




stop illegal fishing

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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For more information go to: www.sadc.int and www.stopillegalfishing.com

This report should be cited as:

Stop Illegal Fishing, 2023. Annual Report 2022. Gaborone, Botswana.

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1 Chairmans welcome

Dear valued supporters,

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2022 annual report for Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF). This report provides an overview of our achievements in combatting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in African waters in 2022 and some insights into our priority commitments for the future.

Despite the challenges posed by the significantly reduced, but ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SIF has remained committed to our mission to ensure that fish are caught, traded and processed legally, so that African nations and their people can enjoy the full benefits of their fisheries resources and blue growth. Our work has continued to be guided by our values of collaboration, inclusivity, and transparency, and we have worked tirelessly to achieve our goals over the past year.

In this report, you will find information on our achievements in 2022, including our efforts to strengthen regional and national policies to combat IUU fishing, build capacity of stakeholders across the continent and particularly with enforcement officers and to develop materials and awareness to support the fight against illegal fishing.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our partners, donors, and supporters who have continued to believe in our mission and have supported us in our work. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you as we work towards achieving our shared goals. We particularly welcome on board a new partner – the US State Department, through their Embassy in Gaborone – we are excited to be working together to fight IUU fishing in the Southern African region and particularly in the Benguela Current Convention region. We also gratefully acknowledge the renewal of our grant from The Waterloo Foundation (TWF) for another three-year period to support Information exchange to stop illegal fishing in Southern Africa.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we hope that this report provides you with valuable insights into our work and achievements in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ssemakula
Chairperson



SIF news: A WATF meeting supported by SIF

2 Our vision and mission

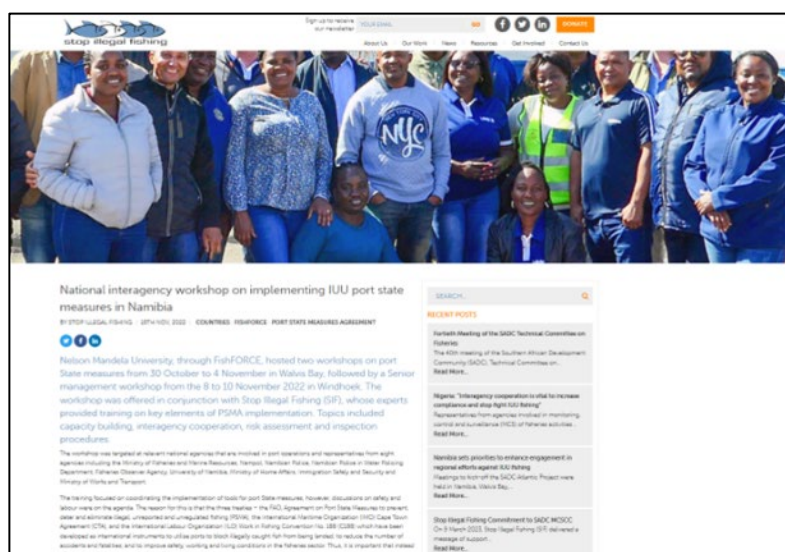
Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) is working to ensure that fish are caught, traded and processed legally, so that African nations and their people can enjoy the full benefits of their fisheries resources and blue growth.

Our objectives 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.

SIF actively works in West Africa and Southern Africa through a range of initiatives and with support from Six different funding sources. The following sections describe the work of SIF during 2022.



SIF news: Training in Namibia for enforcement officers

3 Core activities – Southern Africa

SIF, as a not-for-profit was formed following our successful work with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and with the African Union. Therefore, Southern Africa has always been home for SIF, and with our Secretariat based in Gaborone, Botswana we continue to grow a close relationship with the SADC Secretariat and the countries of SADC and their neighbours.

