



stop illegal fishing

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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This report was approved by the eighth Annual General Meeting of SIF on 20 April 2021.

Our vision and mission

Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) is working 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.

The objectives of Stop Illegal Fishing are 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.

Letter from the chair

2020 has been dominated by COVID-19, its impact on fisheries, monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) and on our work. We have had to rethink our working lives, and learn new ways of doing things. While we have all missed the opportunity for face-to-face meetings and all the benefits these bring, moving to virtual platforms for training, mentoring, discussions, decision making and sharing of information has led to the discovery of new and beneficial ways of working.

Our biggest success in 2020 has been the development of the use of body worn cameras for fisheries enforcement. The approach was developed as a substitute for in person mentoring of port inspections under SIF's Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing (PSM-SIF) project. The pilot scheme involved the use of cameras in Ghana and Mozambique, enabling us to not only provide on going support to inspectors but, without the travel needed to different ports and countries, to increase the frequency and regularity of the support.

The further application of the body worn camera support has received considerable interest with potential applications identified through the supply chain from catching and transhipment to offloading. The increased opportunity to provide expert or multi-agency support to fisheries inspections has the potential to be a real game changer. The benefits of improved interagency cooperation, increased professionalism, reduced opportunities for corruption and intimidation and the securing of information as evidence are significant.

Much of our work this year has focussed on the importance of port State measures. This has been through the PSM-SIF support in Ghana, Madagascar, and Mozambique, and also through SIFs support to the West Africa Task Force where the WATF members have identified port controls as the main area for support.

Our flagship publication for 2020 was 'Moving Tuna' which took a deep dive into transhipment in the Western Indian Ocean. The key findings highlighted the significance of the comprehensive application of port controls to all fishing and transport vessels using ports, not only those unloading fish, the validation of transhipment monitoring with other MCS information and the need to attract more benefits from regional transhipment for the countries of the region.

While global attention is focussed on developing ocean economies, we must take the opportunity to embed sustainability as a core principle of blue growth. The pressure to increase national revenues from the licensing or registration of fishing vessels must be considered alongside State responsibilities to monitor and control these vessels, and the very real risks associated with fleets, vessels and operators that have a track record of non-compliance.

Sustainable development goal 14 (SDG 14) concerning life below water is a priority focus for Africa where so many of our communities are reliant on fish, inland waters and oceans to provide food, employment and income. To counter the new challenges faced by fisheries officers working on the frontline, we must work harder and smarter to identify and act against illegal fishing.

Elsa Patria

Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing

Effective port State measures allow port States to refuse known or suspected illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) vessels access to port, and to identify high-risk vessels for inspection or investigation. These are powerful tools in the fight against illegal fishing. A fishing vessel cannot operate without access to port to offload, refuel, take on supplies or to be repaired. Thorough and targeted inspections make best use of resources and efforts and help to identify illegal vessels.

The relatively low cost and high impact of port State measures make them especially attractive for States such as Madagascar who have limited resources and large maritime zones. With well drafted legislation and thorough implementation, port State measures can help to improve not only the fisheries sector, but also contribute to maritime security, ecological sustainability and human rights.

The PSMA sets out the minimum controls a State should use when fishing vessels enter or apply to enter one of its ports; and to verify that all fish landed were caught legally. If a vessel is suspected of illegal activities, the PSMA enables port officials to deny the vessel access to port and to services such as refuelling and repairs; or be subjected to immediate inspection on arrival. However, for this agreement to succeed it is important to have national policies, laws, institutional and operational capacities and cooperation and coordination in place to identify, inspect and act against high-risk vessels.

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), has since 2018 implemented an initiative: **‘Supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in selected African countries’**, known as Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing (PSM-SIF). This is implemented in close cooperation and partnership with FAO to ensure that our joint efforts support the countries in a synergistic manner.

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 in Ghana, Mozambique and Madagascar.

What we did in 2020

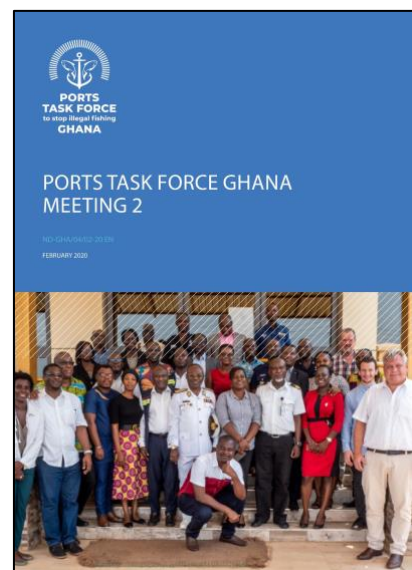
Ports Task Force Ghana

As a result of Ghana's ratification of the PSMA, the Ports Task Force Ghana (PTFG) was established to take the lead in operationalizing the National Strategy and Action Plan for the implementation of the PSMA. The PTFG supports agencies to work together towards stopping illegal fishing and its associated crimes. It is coordinated by the MCS Division of Ghana's Fisheries Commission, and supported by the PSM-SIF initiative.

The PTFG is demonstrating just how important interagency cooperation is in implementing port State measures. Whether it is evaluating the risk level of a vessel, making decisions about port access, or undertaking inspections or enforcement actions, agencies need to share information, respond quickly to requests, and actively support each other to keep illegally caught fish out of Ghana's ports.

Second meeting of the Ports Task Force Ghana

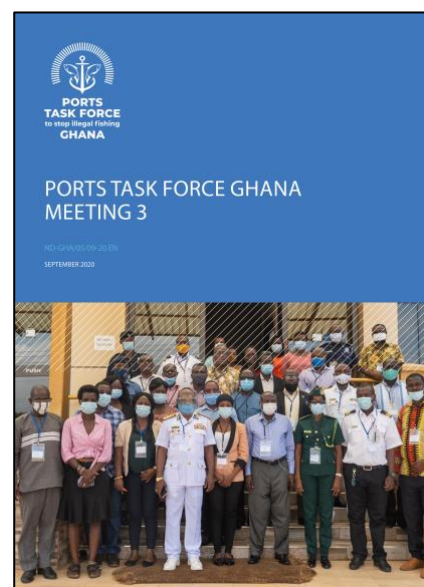
The PTFG held its second meeting in Tema on 25 February 2020. The one-day meeting was convened by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and brought together representatives from ten agencies involved in port controls for fishing vessels. The focus of discussions was on improving the process for receiving and sharing advance requests for entry to port (AREPs). Communication between the Ghana Port and Harbour Authority and the MCSD is critical. Mr JD Kotze, Stop Illegal Fishing MCS Expert said, "Getting the AREP to the right people in good time for background checks to be made on the vessel and its operators is crucial for effective port State measures. This is what allows for risk assessment, the identification of high-risk vessels, and informs decision making on whether or not to allow port access."



