



# Protecting our fisheries:

Working towards a common future

20 Years of the SADC  
Protocol on Fisheries

This flagship publication is part of the **STATE OF FISHERIES** series of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

SADC. 2021. Protecting our fisheries – working towards a common future. Gaborone. Botswana



Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by SADC Secretariat in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

**ISBN No. 978-99968-919-1-5**

Information in this publication may be reproduced, used and shared with full acknowledgement of the publisher, SADC Secretariat.

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat  
Plot 54385 CBD Square  
Private/Bag 0095  
Gaborone, Botswana  
Tel: +267 395 1863  
Email: [registry@sadc.int](mailto:registry@sadc.int)  
Website: [www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)

©SADC, 2021

**Protecting our fisheries – working towards a common future** has been written by NFDS Africa on behalf of the SADC Secretariat, with support from WWF Mozambique through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and from Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF).

**DISCLAIMER:** All images copyright Stop Illegal Fishing unless otherwise indicated. The images in this publication appear for illustration purposes only and are not intended to convey or imply, directly or indirectly, that any illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities had taken place or were otherwise associated with this image.

# Table of contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Developing a common future for our fisheries</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Why our fisheries are important?</b>	<b>6</b>	Models of working together	48
Our fisheries	7	Learning from others	53
Marine capture fisheries	9	Delivering on our commitments	55
Inland capture fisheries	10	What will the SADC MCSCC do?	58
Main commercial fisheries species	12	Support the collection and exchange of information	58
How do fisheries contribute?	15	FISH-i Africa	64
Food and nutrition security	15	Develop human and institutional MCS capacity	66
Employment and livelihoods	16	FishFORCE: building national and regional capacity to stop IUU fishing	67
Economic development	18	Lake Victoria: building capacity through operational training	68
What threatens our fisheries?	20	Coordinate and support regional MCS actions	70
Growing demand	21	Oversight at sea	71
Climate change	23	International support leads to conviction: the case of the TAWARIQ 1	77
Harmful subsidies	24	The power of our ports: PREMIER	79
Blue expectations	26	Which ports are important for the SADC industrial fisheries sector	80
Illegal fishing	28	Achieving our sustainable development goals	82
How are we protecting our fisheries?	31	Securing our future	83
Cooperation and collaboration	32	<b>Afterword</b>	<b>85</b>
International frameworks	33	<b>Acronyms and abbreviations</b>	<b>86</b>
Commitments to protect our fisheries	34		
SADC frameworks	36		
Regional frameworks	37		
Regional initiatives	40		
National action	42		
Multi-agency team works to end destructive blast fishing	44		





# Foreword

As the role of the blue economy has gained prominence over the last few years our relationship with the ocean and our inland waterways has come under a new spotlight. We have long known that fisheries are important in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region: they provide food and nutrition, generate employment and income, and provide livelihoods for millions of our people. But for many, fishing is more than an occupation: their lives depend on successful catches. Fishing is how our children are fed and education and medical bills are paid. Protecting this must be a priority.



**His Excellency  
Mr Elias Mpedi Magosi**  
Executive Secretary  
Southern African Development  
Community

The threats to our fisheries come from many directions. Climate change is impacting our fish stocks and our growing global population increases the demand for low cost, nutritious food. At the same time our fishing industry is competing with subsidised fleets who operate with financial incentives, and with illegal operators who show no respect for laws, regulations or conservation measures.

The fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has long been championed by the SADC and by our ministers. In 2008, Dr Abraham Iyambo, Minister for Fisheries, Namibia led the call to action that resulted in the SADC Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing. He stated, 'We may be the last generation of decision-makers with an opportunity to end the troubling destruction of our oceans and the hardship it brings to our people. I cannot overstate the importance for us leaders to move from discussion to action, future generations will judge us on our achievements not our words.'

As I reflect on this statement and the content of this report, I recall how far we have come. Through the coordination by the governments of Namibia and Malawi as hosts to the SADC marine and inland fisheries sector coordinating units, twenty years ago we negotiated the SADC Protocol on Fisheries. This laid the framework for SADC countries to develop a strong cooperation in fisheries,

with a focus on shared management mechanisms. However, as Dr Iyambo stated, we needed to go further, to truly collaborate in our actions to protect our fisheries.

In the last ten years, many have dedicated their efforts to see the vision of our own Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) become a reality. The realisation of this Centre marks a turning point, from which we now have the means to facilitate our full collaboration to protect our fisheries for our common future.

This report highlights our many successes in the last twenty years. As we move forward, we can build on these models, such as the FISH-i Africa Task Force, to broaden and strengthen our cooperation and to share lessons between countries and between marine and inland fisheries. We have an interim team in place to support the development of the MCSCC in Mozambique and as understanding of the role and value of this Centre grows, more countries are stepping forward to commit to its establishment.

Our enforcement personnel are trained, ready, and willing to act. In the next decade we will prioritise protecting our fisheries to underpin greater benefits and blue growth. Together, as we collaborate more fully, we will also move towards the future we want.



# Why our fisheries are important?



# Our fisheries

Fisheries are vital for the economies, development and wellbeing of our SADC countries and region.



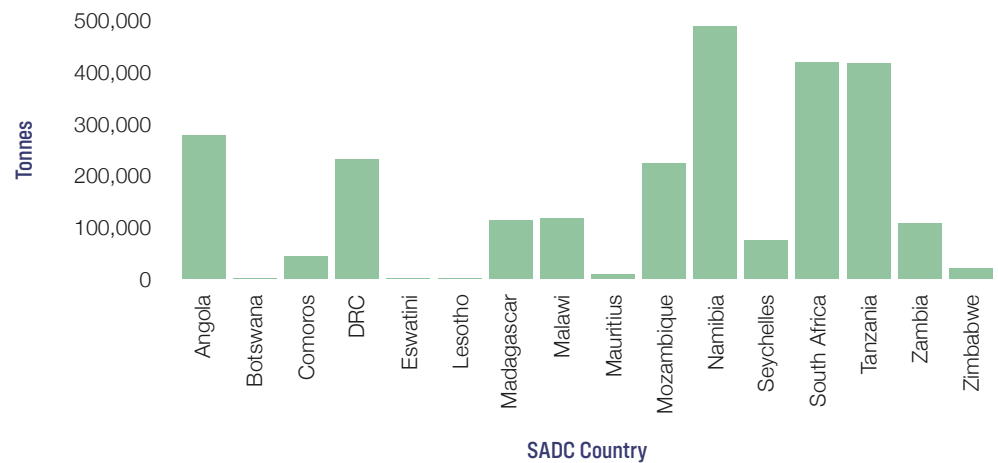
Fishery statistics provide useful indicators for comparison and to show trends, but they cannot be relied on to tell the full story, for that we must look a little deeper.

Fisheries production in Southern Africa has been growing since the 1950s. Production is dominated by capture fisheries, both marine and freshwater, while aquaculture plays a minor role. The total recorded fisheries production within the SADC is around 2.5 million tonnes annually. Marine fisheries contribute about 60 percent of this and inland or freshwater fisheries the other 40 percent.

However, these statistics should be viewed with caution. For example, much of the fish caught by informal or small-scale fishers, in both marine and inland fisheries, are not

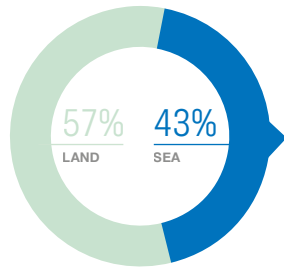
captured in fisheries statistics, if included they may well double the figure. While there are considerable amounts of offshore fish, especially large pelagic species, such as tuna, and small pelagic species, such as sardine and horse mackerel, that are caught by foreign fishing vessels and this catch is unlikely to be recorded in our regional statistics. Fishery statistics provide useful indicators for comparison and to show trends, but they cannot be relied on to tell the full story, for that we must look a little deeper.

**Recorded fish production in tonnes per year (2013)**

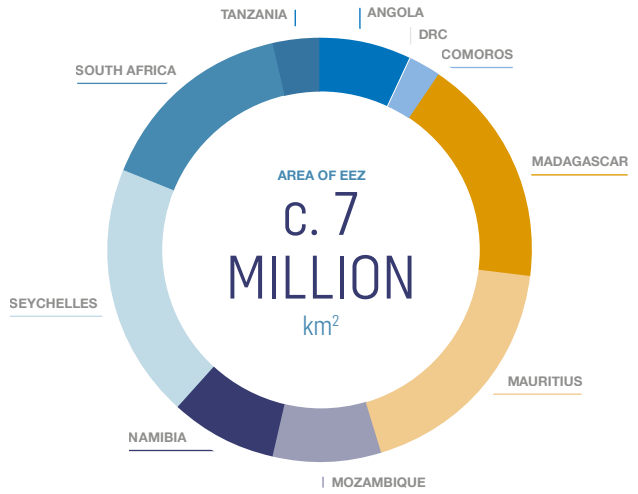




Area of EEZ (km<sup>2</sup>)



43% of the total area of the SADC is ocean and 57% is land





# Marine capture fisheries

Broadly speaking, the region's marine fisheries fall into three main regions, those derived from mainland Africa's west and east coasts and the Western Indian Ocean.

## West coast fisheries

Fish from the west coast of the SADC, mainly originate from the cold waters of the Benguela current upwelling system forming the Benguela current large marine ecosystem (BCLME). West coast productivity is high but species diversity is low. These fisheries are important for economic development and growth as around 90 percent of the west coast fish are caught by industrial fishing vessels and destined mainly for consumption outside of the region. Angola, Namibia and South Africa all have industrial fishing vessels that operate in these west coast fisheries.

## East coast fisheries

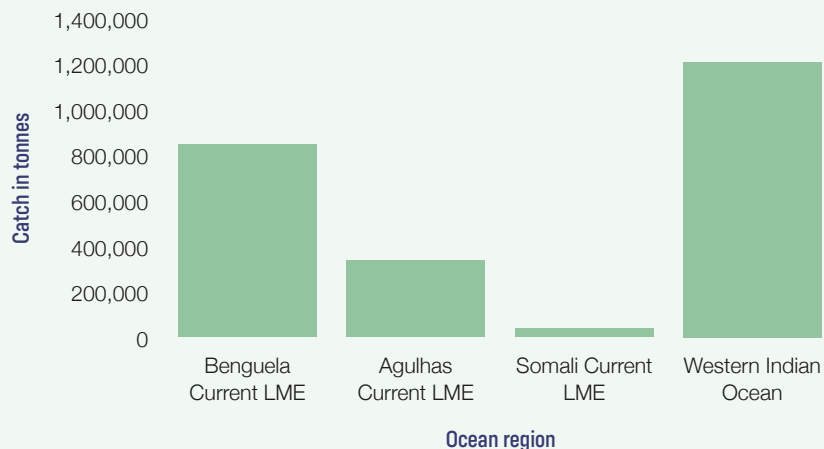
In contrast, the east coast has warmer waters associated with the Agulhas current large marine ecosystem (ACLME) and the Somali current large marine ecosystem (SCLME). These have more stable environmental conditions than the BCLME, producing greater species diversity but less

production. The east coast fisheries are of high social importance as most of the fishers are small-scale or semi-industrial, fishing and returning to landing sites and ports to deliver the fish for sale and consumption by the local population. There are few industrial fishing vessels in the east coast fisheries.

## Western Indian Ocean

There is also a fishery for large pelagic species, mainly tunas, based in the Western Indian Ocean surrounding the island and east coast states. These fish are caught by a combination of small-scale fishers and industrial vessels. The industrially caught fish are mostly destined for consumption in Europe and Asia, producing limited benefits for the region either nutritionally or economically. Most of the industrial vessels operating in this fishery are foreign flagged, only Seychelles has a significant number of vessels (around 60) flagged locally but foreign operated.

Estimated annual catch from the four main marine fisheries regions in the SADC



# Inland capture fisheries

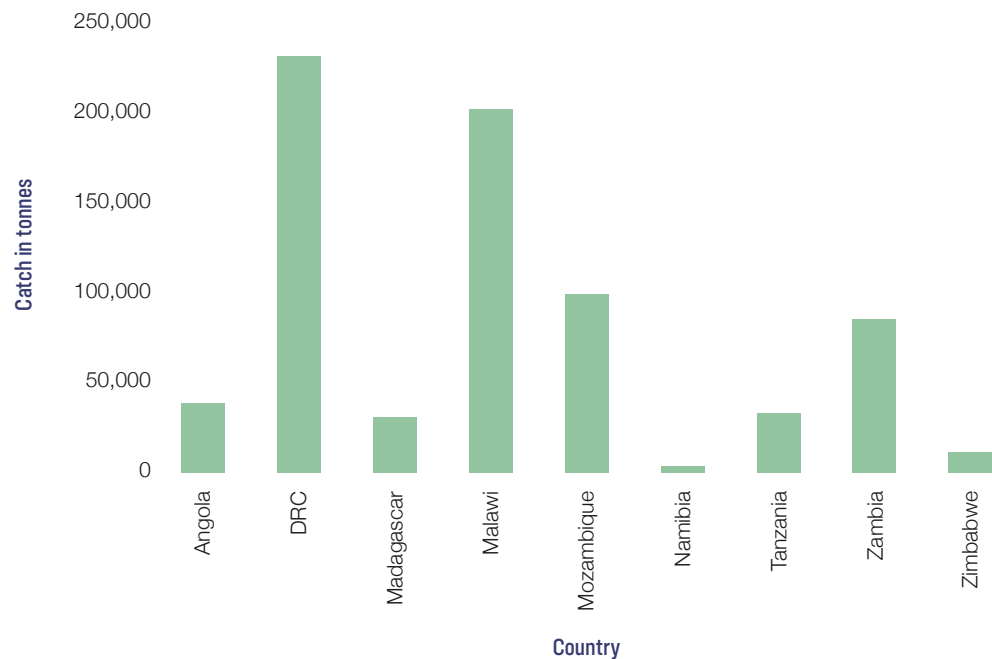


Inland fisheries are located in some of the poorer areas within the SADC where food insecurity is prevalent, highlighting the importance of inland fishing for the region.

The SADC region has several large water systems including the Zambezi system, Lakes Kariba and Cahora Bassa, and the Okavango. Commercially important freshwater fish production is particularly from the lakes in the east, including Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Malawi and Lake Kariba. Malawi and Tanzania have registered industrial fishing vessels operating on their lake waters.

Smaller water bodies and rivers across the region as well as the larger lakes, provide fish for subsistence and small-scale fishers and local consumption. This is usually not captured in statistics but highly important for nutrition, with around 90 percent of inland fisheries production being for direct human consumption. This is in contrast to marine capture fisheries where a significant amount is used to produce fishmeal. Inland fisheries are located in some of the poorer areas within the SADC where food insecurity is prevalent, highlighting the importance of inland fishing for the region.

**Reported annual freshwater catch from SADC countries** (only those producing over 1,000 tonnes)



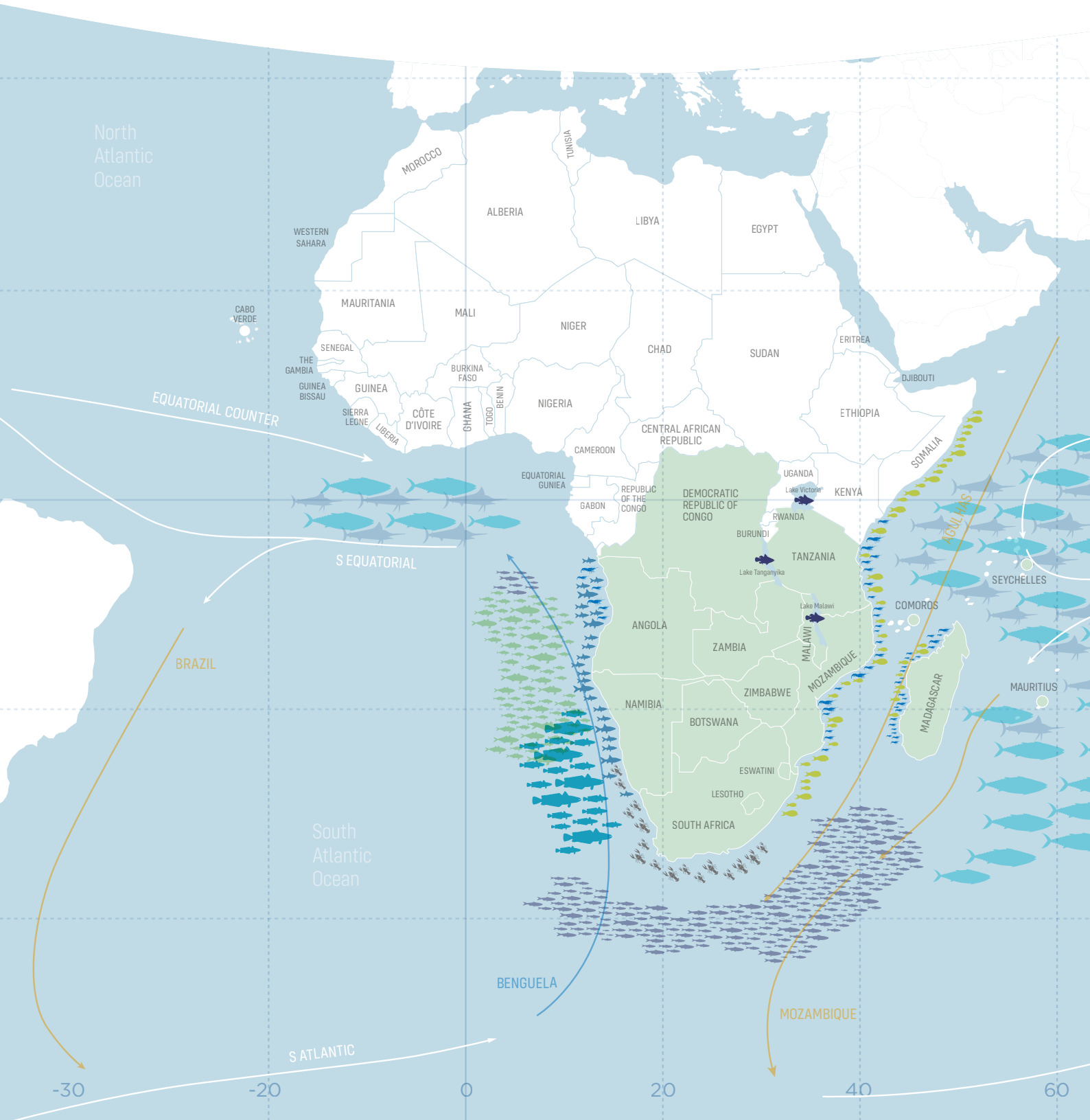




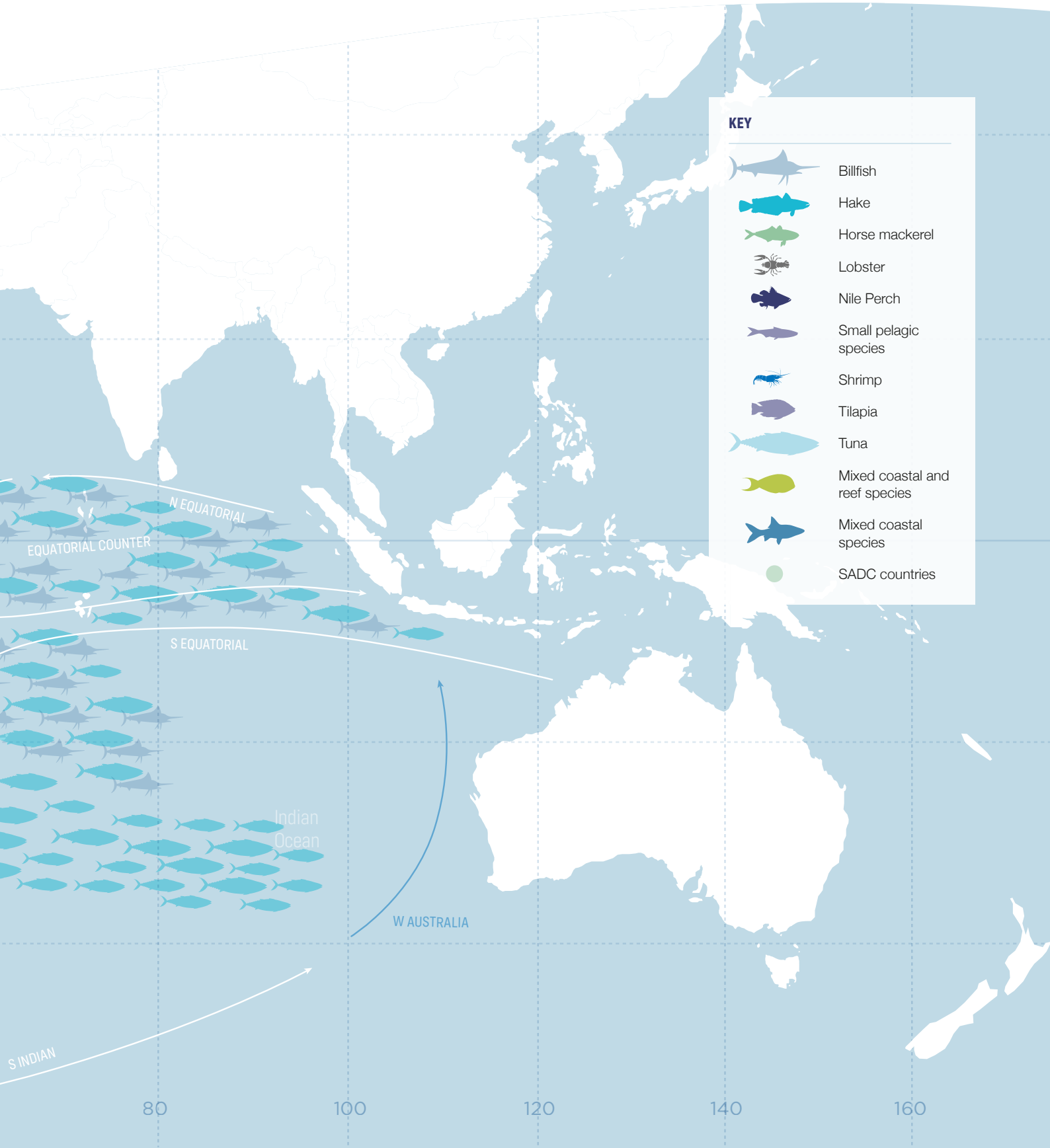


# Main commercial fisheries species

Commercial species of importance to the SADC region are marked in an indicative manner only.









STA STR STC

BP SWL 20

IVENH JONSSON  
C24-20-8



# How do fisheries contribute?

Fisheries and fish and fisheries products all contribute to national food and nutritional security, employment and livelihoods, and economic needs of all SADC countries. However, each fish species has different potential value and benefits.



Despite strides being made in reducing poor nutrition, one in nine people go hungry every day.

For example, fish cheap in monetary value but high in volume, such as dagaa or sardines are essential for food and nutrition for many of SADC's poorest people. While high value species, such as lobster or yellowfin tuna, may hardly be eaten locally contributing little to national food security but contributing significantly to employment in processing and packaging and to export earnings.

This section considers some of the different ways that fisheries contribute to the wellbeing of the people of the SADC region.

## Food and nutrition security

Fish and other aquatic species are available from both marine and freshwater in every country of the SADC region and these fish are making a significant contribution to the food and nutrition security of people in Southern Africa.

Of the 2.5 million tonnes of fish that SADC produces each year, if this were all eaten in the region it would provide 7 kilogrammes (kg) of fish per person per year. However, how much fish people eat ranges from 1 to 60 kg per year, and in some countries, fish makes up 50 percent of the animal protein eaten each year.

Despite strides being made in reducing poor nutrition, one in nine people go hungry every day. These food related deficiencies can be devastating. If a child does not receive sufficient nutrition in the first 1,000 days of life they are at risk of mental impairment, poor health, low productivity and even death.

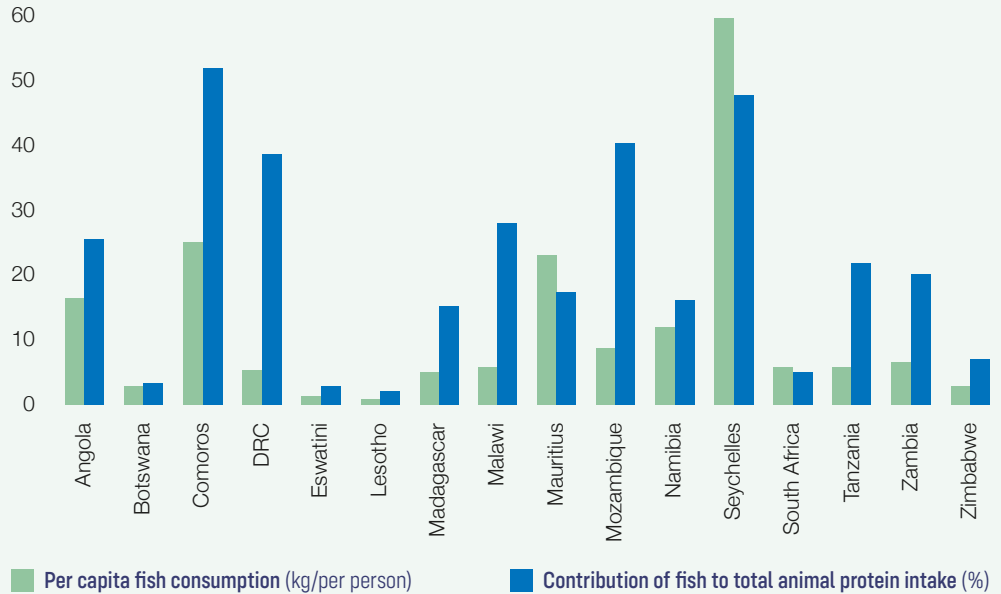
This is a very real challenge for the SADC region, with at least 20 percent of the population being undernourished in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. With the protein content of fish being high, averaging 15 to 20 percent and because it contains significant amounts of all essential amino acids and many other nutrients, the value of fish, especially to our poorer population is critical.

The importance of fish for nutrition is valid for all SADC countries, this is demonstrated through the percentage contribution that fish makes to the total animal protein intake which is over 20 percent in Angola, Comoros, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia, demonstrating the importance of fish in the diet of people for island, coastal and landlocked inland countries within the SADC.



Fishing and related activities provide employment and livelihoods for 60 million people globally

**Fish consumption and contribution to animal protein (2011)**



**Employment and livelihoods**

Fishing and related activities provide employment and livelihoods for 60 million people globally, 90 percent of these are in developing countries, thus contributing to their overall security and ability to produce or purchase food. Employment in the fisheries sector is not only for those fishing but fishing supports upstream employment such as boat building, port and landing site development, provision of supplies and gear for fishing and downstream employment such as port and landing site services, processing of fish into product, transport, and trading of fish. Together these can account for well over half of the overall employment generated by fishing.

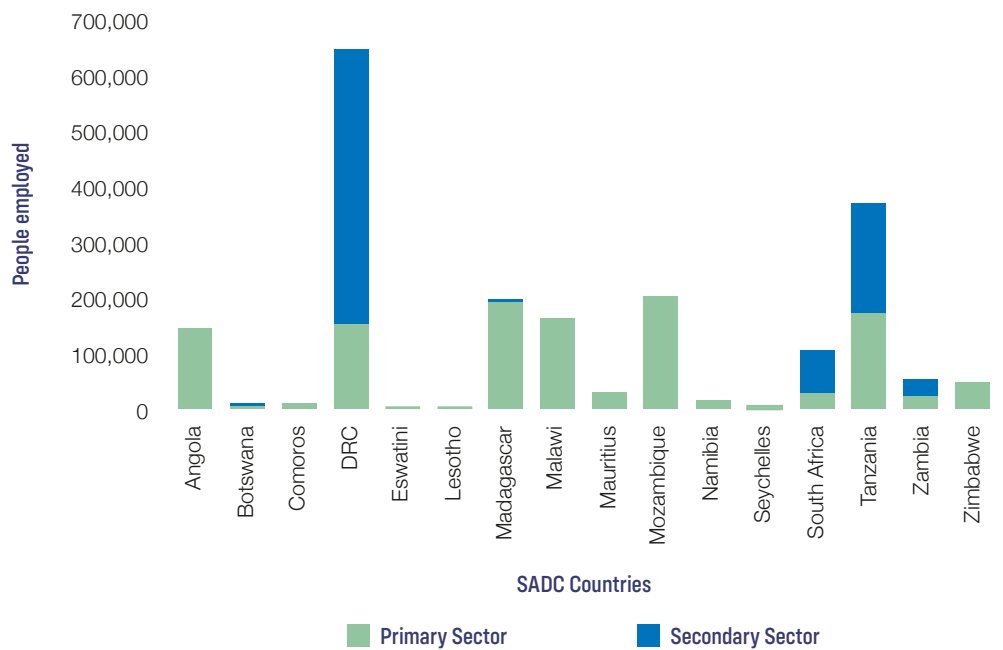
Employment is an essential component of human well-being and an important indicator for the benefits derived from fisheries, providing decision makers with an understanding and the arguments to ensure that the fisheries are sustainable and protected from activities that will undermine them. However, it is also a challenging statistic, which is often underestimated by officials as it is difficult to accurately collect. This is partially because many people employed in fisheries are informally employed or involved for subsistence and others may only dedicate a portion of their time to work as fishers, processors, or traders making it difficult to classify them and easy for their contribution to the sector, and their benefits to go unrecorded.



The latest estimates of employment for the region, compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicate that over two million people are employed in the primary (fishing) and secondary (upstream and downstream) activities associated with fishing. When compared to the estimated catch in the region it suggests that for each

person employed just over one tonne of fish is landed, feeding around 150 people for a year. However, it is likely that there are many more people working in the fisheries sector, contributing to the fish catch within the SADC, but they are not included in the official statistics.

**Estimate of employment in the fishery sector of SADC**





The value of imported fish and fishery products to the SADC region was USD 1,505 million in 2012 and the value of exports of fish and fishery products was USD 2,282 million in the same year, making SADC a net exporter of fish and fishery products by monetary value.

## Economic development

When fish is caught, it is usually recorded in statistics by fisheries authorities by its volume or weight, for example in tonnes. Once the fish is landed and no longer in the domain of fisheries authorities it becomes a traded commodity and is usually recorded in statistics by its monetary value for contribution to national indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) or in respect to imports and exports.

A FAO study in 2014 considered the contribution of fishing to gross domestic product (GDP) for a selection of countries. Within the SADC region the contribution varied from a low of 0.14 percent in Mauritius to a high of 3.81 percent in DRC, other countries included in the study were Madagascar at 2.04 percent, Malawi at 1.59 percent and Mozambique at 3.02 percent and Tanzania mainland at 2.63 percent and Zanzibar at 5.68 percent. The FAO considered that estimates, particularly from the marine artisanal and industrial fishing sector, seemed to be rather low, however, despite this, the contribution to national GDP is significant in many SADC countries.

The value of imported fish and fishery products to the SADC region was USD 1,505 million in 2012 and the value of exports of fish and fishery products was USD 2,282 million in the same year, making SADC a net exporter of fish and fishery products by monetary value. This does not indicate that the region imports less fish by volume than it exports, it is likely to be the opposite. It suggests that imported fish is lower in economic value, such as small pelagic fish destined for the most food insecure SADC countries, such as DRC, Madagascar, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to boost consumption, or raw fish such as tuna that is being imported for processing and onward export, as higher value, lower volume fish.

An example of the variability in the type of contribution made by the fisheries sector to national economic wellbeing and growth, can be seen by comparing Namibia and Angola, two west coast neighbouring SADC countries. These countries have very different characteristics in their fisheries sectors and national population size, but both demonstrate the great benefits that fisheries bring to the countries.

- **Namibian fisheries** are almost entirely industrial, with limited subsistence and recreational fishing. The latest estimate for the contribution to GDP from the fisheries sector is almost six percent with direct employment estimated at 14,000. Namibia exports more than 90 percent of its fisheries products but it keeps enough for national consumption and with a population of 2.6 million, each person on average eats 12 kgs of fish per year.
- **Angolan fisheries** are both industrial and small-scale, with a large artisanal sector. Fisheries are estimated to contribute around three percent to the GDP with an estimated 145,442 people directly involved in the sector. In contrast to Namibia, Angola sells more than 90 percent of their catch on the national market, feeding the far larger population of 32 million people, each with an average of 16.3 kgs of fish per year.





# What threatens our fisheries?

As our understanding and appreciation of the diverse benefits that fisheries provide grows, so does our concern to protect the future of our fisheries from growing pressures and threats.



Over the last two decades SADC governments have worked to develop, implement, and improve their fisheries management systems, guided by the 2001 SADC Protocol on Fisheries. Key issues that the region has been addressing, include: controlling overfishing, illegal fishing and by-catch to rebuild fish stocks; the joint management of shared marine and lake resources; harmonising legislation, reducing overcapacity; protection of the aquatic environment by applying appropriate conservation and management measures; and fighting IUU fishing through improved capacity and coordination in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). The next section of this report – how we are protecting our fisheries – investigates our progress in some of these areas.

However, the challenges that fisheries are facing are rapidly evolving, the threats are not the same as those faced in the 1990's when the Protocol on Fisheries was negotiated. Today, however strong national fisheries management is – external threats that fisheries managers and fisheries decision makers are not in control of – are having enormous and negative impacts on the region's fisheries. These impacts have the potential to undermine the sustainability of fisheries ecosystems, the social-economic benefits they provide, and possibly of greatest concern, stop us from fully realising the benefits from fisheries resources for the benefit of SADC citizens.

While we must continue with traditional management approaches and strengthen regional cooperation in areas such as managing fishing effort and monitoring catches, we must also work to improve our understanding of the complex external threats that are impacting on the sustainability of fisheries. Here, five of these threats with regional reach and impact are considered to demonstrate the complexity and interrelatedness of different drivers that can potentially undermine compliant and sustainable fisheries:

- Growing demand
- Climate change
- Harmful subsidies
- Blue expectations
- Illegal fishing

Fisheries management decision-makers will not be able to manage these threats alone: a regionally integrated approach is required, with cooperation and collaboration in fisheries MCS being central. In the third section of this report – developing a common future for our fisheries – the value of acting in a united manner with common operational and political approaches is explored.



# Growing demand



Asia's share of world fish consumption is 70 percent, which is the largest by continent and increasing.

A major challenge to the region is the increasing human population. This is resulting in an increase in demand on stretched food and nutrition resources, an increase in demand for jobs and income, and an increase in demand for governments to provide more services, such as schooling and health care.

It is predicted that SADC's population of 377 million will double by 2050. This growth will be greatest in poorer SADC countries, for example, the DRC is expected to increase by 143 million people by 2050. Some SADC citizens eat 60 kgs of fish a year other eat only 1 kg, this imbalance is likely to become greater in the next three decades. For example, imbalance is likely to become greater in the next three decades, for example, in DRC currently people eat nearly 6 kgs of fish per year constituting almost 40 percent of their total annual protein intake, a doubling of the population will reduce the availability of fish per person and thus increase the prevalence or severity of poor nutrition.

To maintain or increase current levels of availability of fish or to potentially increase the contribution of fish for nutrition, fish needs to be cheaply available. Lower value species, with limited or no processing, are likely to be more in demand than high value, highly processed products. However, the growing demand for fisheries is not only for food and nutrition, but also to provide jobs and national income.

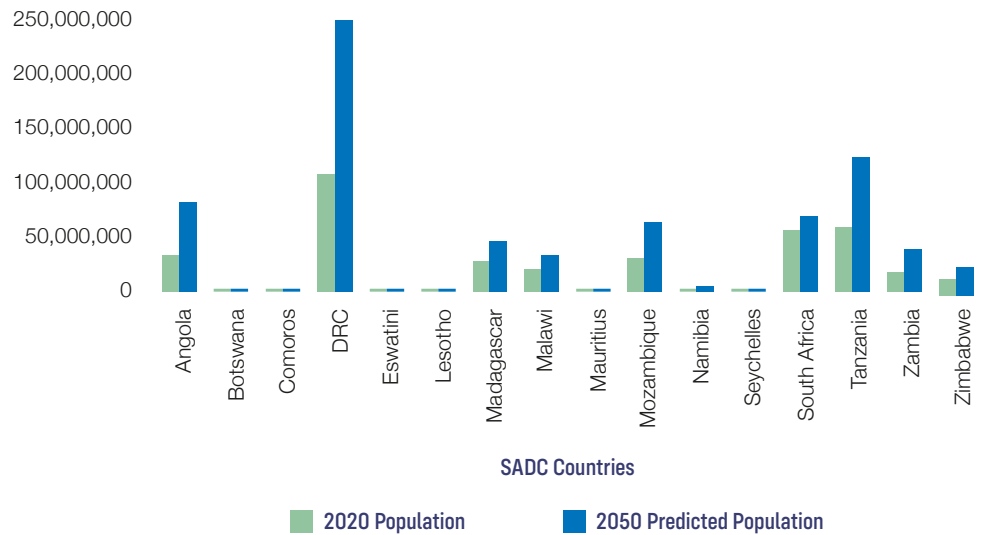
These multiple demands will put pressure on decision makers to choose priorities to fulfil their countries needs in a balanced manner that also safeguards the natural resources that they rely on.

Global population growth will also increase pressure on SADC resources and create challenging choices for policy makers. According to the FAO, global fish consumption is expanding at 3.2 percent annually, faster than global population growth at 1.6 percent. This growth is not uniform, Asia's share of world fish consumption is 70 percent, which is the largest by continent and increasing. This will impact on the SADC region, with higher demand for SADC caught fish to be exported for consumption outside of the region. This will result in less fish for local nutrition and potentially also reduced opportunity for local catching, processing and selling of fish, developing the local and regional value chains and increasing the all-round benefits from fishery resources.



Population growth, and the resultant growth in demand, is a diverse and complex threat to fisheries, including the likely increase in IUU fishing by foreign vessels, as the pressure to increase catches grows. Regional collaboration and approaches to the management, catching, processing, and trading of fish and fisheries products, offers a real opportunity for countries to work together to overcome this threat. For example, re-strategise so that fishery resources could be the building blocks for local supply chains, providing more fish for regional trade rather than export, and more fish for regional consumption, increasing local employment and income. This approach would help build regional resilience to increasing demand for food and nutrition. Regional operational MCS cooperation will enable fisheries authorities to understand, tackle and overcome the expected increase in foreign illegal fishing.

**The population of SADC countries in 2020 and the 2050 predictions**





# Climate change

Human activity that results in climate change and an increase in natural disasters is having a slow but potentially highly threatening impact on fisheries in the region. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the frequency and intensity of these natural disasters will keep increasing with global warming. The economic impact of climate change is predicted to cost African governments up to three percent of their GDP each year by 2030.



The most vulnerable fisheries are small-scale or semi-industrial fisheries in which many people are heavily dependent on fish for food and livelihoods.

Climate change and disasters are already impacting on SADC's fisheries and the livelihoods that they sustain. Although the exact implications of climate changes are not fully understood the most vulnerable fisheries are small-scale or semi-industrial fisheries in which many people are heavily dependent on fish for food and livelihoods, with almost no ability to adapt to a reduction in catches or a disaster. Increased extreme weather events in the region, such as storms, cyclones, hurricanes, and droughts have interrupted activities in ports and stopped fishing, damaged infrastructure, destroyed fishing vessels and killed fishers, while coastal erosion and salinisation of water supplies have forced communities to migrate to new fishing areas. An example is the city of Beira in Mozambique, that was hit by the brutal Cyclone Idai in 2019, killing more than 600 people and destroying fishing vessels and gear. Having not yet fully recovered, in early 2021, the same people suffered again from Cyclone Eloise.

Two impacts of climate change have become evident in the region, the warming and acidification of oceans. Ocean warming is an impact of climate change that effects ocean circulation, causing changes in local temperatures and wind regimes, potentially reducing fisheries productivity, and altering fish species distribution. Ocean acidification is when increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere makes seawater more acidic, resulting in complex and not fully understood physiological and ecosystem impacts.

Climate change impacts and natural disasters are impacting on our marine fisheries ecosystems and in our freshwater lakes and rivers. Effective policies, plans and actions are needed to better protect fisheries and their fishers by making them climate-smart and disaster-ready. This will require more integrated MCS especially in small-scale fisheries and implementing regional approaches to monitor and control potential illegal fishing, illegal trade and the migration of fishers across borders, all likely to increase in response to the pressures resulting from climate change impacts and natural disasters.





# Harmful subsidies

In all SADC countries foreign fisheries investors and operators work, some in a win-win manner that helps to develop and grow the fisheries with mutual and fairly distributed benefits between locals and foreigners, while others are working with unfair advantages that serve to undermine the potential benefits from SADC fisheries.



One of the main reasons for unfair competition is harmful fisheries subsidies from governments around the world that are pushing their fishing industry to fish more, distorting markets and the price of fish, and directly harming local fishing communities. If subsidies did not exist it is estimated that more than half of high seas fishing would be unprofitable. Worldwide harmful subsidies are estimated at USD 22 billion a year. They artificially reduce fishing costs enabling industrial operators to afford longer fishing trips, sailing farther, and catching more fish than those without subsidies. Subsidies are a driving factor in overcapacity, overfishing and IUU fishing.

This issue is not unique to the SADC, World Trade Organization (WTO) members have been negotiating new rules to stop these fisheries subsidies for many years and the focus of SDG target 14.6 is to eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing. In the SADC region subsidies are paid to European Union (EU), Taiwanese and Chinese vessel operators, in particular those fishing for tuna in the Western Indian Ocean but also Chinese vessels operating in pelagic and demersal fisheries around the SADC coastline. These subsidies mean that industrial vessel operators and owners are

effectively paid by their governments, making them more economically successful than local fishers. Investors wishing to develop the SADC fisheries are unable to compete against their artificially low running costs. Effectively it is cheaper for foreign subsidized operators to catch SADC fish than for local operators, this stops local growth of the industry and reduces the availability of fish for consumption.

The resultant high level of foreign subsidized involvement in the industrial fisheries of the SADC, does not nurture a long-term approach to management of stocks, good custodianship, or compliance. The evidence of high levels of IUU fishing by foreign fishers, including illegal fishing, associated and related crimes demonstrates this. Regional MCS cooperation will ensure monitoring of foreign vessels as they move around the region, between different fishing grounds and ports, to help reduce IUU activity and associated crimes. However, meaningful long-term fisheries benefits can be maximized by developing win-win partnerships that encourage local ownership and growth.





# Blue expectations



The contribution of oceans and inland waters to peoples' lives has been globally and formally acknowledged since the formation of the global sustainable development dialogue, but it was at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, that the concept of blue economy emerged as a central theme.

The blue economy concept promotes human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It emphasises the need for sound management of resources in national and international waters, including the maritime and inland domains, and the importance for all countries to take their share of the responsibility to protect these waters including the high seas. The blue economy encompasses a range of stakeholders, including traditional and emerging sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, offshore oil and gas, bioprospecting, marine mining as well as the research community, conservationists, policymakers, and civil society.

Regionally the SADC, in the 2015 to 2063 Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap identify the importance of mainstreaming the blue economy concept for accelerated industrialisation. While various SADC countries, including Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa have made political commitments and institutional reforms to promote an integrated approach to developing their waters, such as creating ministries responsible for the oceans or blue economy. For example, the Mauritian government, a small island developing state, has set the ambition to double the contribution of the ocean economy to GDP by 2025. Mozambique's Growing Blue First Edition Conference in 2019 is set to be followed with a Second Edition in 2021, underscoring the wide interest in this approach.





While the integrated blue economic approach has much that can benefit the sustainability of fisheries it also has underlying threats. Competing agendas may impact on decision making with certain sectors taking a higher priority than fisheries, possibly inadvertently driving overcapacity, overfishing, and resulting in increased illegal fishing as resources are degraded. For example, while investment to grow infrastructure for fishing vessels, ports and processing of fish is required across the region, if this growth is based on models for short term economic gains rather than longer-term nationalisation of the industry it is less likely to provide significant and sustainable benefits. Some foreign investors and governments with sizable fleets operating in the region have gained influence and access to fisheries resources by funding infrastructure developments. These arrangements and the associated fisheries access, often lack public unaccountability and transparency.

While the main political focus of blue economy is related to harnessing the oceans and waters resources for economic gains, acknowledgment of the need to ensure blue food from sustainable, compliant, fair and safe fisheries is an essential prerequisite. Regional cooperation on MCS will ensure that the evidence is gathered and compiled to enable fisheries to be part of the regional blue economy dialogue. An important area for fisheries MCS and ensuring that blue economic growth does not inadvertently encourage more illegal activities in the fisheries sector, is that of strengthening port state measures as an integrated aspect of multi-agency port state controls. Our ports are an essential link between the ocean and our markets.



# Illegal fishing

IUU fishing relates to fishing that is in contravention of national or international fisheries laws. It is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries and concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilisation of fish.



Products derived from IUU fishing can find their way into markets outcompeting local food supply.

IUU fishing results in unfair competition for fisheries resources with depleted resources available to bona fide fishers, which can lead to the collapse of local fisheries, with small-scale fisheries proving particularly vulnerable. Products derived from IUU fishing can find their way into markets outcompeting local food supply. Ending IUU fishing is target 14.4 of the global SDGs, demonstrating its global reach. One estimate puts IUU fishing losses worldwide at between USD 10 and 23.5 billion annually, representing between 11 and 26 million tonnes of fish.

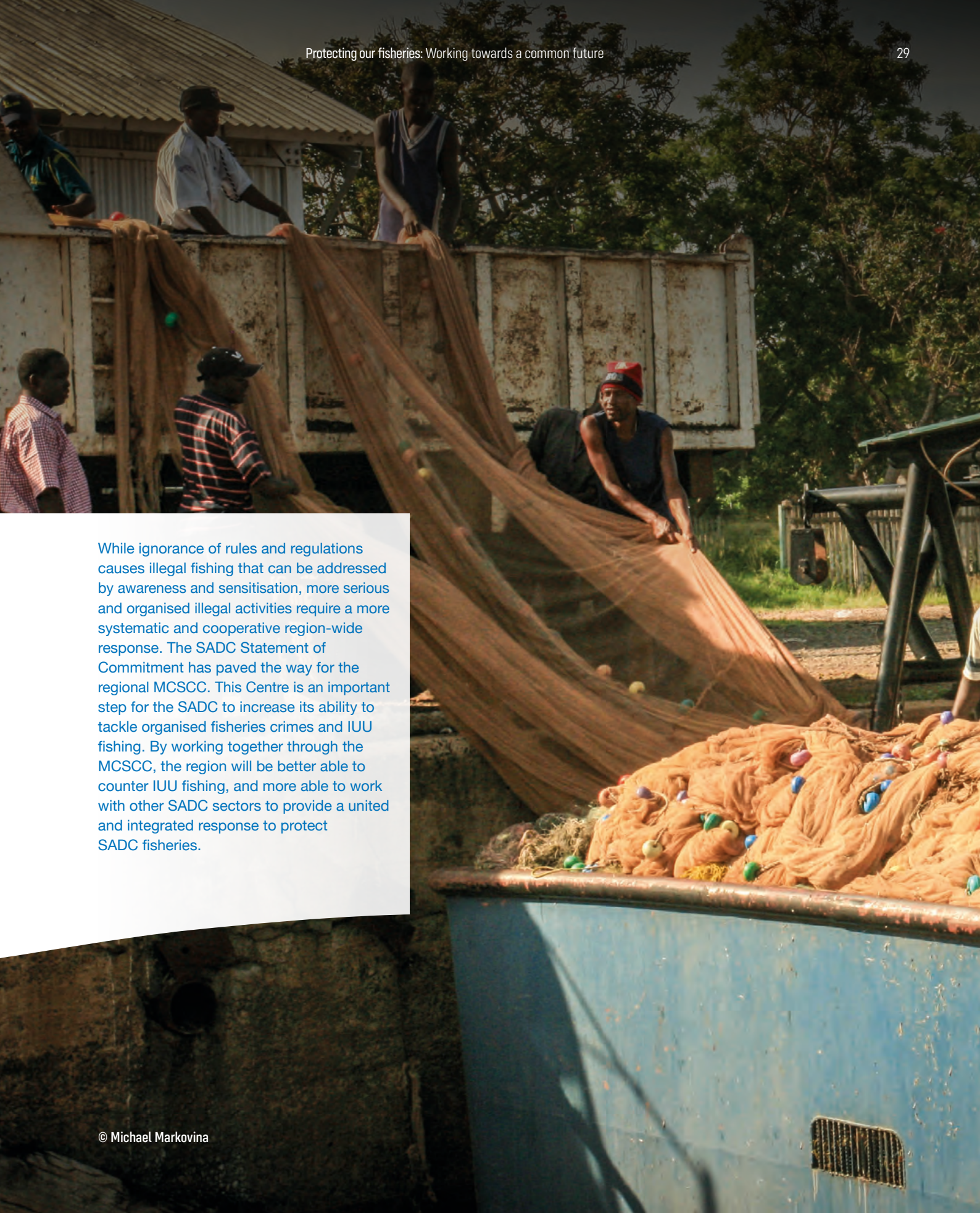
The three components of IUU have somewhat different causes and may require different solutions, although all require strengthening the fisheries governance system in a way that provides incentives for compliance and improving fisheries MCS. Ministers of the SADC stressed in the 2008 Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing that IUU activities are considered a plague to sustainable management of the region's fisheries resources, and they pledged to fight it.

IUU fishing is taking place across the SADC region, for example, in coastal fisheries, dynamite fishing, use of nets with small mesh size, and fishing in protected habitats are common, resulting in damage to valuable marine habitats and biodiversity, which are essential for coastal protection and nursery grounds for fish stocks and for the wellbeing of coastal communities. Offshore fisheries experience violation of fishing zones and underreporting of catches, while document and vessel fraud, modern day slavery and other illegal business practices and crimes also occur, all resulting in not only damage to the fish stocks but also contributing to transnational organised crime. Inland fisheries suffer particularly from the use of unsustainable fishing gear and limited reporting of catches, while informal cross-border trade is used to circumvent customs and tax controls, denying governments revenue.

Fisheries crime relates to different manifestations of crime associated with fishing, the fishery value chain, or the fishery sector, for example, document fraud, tax evasion or corruption are fisheries crimes that can be used to facilitate IUU fishing. Therefore, while an illegal act can be both a fisheries crime and IUU fishing they can also be discrete but linked.







While ignorance of rules and regulations causes illegal fishing that can be addressed by awareness and sensitisation, more serious and organised illegal activities require a more systematic and cooperative region-wide response. The SADC Statement of Commitment has paved the way for the regional MCSCC. This Centre is an important step for the SADC to increase its ability to tackle organised fisheries crimes and IUU fishing. By working together through the MCSCC, the region will be better able to counter IUU fishing, and more able to work with other SADC sectors to provide a united and integrated response to protect SADC fisheries.







# How are we protecting our fisheries?



# Cooperation and collaboration

Working together, is what SADC is all about. If countries fully collaborate, each country will gain more individually and the overall benefits to the region will be greater than if countries act alone.



Regional cooperation has given us a systematic response across the whole region, this joint-up approach is slowly yielding solid results.

There are stages in working together that develop over time. Initial efforts are likely to be occasional or ad-hoc coordination, as this grows it becomes more systematic and planned cooperation, and once there is a shared vision or goal and a central means to implement this goal, full collaboration is possible.

Two decades ago, two significant things happened within SADC fisheries cooperation. Firstly, the SADC Protocol on Fisheries was negotiated between all SADC states, providing the first regional and legally binding policy to guide the sector that while being regionally grounded was inspired by the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Secondly, the two sector coordinating units, for marine fisheries based in Namibia, and for inland fisheries based in Malawi, were replaced by an integrated and centralised coordination of fisheries from within the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) within SADC headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana.

These changes, and the foundation built by the work of the two sector coordination units, provided the catalyst for the region to start developing stronger and more systematic cooperation.

Many steps have been taken on the pathway towards SADC-wide fisheries cooperation. These include participating in and influencing international frameworks, strengthening fisheries within SADC development frameworks, building fisheries and MCS capacity, and sharing activities, lessons and experiences between countries and partner organisations.

While each country has moved at its own pace, and new countries have joined us, in this period, we have built a firm base of regional cooperation in fisheries – some of the highlights are demonstrated in the next pages. Regional cooperation has given us a systematic response across the whole region, this joint-up approach is slowly yielding solid results.

Overall, our greatest achievement is that by working together we have learnt that by being bold and being prepared to put the potential of our fisheries first – by striving to make every fish count – we can make a significant contribution to the overarching development goals of our region, by protecting our fisheries resources we are able to serve our people and our growth.



# International frameworks

Fighting IUU fishing has become an important agenda item in international fishery discussions and one that Southern Africa is becoming more vocal in. Awareness that combating IUU fishing requires the application of different tools, and that these tools cannot be used in isolation or by countries in isolation, is fuelling the discussions.

Internationally there is a framework of binding and voluntary instruments that has been developed to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Although not all SADC countries are party to all the legally binding international fisheries instruments, together with voluntary fisheries instruments, they underpin SADC laws, institutions and policies. International instruments, of importance to fisheries include:

## The legally binding

- 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

## The 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

Of particular importance for regional MCS is the first legally binding international treaty dedicated to globally tackle IUU fishing, this is the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement, known as the PSMA which came into force in 2016. The PSMA is concerned with marine fisheries, it is applicable to foreign fishing vessels that catch fish and foreign carrier vessel that transport fish. In early 2021, there are 68 parties to the PSMA, six of the ten SADC coastal States: Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa are party and are actively implementing port state measures, nationally and through regional cooperation, yielding impressive results at closing ports to illegal operators.



# Commitments to protect our fisheries

Fighting IUU fishing is an important agenda item in international and regional fisheries discussions.

A framework of binding and voluntary international instruments has been developed over the last decades, elaborating the responsibilities of flag, port, coastal and market states, which if fulfilled, will prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

## Key policy and legal developments shaping the SADCs response to IUU fishing



### KEY



International instruments for global action



Pan African frameworks for continental strategic change

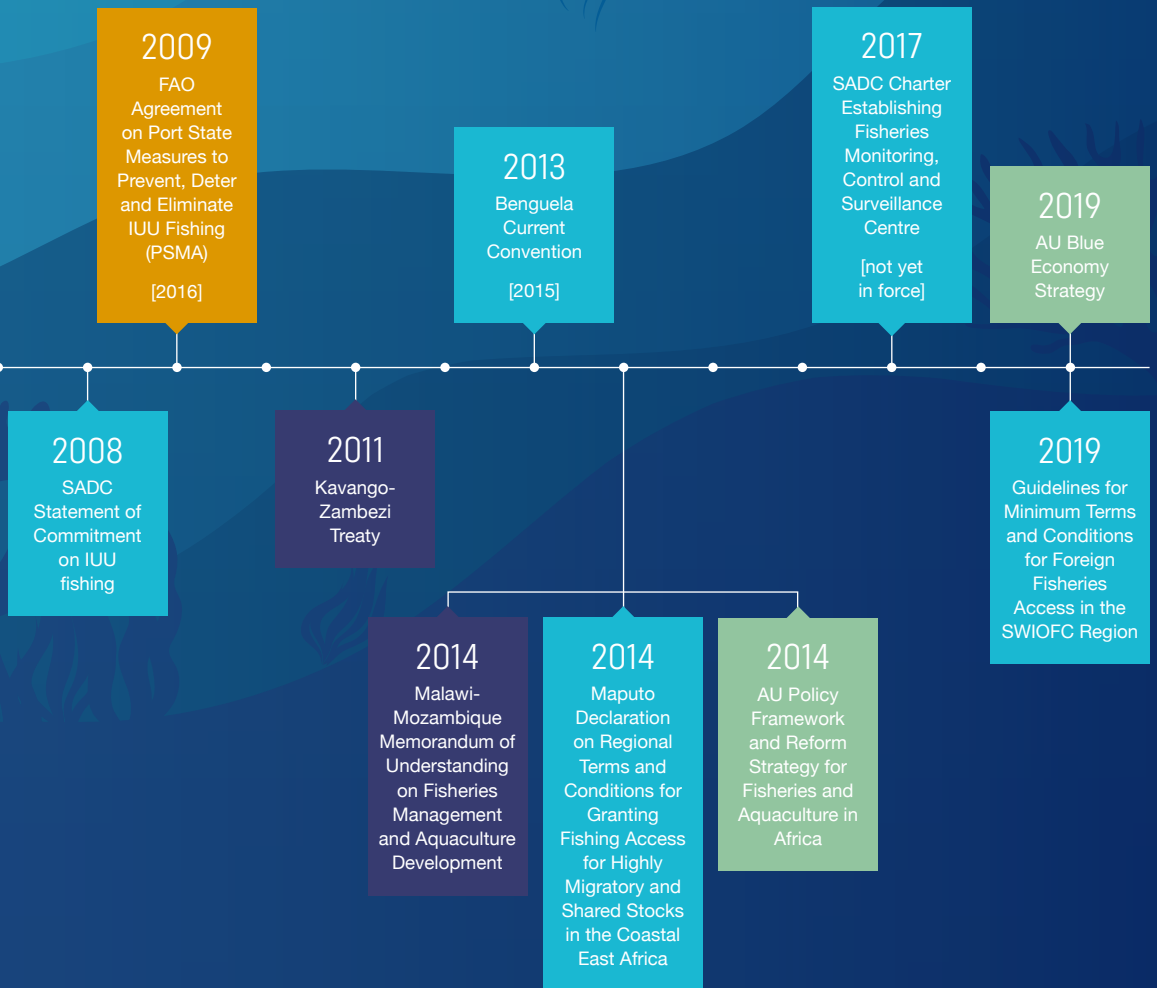


Regional commitment and cooperation to stop illegal fishing



Regional cooperation to secure inland fisheries

[DATE] Entry into force





# SADC frameworks

In the SADC a range of fisheries dedicated policy commitments and initiatives promote cooperation as a means of tackling entrenched issues including regional fisheries management and IUU fishing.

These provide the fundament that has enabled regional fisheries cooperation to develop, and they have provided the foundation needed to now move towards tackling some of the newer and more overwhelming challenges, such as growing demand for fish, the impacts of climate change, the crippling outcomes from unfair competition, and the potential damage of conflicting blue expectations. Through our regional cooperation we can amplify national efforts, share and target resources, use our regional strength to develop regulations that work for our region and our communities and help us to overcome these challenges.

Some of the important milestones in the last two decades, include:

## 2001

SADC Heads of State endorsed the **SADC Protocol on Fisheries** – a landmark regional policy that provided the stepping stone for region-wide commitment to fisheries cooperation.

## 2001 to 2006

The first regional project providing MCS capacity building and support to understand IUU fishing in the region, the **SADC Regional MCS Project for Marine Fisheries** funded by EU and operational in all SADC coastal states.

## 2006 to 2008

The SADC Secretariat, the Namibian government, regional experts and the UK government, built a partnership that became the **Stop Illegal Fishing Network** to galvanise action and to bring players and partners together to fight IUU fishing.

## 2008

SADC Ministers responsible for marine fisheries signed the **SADC Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing**, which is annexed to the Protocol on Fisheries and is at the heart of the SADC's efforts to set-up of the MCSCC to enable regional coordination to combat IUU fishing in SADC waters.

## 2011

A regional **SADC IUU Task Force and SADC Regional Technical Team** for the SADC MCSCC were initiated to guide implementation of the Statement of Commitment and development of the MCSCC.

## 2017

The **SADC Charter Establishing Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre** was finalised providing the legal framework for the establishment and operationalisation of the institution to coordinate MCS in the SADC – the MCSCC.

## 2017

SADC Ministers for Environment and Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Tourism, in November 2017, approved the establishment of the **Interim Project Management Unit (IPMU)** to advance the operationalisation of the MCSCC.

## 2021

The **IPMU is operational** and has incorporated mechanisms from the FISH-i Africa Task Force, including the information sharing portal.

# Regional frameworks

There are various regional frameworks within or overlapping the SADC region that have some aspect of fisheries protection or management within their mandate. Cooperation between these players helps to facilitate systematic responses.



By uniting forces, the destruction caused by IUU fishing can be reduced, enabling an entire region to prosper, to rebuild fish stocks and increase the social and economic benefits that healthy fisheries provide. In addition to coordination there are opportunities for lesson-learning and sharing of best practices.

## Regional fishery bodies (RFBs)

Regional fishery bodies (RFBs) are groups of countries that are members of an agreement or arrangement that focuses on fisheries. RFBs are critical for promoting long-term sustainable fisheries where international cooperation is required. Some RFBs have an advisory mandate and are known as regional fisheries advisory bodies (RFABs), providing advice, decisions or coordinating mechanisms that are not binding on their members. While other RFBs have a management mandate, known as regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), which adopt fisheries binding conservation and management measures. The functions of RFBs vary, but may include the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and data, coordinating fisheries management through joint schemes and mechanisms, serving as a technical and policy forum, and taking decisions relating to the conservation, management, development and responsible use of the resources.

- Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs)** – in the SADC region there are two main tuna RFMOs, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Both have membership that includes coastal states and foreign distant water fishing nations, making their decision-making complex and often controversial. Three marine RFMOs managing fish stocks by geographical area are the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) all with members from the SADC region. There is one inland RFMO the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO) that is partially within the SADC region.
- Regional fisheries advisory bodies (RFABs)** – in the SADC region there are three RFABs covering the Atlantic region: the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and the Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP) all have some SADC and other members. The Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) operates in the Indian Ocean and Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) is an inland RFAB.





## Regional water or conservation frameworks

In addition to fisheries focused RFBs there are other regional frameworks that include fisheries within their multi-sectoral responsibilities including the environmental, conservation and natural resource governance. These fall into two main groups the ocean or water management organisations and the transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs).

- **Ocean and water management organisations** – the ocean organisation with a large fisheries mandate is the large marine ecosystem based body, the Benguela Current Commission (BCC).

For inland water two important organisations are the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) that include some fisheries within their mandate.

- **Transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs)** – cover important shared inland water resources such and within the SADC the Kavango-Zambezi and the Greater Limpopo and also marine areas through the Iona-Skeleton Coast TFCA.



## Membership of SADC and neighbouring countries to regional frameworks with a fisheries mandate

	Regional fisheries management organisations						Regional fisheries advisory bodies					Ocean & water management organisations			Transfrontier conservation areas		
	CCAMLR	ICCAT	IOTC	LVFO	SEAFO	SIOFA	ATLAFCO	CECAF	COREP	LTA	SWIOFC	BCC	LVBC	OKACOM	Kavango-Zambezi	Great Limpopo	Iona-Skeleton Coast
MCS remit	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Angola		●			●		●	●	●			●		●	●		●
Botswana													●	●			
Comoros			●			●				●							
DRC							●	●	●	●							
Eswatini																	
Lesotho																	
Madagascar			●							●							
Malawi																	
Mauritius			●			●				●							
Mozambique			●							●					●		
Namibia	●	●			●		●				●		●	●			●
Seychelles			●			●				●							
South Africa	●	●	●		●					●	●	●			●		
Tanzania			●	●						●	●		●				
Zambia										●				●			
Zimbabwe														●	●		
Burundi				●						●			●				
Djibouti																	
Eritrea			●														
France / Réunion	●	●	●			●		●		●							
Kenya			●							●			●				
Rwanda												●					
Somalia			●							●							
Sudan			●														
Uganda				●									●				

● SADC countries

● Non-SADC countries



### Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization

**Countries:** Burundi (not SADC)  
Kenya (not SADC)  
Tanzania  
Uganda (not SADC)

**Activities:** Capacity building.  
Joint operations.

**Impact:** Effective MCS operations

**Success:** 6 operational MCS missions.  
720 personnel trained in operations.  
300 personnel trained in basic enforcement.  
3600m<sup>3</sup> of illegal net confiscated.

### African Ports Network

**Countries:** Madagascar  
Mozambique  
Ghana (not SADC)  
South Africa

**Activities:** Effective implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement

**Impact:** 62 multi-agency port state measure inspections of fishing vessels.  
12 actions against illegal operators.

**Success:** Illegally caught fish are not landed in African ports.

### FishFORCE Academy

**Countries:** South Africa  
Kenya  
Tanzania  
Pan-African remit

**Activities:** Capacity building

**Impact:** 4,500 officials trained

**Success:** Professional, capable and qualified fisheries enforcement officers.

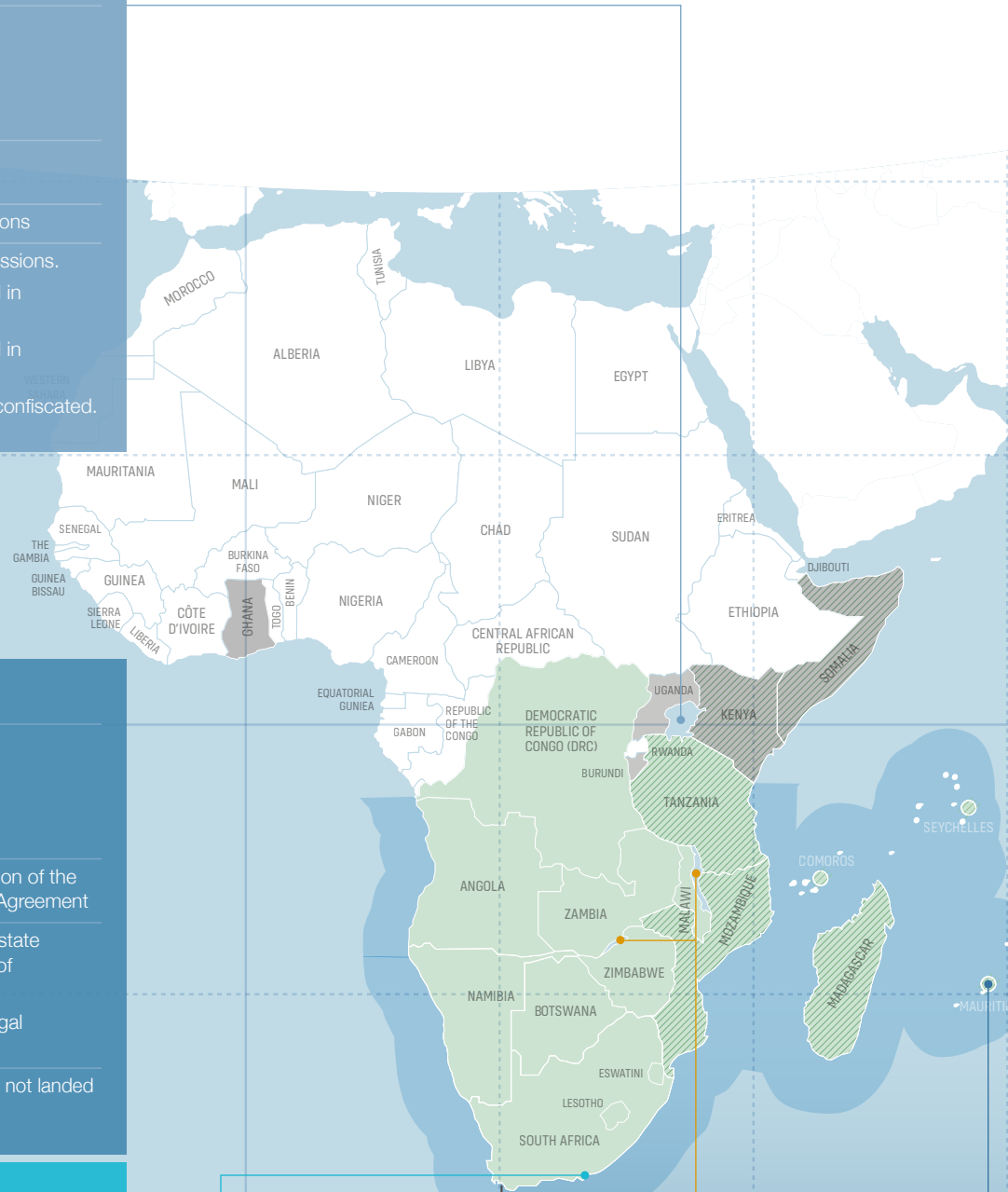
### Vessel monitoring on lakes

**Countries:** Zimbabwe      Zambia  
Mozambique      Malawi

**Activities:** Vessel registration and tracking

**Impact:** Increased oversight

**Success:** VMS units installed / Increased compliance.



# Regional initiatives

## FISH-i Africa

**Countries:** Comoros  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
Mauritius  
Mozambique  
Seychelles  
Somalia  
Tanzania

**Activities:** Information sharing, network building.

**Impact:** 40+ investigations into illegal fishing and related activities.  
Evidence leading to global insight, policy and legal reform.  
Demonstrated success of regional cooperation to identify and act against illegal operations.

**Success:** Cooperative action, routine information sharing.

## Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

**Activities:** Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) for the tuna fishery.

**Impact:** Negotiated regulations for tuna, observer oversight for at-sea transshipment, IUU listing of vessels.

**Success:** Sustainable, productive and compliant fisheries.  
Improved compliance to CMMs by SADC flag, port and coastal states.

### KEY

- SADC
- SADC EEZs
- ▨ FISH-i Africa Task Force
- IOTC area
- Non-SADC countries participating in initiatives

IOTC CONVENTION AREA

## Indian Ocean Commission Regional Fisheries Surveillance Programme

**Countries:** Comoros  
Madagascar  
Mauritius  
Réunion (an overseas region of France)  
Seychelles

**Activities:** Joint regional surveillance.

**Impact:** 49 joint patrols spanning 1,228 days.  
2 fishing vessels Identified operating illegally.  
120 offences recorded.

**Success:** Identification of illegal activity.  
Increased oversight deterring illegal operators.

# National action



Although many efforts to stop IUU fishing are internationally or regionally agreed, national governments are responsible for integrating these decisions into national policy and legislation and for local action. This includes regulating their own coastal and EEZ fisheries, enacting regulations at ports of entry, ratifying international agreements, and employing appropriate technologies for MCS.

States have different responsibilities depending on the roles they play within the fisheries sector; these are especially important if the value chain is complex:

- **Coastal states** which have their own fisheries apply conservation and management measures to whoever fishes within their waters.
- **Flag states** which register fishing vessels, must regulate and monitor the management and operations of these fishing vessels, wherever they fish.
- **Port states** which accept foreign fishing vessels must control and monitor all fishing vessels entering and using their ports and fish being moved through their ports.
- **Market states** which import fish for processing or trade must ensure that all imported fish has been caught legally.

An instrument used by countries to plan MCS activities and strategies is the National Plan of Action IUU Fishing, stemming from the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action IUU Fishing. Many SADC coastal states developed these frameworks with the intention for them to become the national building blocks that feed into regional actions and plans. However, in most cases these plans have had limited operational use for countries but have served as useful monitoring instruments to gauge MCS implementation against international standards.

IUU fishing is not only important in industrial fisheries, but it also has significant impacts in small-scale and artisanal fisheries. Most small-scale fisheries in the region are open access, with unrestricted entry into the fishery. Fishing restrictions or controls, such as limitations when, where and how fishing can take place, do exist on many lakes, rivers and coastal areas. Violation of these restrictions generally constitute small-scale IUU fishing, and they include the use of dynamite and other explosives and poisons to kill fish, the use of fine mesh or monofilament fishing nets and other destructive gears, methods and techniques, the use of traps and weirs, and the catch of juvenile and immature fish.

A key aspect of national MCS is interagency cooperation. This has become important for implementing port state measures and integrating these into national port state controls which cover a range of factors, such as vessel safety and pollution. Close cooperation between port authorities and fisheries inspectors is particularly important for exercising control over foreign flagged fishing and support vessels. In addition, cooperation with the marine police, safety, customs, immigration and labour authorities as well as the coastguard or navy are necessary at different stages of the risk assessment, inspection and enforcement process especially when tackling transnational organised crimes in the fisheries sector.



## MCS capacity

Over the last years, partially through the work of various regional MCS programmes, MCS capacity has strengthened. Today, many SADC countries have highly trained and capable MCS staff who operate at international standards. The limiting factor for their work is usually associated to limited infrastructure and technology, as well as a limitation in the number of trained staff.

### MCS capacity in SADC countries

MCS resource	ANGOLA	BOTSWANA	COMOROS	DRC	ESWATINI	LESOTHO	MADAGASCAR	MALAWI	MAURITIUS	MOZAMBIQUE	NAMIBIA	SEYCHELLES	SOUTH AFRICA	TANZANIA	ZAMBIA	ZIMBABWE
Fisheries inspectors	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fisheries observers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Coastal and inshore fisheries PV (<60m)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Offshore fisheries PV (>60m)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Inland PV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dedicated surveillance aircraft	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Access control systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Port state measures	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Vessel monitoring systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● Adequate capacity  
 ● Limited capacity  
 ● No capacity  
 ● Not relevant



# Multi-agency team works to end destructive blast fishing



In February 2015 a major operation and the first of its kind in Tanzania, seized vessels and scuba equipment used for blast fishing and illegally caught fish at the Ferry Fish Market in Dar es Salaam and the neighbouring Kigambone landing site.

Cooperation between government agencies is key in tackling complex organised crime. National multi-agency cooperation and information sharing is vital to ensure that violations and crimes in the fishery and natural resource sector are stopped and perpetrators brought to justice.

Blast fishing, or dynamite fishing, is a highly destructive, illegal method of catching fish using explosives to send shockwaves through the water, stunning or killing fish. Blast fishing can be lucrative: both from the sale of the fish caught and from the trade of illegal explosives. It can also be dangerous with explosions known to have injured and killed those using them and bystanders.

Many factors contribute to the prevalence of blast fishing in Tanzania; the low cost and easy accessibility of explosives from the mining sector and construction sector; the relatively easy methods of making home-made explosives; the low rate of enforcement and prosecutions; reduced catches by traditional fishing methods; and high levels of poverty and unemployment.

The blast fishing network was also extremely complex, involving a huge number of illegal fishers, explosives traders and government officials who regularly intimidated the community. The MCS approach focused on the village traders and makers of home-made explosives and the blast fishermen, however, this approach was having little success at combatting the problem.

In response a multi-agency task team (MATT) was formed to facilitate resource and information sharing and to bring together the expertise needed to tackle blast fishing. In September 2014 a small pilot team was formed, to put together the resources required to gather intelligence and investigate the threat. The team consisted of members of the Criminal Intelligence Unit of the Tanzanian Police Force and the Tanzanian Intelligence Security Service, MCS officers from Tanzanian Ministry of Livestock and Fishery Development, and experts from the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) SmartFish programme. The information uncovered by this 'pilot MATT' was of such alarming proportions that the team was strengthened by bringing in additional agencies to strengthen the MATT to be capable of carrying out investigations and operations on land and at sea.





As a result, an enhanced MATT was inaugurated in June 2015. Their remit was broadened to include all environmental crimes, including wildlife crimes such as ivory poaching, trade in illegal timber, illegal mining and all fisheries-related crimes. The team would jointly deal with the higher levels of organised crime syndicates, while the individual ministries would deal with the more agency-specific tasks like MCS patrols, ranger patrols, etc.

Within four months of the inauguration of the MATT the 'blast fishing' project had uncovered sources of explosives linked to businesses and high-profile individuals, developed a reliable informer network at the highest levels of involvement, set up an information database, uncovered the modus operandi of the smugglers, identified international smuggling routes and made arrests in an undercover sting operation.









# Developing a common future for our fisheries





# Models of working together

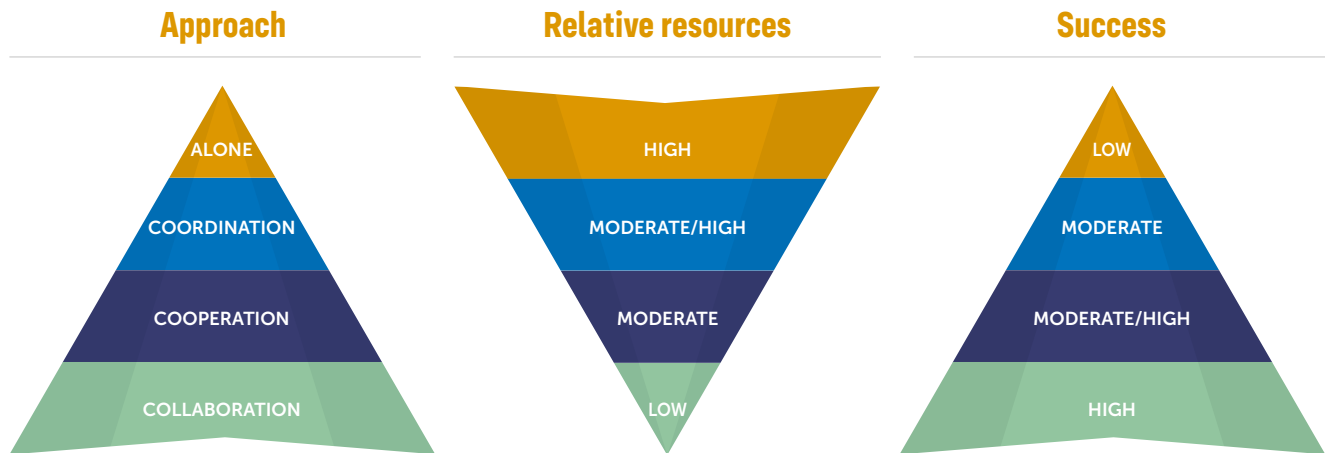
Many coastal states have large EEZs and inland countries have complex river and lake systems, but they often have limited resources for monitoring fishing activities within these waters. Within the SADC region, countries have different levels of MCS ability, this creates a patchwork of human, institutional and physical capacity, which results in gaps in the SADC region's protection against IUU fishing.



There are various steps or stages in working together, these include: acting alone, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration.

By uniting through the MCSCC, coordinated schemes for inspection of fishing vessels and gears, coordinated border controls to monitor fish trade, shared intelligence and information and the cooperative use of remote and physical inspection tools, robust protection for a region, their resources and their markets are developed. When resources are pooled together, they are strengthened, made more efficient and support wider and more comprehensive detection of illegal operators creating a real barrier and deterrence to IUU fishing.

There are various steps or stages in working together, these include: acting alone, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration. Since the SADC Protocol on Fisheries came into force nearly twenty years ago the SADC countries have been through various stages of working together. Initial efforts focussed on occasional or ad-hoc coordination, particularly through the sector coordinating units. Over time, and with the centralisation of the sector's hub into SADC's Directorate of FANR, this has grown to become a more systematic and planned cooperation. With the establishment of the MCSCC there is now both a shared vision and goal and a central means to implement our MCS goals, meaning that the region is now able to move to the full collaboration model of working together.







## Acting alone

### WHAT

- No regional activity – only internal interagency cooperation.
- No shared sense of identity or purpose.
- Competitive.

### WHEN

- National enforcement action.

### BENEFITS

- Clear understanding of national priorities.
- Less time required for planning and coordination.

### CHALLENGES

- Limited information sharing makes the crosschecking and verification of information, documents, operators, trade information and vessel activity difficult.
- Provides an incomplete picture of fishing, fishing vessels and their activity.
- Illegal operators target the weakest links, whether for licensing, port access and use or flagging of vessels.
- National action may just shift the problem to another country.
- At-sea, lake or river patrols will be unable to follow vessels if they leave the national waters, making it easy for operators to evade inspection and follow through.
- All the cost is borne by a single country.
- The high costs associated with investments such as acquiring, running and maintaining patrol craft and vessels or developing beach patrols or an observer programme are likely to be high and possibly prohibitive.
- Access to technical and legal support may be harder to access and come at a higher cost.
- National action will target the surface issues related to IUU fishing but will have limited impact on the underlying causes.



## Coordinating

### WHAT

- Occasional activity – as resources allow or in response to events or possibly targeted projects.
- Supports ad hoc group efforts or within separate projects, but no overall strategic approach.

### WHEN

- Coordination works best for ad hoc, targeted operations or joint operations, or projects that targeted specific issues or areas of interest such as those previously run under the sector coordinating units.
- Responses to requests from IUU-listed or high-risk vessels seeking licence, flag or access to port.

### BENEFITS

- Supports joint effort in particular areas or challenges and enables working groups or projects to support these.
- Enables officials to spot check some information which can be shared as required.
- Allows countries to respond and take action to alerts for denial of port use or imports across the region.
- Limited ad hoc information sharing when one country considers it necessary.
- Coordination of patrols where possible, especially between neighbouring countries.
- National enforcement action may be supported by information from other countries.

### CHALLENGES

- Not systematically implementing an overall plan, rather focusing on current needs.
- Coordination tends to relate to specific operational areas or activities.
- This is less systematic than on going cooperative working arrangements.
- Can be driven by projects and initiative, so may be less attuned to national needs.
- Areas for coordination may reflect funding priorities, e.g. introduction of new technology.







## Cooperating

### WHAT

- Supports group and individual ventures.
- Systematic and ongoing, based on overall objectives.

### WHEN

- Systematic information sharing allows access to information as required, such as in FISH-i Africa Task Force.
- Permits regional unified action such as denial of port use or denial of licensing, flagging or permitting imports across the region.
- Cooperation to identify and track illegal operators within the region, including illegal vessels, fishers, agents.

### BENEFITS

- A united region can use their combined force, knowledge, and intelligence – including institutional anchors and operational and political champions.
- A joint up approach results in no place for illegal operators to hide.
- National enforcement action supported by assistance and collaboration from neighbouring enforcement officials.
- Regional cooperation helps to expose corrupt players, making it harder for them to operate, reducing their reach and their power.
- Involves common vessels, players, companies, fish stocks and a need to see the bigger picture and the regional patterns to find a viable solution.

### CHALLENGES

- Inevitably corrupt individuals or institutions and the illegal operators try to counter the positive effects of cooperation.
- Cultures of secrecy and mistrust can derail regional cooperation if full collaboration is not supported.
- Lack of information sharing, based on commercial and institutional sensitivities.





## Collaborating

### WHAT

- Joint approach – embedded in policy and legal framework, with political support to support systematic MCS processes, common standards and procedures.
- Development of minimum terms and conditions for access to fisheries.
- Priority is towards the group, for greater good and promotion of the joint identity.
- Shared goals and vision and the means to implement this.

### WHEN

- Development of regional systems for access to fisheries, such as a regional licensing system, supported by a centralised licence record or register, possibly of vessels, craft, operators and agents.
- Coordinated risk assessment and due diligence checks organised through a regional system for collaborative checks, centrally coordination.
- Regional system for VMS with central tracking capability for fishing vessels.
- Information sharing highly systematic and centrally coordinated.

### BENEFITS

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

### CHALLENGES

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



# Learning from others

Regional initiatives in relation to joint MCS activities have been developed in different regions around the world. Key advantages of joint MCS programmes include the fact that common challenges call for common regional solutions. In addition, joint programmes pool together both human and material resources and create a level playing field for the fishing industry. These are all aspects that provide incentives for collaboration.



Established in 2020 the FCWC Regional MCS Centre builds on the successful cooperation created by the West Africa Task Force, the MCS mechanism of the FCWC.

Three regional MCS centres, a relatively new one in West Africa, and two more established centres in the EU and the Pacific Islands, are briefly described here. These centres will become partners to the SADC MCSCC for information sharing and lesson learning:

## Regional MCS Centre of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)

Established in 2020 the FCWC Regional MCS Centre builds on the successful cooperation created by the West Africa Task Force, the MCS mechanism of the FCWC. The new centre hosts a regional VMS and will be responsible to coordinate MCS activity across the region and to develop a regional observer programme.

## EU Community Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)

The EFCA is an EU agency established in 2002 to ensure uniform and effective application of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) by member states through operational cooperation. The agency's mission is to promote common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the CFP. EFCA also assists the EU in their relations with third countries and RFMOs through training and capacity building.



## Regional MCS operations of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

FFA was established to assist in the sustainable management of tuna resources that fall within the EEZs of member countries. Joint regional MCS activities by FFA members have their legal base in the Niue Treaty, which is an agreement on cooperation in surveillance and law enforcement between FFA members – it includes provisions on exchange of information, including VMS data, as well as procedures for cooperation in monitoring, prosecuting and penalising vessels fishing illegally.

### Summary services that are provided by regional MCS centres

SERVICES	FCWC	EFCA	FFA	SADC MCSCC
Regional fishing vessel register	●	●	●	●
Regional VMS	●	●	●	●
MCS data and information sharing	●	●	●	●
Regional fisheries MCS portal	●	●	●	●
Fisheries observer coordination	●	●	●	●
Fisheries surveillance coordination	●	●	●	●
Fisheries law enforcement and legal support	●	●	●	●
Port state measures support	●	●	●	●
Capacity building	●	●	●	●

● Yes ● No ● In development ● Planned





# Delivering on our commitments

It is useful to keep in mind the priority areas that the SADC Ministers identified as requiring urgent attention in the 2008 SADC Statement of Commitment: improving regional and inter-regional cooperation, strengthening fisheries governance, legal frameworks and capacity, and developing a regional MCS strategy to fight IUU fishing. Significant progress has been made in achieving these commitments and the operationalisation of the MCSCC is the next step to fully realise regional commitments.

Commitments	Progress	Contributing activities and initiatives	Potential SADC MCSCC role
<span style="color: green;">●</span> High <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Moderate <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Low			
<b>Legal and policy</b>			
Contribute to the development of international agreements, such as the IPOA-IUU and the PSMA	●	SADC coordination at FAO Committee on Fisheries and international processes. Supported by the AU, NEPAD-AUDA, PAF, SIF, African Voice.	Gather and compile evidence-based information from MCS activities and analysis to support SADC Secretariat and national engagement in international processes.
Integrate PSMA into national laws and develop operational mechanisms for their implementation	●	Countries becoming party to the PSMA. IOTC e-PSM supporting operational mechanisms. PSM-SIF initiative developing operating procedures that can be rolled-out.	Support SADC countries with the operational capacity and materials to implement PSM. Online portal will support regional coordination. Regional record/register will facilitate risk assessment.
Develop National Plans of Action on IUU to form the basis of RPOA-IUU	●	Regional MCS strategy developed. FAO support to countries to develop NPOA-IUU.	Coordinate implementation of the regional MCS strategy. Support capacity building for implementation, especially in inland countries.
Prohibit access of IUU-listed vessels to SADC ports	●	PSM-SIF is developing operating procedures for denying port access. FISH-i cases have demonstrated that this is possible and works. SWIOFC MTCs support this.	Share alerts and information on high-risk vessels. Cross check all vessels on regional record to ensure none enter IUU-list. Provide legal advice to support countries in denying access to port and port use.
Harmonise national offences and penalties and laws to ensure that they provide deterrent sanctions	●	SWIOFC MTCs. Maputo Declaration. National improvement of legislation to increase penalties.	Maintain a database of regionally applicable penalties and sanctions that have been applied. Encourage media about sanctions to create deterrence. Publish information on successful prosecutions.

Commitments	Progress	Contributing activities and initiatives	Potential SADC MCSCC role
<b>Cooperation</b>			
			● High ● Moderate ● Low
Establish a regional MCS centre, to improve coordination, enhance MCS capacity and develop standard procedures	●	SADC Charter for the establishment of the MCSCC. SADC Regional Technical Team.	Implement the Centre. Facilitate and provide secretariat to the Regional Technical Team to guide the work of the MCSCC.
Establish a task force to intensify the fight against IUU fishing	●	SADC IUU Fishing Task Force. Integration of the FISH-i Africa Task Force into the MCSCC.	Facilitate the SADC IUU Task Force to ensure that the MCSCC provides support to all countries to fight IUU fishing.
Cooperate regionally and internationally to stop IUU fishing	●	SADC Regional Technical Team. Engagement in IMCS-network. Cooperation with other regional frameworks including, IOC, SWIOFC, IOTC, SEAFO, SIOFA, BCC.	Provide coordination for all regional frameworks in respect to sharing information, expertise and harmonising approaches to close the net on IUU operators.
<b>Vessel monitoring and controls</b>			
Ensure all SADC coastal States have operational VMS that is shared regionally and require VMS on all commercial fishing vessels operating within the region	●	IOC is supporting this in some countries. SWIOFC MTCs for foreign tuna vessels. National agencies have implemented by technical challenges have prevailed.	Coordinate a regionally centralised VMS will enable countries to control access to VMS information, with reduced IT national requirements. Agreed protocols for information sharing will enable tracking of vessels and cross checking throughout the region.
Require that vessels transiting through areas under national jurisdiction, provide EEZ entry and exit notifications, as well as the quantity of catch on board by species	●	IOTC resolutions and SWIOFC MTCs and national legislation.	Share of information and opportunity to validate reports and catches through the online portal. Standardize forms and templates for collection.
Implement a progressive ban on transshipment at sea in the SADC region	●	FAO guidelines are being developed. IOTC resolutions. FISH-i analysis and report on Moving Tuna provides insight.	Coordinate reports on illegal transshipment at sea. Monitor AIS for suspicion of illegal transshipment and share information.
Support flag state responsibility ensuring effective control over flagged vessels	●	FISH-i Task Force supported countries and uncovered cases of weak flag state control. IOTC support to members.	SADC record/register of vessels. Monitor regional VMS and AIS.



Commitments	Progress	Contributing activities and initiatives	Potential SADC MCSCC role
<p>Capacity <span style="float: right;">● High ● Moderate ● Low</span></p>			
<p>Build capacity through implementation of agreed regional MCS standards and training of fisheries inspectors</p>	●	<p>FishFORCE, FISH-i, IOC (SmartFish and Ecofish), SWIOFC and the PSM-SIF, among other initiatives have all build MCS capacity, although this has mainly been for marine fisheries.</p>	<p>Build capacity programmes for inland and marine fisheries. Develop regional standards in cooperation with partners and promote these through the SADC mechanisms.</p>
<p>Information sharing</p>			
<p>Share information through an interactive database of licensed and IUU vessels, vessel inspections, and IUU offences</p>	●	<p>Various activities have supported different databases including, StarFISH, FISH-I, TMT IUU list and the FAO global record.</p>	<p>Access to Sea Vision is available. Basecamp SADC MCSCC portal is already active and will expand to all SADC members. Develop new databases as required.</p>
<p>Small-scale fisheries</p>			
<p>Work with subsistence, artisanal and small-scale fishers through appropriate co-management, capacity building and information sharing</p>	●	<p>Locally this has occurred through projects and government initiatives. TFCAs and river basin bodies have promoted co-management. Lake authorities (LTA and LVFO) have promoted capacity building and information sharing.</p>	<p>Coordinate improved sharing of information and lesson learning between inland and marine small-scale sectors. Develop capacity for MCS officers working in co-management for inland and marine fisheries.</p>
<p>Traceability</p>			
<p>Develop more effective measures to trace fish and fishery products</p>	●	<p>Fisheries Transparency Initiative and the WWF have promoted traceability in the region.</p>	<p>Share information on initiatives on traceability. Provide advice and assistance in validating information to ensure that traceability schemes are robust.</p>



# What will the SADC MCSCC do?



Cooperation between national agencies and between neighbouring countries is at the heart of stopping illegal fishing. The Regional MCSCC will provide a cost-effective mechanism to support this operational cooperation. By coordinating national, regional and international efforts the MCSCC will bring real value to the whole SADC region.

By focussing on three core areas of information sharing, capacity building and coordination of activities the MCSCC will increase national and regional effectiveness in fighting IUU fishing and help to compile evidence required for the SADC Secretariat to contribute meaningful arguments into regional and international policy formulation.

## 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.







## Develop a regional fishing vessel register

### WHAT

- **SADC regional fishing vessel register.**

### WHY

- A regional record or register is one of the first steps towards regional compliance monitoring such as pre-licence inspections, port state measures, conducting enforcement investigations and regional monitoring of vessel movements.
- Through the systematic sharing of information on licensed and flagged vessels in the region, including in shared lakes, the MCSCC will build a powerful database of vessels, their operators and agents, accessible to all members, that can support decision making and enforcement action.

### HOW

- Compile licensed and registered vessel lists into a combined list. Undertaken by the IPMU.
- Develop a database that contains agreed on 'minimum information' about fishing vessels that operate in the region or that are flagged by SADC countries. This will enable the combined list to develop into a regional record.
- Include information on physical characteristics of the vessels, photographs, details of the owners, operators and masters. Log the history of any changes in that information.
- Members to upload and search data via a secure information portal.
- Access to the data portal is available to members, partners and authorised users upon request.
- Initial database development to start with a certain group of vessels, such as foreign licensed vessels, or vessels above a certain size.
- Information will be shared by member and possibly other entities as agreed.
- Generate background reports, to facilitate risk assessment on vessels applying for licences to support decision making on permitting access.
- To develop the record into a register an authorisation process is required, this may be linked to 'minimum terms and conditions', and possibly pre-authorisation inspections that are coordinated between members and possibly other regional organisations (e.g. IOC, SWIOFC).

### BENEFITS

- Information available in a single, easily assessable location.
- Enables effective vessel validation and monitoring through satellite tracking.
- Basis for enforcement activity and decision making.
- Ability to cross check information provides an opportunity to detect vessel identity fraud and authorisations based on incorrect information.
- Promotes common standards for permitting access within the region.
- Facilitates information exchange with other regional and international databases, such as the IOTC e-PSM system and the FAO Global Record of Vessels.



## Monitor vessel activity

### WHAT

- **Regionally harmonised fishing VMS, to facilitate the sharing of national VMS information under agreed protocols.**

### WHY

- Provide oversight and a coordinated approach to tracking fishing and carrier vessel activity that can be compared to automatic identification system (AIS) data being monitored by the IPMU.
- Gain a regional understanding of fishing activity, to identify illegalities and suspicious behaviour, and to contribute to improved maritime domain awareness.

### HOW

- Build on the skills established in the IPMU to routinely monitor SeaVision AIS and share information with members.
- Develop agreed VMS sharing protocols that link to the regional record/register. National options that link into regionally harmonised concepts can provide the necessary required national confidentiality as well as comply with agreed regional information sharing standards.
- MCSCC to monitor movements in the region and alert members of high risk vessels.
- Information from vessels can be stored securely, in a remote location, ensuring that no information will be lost or destroyed if local IT systems have technical software or hardware breakdowns, problems or virus issues.
- If local system is off-line, data will be synchronised when online.
- Distribute and store Information related to entry, exit and catch safely without server downtime.
- Provide information to neighbouring countries to monitor buffer zones around maritime or lake borders.

### BENEFITS

- VMS has been complicated and costly for most coastal SADC States, however, VMS technology has developed, and new cheaper solutions are now available.
- Reliable and real-time VMS data is available at any time.
- No loss of historical VMS data occurs.
- Identification of illegal activity to enable targeting for inspection and patrols and to inform decisions on port entry and use, licensing and flagging.
- Provide unbiased information on the patterns of fisheries activity on annual and seasonal scales for use to inform fisheries management plans to help enhance conservation and biodiversity objectives.



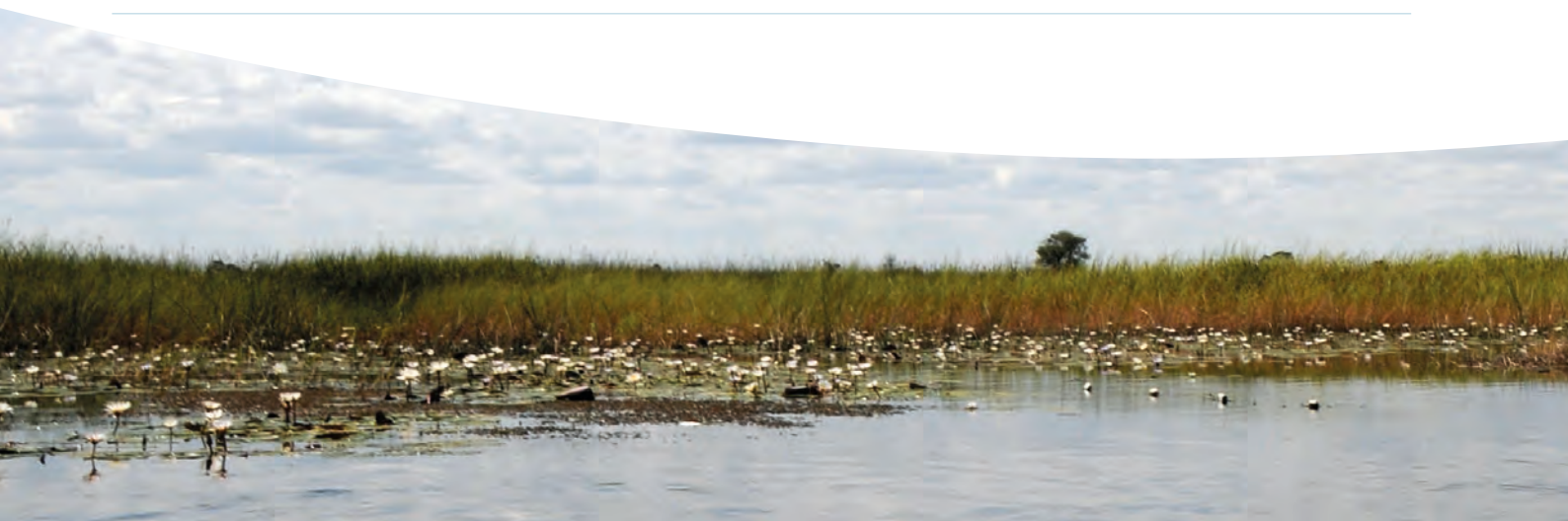






## Share MCS data and information

- WHAT**
- **Routine and systematic sharing of fisheries MCS related data and information between SADC states, RFBs and other entities using agreed protocols.**
- WHY**
- To support improved checks on vessels active in the region and to target MCS resources to deter IUU fishing, increase operational efficiency, to counter corruption and to feed into operational decisions and actions.
- HOW**
- Facilitate the sharing of fisheries information between members to include fishing licence lists, information on fishers and their movements, surveillance reports and data, inspection information, vessel photos, VMS data, observer data, fishing vessel logbook information, fishing vessel violation history, fishing vessel access agreements and licence conditions.
  - Assess and share risk associated information on vessels, owners and operators, to enable targeting of enforcement resources.
  - Develop a data sharing agreement on key operational and administrative aspects to ensure that the data will not be misused and to prevent miscommunication on the part of the provider or receiver.
  - Increase systematic cooperation with coastal, flag, port and market states by making it easy for states to contact each other.
  - Respond quickly to requests for information, including, providing information, documents, photographs and movement tracks to coastal, port and market states to support crosschecking, verification and risk assessment.
  - Global information sharing and cooperation.
- BENEFITS**
- Provides data and information for fisheries investigators and other analysts.
  - Avoids duplication of effort and encourages harmonisation and transparency, enabling researchers to validate one another's findings and for national, regional and international comparisons.
  - Increased regional understanding and awareness.
  - Increase the ability of researchers, scientists and policy-makers to analyse and translate data into meaningful knowledge and advice to SADC policy makers.
  - Sharing data on landings and transshipment with coastal states and RFMOs supports effective fisheries management.







## Host and facilitate an information and communication portal

### WHAT

- **The communications portal provides a single web-based place to access information related to MCS for a range of players.**

### WHY

- To enable routine and systematic collection and sharing of MCS related information, including contact points to facilitate requests and share alerts.
- To make communication with key contact points easy and speed up response times.

### HOW

- The SADC MCSCC communications portal is active and being used by SADC coastal states, this will soon be developed to include all SADC members and partners.
- Groups can be made to facilitate safe, secure and convenient information sharing, such as for inland fisheries or marine fisheries.
- A manual for use of the basecamp portal is available.
- Questions and queries can be posted to all members or to specific members.
- The portal can store many types of information, and these are accessible at all times to all members given access.
- Members of the MCSCC can nominate who will be able to access and to post information.
- Provides a mechanism to enhance cooperation with regional entities, for example the BCC is developing a web portal and IOTC and SEAFO all have web-based information tools of varying degrees of sophistication.
- Platform can be used to promote regional and local content and awareness of the issues, to provide information on events, to provide documents, protocols, guidelines and legislation, updates of new technologies.

### BENEFITS

- Encourages open sharing of previously private information and helps to promote transparency.
- Supports the real-time cross checking of information and answering of queries.
- Develops common understanding of where IUU risks lie.



# FISH-i Africa: operational MCS information exchange between eight Western Indian Ocean countries



The desire to turn words into action were the key catalysts for the formation of the FISH-i Africa Task Force.

In 2012 the FISH-i Africa Task Force was established as a bridging mechanism for the Western Indian Ocean region whose MCS officers were keen to maintain regional momentum from the signing of the SADC Statement of Commitment in 2008 and plans to establish the SADC MCSCC.

Initially developed with the cooperation of five countries: Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania, who were quickly joined by Madagascar and Mauritius in 2014, and Somalia in 2016. Technical support and coordination was provided by NFDS, a fisheries consultancy company, Stop Illegal Fishing an African based not for profit, and Trygg Mat Tracking, a Norwegian organisation, a specialist in tracking of vessels. Funding was provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The desire to turn words into action were the key catalysts for the formation of the FISH-i Africa Task Force. There were established bonds and trust between many of the MCS officers and technical experts built through many years of work on regional policy processes.

The task force quickly recognised that the routine sharing of information on licensed and flagged vessels, and on vessel activity was fundamental to growing awareness of how illegal operators were playing the system, and to taking action – either at a national or a regional level. For this to happen three key elements were required:

- Physical meetings that provide the opportunity for people to get to know each other, contacts to be made and understanding and trust developed.





- A secure, confidential online communications platform with access restricted to invited participants made up of task force members and approved regional experts and partners.
- Technical expertise to support the operations of a task force.

FISH-i conducted over 50 investigations into illegal fishing, many triggered by discrepancies between information shared on licensed vessels, and through routine monitoring of positional data of fishing vessels.

The investigations revealed the systematic nature of illegal fishing operations, with deliberate non-compliance, evasion of rules and regulations, exploitation of loopholes and states with weak governance and corruption of individuals and institutions all hallmarks of the cases.

Some high profile successes included the blocking of PREMIER from offloading in the region and the discovery of a fake licensing operation in Tanzania. However, it is the less public nature of systematic checking, verification of information and sharing of intelligence between neighbouring countries that supports national decision making leading to blocks on licensing and flagging of vessels and port access.

These successful, proven mechanisms that support the collection and exchange of information are being integrated into the SADC MCSCC.

There were established bonds and trust between many of the MCS officers and technical experts built through many years of work on regional policy processes.

# Develop human and institutional MCS capacity



Capacity is essential to both national and regional activities to enhance MCS and is key to stopping illegal fishing. The Regional MCSCC will provide support nationally and opportunities regionally to strengthen SADC capacity for MCS.



## Build and support national MCS capacity

### WHAT

- **To support compliance with fisheries management frameworks and associated measures at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.**

### WHY

- Lack of capacity is an identified national weakness in many countries.
- Increase professionalism, confidence and good conduct of inspectors and officers.
- Cases related to IUU fishing can be complex and the sharing of experience between countries is beneficial.

### HOW

- Develop training material and training modules, to be delivered in-person or online.
- Coordinate and deliver training courses and workshops.
- Coordinate with other agencies and partners to support training.
- Facilitate regional courses, bursaries and exchanges.
- Training of trainers programmes, especially in the use of new technologies.
- Standard operating procedures and bespoke tools developed to support MCS in the SADC region.
- Secondments from SADC members to the SADC MCS Centre, which could provide both capacity building and awareness about the Centre as well as supporting the Centre in work capacity.
- Share lessons and tools in MCS, between countries and also between fisheries, especially between coastal fisheries and inland fisheries to provide opportunities to stop IUU fishing generally and to disrupt transit routes.
- Provide mentoring for fisheries officers either in-person or through the use of body worn cameras, to support operational work.

### BENEFITS

- Increased analytical abilities to conduct checks, assess risks related to vessels or fishing operations and make sound decisions.
- Confidence in decision making.
- Better access to and use of information.
- Professionalisation of the fisheries MCS sector, with greater recognition and job satisfaction.
- Career progression for staff and increased staff retention.
- Common standards and processes applied across the region.



# FishFORCE: building national and regional capacity to stop IUU fishing



FishFORCE has trained over 4,500 officials since its launch in 2015.

FishFORCE is a collaborative project with a pan-African remit to:

- Facilitate research and innovation in the field of fisheries crime law enforcement.
- Train law enforcement officers.
- Increase the capacity of selected countries to investigate and prosecute fisheries crime.

Based at the Centre for Law in Action in the Faculty of Law at Nelson Mandela University, South Africa, with funding support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FishFORCE has trained over 4,500 officials since its launch in 2015.

FishFORCE aims to build local law enforcement expertise and strengthen cooperation between agencies, domestically and cross border, towards enhanced law enforcement in addressing fisheries crime. It is a member of Operation Phakisa initiative on compliance and enforcement – a national initiative in South Africa with a focus on the blue economy. By increasing the skills of fisheries law enforcement officers in South Africa and a number of other African countries so that they can effectively fulfil their legislative mandate and contribute to the successful prosecution of fisheries law offences.

In response to growing need to ensure and increase the speed of implementation of the PSMA FishFORCE has delivered several trainings in collaboration with non-profit organisation Stop Illegal Fishing.

In February and March 2021 49 delegates were involved in a series of workshops on PSMA in Cape Town and Durban.

In addition to classroom training in port inspections were facilitated using body worn cameras, enabling trainers to support officers in the field and provide on the job training and mentoring as well as allowing a wider group to see first-hand the process and challenges involved in in-port inspections.

The use of body worn cameras for training was developed by Stop Illegal Fishing in response to COVID-19 travel restrictions but has highlighted another important means for the SADC MCSCC to support and enhance national MCS activity.



# Lake Victoria: building capacity through operational training



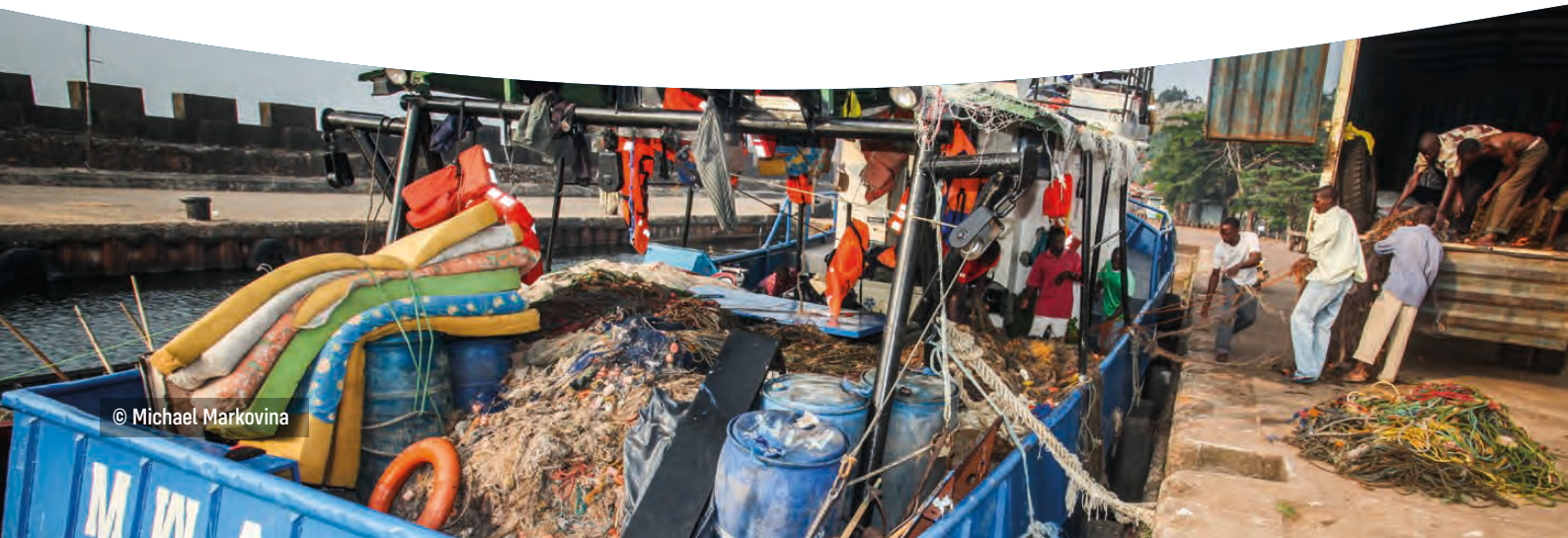
Faced with a continuing decline in the Nile perch stocks, in 2012 the LVFO Council of Ministers asked the SmartFish Programme to work with all three member states to strengthen MCS of the lake fisheries.

Many initiatives have been undertaken to address the challenges of illegal fishing on Lake Victoria.

For example, community-based beach management units (BMUs) have been established to legally represent each fishing community and undertake MCS activities; an MCS Regional Working Group (RWG-MCS) coordinates MCS activities; and the industrial fish processors exercise self-regulation in order to sustain their exports. However illegal fishing continues, in part due to a lack of equipment and financing as well as technical capacity to implement MCS operations.

Faced with a continuing decline in the Nile perch stocks, in 2012 the LVFO Council of Ministers asked the SmartFish Programme to work with all three member states to strengthen MCS of the lake fisheries. This took the form of capacity building in the first year, to develop professional MCS teams, followed by on the job training during practical operations for the remaining three years. These were initially joint operations with all three member states taking part, and in the last year nationally in Uganda and Tanzania.

A series of MCS training workshops were held, focusing on operational planning for multilateral MCS operations. This was followed by operational exercises, with each exercise following the same pattern: an 'Exercise Warning Order' was issued two weeks prior to the start date in order to encourage a pre-training operational mind set. This was followed by a one-day refresher training session to reinforce previous lessons; a planning session with the Operation Commander, Section Commanders and BMU representatives; and the presentation of this plan to all participants. The Joint Operation was typically a nine-day exercise using a local vessel as a 'mothership' to transport the personnel to target locations around the lake where support vessels then transported the teams to shore.





**Impact:**

- 6 operational MCS missions.
- 720 personnel trained in operations.
- 300 personnel trained in basic enforcement.
- 3600m3 of illegal net confiscated.

After the operational exercises, SmartFish conducted additional training for senior management and fisheries officers to further strengthen operations in the region. This included reviewing the challenges and solutions for fisheries management, both for offshore fleets and local small-scale fishing fleets. SmartFish also evaluated the standard operating procedure for joint operations training developed by the LVFO to ensure that it was effective, harmonized and efficient.





# Coordinate and support 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 to develop workable processes, conduct thorough and effective checks, take decisions and act against IUU fishing has both immediate and long-term benefits.



## Coordinate regional fisheries surveillance

**WHAT** • **Regional coordination of assets used for fisheries surveillance including patrol vessels and planes.**

**WHY**

- High investment, running and maintenance costs of patrol assets make them unaffordable for many countries.
- However good our land-based controls and checks are there is no substitute for being able to see where vessels are operating, what they are catching and how they are operating.
- Port inspections can be circumvented by illegal operators as when vessels come into port they are prepared for an inspection and can conceal incriminating evidence or may have offloaded illegal catch, such as protected species or juvenile fish, or trafficked crew to another vessel.

**HOW**

- Resources to support joint action and facilitated by experienced staff to support members.
- Centralised coordination to provide a single point for collection and distribution of information related to operational activities exists.
- Coordination of national surveillance assets in support of regional operations provides an efficient use of scarce resources.
- Facilitate coordination with the other regional entities and partners.

**BENEFITS**

- Increased analytical abilities to conduct checks, assess risks related to vessels or fishing operations and make sound decisions.
- Confidence in decision making.
- Better access to and use of information.
- Professionalisation of the fisheries MCS sector, with greater recognition and job satisfaction.
- Career progression for staff and increased staff retention.
- Common standards and processes applied across the region.



# Oversight at sea



The cooperation zone covers the 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup> ocean areas of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and was extended to Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique

## 2007 to 2017: Regional Plan for Fisheries Surveillance Patrols

The members of the PRSP Regional Coordination Unit is made up of Comoros, France/Réunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania. They pool their resources for an optimized use of maritime and air surveillance assets to fight IUU fishing.

The cooperation zone covers the 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup> ocean areas of the IOC, and was extended to Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique when PRSP moved under the aegis of the IOC SmartFish programme in 2011.

The coordination structure is made up of the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU), comprised of Chiefs of Operations, and the Expanded Regional Coordination Unit (ERCU), comprised of Directors of Fisheries.

Key actions consist in conducting joint maritime and air patrols, as well as sharing information. They had the tangible result of decreasing IUU fishing in South West Indian Ocean:

- 48 joint patrols organized
- 1,200 days at sea with 994 surveillance hours
- 468 vessels controlled
- 92 infractions
- 11 vessels diverted to port for serious IUU cases
- 415 fishing vessels boarded
- 457 vessels observed by aerial surveillance

In 2020 the PRSP activities were restarted as of the EU funded E€OFISH programme that aims to make sustainable fishing an economic lever for the region of East Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.





## 2009: SADC region multilateral patrol

South Africa's off-shore environmental protection vessel, SARAH BAARTMAN, conducted a four-nation transboundary fisheries patrol in South African, Tanzanian, Mozambican and Kenyan waters. The joint patrol resulted in the arrest of six vessels.

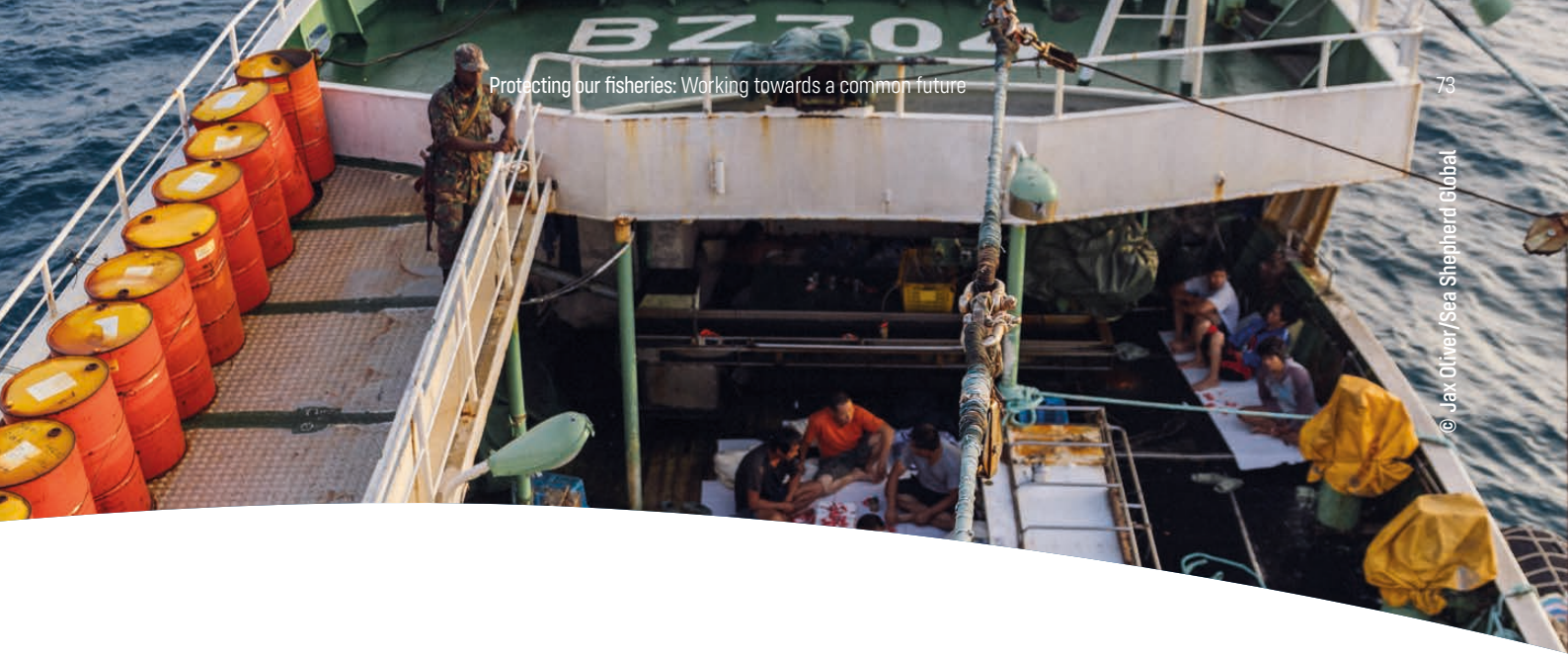
The eleven fisheries inspectors on board the SARAH BAARTMAN inspected a total of 41 fishing vessels over a 31-day period during a voyage of 7,200 nautical miles.

- Two South African hake handline vessels were arrested for inadequate and missing documentation.
- A Spanish fishing vessel was arrested and fined R300,000 for being without a valid permit in South African waters.
- In Mozambique, a hake handline vessel was arrested for a lack of required documentation and a prawn fishing vessel was arrested for illegally fishing in a restricted zone.

- In Tanzania, inspectors observed a fishing vessel without a flag with its radar turned off, making it difficult for effective electronic surveillance. The vessel tried to evade inspection, and when boarded more than 290 tons of blue fin tuna was found onboard the vessel without any legitimate fishing permit or license. The vessel and crew were arrested and all fish were confiscated by the Tanzanian authorities.

In addition to the inspections and arrests, a vigorous training programme was also rolled out which included technical, operational and legal training. The outcomes of the fisheries patrol signals the success of transboundary collaborations in providing a co-ordinated and united front against IUU fishing.





19 of the 24 longline vessels licensed to fish in the EEZ were subsequently fined for absconding.

### 2018: Tanzania's Operation Jodari

Operation Jodari began in January 2018 as a partnership between the Tanzanian Government and international conservation organisation Sea Shepherd, supported by FISH-i Africa, to combat IUU fishing.

Tanzanian officers and law enforcement agents were trained and assisted in MCS, carrying out investigation procedures including inspections and boarding of vessels suspected of IUU fishing. The Tanzanian Government through their National Multi-Agency Task Team (NMATT) provided law enforcement officers, from a range of agencies who worked alongside the captain and crew of the OCEAN WARRIOR, for six months of patrols of Tanzania's sovereign waters.

Within the first 20-day patrol, nine boardings and inspections were conducted resulting in three arrests. The Chinese-flagged TAI HONG NO 1 was discovered carrying a cargo of shark fins that violated Tanzanian law. Distressing living and working conditions were revealed on board; Tanzanian fishermen having been refused water and food and sharing small unventilated accommodation with two beds to be shared between 12 men.

The Malaysian-flagged BUAH NAGA NO 1 was also discovered violating fisheries regulations and human rights. Evidence of shark finning was found. An unlicensed firearm was found on board that the crew reported was regularly used by the captain to threaten them. 14 Indonesian crew reported abuses as well as inadequate sleeping conditions and deprivation of food and water. The captain, owner and agent faced criminal charges.

After the arrest of TAI HONG NO 1, satellite-tracking systems showed a mass exodus of vessels leaving the EEZ for the high seas, in violation of Tanzanian law which requires vessels to report to a designated port for a post-fishing inspection before leaving Tanzanian waters. A total of 19 of the 24 longline vessels licensed to fish in the EEZ were subsequently fined for absconding. Chinese-flagged JIN SHENG NO 2 was fined USD 50,000 for not allowing Tanzanian inspectors to access the bridge and for mistreatment of their crew.



## Regional fisheries observer coordination

### WHAT

- **Coordinate national observer programmes and harmonise observer standards and reporting.**

### WHY

- Scientific and compliance fisheries observers on industrial fishing vessels are a key feature of fisheries monitoring. On board human observation can document and interpret many at-sea activities that other monitoring systems are unable to provide, for example, catch composition, discarding activity, bycatch handling and determining bycatch condition and fate on release. Often if certain things are not observed at the point of catching, they cannot be detected later on.  
However, there is currently regional variability in the kind and quality of information that observers collect, and the way that this information is collated.

### HOW

- Harmonise national and regional observer training activities and standards.
- Develop a database of qualified regional observers for different tasks, vessel types and species.
- Develop standard report templates.
- Develop standard operating procedures for observers and align them with observer programmes implemented by RFMOs.
- Develop standardised, fisheries specific data collection formats and schedules for use by shore-based monitors (land-based monitors are equivalent to observers at sea) in small scale and inland fisheries.
- Ensure standards for at-sea conditions for observers and coordination on their safety.

### BENEFITS

- Regional observer programmes deliver greater transparency and objectivity.
- Regional observers can follow vessels when they move between different countries waters.
- Improved security for observers.
- Raise standards in line with international best practices.
- Harmonised training and standards allow observers from one country to work on vessels flagged or licensed by another.
- Standard forms, guidelines, manuals etc. will improve the collection and utilisation of observer data for scientific and MCS purposes.
- The development of a database of trained fisheries observers whose qualifications make them suitable for deployment in a regional capacity ensures better compliance and management of the fisheries.
- Provision of unbiased data as opportunity for regional wide rotation of observers, reducing the chance for corruption or coercion.
- Provide more comprehensive coverage, at present fishery observer programmes only exist in some of the SADC countries.





## Provide support for fisheries law enforcement and legal expertise

### WHAT

- **The coordination and provision of advice and support for national fisheries law enforcement and legal activities.**

### WHY

- SADC countries have different levels of expertise in specific areas required for MCS, such as legal and technical expertise to support investigations and law enforcement. Many of the skills required and expertise needed, depend on specific training, in-depth knowledge, and access to databases and analysis that may not be cost effective for each country to maintain separately, but rather for the region to pool.

### HOW

- A centralised service to provide, manage and coordinate specialist fisheries enforcement advice and skills that exist within the MCSCC, in the region and externally, providing a readily available network of experts.
- It may provide members with links to international resources and assistance via the fisheries MCS information portal and experts in the MCSCC.
- A regional violations and prosecutions data base.
- The MCSCC would have experienced fisheries enforcement experts attached to the Centre to support members with their investigations and case preparations upon demand, and when necessary travel to countries to assist in cases.
- Requests for support made through the information portal can be responded to quickly by the MCSCC experts.
- Urgent advice provided through telephone, messaging or email support.
- Systematic support offered for training and mentoring by the MCSCC experts.

### BENEFITS

- Increase capacity immediately at the national level and improve national capability through on-job-training and specialised coaching.
- Flexible support with the ability to respond to unexpected or urgent situations.
- Enables wider access to information, databases, analysis.
- International expertise brings fresh ideas and creates two-way awareness of issues and on the ground capacity.
- Readily available support to fisheries officers helps to create aware, confident, knowledgeable officers able to take enforcement action.





# International support leads to conviction: the case of the TAWARIQ 1



The vessel owners and representatives of the Oman Government attempted to negotiate an out-of-court settlement, offering to accept the confiscation of the catch and boat if the identity of the owner was kept hidden.

In March 2009, the tuna longliner TAWARIQ 1 was inspected in the Tanzanian EEZ during a multilateral fisheries patrol. Inspectors found more than 260 tonnes of fresh and frozen fish (including tuna and shark fins) and no valid licence to fish in Tanzanian waters. The TAWARIQ 1 was escorted to port in Dar es Salaam, where the captain and his crew were detained by local police whilst the agent and owner were arrested.

The evidence obtained was proclaimed inconclusive, prompting the Government to send a formal request for legal assistance to the FAO Headquarters in Rome, the Governments of Norway and Mozambique and Stop Illegal Fishing. Mozambique sent their MCS specialist to make an initial assessment of the merit of the case and a Norwegian-funded mission followed, with a team consisting of an Australian naval architect, a Norwegian fleet manager and two special agents, an information technology expert and a fisheries law expert from NOAA.

In August 2009, the team conducted their investigation, carrying out a survey of the vessel, an assessment of the value of the catch and an analysis of the evidence reconstructed from the vessel's computer and electronic equipment. They discovered a web of contradictory information about the identity of the vessel, all pointing to different nationalities, including Malagasy, Korean, Filipino and Omani. The international radio call sign was that of BU YOUNG NO. 68, a name also found embossed on the vessel, the port of registry given as Busan, South Korea. To complicate things further, BU YOUNG NO. 68 was previously

named No. 11 INSUNG, a name still found on lifebuoys, the service record of one of the life rafts and several other documents. According to the IOTC, the former name of TAWARIQ 1 was ODINE MALAGASY, a vessel registered in Madagascar, however this name was nowhere to be found and they were unable to determine the vessel's true identity.

The hearing continued for nearly three years and was at one stage referred to a lower court. The Government decided to stop the process and claimed 'nor prosecute'. The vessel owners and representatives of the Oman Government attempted to negotiate an out-of-court settlement, offering to accept the confiscation of the catch and boat if the identity of the owner was kept hidden.

Finally, in February 2012, the High Court delivered a verdict of guilty, ordering the vessel to be forfeited to the Government. The captain, agent and owner were found guilty of fishing without a licence in the Tanzanian EEZ and each sentenced to pay USD 625,975. The captain was fined a further USD 12.5 million for the offence of pollution.



## Support port state measures implementation

### WHAT

- Support the effective implementation of port state measures through the development of common standards and procedures, and by building capacity.

### WHY

- The PSMA is the first legally binding international treaty tackling IUU fishing. Its success hinges on wide and effective application.
- Cooperative and systematic application of PSMs across all ports within a region, protects the entire region, including landlocked countries, from the importation of illegally caught fish, and disincentivises IUU operators from the region.
- To remove ports of non-compliance from the SADC region. These ports attract IUU fishing vessels because of their lax controls and easy market access. They tarnish the region's reputation and damage the legitimate industry as they provide an entry point for illegal fish to be whitewashed into the value chain.

### HOW

- Coordination and liaison functions required to implement PSMs between members and relevant RFMOs and other organisations, including the FAO.
- Support the development of information sharing, standard procedures, communications, investigations and training.
- Develop cooperation and communication with relevant flag or coastal states.
- Coordinate and provide technical and intelligence support and facilitation in the development of regional standards and procedures.
- Facilitate coordinated responses – to block IUU vessels from ports throughout the region.
- Link the SADC region into the African Ports Network, which is being developed to share information across all African ports.
- Support SADC states that are not already party to the PSMA to accede, and to develop legislation to enable the PSMA's effective implementation.
- Coordinate assistance for PMSA implementation, including from the FAO or bilaterally from supporting countries or partners.
- Support building capacity to implement common port state measures standards and to facilitate coordination, communication and information sharing to implement these standards.

### BENEFITS

- Cost-effective approach: denial of port entry and/or use keeps costs low for port states.
- Reduce the profits and incentives to conduct IUU fishing.
- Protect SADC markets and value chain from illegally caught fish and seafood.
- Protect legitimate operators who are disadvantaged by illegal operators and the sale of illegally caught fish.
- Inspection of vessels in port reduces the cost of at-sea operations and increases the fishery inspectors' safety.
- States which effectively implement port state measures should receive increased port visits, thereby creating jobs, allowing for shore-based activities to develop and grow and securing revenue for the government.



# The power of our ports: PREMIER



When access to port is denied in a unified manner across all ports within a region, vessel owners are forced to take their illegally caught fish elsewhere.

Sea ports are critical for fisheries operations as well as for the import and export of fishery products. Fishing vessel operators that catch fish and seafood use ports to unload their catch for sale, processing, or onward transport. They then resupply their vessels with the provisions needed to return to sea and continue catching.

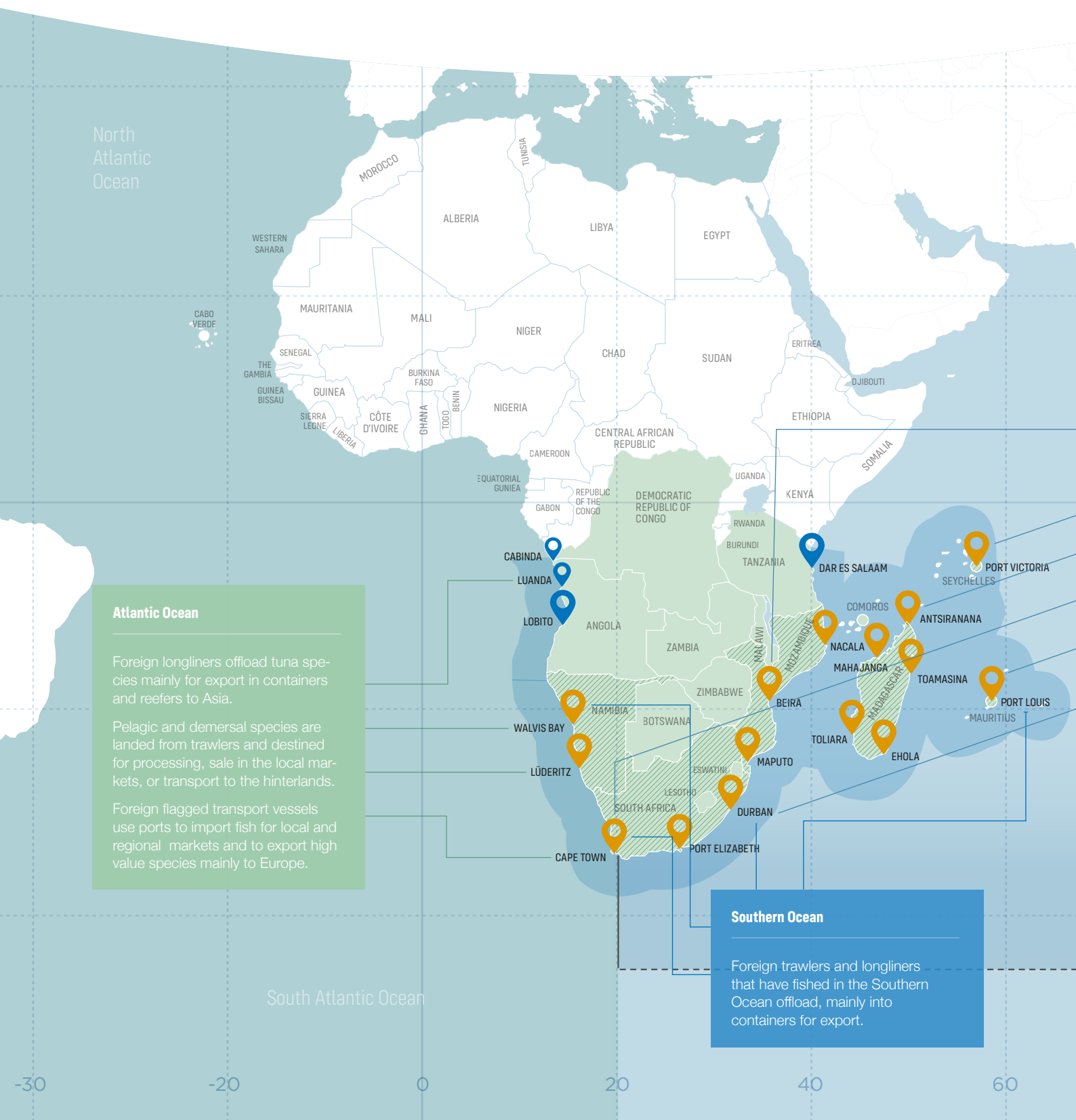
Transport vessel operators use ports to load and unload frozen or processed fish and seafood to transport it to global destinations. Vessels used include refrigerated cargo vessels known as reefers and container vessels and general cargo or container vessels.

Industrially caught fish and seafood will almost certainly have passed through one or more ports, either in fishing or transport vessels, before it is consumed. These ports provide an operational bottleneck, offering an opportunity for fisheries management authorities to check information before allowing a vessel to enter port, and inspect fishing vessels and catches in port, before allowing the fish to be offloaded from the vessel. Applying these checks and inspections enables authorities to assess if fishing has taken place legally – with the correct authorisations and in compliance to the applicable rules and regulations – this process is known as applying port state measures.

When port state measures are comprehensively applied, and sufficient proof that IUU fishing has taken place, states must as a minimum, deny access to either their port or port services – stopping illegally caught fish from entering their country and their markets.

When access to port is denied in a unified manner across all ports within a region, vessel owners are forced to take their illegally caught fish elsewhere. South Korean purse seine fishing vessel PREMIER was denied access to port and/or port services by all SADC port states in 2013 due to its illegal fishing history. This regional resolve resulted in the owners having to sail the vessel to Sri Lanka to offload the catch, which was later sold at reduced price on the Bangkok market. This high profile case also resulted in the flag state, South Korea making amendments to their laws and the company paying a sizable fine to Liberia.





**Atlantic Ocean**

Foreign longliners offload tuna species mainly for export in containers and reefers to Asia.

Pelagic and demersal species are landed from trawlers and destined for processing, sale in the local markets, or transport to the hinterlands.

Foreign flagged transport vessels use ports to import fish for local and regional markets and to export high value species mainly to Europe.

**Southern Ocean**

Foreign trawlers and longliners that have fished in the Southern Ocean offload, mainly into containers for export.



# Which ports are important for the SADC industrial fisheries sector

Nine SADC ports receive most foreign fishing vessel visits within the region with many of the visiting vessels using these ports as their main operational base. The PSMA requires parties to designate ports for use by foreign flagged fishing vessels. This enables the targeting of trained MCS officers in these ports.

## KEY

-  Designated ports
-  Undesignated ports
-  SADC countries
-  PSMA parties

### Indian Ocean

Foreign longliners offload tuna species mainly for export in containers and reefers to Asia.

Port Victoria is the main operational port for purse seiners. Seychelles and foreign flagged vessels offload to the factory and for export in reefers and containers, mainly for processing in Mauritius or Europe, with the final destination Europe.

Antsiranana receives purse seine and reefer vessels offloading tuna to their factory.

Indian Ocean

# Achieving our sustainable development goals



Globally, the SDGs set the priority actions required for sustainable development. Target 14.4 calls for an end to IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices by 2020, and this priority is reflected as an objective of the SADC Fisheries MCSCC.

Fishing not only removes the targeted species from the ecosystem but it can also affect endangered, threatened and protected species such as vulnerable marine mammals and shark and ray species.

By protecting our fisheries, the MCSCC will also contribute to the SDGs linked to poverty, hunger, decent work, responsible consumption and production and partnership.

## Sustainable communities

Fish provides a primary source of protein and essential nutrients in human diets and makes a significant contribution to the nutrition and food security in SADC countries. Safeguarding fisheries resources will create resilience to deal with the anticipated population growth and impacts of climate change, and ensure not only nutritional benefits but also provide employment for millions of people with many of those employed, particularly in the processing and marketing sector being women.

## Sustainable ecosystems

Fishing not only removes the targeted species from the ecosystem but it can also affect endangered, threatened and protected species such as vulnerable marine mammals and shark and ray species. Complying to conservation and management measures is a key aspect of not only stopping illegal fishing, but ensuring oversight of pollution, destruction of habitats and removal of non-targeted species.

## Sustainable economies

Developing stronger blue economies is key to many SADC countries and this relies on a compliant fisheries sector and a secure maritime domain. The Regional MCSCC will play an important role in delivering these and encouraging greater investment and development in the fisheries sector. Removing the uncertainty and poor business environment that corruption and other criminal activity create, will result in a level playing field for legal and sustainable blue growth.



# Securing our future

The establishment of the SADC MCSCC builds on the SADC Common Agenda and aims to deepen the integration agenda with a view to accelerating poverty eradication and the attainment of economic and sustainable development goals. By developing shared policies, regulations and controls the SADC MCSCC will feed into SADC integration milestones to develop a free trade area, customs union and a common market.



**The MCSCC will help us to:**

- Use our fisheries resources sustainably
- Stop IUU fishing
- Implement our policies
- Generate wealth from our fisheries

**The MCSCC will benefit the SADC region:**

- Enhance food security.
- Generate economic opportunities.
- Alleviate poverty.
- Protect biodiversity and the environment.
- Cooperate and share information.
- Coordinate and share MCS assets.
- Reduce costs and increase effectiveness.
- Agree MCS procedures.
- Develop common operational standards for fisheries MCS.
- Operate efficiently.
- Harmonise conditions of access, licensing and operations of foreign fishing vessels.
- Unite to ensure regional equity.

**The MCSCC will help achieve sustainable development goals**

<b>SDG 1</b> No poverty	<b>SDG 2</b> Zero hunger	<b>SDG 8</b> Decent work and economic growth	<b>SDG 12</b> Responsible consumption and production	<b>SDG 14</b> Life below water	<b>SDG 16</b> Peace, justice and strong institutions	<b>SDG 17</b> Partnership for the goals
----------------------------	-----------------------------	---	---	-----------------------------------	---	--



# Afterword

I would like to close this report by acknowledging that it is thanks to the contribution of many that much has been done in the SADC region to protect our fisheries. SADC works with international, regional and national partners from governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations, civil society, academia and funding organisations. I would like to thank the many partners who have worked with us in the twenty years since the SADC Protocol on Fisheries was agreed and who have contributed to the achievements demonstrated in this report.



**Mr Domingos Gove**  
Director of Food, Agriculture  
and Natural Resources  
Southern African Development  
Community

We have trained our fisheries officers, developed harmonised legislation, built task forces, coordinated regional surveillance patrols, and shared our intelligence and information. This has led us to jointly investigate over fifty regional IUU fishing cases, to deny port use and to close our markets to illegal operators and illegally caught fish, to uncover and disrupt illegal networks of corrupt officials, agents and fishing operators, and our analysis has shaped regional and international policy processes.

However, the world is dynamic, and as we overcome one obstacle we must brace for the next. We are all witnessing this through the global COVID-19 pandemic – a situation that was unimaginable a few years ago – but one we must face by finding new ways to navigate towards our goals and our shared SADC vision.

It has been a long road, but the SADC MCSCC is now on the horizon, and it is needed more than ever. Protecting our fisheries is no longer only about ensuring that our citizens fish by the rules. Growing demand, depleting stocks, natural disasters, harmful subsidies, corruption and organised crime are all factors that threaten our fisheries. These pressures nurture an environment where illegal fishers thrive.

Their deliberate and systematic illegal acts are often obscured within complex industrialised fisheries value chains, leaving us with little control over what is fished, where the fish is consumed or who benefits from our fisheries resources.

We must unite to change this – to define our own pathway and put our own vision in the forefront. If we do not work together now, we will miss this opportunity to protect our fisheries, economies, and people from these negative impacts and to provide a deterrence to stop IUU fishing and associated crimes.

The MCSCC is our opportunity to do this. Our opportunity to monitor our oceans, lakes and rivers, and to understand and consider that what happens upstream affects what happens downstream, what happens in one part of the ocean will impact on another. We will gain greater transparency through collecting and sharing information beyond national borders and through this will be able to set a truly meaningful regional agenda for our fisheries.

Protecting our fisheries has never been more important. Protecting our fisheries has never been more possible. Protecting our fisheries will help protect our futures.



# Acronyms and abbreviations

ACLME	Agulhas current large marine ecosystem	FANR	Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (of SADC)
AIS	Automatic identification system	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ATLAFCO	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean	FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
AU	African Union	FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency of the Pacific Islands
BCC	Benguela Current Commission	GDP	Gross domestic product
BCLME	Benguela Current large marine ecosystem	ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic	IPMU	Interim Project Management Unit (of the SADC MCSCC)
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy	IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
COREP	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea	IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	kg	Kilogrammes
EAC	East African Community	LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
EFCA	EU Community Fisheries Control Agency	LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone	LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
EU	European Union	MATT	Multi-agency task team

MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance	RFMO	Regional fisheries management organisation
MCSCC	SADC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre	SADC	Southern African Development Community
MTC	Minimum terms and conditions	SCLME	Somali current large marine ecosystem
NEPAD-AUDA	The New Partnership for Africa's Development – African Union Development Agency	SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NFDS	Nordenfjeldske Development Services	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
NPOA-IUU	National plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing	SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
PAF	Partnership for African Fisheries	SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
PSMA	FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing	Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania
PSM-SIF	Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing	TFCA	Transfrontier conservation area
OKACOM	The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission	TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
PRSP	Regional Plan for Fisheries Surveillance Patrols	UN	United Nations
RFAB	Regional fisheries advisory body	USD	United States dollar
RFB	Regional fishery body	VMS	Vessel monitoring system
		WTO	World Trade Organization
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



