



Risk assessment, denial of port entry and use as a multi-agency tool to combat IUU fishing

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What threatens our fisheries?

2000

Key challenges that the region was addressing, when they negotiated the Protocol on Fisheries, included many issues from the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries:

- Controlling overfishing
- Reducing overcapacity
- Illegal fishing, violation of CMMs
- The need for coordinated management of joint fisheries and water bodies
- Developing fisheries management plans and national plans of action

2021

However, the challenges are rapidly evolving. The threats and drivers are now far more external and beyond the realm of fisheries managers alone, including:

- Growing demand
- Climate change
- Harmful subsidies
- Blue expectations
- Illegal fishing and fisheries crimes



IUU fishing

- Annual global economic losses to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing are thought to be as high as 23.5 billion USD.
- In the SADC region the loss is conservatively estimated to represent 10 billion USD annually.
- Illegal operators are driven by money.
- Their tactics are generally deliberate, organised and systematic.
- They break rules to reduce operational costs and to increase profits from their operations.



The illegal fishing vessel

- Illegal operators also minimize their upfront costs and increase their profits by cutting costs involved with the safety and crew conditions.
- There is increasing international recognition that poor safety standards and substandard working conditions are a hallmark of vessels that also engage in illegal fishing.
- This produces a range of related and associated crimes including document forgery, vessel identity fraud, tax evasion and modern-day slavery.



Fishing is a global industry, dependent on a global regulatory system to operate efficiently and fairly.



A powerful and inexpensive tool is the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA). It sets the international minimum standards to take in relation to foreign fishing vessels.

Parties must deny port entry and port use in cases when the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or related activities.