The meeting identified potential improvements to the current port entry systems and developed plans to implement these. By bringing all the relevant agencies together, the Ports Task Force Ghana is making real progress in addressing the practical challenges that fisheries MCS officers face in identifying and taking enforcement against illegal fishing.

Third meeting of the Ports Task Force Ghana

The PTFG held its third meeting in Tema on 16 September 2020. The meeting served as a platform to consult with the involved national agencies on collaborative mechanisms that will allow for effective cooperation in stopping IUU fishing and its associated crimes in the country. The meeting mapped the way forward to continue PSM implementation amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting brought together the Task Force members: MOFAD, Fisheries Enforcement Unit, Marine Police, Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), West Africa Task Force (WATF), Ghana Navy, Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority, Ghana Maritime Authority, Port Health Services, National Security, Ghana Revenue Authority, Ghana Immigration Service, Food and Drug Authority, and the Attorney General's Office.



Interagency meeting unites Malagasy agencies in the fight against illegal fishing

The Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries (MAEP) with support from the PSM-SIF project hosted an interagency workshop in Madagascar focused on the implementation of the PSMA. Representatives from eight agencies participated in the workshop that was held in Antananarivo on 28- 30 January 2020.

Mr Per Erik Bergh, Coordinator of Stop Illegal Fishing stressed the importance of fisheries to Madagascar for economic development and as a significant source of food and nutrition security. Illegal fishing poses a significant threat to Madagascar, and the links to labour, immigration, safety, and security concerns demand a coordinated and collaborative response from several national agencies. He said, “At the heart of the PSMA is the active cooperation needed between fisheries officials and other agencies to effectively check, inspect and act against illegal fishing. We welcome the participation of all the key agencies here today and look forward to working out effective means of communicating and cooperating to identify illegal vessels and to keep them out of our ports.”

Closing the meeting, Mr Tiana Randrianbola, Director of Fisheries, thanked all participants for their attendance at the first interagency workshop of 2020, noting that all efforts will be made stronger through cooperation. He said, “The need to exchange and utilize information has been recognised by all agencies represented at the meeting and the willingness to protect Madagascar against IUU vessels will progress faster by working together and formalising cooperation.

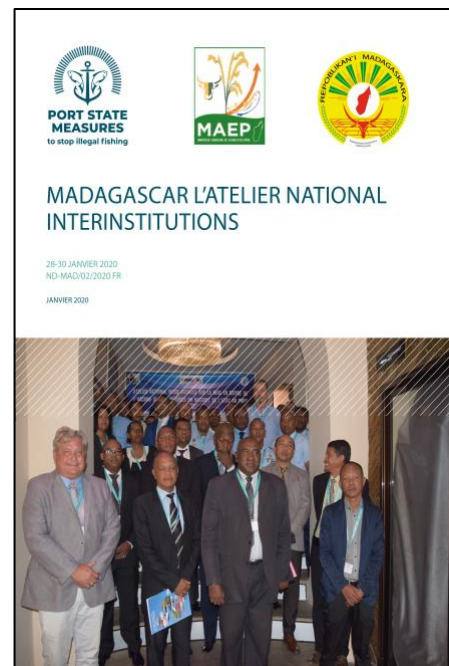
PSM-SIF provides remote mentoring support for in-port inspections

The outbreak of COVID-19 and its rapid spread across the world has made work in the fisheries sector very complex. Major restrictions on movement and human physical contact, and the lack of personal protective equipment for inspectors has made MCS work challenging. The need to enable work activities to continue led SIF to test new technology to enable us to continue working with the Project countries.

Innovative implementation of body cameras with live streaming capabilities and online presence is being used during inspections to overcome the COVID-19 restrictions. This has enabled the PSM-SIF project countries to continue progress with the implementation of the PSMA.

The use of the body cameras allows key experts to remotely support in-country authorities during inspections, and to participate in discussions on conducting inspections in the target countries. The inspections are now recorded and available to be used as case studies for training. Recordings may also be used as evidence if any transgressions are found, or when evidence to support illegalities is seized.

A ten-day practical and desk-based inspection training took place in Ghana with six fisheries, navy and marine police officers. The training focused on risk assessment and inspections; in total 154 government officials were trained in 2020. This included training in two cases where IUU activity was suspected. Interagency training in Ghana and Madagascar included work on the roles of different agencies, the mechanisms for cooperation and examples of IUU cases to demonstrate the need for this cooperation.



This working methodology is expected to continue long after the pandemic as it saves travel time and costs. The use of the body camera has the potential to:

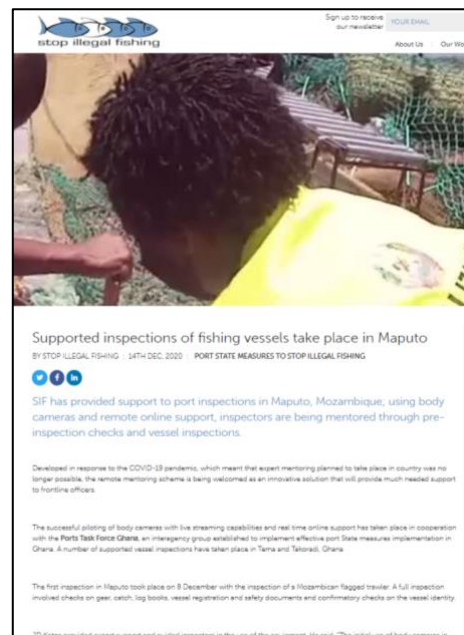
- Reduce complaints against officials.
- Lessen violent confrontations.
- Reduce opportunities for corruption.
- Get assistance to officers in need.
- Provide a blow-by-blow record of an event or critical incident.
- Collect unbiased evidence.
- Enhance the accuracy of a report, statement, or witness testimony.
- Assist in an evaluation of an official's performance.
- Recorded footage will assist training.
- Review crime and incident scenes.