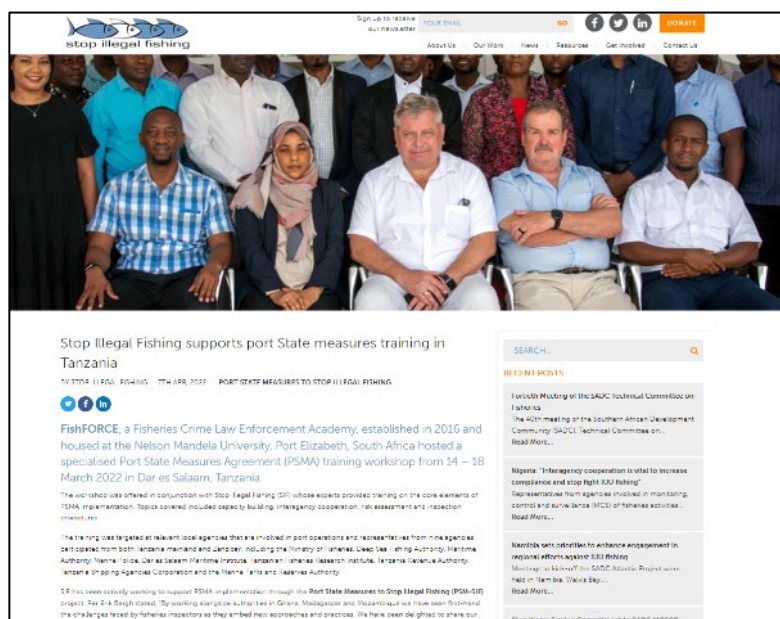
3.1 The SADC MCS Coordination Centre

In 2001, the SADC Heads of State signed the Protocol on Fisheries, in which they acknowledged the important role of fisheries for the economy and food security. They also recognised that fisheries are transnational resources; therefore, their management must be met with transnational responses based on awareness raising and regional and international cooperation. Following the Protocol, in 2008, with the assistance of SIF the Statement of Commitment by SADC Ministers responsible for fisheries on IUU fishing called for the creation of a regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC). This commitment materialised in 2017 through the Charter establishing the SADC Fisheries MCSCC, which was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in Pretoria, South Africa; however, the Charter was to come into force following signature by two-thirds of SADC Member States.



It is exciting to be able to note that it is anticipated that the Charter will come into force in early 2023. By December 2022, only one more signature was required from a SADC Member State to reach the obligatory two-third threshold for the Charter to enter into force. The SADC States who have already signed the Charter include Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Madagascar.

SIF provides technical and capacity building support to the Interim Project Management Unit (IPMU) of the SADC MCSCC through various of our initiatives. We work closely with the IPMU, the SADC Secretariat and partners, and are guided by their procedures, priorities, and timelines and assist them in developing these. We focus on capacity building of the centre’s staff and assist in developing the work areas of the MCSCC, such as preparing plans and concept notes for how to develop the Centre.

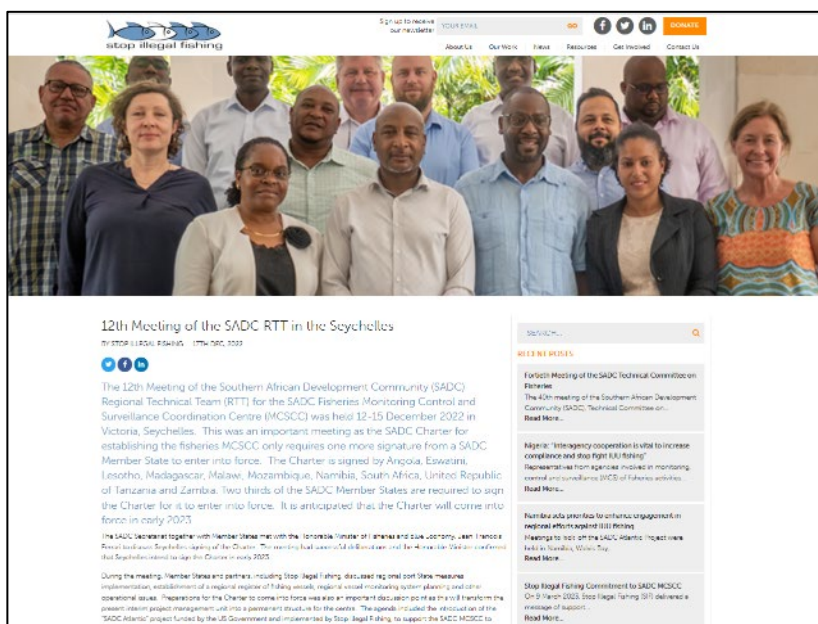


SIF news: Training in Tanzania for enforcement officers

3.2 Support to regional processes

Through its different projects, SIF has supported the process of the establishment of the SADC MCSCC, attended meetings and participated in processes.

The SADC MCSCC Regional Technical Team (RTT) has been working over many years to garner support for the MCSCC and to support and guide the work of the IPMU. SIF has supported this process, and in 2022 there were two physical meetings that SIF attended. The 11th Meeting was held in Madagascar, Antananarivo in August 2022, and SIF led discussions on safe and decent working conditions in fisheries and drew from FISH-i cases studies to show the importance of interagency and regional cooperation. The 12th Meeting was held in December 2022 in Victoria, Seychelles. Preparations for the Charter to come into force was an important discussion point. During the meeting, SIF presented on various topics and led discussion on regional approaches to implement port State measures, the establishment of a regional register of fishing vessels, regional vessel monitoring system and other operational issues.

