



SADC ATLANTIC

The SADC MCSCC: Working towards a common future



OVER TWO DECADES OF REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO FIGHT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) REGION AND TO PROTECTING OUR FISHERIES

What is at stake?



2.6 million tonnes of fish are produced annually



Contributing 2 per cent to the SADC GDP



Generating USD 152 million worth of exports



Employing 145,000 and providing benefits for over one million people



Providing 11 kg of fish per person each year, contributing to nutritional security

Why does it matter?

While the economic losses to IUU fishing are hard to estimate, figures have put annual global losses as high as USD 23.5 billion. Illegal operators are driven by money, and key hotspots for their operations include the Indian and Atlantic Oceans bordering Southern Africa. The effects of illegal fishing can be severe, particularly for coastal States facing diverse development challenges.

The losses to coastal communities dependent on fish as a source of nutrition, employment and income are well documented as fishers report dwindling catches, incursions of industrial vessels into restricted areas and deliberate damage to their vessels and gear.

IUU fishing contributes to over exploitation of natural fisheries resources and has negative impacts on efforts to rebuild already depleted fish populations and damaged ecosystems. Action is needed now to protect ocean health, biodiversity, and fisheries resources to ensure that fisheries continue to provide food and nutrition, livelihood and financial benefits for SADC citizens.

With population growth expected to lead to a global population of 9.8 billion in 2050, and with much of this increase coming from African countries, the need to protect our fisheries resources has never been greater.

Large scale illegal fishing is very often systematic, organised and transnational and can go hand in hand with other criminal activity. This is either because the illegal activity is related to the business of fishing (e.g. tax evasion, money laundering) or because those involved are linked to other activities of transnational organised crime such as drug smuggling, human trafficking or trade in illegal wildlife products which is intertwined with fishing operations.

As expectations of blue growth place new pressure on the marine environment, it is important to remember that a thriving and sustainable blue economy assumes a compliant marine and fisheries sector. If it is not, the concept of blue growth will fail, not contribute to national or regional growth and may even become self-destructive.

The fundamentals of our regional cooperation: The 2001 SADC Protocol on Fisheries



First regional and legally binding policy to guide the sector



Inspired by the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries



Reinforced by the 2008 SADC Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing

Safeguard the livelihood of fishing communities

Alleviate poverty with the ultimate objective of its eradication

Generate economic opportunities for nationals in the region

SADC Protocol on Fisheries

Promote and enhance food security and human health

Ensure that future generations benefit from these renewable resources



From the SADC 2008 Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing to the establishment of the Regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre

In August 2017, the SADC Council of Ministers, acknowledging the need to establish an organisation to coordinate measures relating to fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in the SADC region, approved a charter to establish a Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre for Southern Africa (MCSCC).

The Charter came into force on 8 April 2023, after two thirds of the SADC countries had become signatories. This mark was passed on 9 March 2023 in Gaborone, as Botswana became the eleventh signatory.

Fighting IUU fishing through the MCSCC: SADC countries are no longer acting alone

The MCSCC is an important step for the SADC to increase its ability to tackle organised fisheries crimes and IUU fishing. By working together, across sectors and countries, the region will be better able to provide a united and integrated response to protect SADC fisheries.

The MCSCC will focus on three key areas of work: information sharing, capacity building and coordination of activities. These will provide opportunities to monitor SADC oceans, lakes and rivers, and to understand and consider their connectivity.

This will improve transparency through the collection and sharing of information between countries and through improved insight and enable a meaningful regional agenda to be set to underpin the protection of SADC's fisheries.



Support the Collection and Exchange of Information

MCS officers need easy access to readily available, good quality information to conduct MCS activities and to validate information in an efficient and effective manner. The great benefit of up-to-date readily accessible, reliable information is that it is useful both as a fisheries management decision support system, as well as for compliance and enforcement decision-making.

The SADC MCSCC will:

- ✓ Develop a regional fishing vessel register
- ✓ Monitor vessel activity
- ✓ Share MCS data and information
- ✓ Host and facilitate an information and communication portal



Support the Development of Human and Institutional MCS Capacity

Human and institutional capacity is essential to both national and regional MCS activities and is key to stopping illegal fishing. The Regional MCSCC will provide support nationally and opportunities regionally to strengthen human and institutional MCS capacity.