Alex Sabah, Ports Task Force Ghana, said, “We are delighted that the PSM-SIF mentoring programme has been able to continue during the Covid-19 pandemic. This on-the-job support is helping our officers implement port State measures through conducting thorough inspections of fishing vessels in port.

Maputo supported inspections

Following the successful piloting of body cameras with live streaming capabilities and real time online support in cooperation with the Ports Task Force Ghana, SIF continued to provide support to port inspections in Maputo, Mozambique using body cameras. Inspectors were supported vessel inspections. The first inspection in Maputo took place on 8 December with the inspection of a Mozambican flagged trawler. A full inspection involved checks on gear, catch, logbooks, vessel registration and safety documents and confirmatory checks on the vessel identity.

JD Kotze provided expert support and guided inspectors in the use of the equipment. He said, “The initial use of body cameras in Maputo has been very successful. The system is now tried and tested, and the inspectors are adapting quickly to this method of working and appreciate the immediate support and guidance that we can offer.”



The system has been developed to enable online participation from national MCS or fisheries officials. The opportunity for other colleagues and senior officers to be watching inspections, in real time or from the recording, enables them to oversee the inspection, even if they are based in a city far away from the port, and this offers an excellent opportunity for them to evaluate officer's performance and to give positive feedback to encourage improved performance. The programme was rolled out to additional ports in Mozambique; and a trial inspection took place in Madagascar in December 2020. Leonid Santana Chimarizene, Director of Fisheries in Mozambique, said, “With so much MCS activity limited by COVID restrictions it is good to see the continued support for the implementation of port State measures. On the job training is a valuable way of building capacity amongst our inspectors and helps us to develop improved procedures for vessel inspections.”

West Africa Task Force

The West Africa Task Force (WATF) is hosted by the Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC); supported by a technical team that includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and SIF with funding from Norad. SIF has been implementing various activities focused on the Project Task Force meetings, National Working Group meetings, support to communications and awareness material development and distribution, building operational and technical capacity (especially in respect to PSM), and providing engagement in African Processes and activities to ensure that the impact of the WATF goes beyond the region.

The FCWC provides a platform for increasing cooperation among the six WATF member States of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo to tackle illegal fishing in the region. The Task Force focuses on building compliance with international and regional regulations set for the industrial fisheries sector of the region. It aims to ensure compliance in the catching sector and legitimacy in the flagging and licensing of fishing vessels to

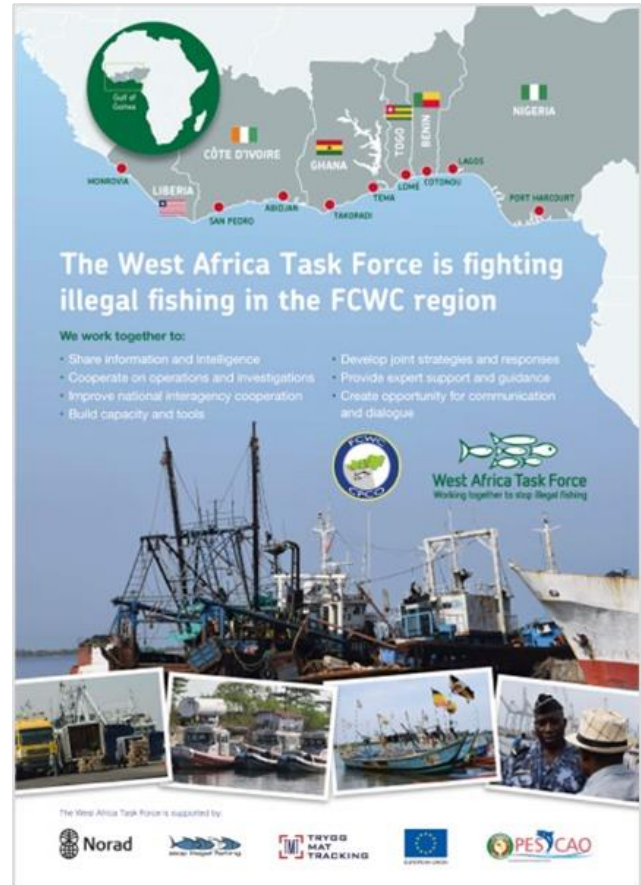
guarantee that only legal fish is off-loaded and processed in their ports. The WATF involves other agencies such as the Air Force, Immigration, Environment, Natural Resources, the Regional Maritime Security Centre, Prefecture Maritime and High Council of the Sea and Foreign Affairs. It has been built on the core values of cooperation and collaboration to increase communication and capacity within the FCWC region. The implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) has been identified as the priority area for expert support and capacity building in the FCWC region.

Capacity building

West Africa Task Force: risk assessment training targets illegal fishing

It is important for fisheries inspectors and allied agencies to be knowledgeable and proficient in their work to ensure that their able to identify illegal operators and to take effective enforcement action against the perpetrators. To support capacity building in the WATF region, a three-day WATF workshop was held providing practical training on the management of risk in fisheries, and the use of risk assessment to stop IUU fishing. The workshop, which took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 17 – 19 February 2020, brought together officials in charge of the inspection and control of fisheries to enhance technical capacity and knowledge of risk assessment techniques.

Focus was placed on the decision-making process that the inspectors, with the support of the national fisheries monitoring centres, will need to use to determine the priority for the inspection and control of fishing vessels to achieve operational objectives. This decision should be guided by the risk of potential non-conformities with the conservation and fisheries management rules that vessels could infringe. An understanding of the rules in force and the vessels to which they apply is therefore a necessary precondition for any inspection and control activity.



Risk assessment is being widely adopted as a key component of the due diligence checks on fishing vessels, operators and catch for decision making on licensing, flagging or port access.

Resources

Due diligence processes were also developed into posters for distribution to fisheries offices throughout the region. By harmonising procedures and regulations, the regional response to illegal fishing will be improved.

Côte d’Ivoire National Working Group meeting

The WATF supports interagency cooperation and collaboration to combat and deter illegal fishing through support to National Working Groups in each member State. To encourage communication and cooperation amongst the agencies involved in fisheries, the WATF held a two-day interagency National Working Group Meeting in Côte d’Ivoire, which was attended by representatives from 11 agencies.

Improved communication and information sharing were identified as priority areas to advance cooperation between agencies. In addition, the need to formalise cooperation through the development of Memorandum of Understanding between agencies was highlighted. Details of the risk assessment tools discussed at the WATF risk assessment workshop were considered for use to evaluate risk levels of fishing vessels and reefers seeking port access.

Abidjan is a major port in the Gulf of Guinea and plays a leading role in the import and export of fish including the processing of tuna for the European market. Effective implementation of port State measures will bring benefits not just for Côte d'Ivoire but for the wider region. Shutting down ports to illegal operators is the most effective route we have to stopping illegal fishing.

Due diligence checks to detect, prevent and deter illegal fishing

Due diligence checks on vessels involved in fishing and the transport of fish are critical to:

- Identify high-risk vessels.
- Identify high-risk fish products.
- Target inspection, surveillance and enforcement resources.
- Stop illegal operators.

What to check?

Vessel	Activity	People
Identity	Positional tracks	Owner
History	Fishing	Operator
Documents	Ports	Agent
Authorisations	Interactions	Crew

When to check?

What to look for	What to check	What to do
Existence	IUU listing by a regional fisheries management organisation. Alerts and notices shared by INTERPOL, the WATF and others. Press reports of previous enforcement action.	Deny: Flag, licence, port access or transshipment authorisation.
Before authorising:		
Registration		
Licences		
Port access	Indicators	Target: For inspection, surveillance and enforcement.
Transshipment	Inconsistencies	Investigate: For identity fraud, document forgery and invalid authorisations.
Offloading		

The West Africa Task Force is fighting illegal fishing in the FCWC region

The West Africa Task Force is supported by:

- Norad
- West Africa Task Force
- TRVGG VMS TRACKING
- EUROPEAN UNION
- PES/CAO

FISH-i Africa

The FISH-i Africa Task Force was created as an informal inter-governmental network working together to identify and act against illegal fishing operators.

Since its inception, FISH-i pioneered the routine sharing of information and intelligence and has taken cooperative action. The value of the Task Force has been widely recognised and in June 2019 the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers approved the recommendation to incorporate and operationalise the FISH-i Africa Task Force mechanisms into the SADC Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) that is being established in Mozambique.

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 closely with the SADC Secretariat and partners and are guided by their procedures, priorities, and timelines.

What happened in 2020?

- The eighth SADC/ FISH-i Africa Task Force on IUU fishing meeting reviewed progress of the implementation of the SADC Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing, which includes operationalisation of the SADC Fisheries MCSCC. Whilst progress is being made in establishing processes and plans, the development of the MCSCC is on hold until sufficient SADC member States add their signatures to the Charter.
- The 5th Consultative Workshop for the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region, coordinated by the SADC Secretariat in partnership with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), World Bank SWIOFish Project, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and SIF served as a platform to consult with regional partners on regional collaborative mechanisms allowing for effective cooperation in the management of shared fisheries resources in the EA-SA-IO region.
- Three (5th, 6th, 7th) meetings of the SADC Regional Technical Team for the SADC MCSCC were held. These provided a progress and planning update on the establishment of the MCSCC, the work of the Interim Project Management Unit (IPMU), and consideration of opportunities or collaboration and cooperation within the region. The meetings focussed on progressing the adoption of a regional MCS strategy and the development of cooperation and partnerships to build capacity within the SADC region.
- The Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries (WPCCTF) of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) held its 10th and 11th meetings virtually. A key focus for the working party has been the introduction of region-wide agreement on minimum terms and conditions (MTC) of access by foreign fishing vessels. Progress on national level implementation was reviewed as were the next steps including options to explore the potential for regional observers and a regional vessel monitoring system.

- The Nelson Mandela University’s Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy – known as FishFORCE – hosted a two-day conference called the FishFORCE Dialogue at Nelson Mandela University (NMU) on 9 and 10 March 2020. Per Erik Bergh, Stop Illegal Fishing, provided insight from investigations into illegal fishing and fisheries crime conducted by the FISH-i Africa Task Force, which have highlighted links to forced labour, vessel identity fraud and the smuggling of illegal goods.
- To celebrate World Fisheries Day 2020, the SADC Secretariat, in cooperation with partners SIF and the WWF held a webinar entitled ‘Improving Regional Fisheries Governance and Sustainability Through Transparency’. Chaired by Saasa Pheeha, Acting Chief Director Marine Resource Management, in South Africa’s Department for Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, the focus was on the tuna fisheries of the Western Indian Ocean. Presentations focussed on the industrial sector, small-scale fisheries and unregulated fisheries. Emphasising the inter connectivity of the ocean eco-system, the limited resources for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), and the increased challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the call for greater information sharing and improved regional cooperation to fight illegal fishing was reflected by all of the speakers.
- To expose the challenges of COVID-19 on fisheries in the FISH-i region eleven articles were prepared and placed on the SIF website to demonstrate the impacts of COVID-19.



COVID-19 impacts on marine fisheries MCS in Kenya

POSTED BY STOP ILLEGAL FISHING : 11TH NOV, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to considerable challenges in Kenya, and the fisheries sector has been one of the hardest hit, affecting over 13,000 fishers, and over 100,000 persons in the upstream value chain.

The government of Kenya developed a range of safety measures to control the spread of COVID-19 within the country. These measures included suspension of international passenger flights, a dusk to dawn curfew and cessation of movements in certain areas. These containment measures affected Nairobi area and the coastal counties of Kwale, Mombasa and Kilifi. Other measures include the prohibition of public gatherings, processions or movement, social distancing, introduction of the work-from-home concept, wearing of masks in public places, sanitization of hands, monitoring of body temperatures and testing for the virus in suspect cases.

These measures have greatly impacted on marine fisheries and their management in Kenya. Government institutions have downscaled staff-presence to almost quarter the normal capacity and this has really challenged office operations that include monitoring control and surveillance (MCS).

Enforcement agencies such as Kenya Fisheries Service and Kenya Coast Guard Service that are directly mandated to monitor and regulate IUU fishing have not been able to deliver effective services. Due to the scaled-down number of staff and operation levels on MCS, fishers at sea and traders are likely engaging in illicit activities knowing that they will not be arrested.

The government has also suspended resource allocation for office operations and this has affected the provision of services. Some of the impacted management operations include licensing of fishers and fishing vessels, patrols, data collection, observer deployments, port inspections on fishing vessels, pre-sailing, pre-fishing pre-landing, and transhipment inspections, inspections at fish landing sites and markets, electronic tracking by VMS and AIS, issuing catch certificates and interagency collaboration.