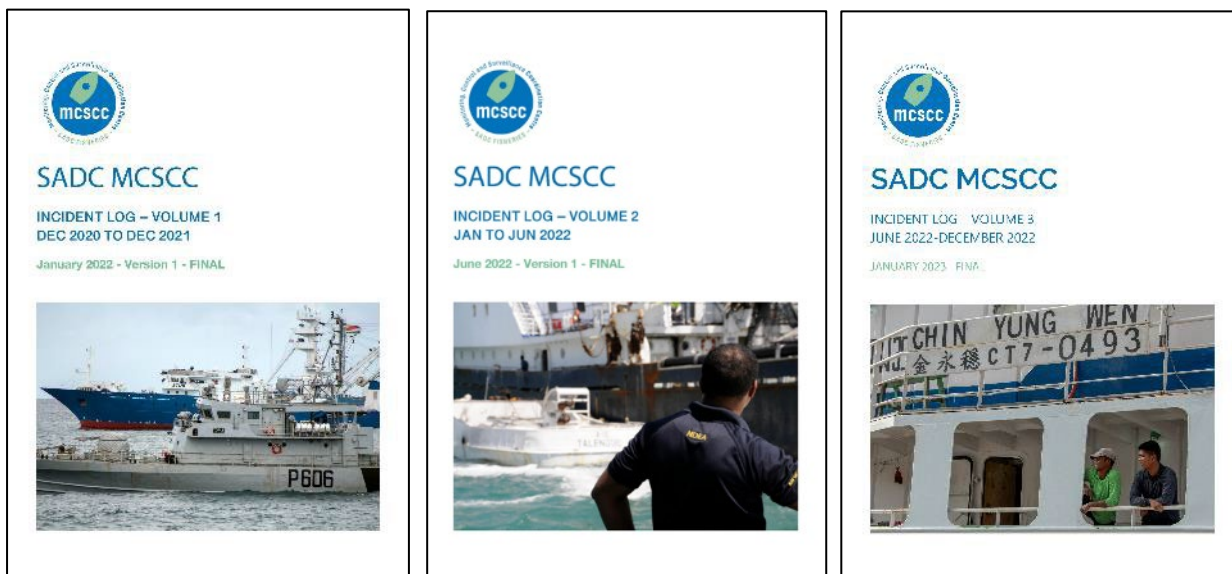


SIF news: SADC RTT meeting in Seychelles preparing the way for entry into force of the SADC Charter

The 10th meeting of the SADC IUU Fishing Task Force was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in November 2022. This broader meeting enabled SIF to spend time with the Member States and partners to exchange information and lessons, as well as to discuss ways we can support each other in our work.

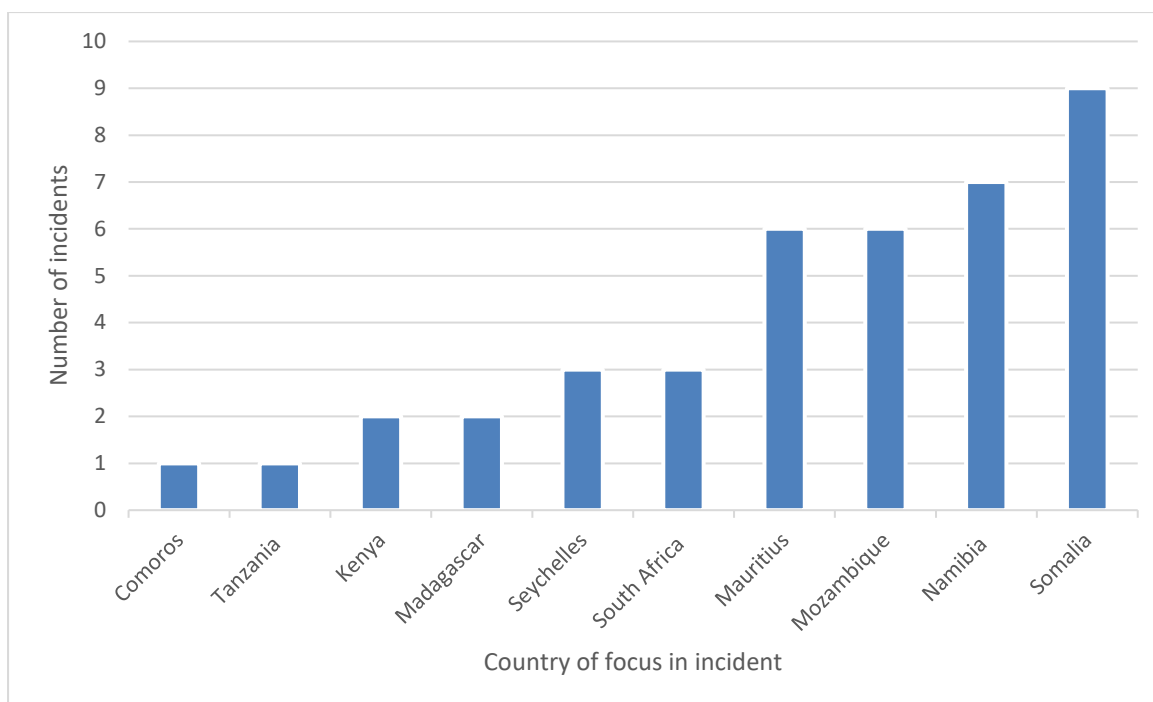
3.3 Monitoring, intelligence and analysis of IUU fishing

SIF continues to support activities related to information and intelligence gathering and exchange, remote monitoring of vessels and validating of information through inspections and investigations and building regional cooperation on IUU fishing. While, having time to monitor all the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) is difficult, SIF has aimed to ensure some cover to all waters to assist the MCSCC to regularly monitor the automatic identification system (AIS) transmissions from SADC EEZs on SeaVision and Starboard AIS tracking systems; and to then assist the MCSCC to draft messages on the information portal to encourage dialogue with the countries and to investigate the incidents with research and communications with external partners, e.g., INTERPOL, regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and EU NAVFOR. From these incidents, SIF prepares an incident log for the SADC MCSCC and other regional bodies and countries that documents the IUU incidents observed in the region, currently only in industrial fisheries. There are now three volumes, covering incidents 1 to 85 that have taken place from December 2020 to December 2022, this is the two years since FISH-i was merged with the interim MCSCC.



SIF publications: Incident log for incidents of suspected IUU fishing

A simple analysis of the incidents demonstrates the engagement of the countries and identifies where effort is needed to improve engagement or to identify challenges. For example, the graph below shows the level of engagement by countries in 2022 in incidents and indicates where more effort may be needed to assist in building capacity and awareness for engagement.



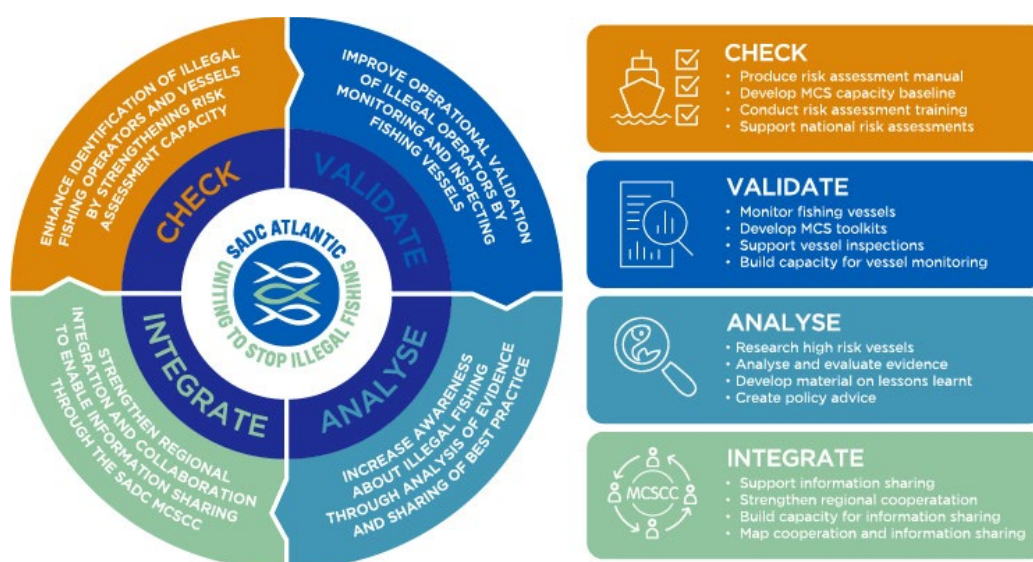
SIF analysis: IUU incidents recorded in 2022 by focus country

To build capacity in investigations into IUU fishing SIF has conducted considerable work on risk assessments to identify IUU high risk vessels and players. We have broadened our past thoughts on this to now be beyond port State measures and to consider the needs of coastal, flag and market States to apply risk assessment in particular towards vessels wanting access to waters, ports or markets.

3.4 New support to the Atlantic coast countries

Through a new funding partner – the United States Department of State, through their Embassy in Gaborone – SIF was able to launch a new initiative called SADC Atlantic Project in October 2022. The project is planned for two years until September 2024, with a total fundings of USD 943,063. It aims at supporting engagement in the SADC MCSCC through the Benguela Current Convention countries of: Angola, Namibia and South Africa. This helps to fill the gap left from FISH-i Africa, which only worked with the east coast countries and those of the Indian Ocean.

The SADC Atlantic project aims to work closely with the SADC MCSCC to close the critical gaps by building capacity through four core areas – to check, validate, analyse and integrate – which will help develop coordination of MCS capacity, information sharing, evidence policy advice, and fisheries transparency. The overall goal is to stop foreign illegal operators and their fishing vessels from operating within southern Africa, by so doing, reducing incidents of illegal fishing and associated crimes: resulting in a more sustainable sea environment, improving the rich ocean biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides for populations who have become economically and nutritionally marginalised due to the negative impacts on the region’s fisheries.



SIF projects: the SADC Atlantic objectives shown in an infographic

During the initial phase of the project which started in October 2022, effort focused on preliminary meetings with the countries, the introduction of the project at the various SADC meetings, and preparation of material for the SADC Secretariat to formally send to the countries.

In addition, activities started on some of the project objectives. An overarching activity between October and December 2022 was research into the three targeted countries to establish country baselines, on which the project will build in the next phases. The information collected was analysed and compiled into country profiles. This multi-disciplinary analysis provides a base that will be relevant for the implementation of all four objectives of the project as well as for monitoring project progress.

3.5 Capacity building in port State measures

SIF continues to work in partnership with the FishFORCE initiative of Nelson Mandela University Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy which is funded by Norad and is housed at the University's Ocean Sciences Campus in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. SIF delivered four port State measures training to Southern African countries and in 2022 we conducted training in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Namibia.

Training focused on coordinating the implementation of tools for port State measures and topics covered included interagency cooperation, risk assessment and inspection procedures. The week-long trainings covered legal and operational procedures and challenges and provided practical exercises to develop skills for risk assessment, inspection, evidence collection, and decision making. Practical in-port fishing vessel inspections were used to highlight areas for interagency cooperation to better identify and act against illegal fishing and maritime crimes. Body worn cameras, piloted through the Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing (PSM-SIF) initiative, were deployed to demonstrate the benefits of their use in widening participation and support for the inspection process, and as a counter corruption tool.

Discussions on safety and labour were on the agenda to introduce the three treaties approach linking the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Cape Town Agreement (CTA), and the International Labour Organization (ILO) C188 Working in Fishing Convention to block illegally caught fish from being landed; to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities; and to improve safety, working and living conditions in the fisheries sector.

From the trainings, SIF was able to develop capacity building plans specific to the four countries – Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya and Namibia – for continuing to develop human, infrastructure, and institutional resources to implement these aspects of PSMs.



SIF news: Training in Kenya for enforcement officers

3.6 A focus on port State measures in Madagascar

SIF began a new project in partnership with the FAO to continue their work with Madagascar on port State measures (PSMs). This includes helping in preparing a strategy and action plan to implement PSM, this work will continue in 2023, with the development of an interagency mechanism for Madagascar to implement PSM and other tools to combat IUU fishing.

A workshop was held in December 2022 in Antananarivo on the resumed formulation of a national strategy and action plan to gradually implement the 2009 FAO PSMA, complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing. The aim of the workshop was to restart and update the results of an initial consultative meeting that took place in 2018 with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy with the technical facilitation of SIF.

The workshop was opened by Honourable Dr Paubert T. Mahatante, Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy. In his welcome remarks, the Minister expressed Madagascar's willingness to fight IUU fishing he stated that "for the good of the country, for the good of the people, for the good of SADC, for the good of the Indian Ocean region and for the good of the rest of the world".



SIF news: Training in Madagascar for agencies and authorities involved in PSM

4 Core activities – West Africa

SIF continues to support the Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and its Member States through the West Africa Task Force (WATF), however this is the only focused activity on West Africa.

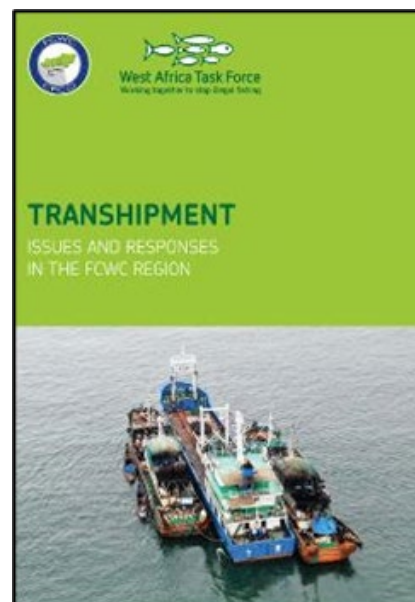
4.1 The West Africa Task Force

The WATF is hosted by the FCWC and coordinated by Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) with technical support from SIF. The WATF operationalizes key FCWC conventions on information sharing and MCS cooperation between its Member States. The WATF Project was SIF's first project as a not-for-profit, when it received a grant directly from Norad to develop the WATF. This second phase of the work was extended to September 2023 and Norad has expressed an interest in developing a third phase.

In 2022, the WATF held two regional meetings, the twelfth WATF meeting in Lagos, Nigeria in May 2022 and the thirteenth WATF meeting in Cotonou, Benin in November 2022. At these meetings, fisheries directors, and heads of MCS from the FCWC Member States, Technical Team members, and representatives of partner organizations participated through in-person and online attendance, including SIF.

SIF was able to participate in both meetings in a significant way firstly presenting their new study, **TRANSHIPMENT: ISSUES AND RESPONSES IN THE FCWC REGION**, which is the result on many years of work looking into transshipment in the WATF region and it provides an overview of transshipment in the region and how it impacts on the FCWC region's fish stocks and the trade in fish.

Secondly SIF's was able to discuss with the countries and FCWC the draft reports developed in 2022 based on research into the imports of fish into Nigeria and developing an MCS capacity evaluation tool for the FCWC as a routine mechanism for countries to undertake MCS evaluations and conducting this evaluation with Member States in 2022.

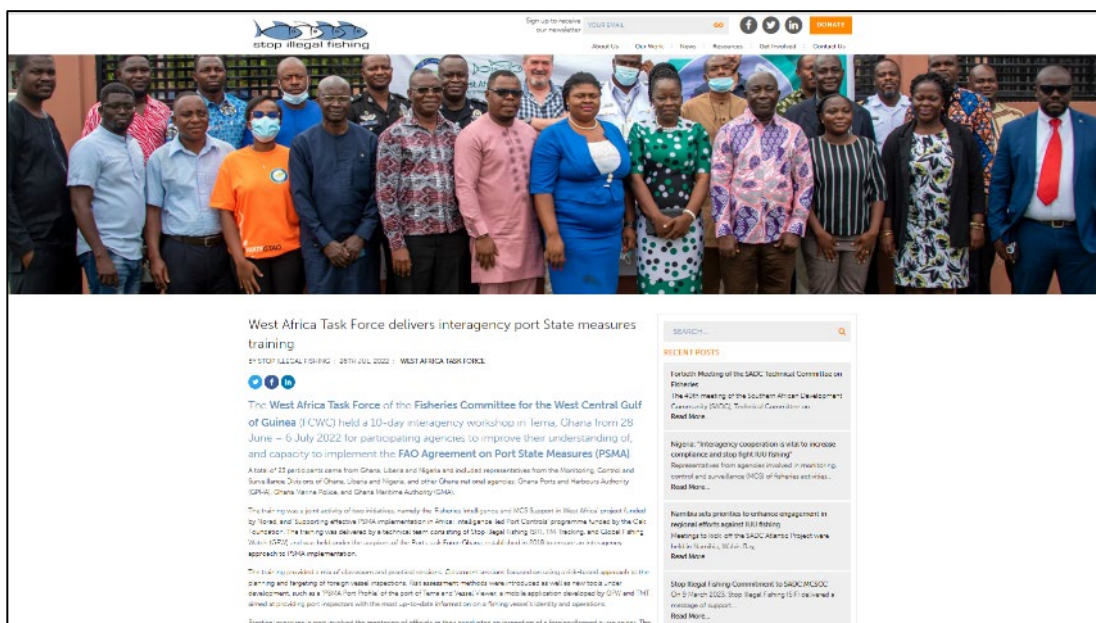


SIF publications: SIF developed reports for the WATF 2022



SIF news: WATF meeting 13

SIF engaged in a 10-day interagency workshop was held in Tema, Ghana in June and July 2022. The training included theoretically based sessions as well as practical sessions. The focus of the theoretical sessions was on using a risk-based approach to the planning and targeting of foreign vessel inspections. Practical exercises were held in port and involved the mentoring of officials as they conducted an inspection of a foreign-flagged purse seiner. The value of interagency cooperation, document verification, and evidence collection were all highlighted.



SIF news: WATF training in PSM

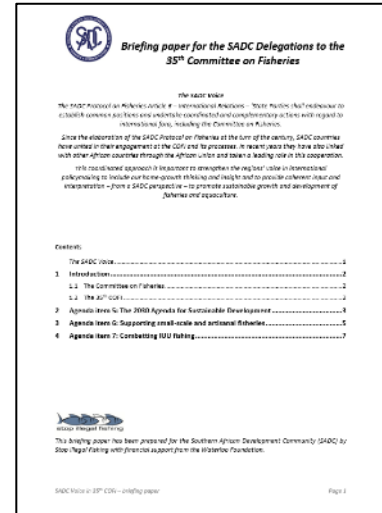
5 SIF in the international arena

SIF continues to grow and support a network to lead the African campaign against illegal fishing. Stopping illegal fishing requires change at policy levels. SIF continues to be a key supporter of international processes, to ensure that more African States are represented at important fisheries international gatherings.

5.1 The FAO COFI

The 35th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) took place in Rome, Italy on 5 to 9 September 2022. COFI is a global inter-governmental forum where FAO Members meet to review and consider the issues and challenges related to fisheries and aquaculture. SIF participated and provided technical support to the SADC Group to support the development of common positions. Before the meeting, SIF engaged in various webinars and prepared a concept note and briefing paper for the SADC as well as drafting positions for the SADC countries.

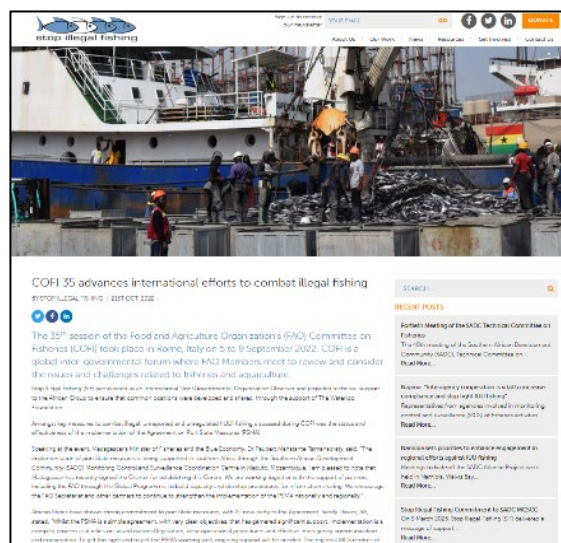
One of the SADC champions for fighting IUU fishing, Madagascar's Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Dr Paubert Mahatante Tsimanaoraty, was also supported with funding from SIF sources.



SIF briefing paper: for COFI

5.2 The FAO Transshipment Guidelines

During 2022, SIF was able to support countries to participate in the progress of the development of transshipment guidelines at the FAO, with the aim to ensure that a broad approach was taken, and not one that only focused on high value species destined for developed world markets. This process was a good learning curve, and we succeeded to raise awareness, though it was difficult to gain a high level of participation in the process; owing to the fact that generally, African countries are not the flag States of the vessels transshipping, and often the coastal States do not focus on the supply chain of fish once it has been caught as they are occupied with the pre-catching and port aspects. This raised the issue of the need to broaden understanding about the inter-relatedness of the roles of States as flag, coastal, port and market States and this may be a useful focus for further research to identify examples to demonstrate this and link it to regional policy.



SIF news: Support for COFI discussions

6 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.

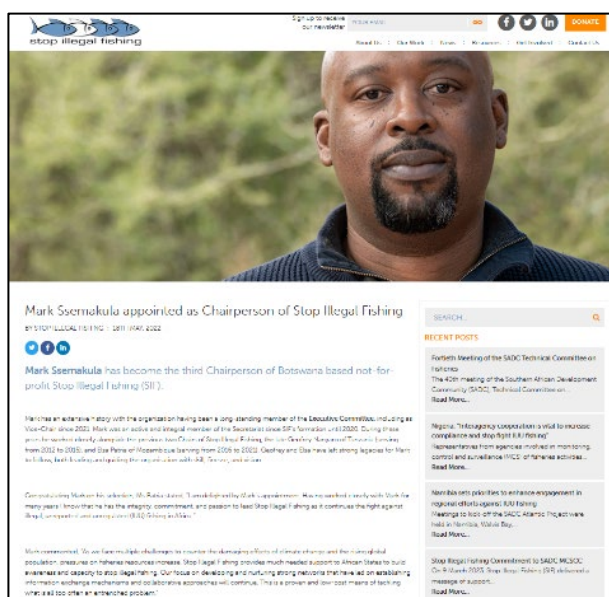
In 2022, SIF's long-standing Chairperson, Elsa Patria stepped aside from her role leaving a space for SIF to seek a third Chairperson. The Members elected Mark Ssemakula as their incoming Chairperson. Mark had an extensive history with the organization having been a long-standing member of the Executive Committee, including as Vice-Chair since 2021. Mark has also been a member of the Secretariat since SIF's formation until 2020, during these years he worked closely alongside the previous two Chairs of Stop Illegal Fishing, the late Geoffrey Nanyaro of Tanzania (serving from 2012 to 2015), and Elsa Patria of Mozambique (serving from 2016 to 2022). Geoffrey and Elsa left strong legacies for Mark to follow, both leading and guiding the organisation with skill, finesse, and vision.

Congratulating Mark on his selection, Ms Patria stated, "I am delighted by Mark's appointment. Having worked closely with Mark for many years I know that he has the integrity, commitment, and passion to lead Stop Illegal Fishing as it continues the fight against IUU fishing in Africa."

Per Erik Bergh, Stop Illegal Fishing Secretary commented, "Mark brings great knowledge not only of the fisheries sector but also of the wider natural resources and conservation arena. The Secretariat welcomes Marks appointment and look forward to working with him to protect fisheries and protect futures."

Our 2022 Executive Committee were:

- Chair — Mark Ssemakula
- Vice Chair — Nicholas Ntheketha
- Treasurer — Sandy Davies
- Secretary — Per Erik Bergh
- Vice Secretary — Sally Frankcom
- Executive Committee Member – Victor Kargbo
- Executive Committee Member — Manuel Castiano



SIF news: A new Chair for SIF

7 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.

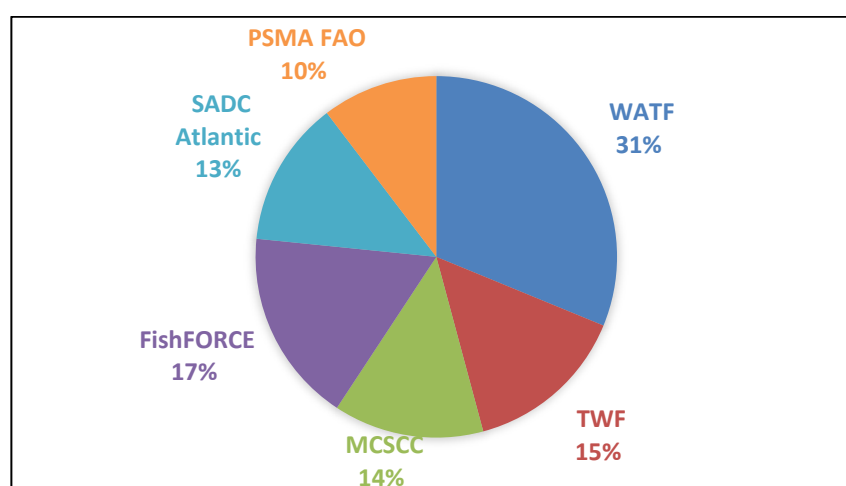
In 2022, SIF received grants from six funding sources including TWF, Norad, the FAO, WWF (funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)), Nelson Mandela University (funded by Norad), and the US State Department.

SIF grants are principally used for direct project expenses and the associated project management. Where possible, depending on the individual agreement, SIF secures an overhead which is then used to cover the costs of communications (website maintenance and upkeep, and publications), annual accounting, Secretariat costs and costs related to the Executive Committee.

SIF uses an independent accountant to prepare the Annual Accounts for the Registrar of Societies in Botswana, and the larger projects are audited annually, in 2022 SIF had two audits for the PSM-SIF project which ended in 2021 by GIZ appointed auditors and the WATF audited by Norad selected auditors.

Summary of grants and income to SIF in 2022*

Funder	Project	USD
The Waterloo Foundation	Information exchange to stop IUU fishing	73,285
Norad	West Africa Task Force	156,527
FAO	Port State measures to stop IUU fishing	67,481
WWF	Support to SADC MCSCC	86,929
Nelson Mandela University (from Norad)	FishFORCE – training in port State measures	65,444
US State Department	SADC Atlantic	51,931
TOTAL		501,597



*Distribution of grants and income to SIF in 2022 between projects**

*These are based on one annual year, even if the year did not run for the calendar year.

8 Acronyms

AIS	automatic identification system
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
CTA	Cape Town Agreement
EEZ	exclusive economic zones
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IPMU	Interim Project Management Unit
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MCSCC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (SADC)
PSM	port State measures
PSMA	Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing
PSM-SIF	Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing
RFMO	regional fisheries management organisation
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
TMT	TM-Tracking
TWF	The Waterloo Foundation
UN	United Nations
WATF	West Africa Task Force
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature