operating out of sight of the law.

In 2016, SIF continued to develop VISIBLE, the database of information on vessels operating in, or associated with, the FISH-i Africa region. The database is planned to go live in 2017 and will support the management and

enforcement efforts of fisheries officers.

Sharing of information and intelligence has been crucial to the success of investigations undertaken by SIF. We have a powerful network of investigators, undercover operators, legal advisors, analysts and dedicated fisheries experts.

The support offered by this network ensures that intelligence results in action. An informal partnership between INTERPOL and FISH-i Africa has facilitated actions against fisheries-related illegalities.

Our investigations have assisted in many arrests, convictions, penalties and enforcement actions in Africa and beyond.



COOPERATIVE NETWORKS

Stop Illegal Fishing works to grow and support a network of professionals, experts and champions to lead the African campaign against illegal fishing. Illegal fishing demands an organised and collaborative response. By creating cooperative mechanisms, such as the FISH-i Africa Task Force, where working together is firmly embedded into procedures and practices, we are seeing significant results.

The FISH-i Africa Task Force is a good example of how an effective network of committed and well-motivated practitioners can make a difference. Bringing together eight member countries, a regional fisheries management organisation, a regional economic body and international experts, FISH-i has developed a new way of tackling old issues. At the core of its effectiveness is the trust and communication that has developed over the years.

The FISH-i model of cooperation is increasingly recognised as an effective approach for replication by authorities and organisations looking to tackle crime within both the fisheries and wildlife sectors.

The FISH-i model has been presented and discussed at many events during the course of 2016, including:

- The SADC Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange initiative that is being established to strengthen wildlife law enforcement capacity and cross-border collaboration.
- The 9th International Forum on IUU Fishing at Chatham House, Benedict Kiilu (Principle Fisheries Officer in Mombasa, Kenya) stated “pre 2012 every coastal state was working for itself. Since the advent

of FISH-i Africa we share MCS data and track vessels fishing in the Indian Ocean. This is working positively, providing success at a minimal cost. We have reduced IUU fishing in the Western Indian Ocean through the FISH-i Africa Task Force.”

- FISH-i Africa was selected by the Blue Solutions initiative as an example of regional cooperation and information sharing that is yielding significant results in tackling illegal fishing in the Western Indian Ocean. The Blue Solutions initiative is implemented by the German Development Agency — GIZ, the United Nations Environmental Programme, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the UNEP Collaborating Centre Grid Arendal.

- Speaking on the panel on International and Regional MCS Co-operation of the IMCS Network’s 5th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop, Nicholas Ntheketha (chair of the FISH-i Africa Task Force) shared the success of FISH-i Africa: “The cheapest tool in fighting IUU fishing is sharing information and intelligence, and through co-operation with all MCS actors and practitioners, it is through cooperation and information sharing that FISH-i are making sure that enforcement actions happen.”



CAPACITY BUILDING

Developing human capacity enables better handling of the complex cases that result from the multi-jurisdictional nature of fisheries violations and crimes. Well-trained and engaged fisheries professionals are vital to ensuring an end to illegal fishing. Working at the frontline, often under difficult circumstances, fisheries inspectors and MCS officers play a crucial role in increasing compliance in the fishery sector. Building human and institutional capacity has been a core part of SIF's activities since its establishment.

Supporting the development of skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources of fisheries enforcement is a core element of both the FISH-i Africa and West Africa Task Forces. The ongoing dialogue created through the shared communication platforms used by the respective Task Forces is essential to building expertise, as officers are able to share experience and pool knowledge.

In 2016, the following training took place:

- As part of the coordination committee of the WATF, SIF assisted in the Regional Training Workshops of the WATF held in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The training sessions focussed on the procedures and processes used to investigate suspected illegal fishing and included port visits and practical exercises on vessel inspection of both purse seiners and reefers.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Prosecution and Enforcement Workshop held in Gaborone in November provided an opportunity for representatives of the FISH-i Task Force to share information, experiences, and lessons learned on topics relevant to fisheries enforcement and prosecution in the region.

Furthermore, SIF has welcomed the establishment of FishFORCE, a Norwegian funded Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Academy housed at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. FishFORCE aims to build local law enforcement expertise and strengthen cooperation between agencies, to further enhanced law enforcement.

In November, SIF attended a high level stakeholders' meeting to assess the proposed Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Academy to be developed in collaboration between FishFORCE and the University of Nairobi.

"The need for fisheries enforcement training that is tailored to and meets the needs of national teams is vital to successfully tackle illegal fishing. We hope that the evidence, successes and lessons learned by Stop Illegal Fishing will contribute to the shaping of the academy and will help to identify issues that may be of interest for further discussions and collaborations." Per Erik Bergh, Stop Illegal Fishing Coordinator.



STRENGTHENING PORT STATE CONTROLS

The use of ports in developing countries as an entry point for illegally caught fish to supply chains has long been a key issue. Since SIF was established, it has promoted strengthened port controls in Africa. In June 2016, the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) entered into force. Nine African countries were already parties to the PSMA at the time of entry into force and several others had begun their procedures for becoming parties.

During the course of 2016, Stop Illegal Fishing provided expertise to four FAO projects concerning the implementation of port State measures.

The projects concerned the global community as well as the Indian Ocean and Caribbean regions, focussing on two instruments – the 2009 PSMA and the IOTC Resolution 16/11 on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. With the entry into force of the PSMA, implementation at regional and national levels has taken on a new urgency, whilst the IOTC Resolution has been legally binding since its entry into force in 2011, it has recently been amended to include electronic reporting requirements.

In the Indian Ocean, SIF provided expertise under the FAO Common Oceans Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Tuna Project for the IOTC Regional Port State Measures Training Course on National Interagency Cooperation and Regional Coordination, held in Phuket, Thailand, October 2016.

In the Caribbean, SIF provided expertise to the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean in two national training workshops for countries that are parties to the PSMA: Guyana and the Bahamas in April and November 2016.

Under the FAO Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project, SIF also provided expertise in revising and finalising a publication on port State measures. The publication, *Implementation of Port State Measures – Legislative Template, Framework for Procedures and Role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)*, is available at <http://www.commonoceans.org/news/news-detail/en/c/422130/>. The publication contains generic legislative templates that will provide a useful resource for all those grappling with how best to implement the PSMA through legislation, procedures and RFMOs.



AWARENESS RAISING

Through our media outreach, SIF 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 newsletter, social media accounts and the SIF website are go-to resources for anyone wanting to know more about the latest on illegal fishing in Africa.

In terms of our own investigations, we have experienced the benefits of press coverage and engagement. For example, in December 2016 the coverage on our website of the GREKO 1 absconding from port contributed to the settlement of the fine given for operating illegally. We will continue to utilise this power to ensure fines are paid, illegal catch is not accepted and illegal operators are put under pressure to comply with laws and regulations.

Throughout 2016, we developed relationships with the media to ensure that illegal fishing in Africa gained further global attention. SIF's efforts received coverage in a number of influential media outlets, including broadcast coverage on the BBC, print coverage in The Guardian, as well as online in Ensia and Hakai Magazine. SIF has become a trusted source for journalists seeking expert commentary and first-hand experience of tackling illegal fishing.

Our media outreach consists of the following:

Reports and publications — the SIF Case Studies have become a critical resource, defining best practice by analysing practical examples of different approaches in the fight against IUU fishing. In 2016, two case studies were published on: the Multi-Agency Task Team tackling dynamite fishing in Tanzania; and joint patrols on Lake Victoria. In addition, a report on FISH-i Africa was published, which assessed the issues, investigations and impacts of the Task Force to date.

Website — Featuring news and analyses, stories from the field, extensive background on illegal fishing, and downloadable reports and publications, the www.stopillegal-fishing.com has become a go-to source of information.

Newsletters — Regular newsletters feature news of our activities and initiatives but also highlight global efforts to end illegal fishing.

Press service — SIF has built an extensive archive of press coverage on illegal fishing and related issues, again with a particular focus on Africa – a highly useful information source for researchers, students and professionals.

Awareness material — A range of clear and compelling infographics and leaflets help to highlight the issues, showcase initiatives, and make the case for action on illegal fishing and fisheries-related illegality.

Social media — Our social media accounts increasingly contribute to identifying illegality and ensuring that the relevant authorities take action. Both Twitter and Facebook continue to be valuable tools for creating awareness and sharing information. We are directly connected to over 5300 people and organisations on Facebook, and had more than a 50% increase in page views by the end of 2016, compared to 2015.



FUTURE STEPS

In moving forward SIF will build on the successes and momentum achieved. We will continue to work closely with coastal, port, flag, and market States and key stakeholders such as industry, retailers, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, and regional fisheries management organisations to tackle the key issues.

In addition to our ongoing initiatives and investigations 2017 will see Stop Illegal Fishing take on new priority areas, including:

Vessel identity information — A renewed focus on making identity information on fishing vessels available, and most importantly, easily accessible by enforcement officers. This is a key means of preventing vessel identity fraud and stopping the abuse of systems and laws designed to ensure legal and sustainable fishing. SIF will continue to develop the VISIBLE database to ensure that information is in the hands of those who most need it.

Human trafficking — Human trafficking is closely associated with illegal fishing and fisheries related illegality. SIF has seen evidence of forced labour and human rights abuses aboard vessels operating in the Western Indian Ocean. Fisheries inspectors are a key element in identifying forced labour and human rights abuses. By building awareness and capacity on the ground to aid identification of the victims and support helpful interventions SIF can provide practical help where it is needed most.

Shark finning — The trade in shark fins is a core feature of Indian Ocean fisheries. This high value product is targeted by both industrial and artisanal vessels, as documented in our 2016 study that highlights the challenges in understanding this largely unseen and unregulated trade. Sharks are key to ocean ecosystems and with growing species identified as threatened or vulnerable SIF plans to map the trade chain, identify policy opportunities and raise awareness of the extent of the issue.

Blast fishing — Blast fishing is particularly problematic in Tanzania where easy access to explosives has created an epidemic. Blast fishers are destroying Tanzania's coral reefs and all the benefits they provide. Action is needed to support the newly created Multi Agency Task Team, an inter agency body that can target the kingpins who supply the explosives.

Engaging with industry — The role of the fisheries industry in ensuring that fish are legally caught and processed is critical to seeing deep-rooted change to industry practices. SIF will be seeking industry partners to trial new approaches and harness the eyes and ears of legitimate operators to improve compliance in the sector.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The work of Stop Illegal Fishing 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 or by other partners on-behalf of SIF. In 2016, SIF managed projects to a value of almost USD 200 000 to implement activities and almost USD 500 000 was managed by SIF partners on-behalf of the work of SIF. The Executive Committee, SIF members and the Secretariat generously provided their time to support the work of SIF in 2016, this had an estimated monetary value of USD 100 000. During 2016, the work of SIF was supported by resources estimated to be worth almost USD 800 000.

2016 Funding of Stop Illegal Fishing

Activities managed by SIF

	Actual USD
West Africa Task Force	74,000
Assistance with PSMA implementation	60,000
Shark-fin research and investigation	22,000
SIF Investigative Unit	35,000
	191,000

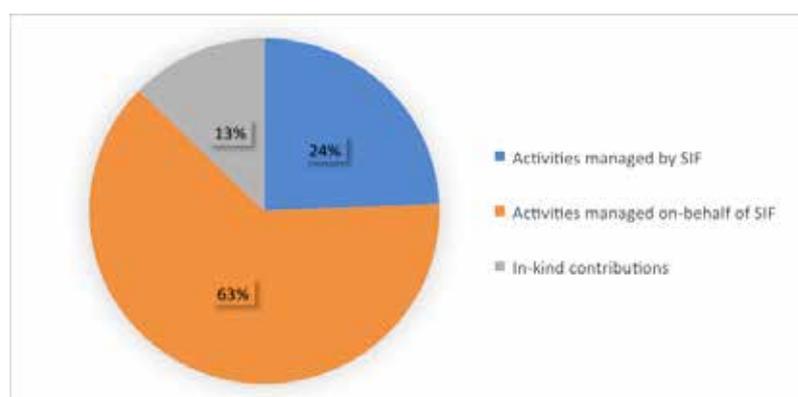
Activities managed on-behalf of SIF

	Actual USD
FISH-I Africa Task Force	450,000
SIF Case studies	22,000
SIF Industry charter	22,000
	494,000

In-kind contributions

	Estimate USD
Executive Committee members	15,000
SIF members	20,000
Secretariat	65,000
	100,000

Total **785,000**



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is comprised of up to eight voting members elected at the 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 2016 Executive Committee were:



Elsa da Gloria Patria
Chair

Elsa started her career working in fisheries monitoring and control in her native Mozambique and her experience includes working for government, private and NGO sectors. Elsa brings a strong conviction and commitment to integrate the work of SIF into pan-African efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure a balanced social, environmental and economic growth for all African countries.



Seraphin Dedi Nadjé
Vice-Chair

Secretary General of the FCWC, Seraphin has served as Vice Chair of Stop Illegal Fishing since it became a not for profit in 2013. Seraphin works closely with SIF on the coordination of the FCWC hosted West Africa Task Force.

‘With the region working together to share information we are making it more and more difficult for the illegal operators to get away with breaking the rules and breaking our laws.’



Markus Burgener
Vice-Chair

Markus is a Senior Programme Officer with TRAFFIC’s East/Southern African programme. Markus has worked on national, regional and international policy and legislation related to biodiversity conservation.

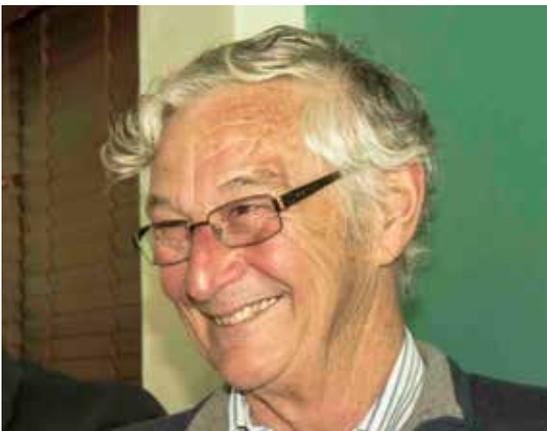
‘By bringing an intelligent and well thought through approach to the issue, Stop Illegal Fishing are increasing cooperation between countries and between agencies and are tackling corruption – a key issue in illegal fishing.’



Per Erik Bergh
Executive Secretary

One of the founding members of SIF, Per Erik heads up the SIF Investigative Unit.

‘Through our work with SIF we have uncovered the extent of the illegalities that are taking place in our oceans every day. By working in partnership with coastal, market, flag and port States as well as NGOs and the international community we can see what needs to change and we are making progress.’



Richard Ball
Vice Secretary

A long standing advocate of the role that the legal industry can play in stopping illegal fishing, Richard has been involved in the South African commercial fishing industry since 1966 and plays an active role in a number of South African industry associations including the South Coast Rock Lobster Industry Association, the South African Patagonian Toothfish Industry Association, FishSA and the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators.



Sandy Davies
Treasurer

Sandy’s work in fisheries started in a fish processing factory in Canada where she witnessed some of the shadier sides of the business. Later, based in the Falkland Islands, she spent four years, mostly at sea, monitoring and watching the industry at work. Sandy has worked and lived in Africa for the last twenty years, focusing on fisheries management and governance, sustainable development and regional and international policy integration.



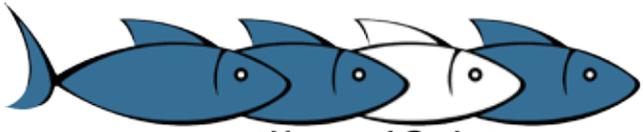
Victor Kargbo
Executive Committee Member

Victor has been at the forefront of reducing and stopping illegal fishing in Sierra Leone where he has been working for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources since 1987. Victor now serves as the Acting Assistant Director of Fisheries. He is also Head of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Unit of the Ministry and the Joint Maritime Committee Management Team.

ACRONYMS

ABNJ	Area Beyond National Jurisdiction
AU	African Union
EU	European Union
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFDS	Nordenfjeldske Development Services
PAF	Partnership for African Fisheries
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
RFMO	Regional fisheries management organisation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
USD	United States dollar
WATF	West Africa Task Force





www.stopillegalfishing.com

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

www.stopillegalfishing.com