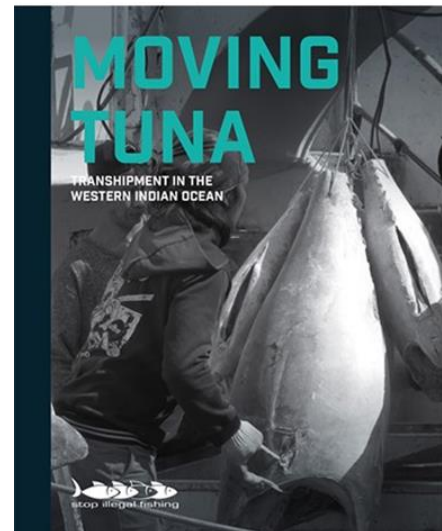
Increasing understanding

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.

Our 2020 publications include:

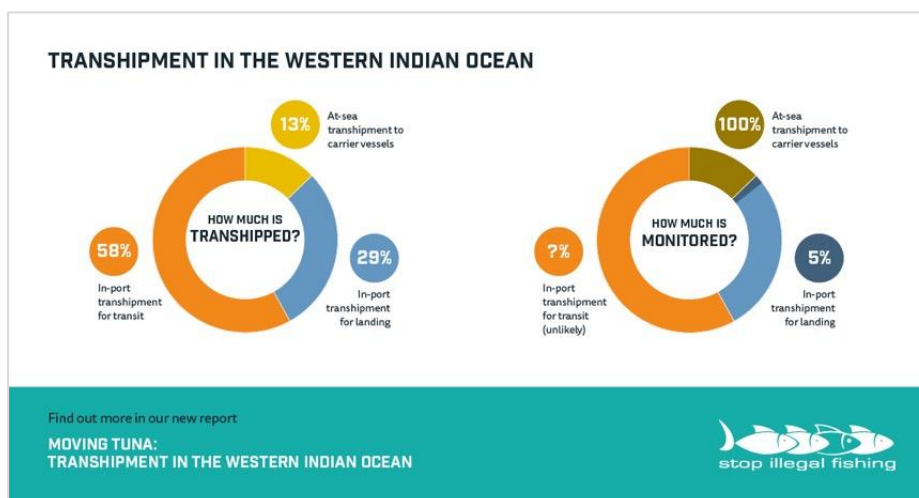
Moving Tuna

It is a critical resource which looks at the role and scale of transshipment in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and identifies the risks, costs and benefits involved. In a nutshell, according to the report, transshipment in the WIO takes place in three ways: at sea from a fishing vessel to a carrier, in port for landing, and in port for transit. Of these it is at-sea transshipment that receives most attention globally and is commonly seen as a facilitator of both illegal fishing and modern-day slavery. Yet, in the WIO this makes up only 13% of tuna transhipped; and under the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) regulations, takes place with 100% observer coverage. This makes at-sea transshipment the best-monitored element of the tuna fishery in the WIO.



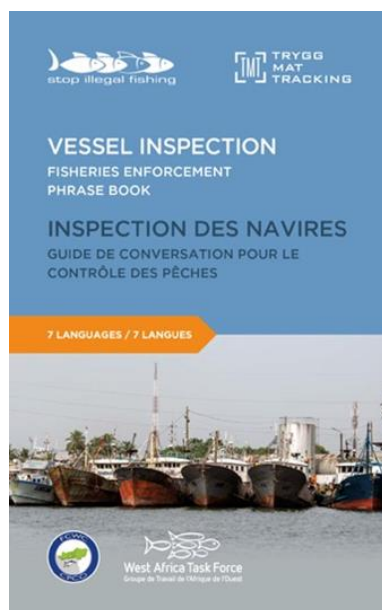
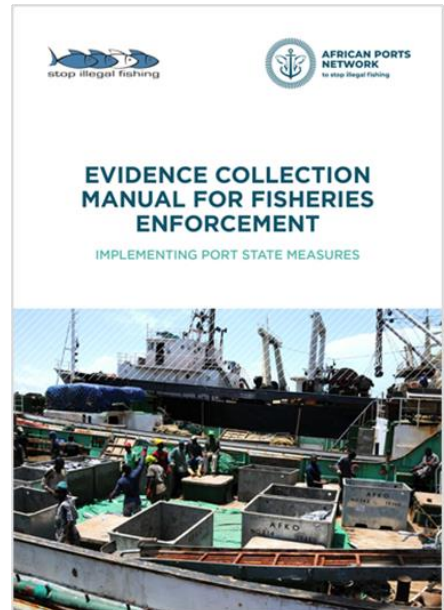
This is in contrast with in-port transshipment for landing, and in-port transshipment for transit which make up nearly 90% of transhipped tuna but are far less likely to be monitored, if at all. This imbalance in scrutiny and oversight has implications for vulnerable fish stocks and highlights the need to implement port State measures urgently and systematically.

Tuna catches in the Western Indian Ocean are split almost equally between industrial and artisanal fishers. Only 13 percent of the WIO tuna catch is transhipped at sea and this is the best monitored aspect of all fish transhipped in the region. If fish is being transhipped in port by foreign flagged vessels and is not destined for local processing, the likelihood is that it is not being monitored. With the catching sector dominated by Asian and European distant water fleets the need to re-balance the costs and obligations of flag, coastal and port States is evident.



Evidence Collection Manual for Fisheries Enforcement: Implementing Port State Measures

The 'Evidence Collection Manual for Fisheries Enforcement: Implementing Port State Measures' was developed to assist fisheries enforcement officers, particularly those working in African ports, to gain an understanding of why evidence is important, different types and classes of evidence and how to collect and use evidence. The manual provides case material from investigations and inspections to illustrate the importance of evidence collection and the challenges officers face. While this manual focuses on port State measures inspections, the principles and information contained in it are relevant to many fisheries situations when evidence collection is required.



Vessel Inspection: Fisheries enforcement Phrase Book

The Phrase book was produced by Stop Illegal Fishing and Trygg Mat Tracking as a practical resource for the West Africa Task Force. The language barrier between fisheries inspectors and the master and crew of fishing vessels presents a communication breakdown which often leads challenging inspections. The concise phrase book provides essential phrases that are routinely used during inspections to try to overcome language barriers. The book is provided in seven languages - English, French, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Status of future of fisheries in the SWIO

The report describes the bilateral fishing agreements since the 1970s. These bilateral and concluded by the European Commission (EC) on behalf of all EU Members States, Sustainable Fisheries (SFPAs). For SFPAs to continue benefits for the coastal States changing dynamics of global challenges to overcome and these from the perspective of report outlines the SFPAs the opportunities available to the SWIO to improve their developed by Stop Illegal Fishing, in cooperation with WWF.



partnership agreements

development of the EU with countries in the SWIO agreements, negotiated Commission (EC) on have evolved to become Partnership Agreements to create mutual and the EU within the fisheries, there are some the report identifies the SWIO region. This mechanism and details the EU and countries in SFPAs. The report was

Cases

FISH-i Africa Investigation No. 21: Misery on the MARWAN 1

In April 2019 an unlicensed Kenyan shipping agent recruited thirteen crewmembers to work on the fishing vessel MARWAN 1 in Somalia. The MARWAN 1 was confirmed through photographs taken during EUNAVFOR patrols to be the previously named CHAICHANACHOKE 8 and subsequently AL WESAM 4, an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) listed vessel with recorded offences related to human trafficking and illegal fishing.

The crew suffered from poor living and working conditions on the MARWAN 1 and called for assistance from the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) in Kenya to assist with their rescue.

INVESTIGATION NO. 21 MISERY ON THE MARWAN 1

An unlicensed Kenyan agent recruited thirteen crewmembers to work on the MARWAN 1 in Somalia. The vessel is listed on the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) list for previous offences related to human trafficking and illegal fishing. Subjected to death threats and poor working and living conditions the crew called for help from the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) in Kenya to assist with their rescue.

VESSEL INVOLVED	PREVIOUS NAMES	NUMBER OF FLAG
MARWAN 1 IMO 862445	ALWESAM 4 CHAICHANACHOKE 8	3

VESSEL TYPE	FLAG (S)	REGISTRATION(S)
Trawler	Somalia (flagged through an opaque process)	None

KEY EVENTS

APRIL 2019: Thirteen Kenyan are recruited as crew for the MARWAN 1 by Andrew Mwangi from the Mombasa based agency Seagor Operations Limited. As a former Secretary General of the Seafarers Union of Kenya (SEU) he is well known and trusted by the crew.

Seagor Operations is not listed among the five recruitment agencies licensed to recruit and place maritime workers on behalf of the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) and they failed to disclose the names of those recruited with the IMA and SOK, a requirement of Kenyan law.

Ownership of the MARWAN 1 is unclear. Somalia Fisheries Investments, a Somali company with connections to Genoa and Djibouti, are involved in the crew transfer. There are concerns that Somalia is connected to the original 130 crew members who were investigated for IUU fishing and human trafficking on a group of vessels known as the Somali Secret.

The crew are transported from Mombasa, Kenya to Bosaso, Somalia where they board MARWAN 1.

APRIL 15, 2019: On board, the Kenyan crew are subjected to poor treatment, working up to 20 hours a day, and living and sleeping in the open. No medical treatment is provided for injuries. A physical confrontation between the Captain and crew leads to them being deprived of food for two days, threats that they will be locked in the hold stow, and that all Kenyan crew will be shot.

JULY 2019: Unable to contact Seagor Operations the crew place a distress call to the ITF in Kenya. With assistance from the Kenyan ambassador to Somalia a rescue operation is organised.

AUGUST 2019: The crew arrive back in Kenya after a difficult and dangerous journey.

Forced to disembark the MARWAN 1 away from a designated port the crew travelled through rough waters in a small vessel. On reaching land they had a nine hour journey through an (Shabab) controlled territory before reaching Dar es Salaam. Despite the successful voyage of the MARWAN 1, landing a record 275 tons of fish that included 30 tons of prawns the wages received after deductions were between USD 400-500 per crewmember for four months work. This allowed the crew to buy supplies in Dar es Salaam.

IMA warned stern action against unlicensed and unregulated recruitment agents saying they posed a security threat to the country. No action has yet been taken against Seagor.

2019: Photos from EUNAVFOR patrols during 2019 and 2020 show the MARWAN 1 fishing in the Somali exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Photo analysis confirms

China flagged vessels target unregulated North West Indian Ocean squid fishery

Over one hundred Chinese flagged fishing vessels have been identified as active in the north west Indian Ocean squid fishery. Few details of the fleet's capacity are available but public records show that many of the vessels are new, with 59 having been built in 2019 and 2020. This amplifies concerns over the growing demand for seafood in China that is fuelling the expansion and increased subsidisation of its distant water fishing fleet. In 2018, total global fisheries subsidies were estimated to be USD 35.4 billion, with China accounting for USD 7.2 billion of it. The Chinese fleet receives tax exemptions, fuel subsidies and vessel construction subsidies – with many large fishing companies relying on these to make a profit.

Analysis of satellite vessel tracking data shows that the squid vessels appear to operate exclusively in the high seas, avoiding exclusive economic zones. Although this fishing activity is taking place within the area of competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the species being targeted do not fall within the scope of the IOTC and none of the fishing vessels are on the IOTC authorised list. In fact, this section of ocean is not covered by any regional fisheries management arrangement that addresses squid and therefore there is no regulatory framework in place.



Iranian flagged fishing vessels identified operating illegally in Somali EEZ

Revelations of the continuing presence of unauthorised vessels operating illegally in Somali waters comes as the Federal Government of Somalia have made significant progress in instituting a system for licensing and controlling foreign flagged fishing vessels. Since 2018 over USD 2.6 million has been raised through licence fees; this revenue is shared to benefit all states and will provide much needed financing to further develop a national fisheries processing industry.

As part of this monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system the increased monitoring of the Somali exclusive economic zone (EEZ) has revealed the continuing presence of a fleet of unauthorised, Iranian flagged fishing vessels. Using a combination of automatic identification system (AIS) tracking, satellite remote sensing imagery and radar images Somali authorities have estimated that at least 200 vessels have been fishing illegally during the 2019-2020 fishing season.

Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia, HE. Abdilahi Bidhan Warsame commented, "Having worked so hard to develop a transparent licensing system it is very concerning to see that foreign fleets are not prepared to go through the legitimate channels to gain access to fish in Somalia. We call on all distant water fishing nations to ensure they are controlling their flagged vessels and to respect our management regime. Our focus is on developing a safe, sustainable and fair fishing industry to benefit our nation."

Stop Illegal Fishing, FISH-i Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Bank have been supporting Somalia in strengthening their fisheries and MCS systems and enabling them to spot the Iranian vessels active in their EEZ. A recent report developed by Global Fishing Watch and Trygg Mat Tracking, provided additional evidence of the presence of the Iranian fleet. Between January 2019 to 14 April 2020, approximately 112 Iranian fishing vessels were identified transmitting on automatic identification system (AIS) transponders from within the Somalia EEZ for a total of 2533 days. This is a significant amount of fishing effort and is likely to be conservative due to the poor signal strength of the AIS transponders on these vessels



Iranian fishing vessels continue to ignore regulations in Somalia and Yemen

BY STOP ILLEGAL FISHING : 3RD NOV. 2020 : FISH-I AFRICA

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Iranian flagged fishing vessels are continuing to operate without authorisation in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of Yemen and Somalia – one of the largest illegal fishing fleets the Western Indian Ocean has ever seen.

While, **evidence of these illegal operations** was confirmed in early 2020 in November 2020 this illegal fleet is still seen to be operating in Somalia. Recent reports by Yemeni authorities have also drawn attention to illegal activity of around 40 Iranian fishing vessels active off Yemen's Socotra archipelago and accused of harassing local crews. With no effective coastguard, Yemen is unable to conduct patrols or inspect foreign flagged vessels. In September 2020 Fahd Kafayn, Yemen's Minister of Fisheries stated, "The Iranian vessels illegally fish and continuously violate Yemeni waters."

In Somalia, in recent months over 100 Iranian flagged vessels have been identified transmitting their location via automatic identification system (AIS) transponders, fitted as a safety measure on vessels. A further 150 vessels have been seen using satellite remote sensing imagery, and while the identity and flag of these vessels cannot be confirmed, they are suspected to be mainly Iran flagged.

Iran has been notified through diplomatic channels but has up until now not responded to this outreach from the Federal Government of Somalia. Despite wide international concern about the scale of this illegal activity and the potential impact on marine ecosystems, food security and maritime security, these unauthorised Iranian vessels continue to defy regulations. Local media reported in October that there were a huge number of illegal foreign fishing vessels operating close to the coastline some

Focus on corruption

U4 Webinar – Fisheries and corruption

U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre and SIF held a series of two webinars on 3 and 10 June 2020. The webinars were on countering corruption in the fisheries sector under the theme “Risks and opportunities for development partners”.

The webinars provided insight on the main forms of corruption – the who, why, how, and when – by drawing on 20 cases of illegal fishing investigated by SIF in East Africa, through work by the FISH-i Africa Task Force. To highlight the need to understand corrupt practices in the fisheries sector, the webinars also drew from recent high-profile corruption cases such as the Ematum case in Mozambique and the FishRot case in Namibia. The participants also explored how a corruption risk analysis and assessment can help development partners to design and implement fisheries sector projects that mitigate corruption risks into future projects.

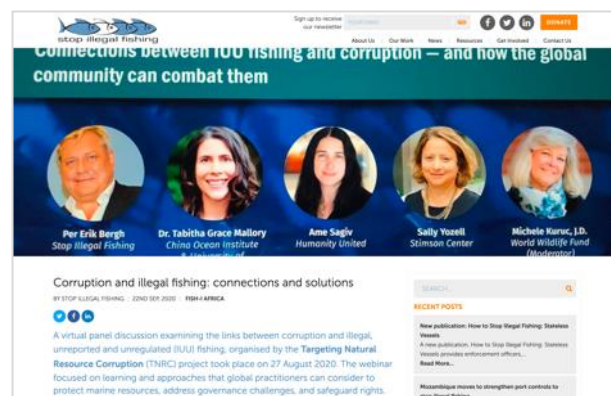
Participating in these webinars gave SIF an opportunity to discuss corrupt practices in the fisheries sector, and to provide available, tried and tested mitigation measures used by the FISH-i Task Force in the fight against illegal fishing/corruption in the fishing industry.



Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC) Webinar – Corruption and Illegal Fishing

A webinar exploring the links between corruption IUU fishing, organised by the TNRC project took place on 27th August 2020. Corruption plays a huge role in facilitating IUU fishing and the criminality and human rights abuses at sea.

The discussion focused on learning and approaches that global practitioners can consider when protecting marine resources, addressing governance challenges, and safeguarding rights. The consensus amongst the speakers regarding the most effective method of reducing corruption and IUU Fishing is by increasing transparency across the seafood supply chain. This can be done through effective supply chain mapping, enhanced capacity for monitoring and enforcement, data-sharing, public access to information, the right to workers unions and collective bargaining, and a whole-of-government approach. Drawing from the FISH-i Africa Task Force case material, Per Erik Bergh stated that we need to recognise and nurture champions in government who are working hard to promote sustainability, transparency and improved fisheries practices in spite of the rampant corruption in the countries.



Future focus

In moving forward Stop Illegal Fishing will build on the successes and momentum achieved. We will continue to focus our work on supporting the coastal and port States of Africa, linking them to the flag and market States spread around the world; exploring and sharing practical lessons between marine and inland fisheries and with other countries; developing our investigative network; and analysing our findings and sharing our African lessons globally to influence debate and policy change.

SIF has some exciting opportunities lined up for 2021:

THE SADC MCSCC and FISH-i

We will continue to support FISH-i Africa as it becomes fully integrated into its long-term home in the SADC Regional MCSCC. The WWF have provided SIF with a one-year grant to support the IPMU specifically to get the Basecamp communications portal up and running with the new and wider user group. To support information sharing, intelligence generation and support to investigations, SIF will work with TMT to provide this support and we are excited to see many of the activities of FISH-i continue through the MCSCC. The opportunity to consider the needs of inland countries in the fight against illegal fishing is welcomed by SIF and this will begin with two policy briefs developed on safety in fisheries and port State measures, both will include consideration of land-locked countries.

Port State measures

SIF's cooperation with the GIZ to implement PSM will continue in 2021 and through this project and other opportunities SIF will work to promote further the use of body worn cameras, develop and deliver training, manuals and operating procedures and promote the African Port Network. This portal will support the implementation of PSM and will create greater insight and awareness on the challenges and opportunities for PSM in Africa. In addition, we are excited to continue our partnership with the FAO and look forward to expanding this with SIF potentially supporting the FAO in implementation of their work across Africa, in additional countries and ports to those we have assisted to date.