The SADC MCSCC will:

- ✓ Build and support national MCS capacity



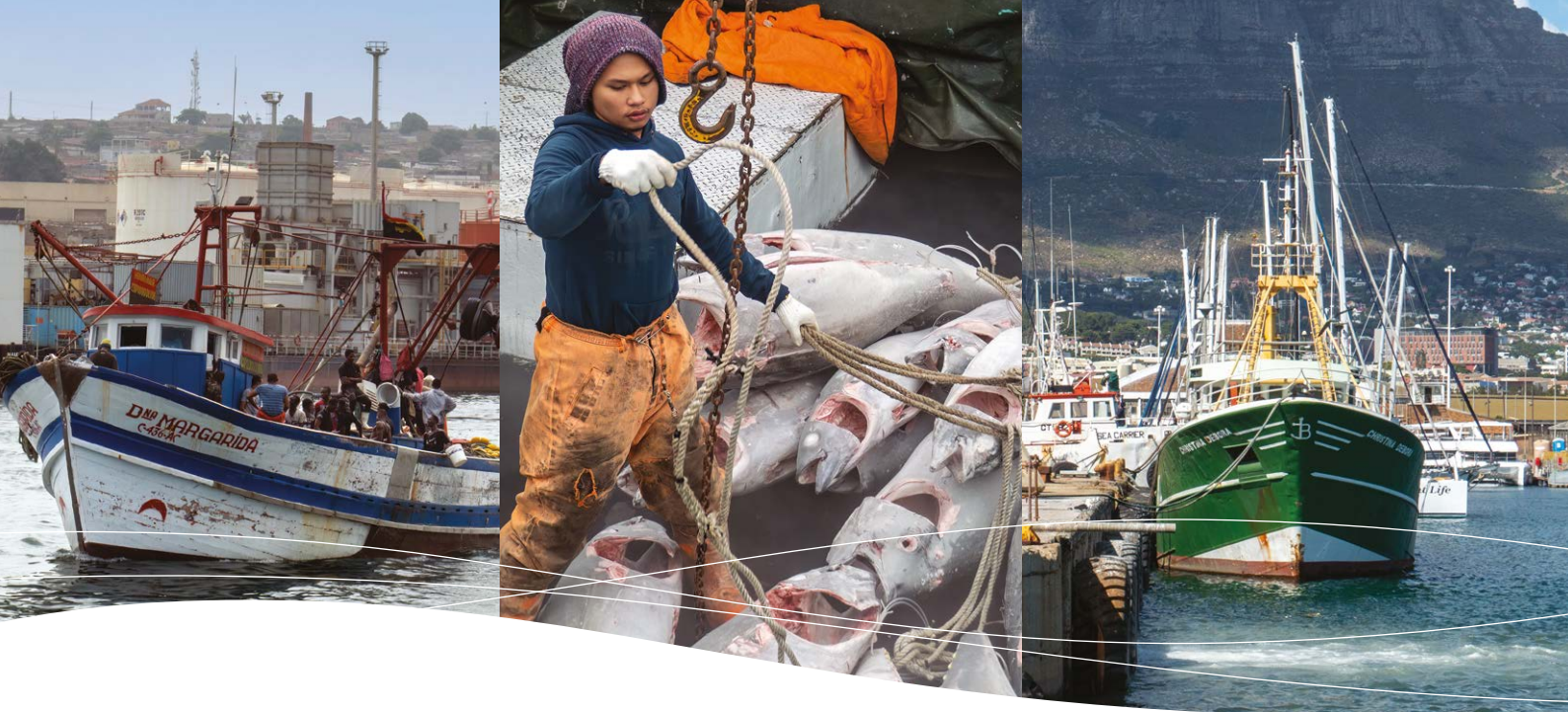
Support and Coordinate Regional MCS Actions

Coordination of assets and resources can provide real financial and strategic benefits. The impact of MCS actions are amplified when they are coordinated, so e.g. when all ports in the region deny access to IUU-listed or high-risk vessels, or when all coastal States deny licences.

By providing technical support throughout the SADC region, immediate and long-term benefits can be achieved, for example through developing workable processes, conducting thorough and effective checks, taking decisions, and acting against IUU fishing operators.

The SADC MCSCC will:

- ✓ Coordinate regional fisheries surveillance
- ✓ Coordinate regional fisheries observers
- ✓ Provide support for fisheries law enforcement and legal expertise
- ✓ Support port State measures implementation



THE **SADC ATLANTIC** PROJECT SUPPORTS THE ATLANTIC COAST COUNTRIES OF ANGOLA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO ENGAGE MORE FULLY WITH THE MCSCC

For these countries the shared fisheries of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem provide important economic, environmental and social benefits.

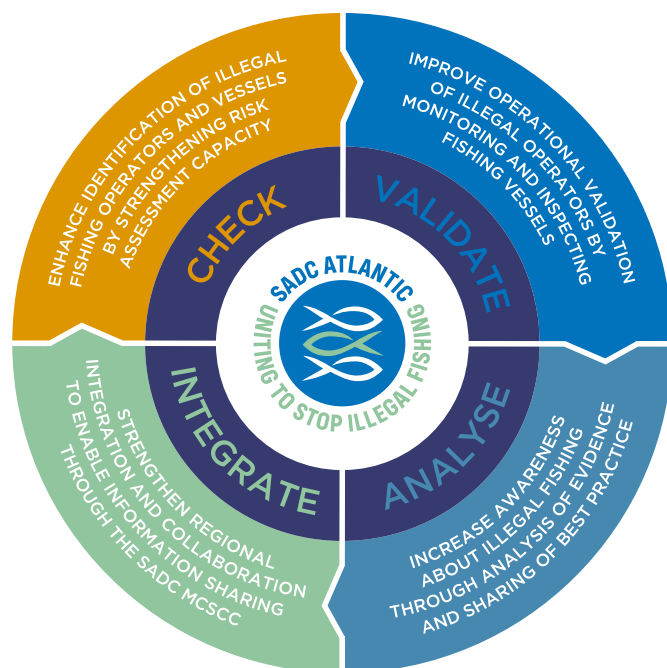
Therefore, the three countries are cooperating to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the shared resources through the implementation of the 2013 Benguela Current Convention.

All three countries have signed the Charter for the establishment of the regional MCSCC.

Strengthening the cooperation of these countries with the MCSCC will further assist in promoting regional cooperation, information sharing and cost-effective sharing of assets in the fight against IUU fishing.



The project is focusing on building capacity to:



CHECK

- Produce risk assessment manual
- Develop MCS capacity baseline
- Conduct risk assessment training
- Support national risk assessments



VALIDATE

- Monitor fishing vessels
- Develop MCS toolkits
- Support vessel inspections
- Build capacity for vessel monitoring



ANALYSE

- Research high risk vessels
- Analyse and evaluate evidence
- Develop material on lessons learnt
- Create policy advice



INTEGRATE

- Support information sharing
- Strengthen regional cooperation
- Build capacity for information sharing
- Map cooperation and information sharing



ANGOLA

Ports

Designated ports for foreign fishing vessels to use: Luanda, Lobito and Namibe

Fishing fleet

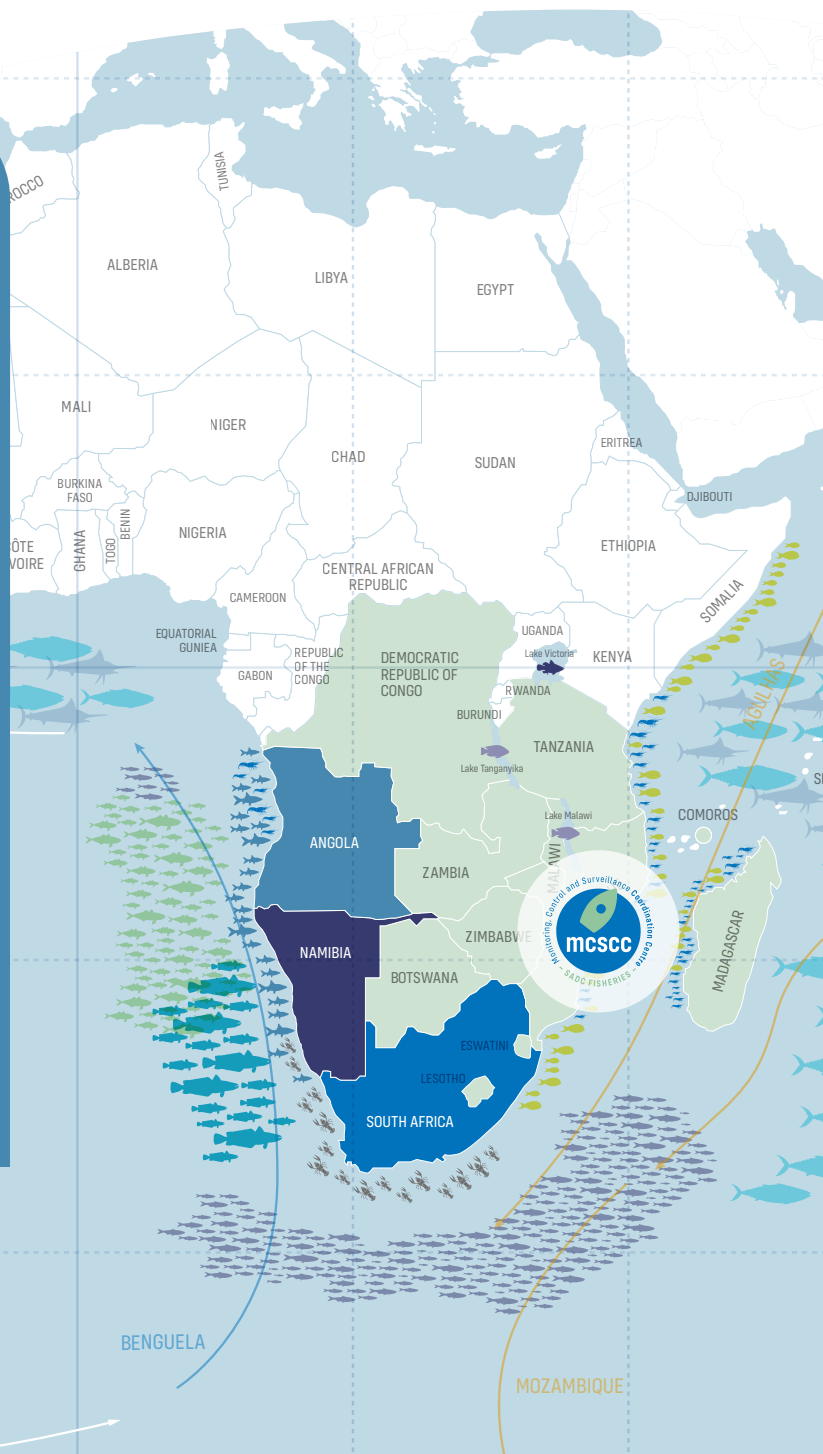
- 150 industrial fishing vessels
- 90 semi-industrial fishing vessels
- 8,000 artisanal fishing vessels

Protecting Angola's fisheries... towards sustainability and food security

- Annual per capita consumption of fish is 20.2 kg
- More than 80 per cent of Angolan fish production is sold on the domestic market
- Export of small pelagic fish is presently banned, with a goal to improve food security in Angola

Improved regional cooperation to...

- Fight IUU activities and associated crimes
- Address issues of labour law violations and poor working conditions for fisheries workers
- Support collaboration with neighbouring countries, in particular Namibia





NAMIBIA

Ports

Designated ports for foreign fishing vessels to use: Walvis Bay and Lüderitz

Fishing fleet

- 146 industrial fishing vessels
- 76 semi-industrial fishing vessels
- 25 recreational fishing vessels

Protecting Namibia's fisheries... a main driver for the economy

- Over 90 per cent of the fisheries products are exported
- Fish exports account for 14.5 per cent of export earnings
- Fisheries contribute 4.5 per cent to national GDP
- The fisheries sector creates jobs for over 18,000 people
- Annual per capita consumption of fish is 16.59 kg

Improved regional cooperation to...

- Prevent IUU activities and associated crimes in the Namibia exclusive economic zone (EEZ)
- Fight issues of human trafficking and violations of labour law for workers onboard fishing vessels
- Support collaboration with neighbouring countries, in particular Angola



SOUTH AFRICA

Ports

Designated ports for foreign fishing vessels to use: Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth

Fishing fleet

- 661 industrial fishing vessels
- 554 semi-industrial fishing vessels
- 1,322 artisanal fishing vessels

Protecting South Africa's fisheries... in line with the principle that fisheries resources belong to all South Africa's people

- A strategic sector within South Africa's vision of a wider ocean economy
- Provides direct and indirect jobs to 60,000 people
- Largest fish trading nation in the SADC, together with Namibia
- Some 147 fishing communities, 28,338 fisher households and about 29,233 people depend on fishing for their livelihood through subsistence fishing

Improved regional cooperation to...

- Fight IUU activities, especially illegal harvesting and trade of high value species like abalone and shark fins
- Address issues of human right violations aboard fishing vessels
- Collaborate to stop organised crimes associated with fisheries and the criminal networks involved in them

The project is focusing on ports

This is because ports and port States play a unique role in the governance of the fisheries and maritime sectors. Port States are responsible under international law to control and monitor fishing vessels entering and using their ports and fish being moved through their ports. They have an opportunity to stop illegal fishing from going unpunished, and to identify unsafe vessels and unfair working conditions.

Activity at sea is difficult to monitor and oversee, making regulations and laws hard to enforce. Ports provide the most effective, low-cost opportunity to check, inspect and act against illegal operators. Port States control whom they allow to use their port for offloading, transshipment and for servicing of the vessel and crew. They provide a critical control point for foreign flagged vessels operating in or transiting national waters.

Denying port entry and access to port services, and consequently preventing illegal seafood from being landed and entering trade, increases the costs associated with illegal fishing operations and removes the financial incentives for engaging in these activities. Identifying illegal catches before or during landing (CHECK and VALIDATE) is important as after they have been landed it becomes more difficult to detect illegalities that occurred before or during fishing.



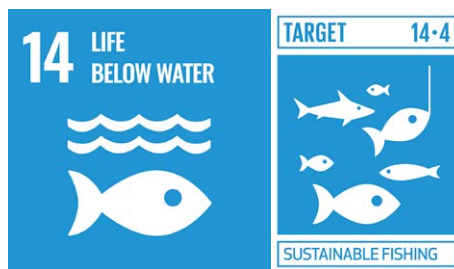
WE CAN USE OUR PORTS AS A POWERFUL TOOL TO:

- Refuse access to known or suspected IUU fishing vessels.
- Promote a legitimate and equitable environment for all fishers.
- 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.
- Target repeat offenders who systematically fish illegally or operate unsafe vessels.
- Increase compliance in the industrial sector to support a sustainable artisanal sector.
- Improve governance and maritime security.





THE PROJECT IS ALIGNED WITH INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TOWARDS MAKING OUR FISHERIES SAFE, FAIR AND LEGAL – COMBATTING IUU FISHING IN ALL ITS FACETS



Towards achieving target 14.4 calling for an end to IUU fishing and destructive practices as well as all sustainable development goals converging towards the SADC common agenda to accelerate poverty eradication.



Legally binding instruments

- 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement
- 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
- 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA)

Voluntary instruments

- 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing
- 2014 FAO Guidelines on Flag State Performance

2007 ILO Work in Fishing Convention C188, to ensure fishers have decent work conditions onboard fishing vessels

2012 IMO Cape Town Agreement on enhancing the safety of fishing vessels

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) prioritises fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to protect the region's people, oceans and economy from the devastating impacts of illegal fishing. The SADC is coordinating and driving regional monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) collaboration through the SADC MCS Coordination Centre (MCSCC).

SADC ATLANTIC is a project of the SADC MCSCC that is contributing to lasting change by building institutional and human MCS capacity in the Atlantic Ocean coastal countries of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, all countries of the Benguela Current Convention.

SADC ATLANTIC is supported by the United States Department of State through the United States Embassy in Gaborone, in partnership with the SADC Secretariat and Stop Illegal Fishing.

For more information go to:

www.sadc.int

www.sadcmcscc.org

www.stopillegalfishing.org

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