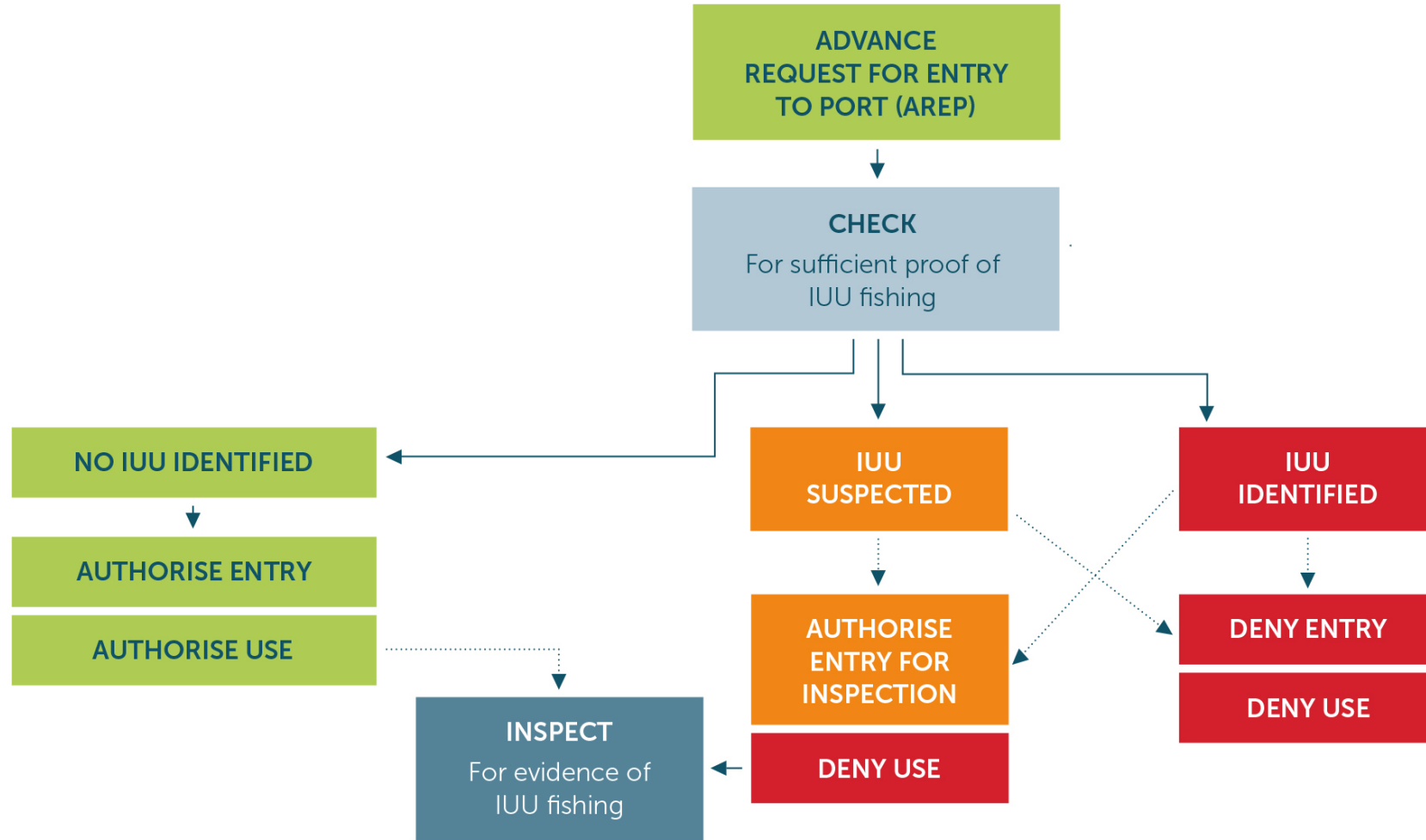


Advanced Request for Entry into Port (AREP)



- The owner or operator of a foreign vessel must request entry to a port officially designated for use by foreign vessels.
- An AREP must be submitted before a specified time prior to entry e.g., 48 hours in advance.
- The AREP should contain all information required under the PSMA, an RFMO and/or national law.
- If a request for entry has not been received, or true and complete information has not been provided, the vessel should not be permitted to enter port except for purposes of inspection.
- If such a vessel enters port without permission, it may be subject to prosecution under national legislation for doing so. The use of port should be denied.

Risk assessment - why?



Risk assessment - what?



Vessel

- Verification of documents
- IUU history
- Authorisation to fish
- Name or flag changes
- Vessel tracks



Port State

- Ports of non-compliance?



People

- Do the owner, operator, master, or agent have any known IUU fishing history?



Flag State

- Is the flag State associated with IUU fishing issues?



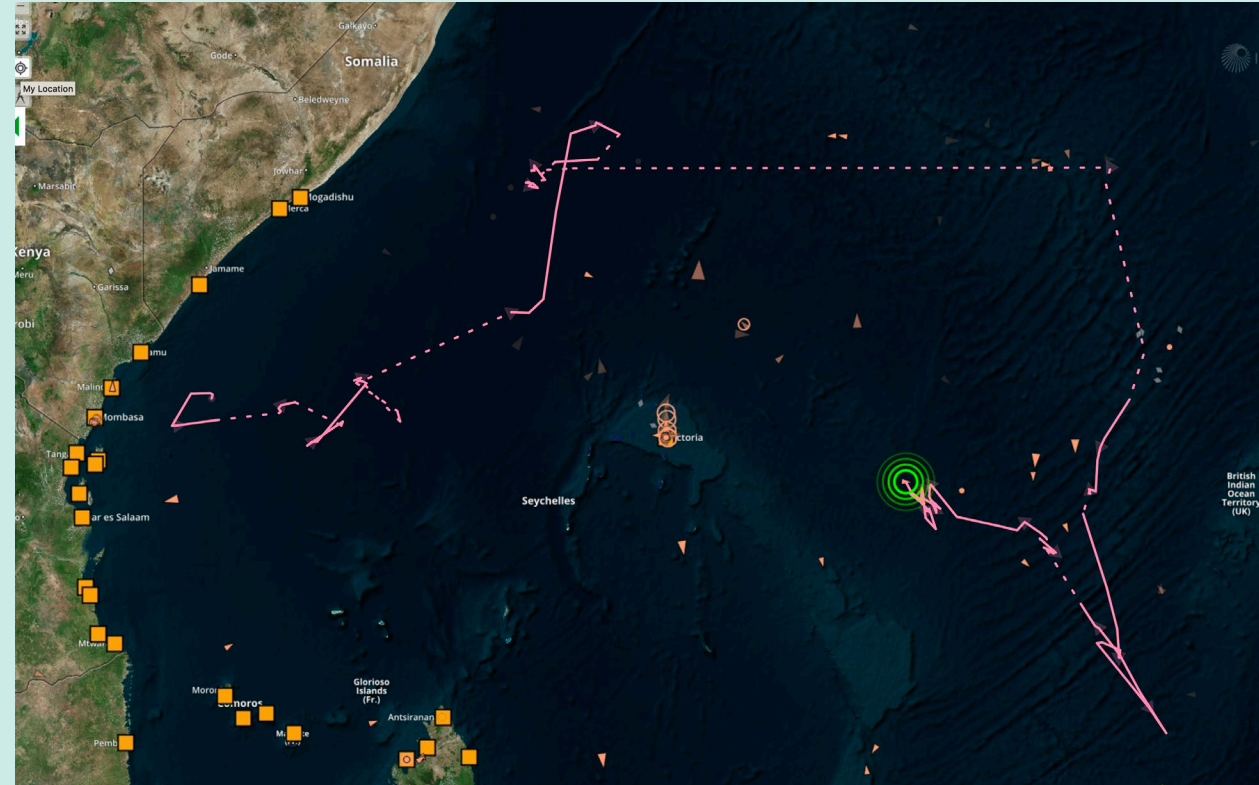
Crew

- Is the crew at risk of human rights abuse or modern-day slavery?

Risk assessment - how?

Main research tools:

- **Regional centres and NGO's** – Many organisations such as the SADC MCSCC provides intelligence analysis.
- **Flag State** – Verification of documents and vessel ID
- **RFMO** – IUU and authorised lists.
- **Internet searches** – to find potential news articles and remarks related to IUU fishing.
- **Social Media** – platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube can give valuable information.
- **VMS and AIS tracks** – information related to historic activity, port calls and transparency.



The Risk Matrix

No	Indicator	Low	Medium	High
1	Is the vessel listed as an IUU vessel with any RFMO, does it have any INTERPOOL notice issued against it or does it have any known IUU history in the last 3 -5 years?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No RFMO IUU listing reported or found No INTERPOL Notice Issued No IUU fishing incidents found through research within the last 3-5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleged IUU activities reported to RFMO, but not yet IUU-listed Previously IUU listed by RFMO (but removed from list) INTERPOL alert or communication indicating link to IUU fishing One IUU incident found, but case is settled with relevant State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessel listed as IUU vessel with RFMO INTERPOL Purple Notice previously issued but expired/withdrawn INTERPOL Purple Notice issued and in force. One unsettled or two IUU incidents found
2	Is the vessel authorised to fish by flag State and any necessary RFMOs and licenced by coastal States?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorised by flag State Authorised by RFMO licensed by coastal States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unconfirmed or inconsistent authorisations Only copies of authorisations available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not authorised or no information provided Forged or fake authorisations suspected or confirmed
3	Did the vessel change name or flag during the last 3-5 years?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No flag or name change taken place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or two name or flag change but reason provided Indications of flag change but information not provided or available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several unexplained name or flag changes Forged registration documents suspected or provided

Cooperation is the key to success

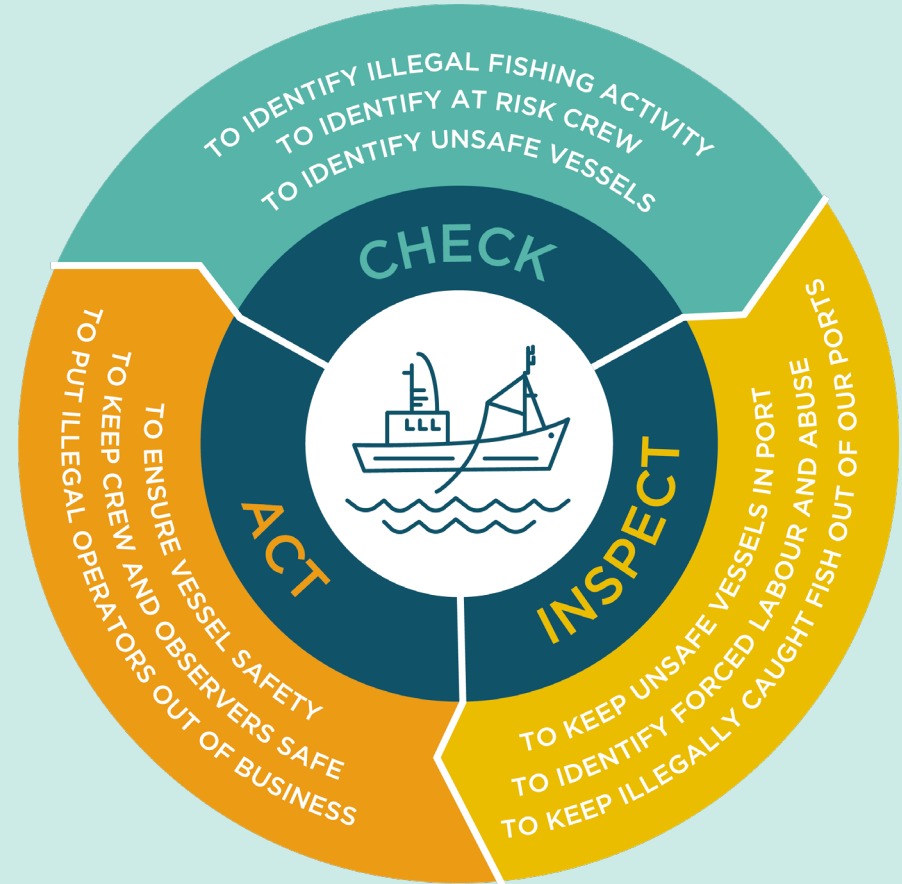
Effective port controls and checks need:

- National capacity
- National interagency cooperation
- Regional cooperation

To take effective action against illegal operators.

To ensure that the evidence is gathered and compiled.

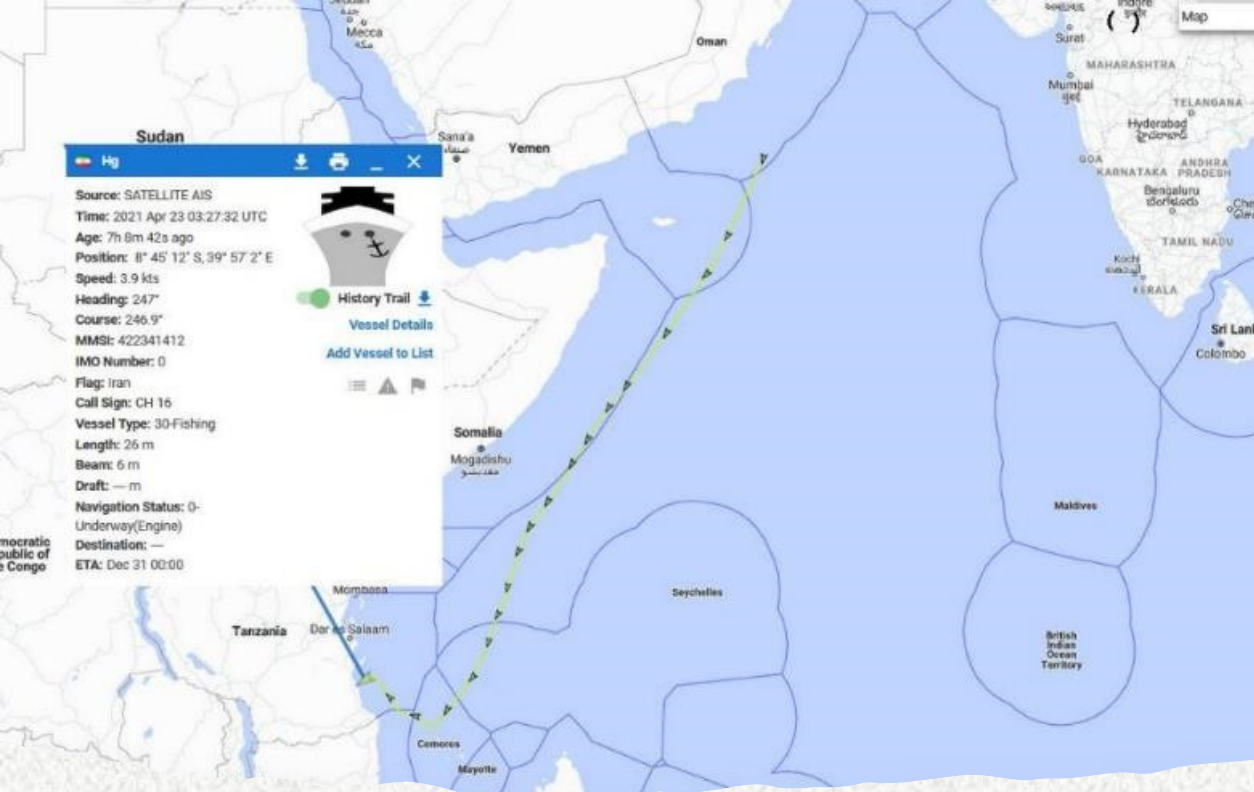
To enable fisheries to be part of the regional blue economy dialogue.



Interagency cooperation



- The problem of IUU fishing and fisheries crime is that it is simply too big and too complex for any one agency or country to tackle on its own.
- When resources are pooled together, they are strengthened, made more efficient.
- IUU fishers and operators target regions with weaker governance because these are the locations where their illegal activity can thrive, and they can get off the hook if caught.



stop illegal fishing

National Inter-Agency Cooperation and regional cooperation nets a different fish

stop illegal fishing

1,000 kg of
Heroin
confiscated



We can use our ports as a tool to:

- Refuse access to known or suspected IUU fishing vessels.
- Identify high-risk vessels for inspection or investigation.
- Work across agencies to identify, sanction and stop illegal operators.
- Establish systems and procedures that reduce the risk of corruption.
- Increase compliance in the industrial sector to support a sustainable artisanal sector.
- Improve maritime security.



The role of regional cooperation

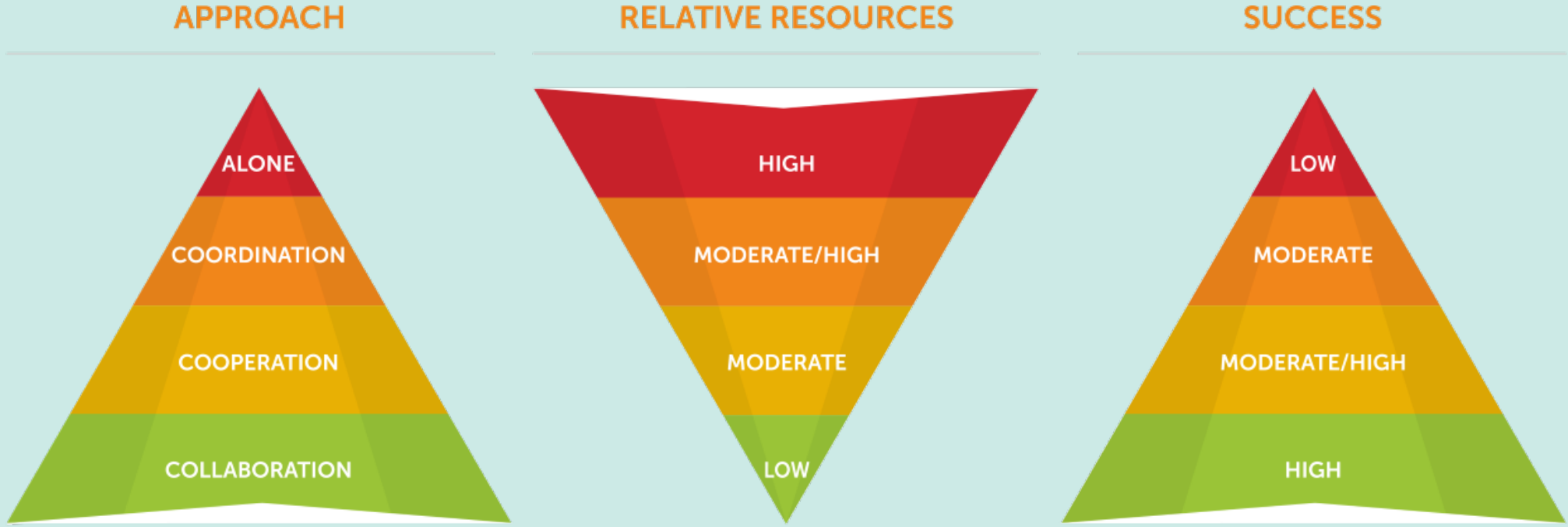
Benefits

- National enforcement action, supported by collaborative action in other countries.
- Without regional cooperation, the needs of coastal states will continue to be put behind the needs of other players and as resources dwindle so will benefits to the region.
- Stop the exploitation of weak states and institutions for the benefit of the region.
- Centrally coordinated and supported patrols targeting IUU hot spots.
- Greater benefits accrue to the SADC region.

Challenges

- Requires a sound collaborative mechanism, supported by legal and policy frameworks that enable empowered officials to act.
- Agreeing on a common agenda may highlight different political and commercial considerations between countries.
- Must be driven by a common and agreed regional agenda.
- Political will to ensure follow through and dedication of resources and personnel.

The benefits of regional cooperation



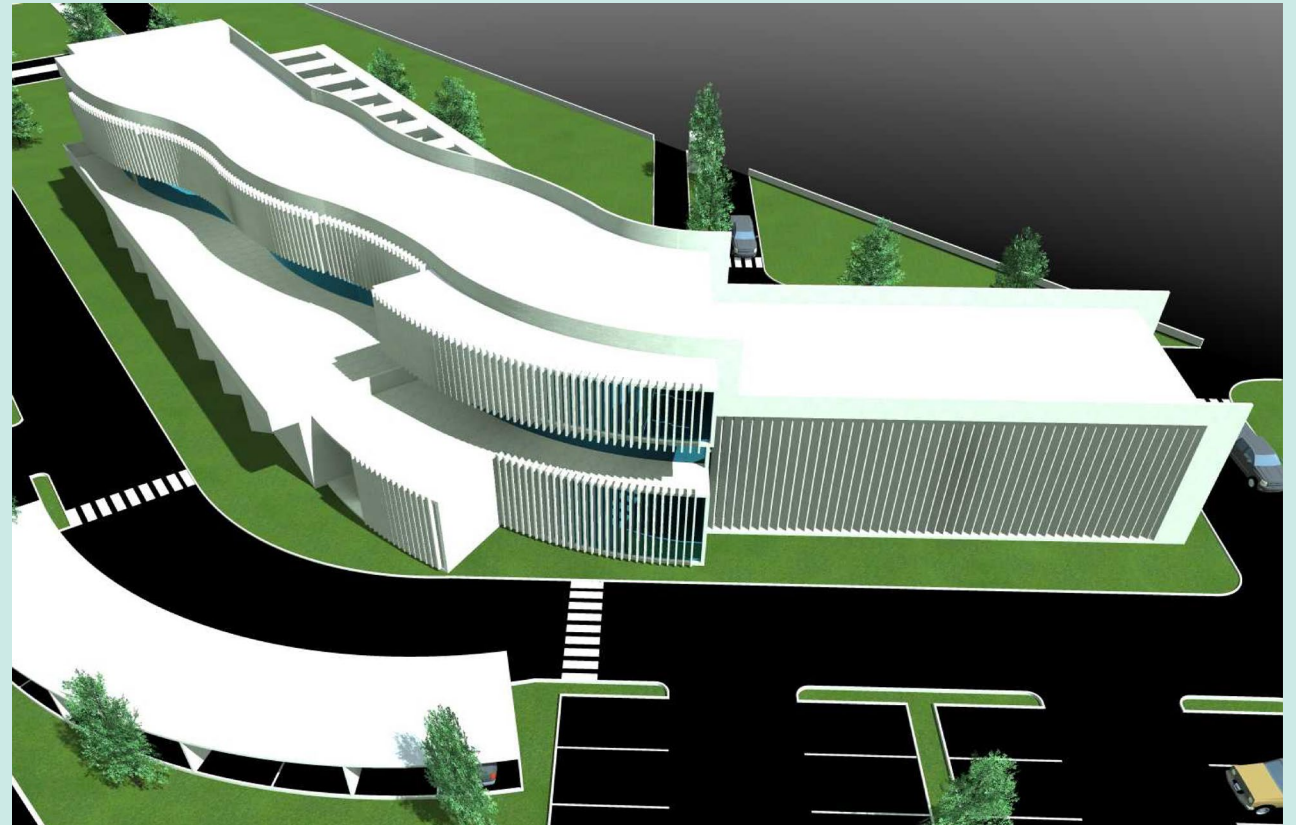
A thriving blue economy assumes a compliant marine and fisheries sector.

If it is not, the whole concept of the blue economy may fail, become destructive and result in an increased maritime security risk.



The SADC MCSCC can make a significant contribution in providing risk assessment and intelligence analysis

- The longer the Charter is not in force, the more SADC States lose to IUU fishing – this is currently estimated at a rate of USD 400 million per year.
- Member countries are encouraged to support the establishment of the SADC MCSCC by signing the Charter for its establishment.
- Actors must share information with the SADC MCSCC in respect to illegal fish or illegal fishery operators in the SADC fishery value chain and markets.
- It is important to create awareness and share information in respect to the damaging impacts of IUU fishing to foster political will to tackle the problem.



Thank you