The U4 corruption report

Corruption as a facilitator of illegal Fishing: insights from East Africa – is due to be published by mid-2021. This cutting-edge, peer-reviewed report is based on analysis and further research into the first 20 published investigations of FISH-i Africa to identify possible corruption. It is hoped that this report will open the door for further discussion into corruption in the fishery sector and fishery value chain, how these impacts on the work and lives of fishery inspectors and how we can work to reduce corruption and the negative impacts it has on building a compliant sector.

African Union Commission

2021, has been tentatively proposed for an African Union Commission Ministerial Meeting on Integrating the Exploitation and Trade in Natural Resources into the African Unions' Strategic Partnership Frameworks. This potential process is building on the 2018 high-level side event organised in the margins of the African Union Summit, where SIF was pleased to be a partner and we look forward to engaging in the ongoing ministerial process.

West Africa Task Force

The WATF has an exciting year in 2021, with the FCWC launching a regional MCS centre that will adopt many of the processes and systems developed and initiated within the WATF, giving sustainability and security to the regional work. SIF will continue to support the FCWC Secretariat and countries through the development of online training and support to implementing PSMs and communication.

SIF website and communications

While SIF can undertake investigations, analysis, and develop awareness material through many projects, we also work to support the SIF website and supporting information and material through our own resources. In 2021, we are planning for redevelopment of the SIF website, to re-focus and make it a more useful resource. This will include the African Ports Network Portal and other capacity building material. The annual report will be designed and developed as an online publication that reaches a wide audience to demonstrate our work. The successful How to Stop Illegal Fishing series is also expanding with new publications planned in 2021 including on stateless vessels and denying port entry and use.

Tribute to the Task Forces – FISH-i and WATF

To acknowledge the journey of the two Task Forces that SIF has been instrumental in developing over the last decade, and to signal their evolution into regional MCS centres, SIF in partnership with TMT will prepare a joint publication. This will be not only a tribute to the work of the Task Forces' but also a guide for other regional groups that would like to draw lessons from the successes and challenges that have shaped the Task Force journeys, it will highlight the similarities and differences and assess what has been achieved and what lies ahead.

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 2020 Executive Committee were:

- Chair — Elsa Patria
- Vice Chair — Nicholas Ntheketha
- Vice Chair — Markus Burgener
- Treasurer — Sandy Davies
- Secretary — Per Erik Bergh
- Vice Secretary — Mark Ssemakula
- Executive Committee Member – Victor Kargbo
- Executive Committee Member — Zahor El Kharousy

Financial summary

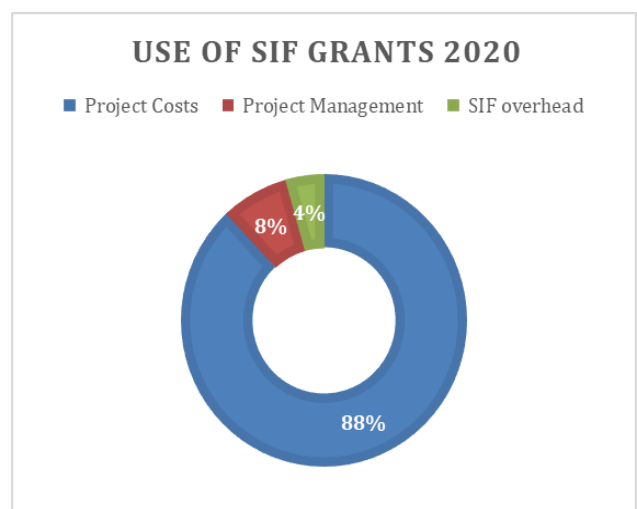
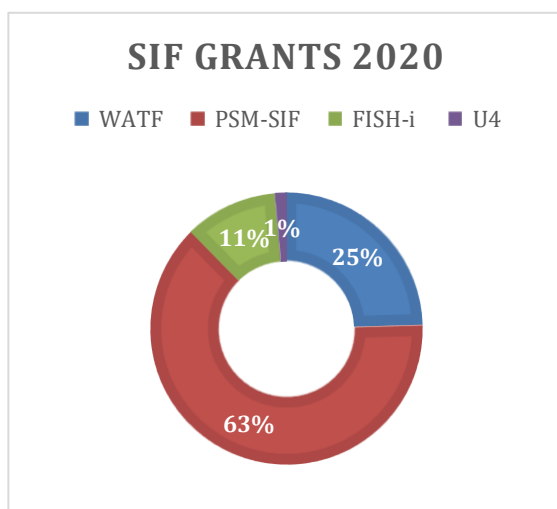
The work of SIF requires resources to ensure its continuation and growth. Over the past decade SIF has received financial and in-kind support from governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, private sector and individuals. SIF is grateful to all our partners that support our work and enable us to fulfil our mandate.

Financial commitments are generally linked to specific projects and activities. In 2020 these were all managed by the SIF Secretariat to a value of USD 648,827. In addition to the financial grants that SIF receives, the Executive Committee, SIF members and the Secretariat generously provided their time to support the work of SIF in 2020.

SIF grants are principally used for direct project expenses (88%) and the associated project management (8%). Where possible, depending on the individual agreement, SIF secures an overhead (in total 4% of grants in 2020) which is then used to cover the costs of communications (website maintenance and upkeep and publications) and annual accounting. Depending on the agreements with funders projects are also audited separately, in 2020 the WATF and PSM-SIF projects were audited by Norad and GIZ appointed auditors.

Table 1: SIF grants 2020

Funder	Project	Short name	Grant to SIF (USD)
Norad (Norwegian Development)	West Africa Task Force	WATF	159,240
GIZ/BMZ (German Development)	Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing	PSM-SIF	409,541
The Waterloo Foundation	FISH-i Africa Task Force	FISH-i	71,045
Norad via U4	Issues report on corruption in Fisheries	U4	9,000
TOTAL			648,827



Acronyms

AU	African Union
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FANP	Agriculture and Food Security Thematic Group
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ICP	International Cooperating Partners
IGO	Intergovernmental organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPMU	Interim Project Management Unit
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MSC	Monitoring, control and surveillance
MCSCC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre
NaFAA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority
NGW	National Working Group
NIMASA	Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
PSM	Port State Measures
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
SFPA	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements
SWIO	South West Indian Ocean
SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Committee
FTC	SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries
TF	Task Force
TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
TWF	The Waterloo Foundation
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
WATF	West Africa Task Force
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature