



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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For more information, please go to www.stopillegalfishing.com

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Acronyms and abbreviations

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

0 Tribute to JD Kotze



An African Champion in the Fight Against Illegal Fishing and Environmental Crime

The year 2024 was marked by the sad loss of one of our core members, Johannes Dirk Kotze, known to us as JD. A spirited and loyal friend and colleague, JD's passing has left a significant void in our community.

JD was a dedicated law enforcement professional with a colourful career. He served as an Investigator in the South African Police Service and the Directorate of Special Operations (the Scorpions), before transitioning into the fight against illegal fishing and environmental crimes. Over the last decade, JD devoted much of his time to training enforcement officers, becoming a mentor and brother to countless fisheries and environmental officers across Africa. His unique ability to connect with people, blending being 'opinionated yet humble,' made him a trusted guide and confidant.

Known for his stubbornness, JD never backed down from a good argument, but these always ended with laughter and goodwill. His mentorship, practical thinking, and dedication to sharing knowledge will remain fondly remembered.

JD also became a star in the 2016 Animal Planet series Ocean Warriors, where his work against blast fishing in Tanzania was featured. He was passionate about operational work, including his time with the Sea Shepherd's Ocean Warrior during Operation Jodari. After the Covid pandemic, he pioneered the use of body-worn cameras for fisheries officers, a tool now widely adopted across the field.

An invaluable contributor to Stop Illegal Fishing, JD's work with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other partners, including FishFORCE, IOTC, and WWF, made a lasting impact on the region's fisheries enforcement efforts. He was also integral to the success of projects like SADC Atlantic and Oceans Vigilance.



JD's loyalty, humour, and professionalism will never be forgotten. Until the end, he was deeply engaged in tackling illegal fishing and planning for the year ahead.

A God-fearing man who loved his family above all else, JD leaves behind his wife, Erika, their children, and a granddaughter. He passed peacefully at home with his family.

JD will forever be cherished and missed by all the SIF community. May he rest in peace.

SIF received many tributes to JD; we have included some here and we thank all that offered their support:

*I am so saddened to hear of the passing of JD, the gentle giant his output and dedication to IUU fishing is documented. We will surely miss him dearly. JD was more than just a Fisheries Intelligence Officer and analyst; he was a pillar in our community and an invaluable asset to the work of the SADC. His dedication, expertise, and tireless efforts significantly enriched our operations and the region at large. JD's passion for fisheries management, coupled with his drive for excellence, was unparalleled. He provided critical training to many up-and-coming fisheries officers, instilling in them the values of integrity, dedication, and professionalism. His efforts in capacity development have ensured that our future generations are prepared and skilled to continue our important work. **Stanley Ndara**, SADC MCSCC Board Chairperson*

*I can't believe this; we had such a great time with him in Dar and Zanzibar recently. I last saw him at Or Tambo when he was going to Cape Town flight, he was all okay and in good spirits. Life is so unfair. He touched all of us in different ways, but he was a true professional and a great resource to the region, a kind soul and always with a funny story to brighten the saddest of moments. We will forever miss him. **Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo**, Technical Advisor for fisheries at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone*

*I talked to him on Friday night and I didn't know that was the last time! God bless him, my dear colleague and friend Goodbye JD. **Maria Eulália Vales**, SADC MCSCC IPMU Coordinator*

*I am so sorry to hear about JD's passing. What a shock. His work on fighting IUUF was really inspiring and touched so many. **Suzanne M. Yountchi**, US Embassy, Gaborone*

*I am devastated. Lossing JD is a great loss, he was a friend, a teacher and a great person. This is a very hard blow. It hurts a lot. **Manuel Bengui Tungo**, Fisheries Inspector, Angola*

*What devastating news. I am sorry for the family and you guys who knew him more intimately. He will be missed. **Malcolm Block**, Chief inspector, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia*

*I am deeply saddened and at a loss for words. The one thing I am truly grateful for is the relationship he helped establish between our offices and how he united us as SADC. It's hard to express how much he shared with us. He believed in me, even when others doubted. When I felt lost, he gave me hope and confidence that I could make a difference. We have lost a visionary. His depth of knowledge was unparalleled, and he worked tirelessly to pass it on to the few of us in the maritime and fisheries domain who were fortunate enough to learn from him. There will never be another JD. The only thing we can do now is to honour his legacy by applying what he taught us, doing our best to carry forward his vision for a better Africa. **Buyekezwa Polo**, Chief Marine Conservation Inspector, Cape Town*

*This news is hard to believe, having known him, getting such support, information, guidance and sharing lots of information regarding law enforcement, tracking vessels, supplying information. His knowledge, experience, and skills will always be remembered. We lost a lot in law enforcement as SADC. Rest in peace, your contributions will always be appreciated and remembered by SADC members. You managed to put SADC on the map. **Mncengeni Thanduxolo Ntshangase**, Fisheries Inspector, South Africa*

*This is really sad news, a huge loss for the whole WIO region. He was such a great champion in the fight against IUU fishing, a mentor and a trainer of fish inspectors and investigators, gone too soon. He had a huge influence on me in how I view the gravity of fisheries crimes. Very sad; he will be missed by the whole fisheries fraternity. **Benedict Kiilu**, Principal Fisheries Officer, Kenya*

*I'm deeply saddened to hear about the passing of JD. I had the privilege of taking a long drive with JD and Per Erik from Windhoek to Lüderitz and Walvis Bay. JD was undeniably strong-willed and never gave up on anything. I will always remember his humour and the way Per Erik and JD interacted, they were best friends. I recall the three flat tires we had—it was so hilarious to have him around. JD's contributions and the energy he dedicated to Stop Illegal Fishing, the MCSCC, and SADC Atlantic have been invaluable. His loss will be profoundly felt by all who had the privilege of working with him. He will be greatly missed. **Phatsimo Kwenane**, US Embassy, Gaborone.*

I am deeply saddened by this very bad news. Our brother is gone! We will miss JD. My thoughts are with the family. **JL Rabe**, SIF Secretariat

His spirit was always brilliant, a privilege and very great pleasure to have known him.
Judith Swan, SIF

Sad news for me and our community. We will always remember his vibrant way of seeing things, his high degree of professionalism and dedication to work. My family and I wish him an eternal rest and may God protect his soul. **Joao Noa Senete**, SIF

So sorry to hear this, What a huge loss for his family and for the SIF Team. He's going to be massively missed.
Sally Frankcom, SIF

JD was one of a kind. So dedicated, and always available to any fisheries officer who would ask for his help. You could see how proud it made him. He would never worry, "don't worry", that's what he always said. He had trust that things would go the way they should, and he always did his part for it. We trusted him too and looked after him, because we cared a lot about him. He was special for sure; we will miss him and his big heart a lot. My sincere condolences. **Andréa Durighello**, SIF Secretariat

Losing JD is heartbreaking! My heart goes out to his Family. A big loss all-round; he will surely be missed.
Malebogo Seofeleng, SIF Secretariat

Oh No, very sad news. To JD's family, my deepest condolences, thank you for sharing JD with us. Indeed, JD will surely be missed. **Regina Dithapo**, SIF Secretariat

I just cannot believe what I am reading. JD this warm, tough guy, who had many stories to tell and was there for everyone. My condolences to his family and my thoughts are with them. Also thinking of you (SIF) who have lost a friend. **Kristin Von Kistowski**, SIF

A message I have been fearing for some time. A massive loss to all of us. **Markus Burgener**, SIF

He will definitely be missed. Lucky enough to have recently met him in Zanzibar. As we say, "we are from God and to him we return". **Zahor el Kharousy**, SIF

We are deeply saddened to learn about the passing of JD. On behalf of all of us here at the Ministry of Fisheries and the Seychelles Fisheries Authority, please express our deepest condolences to his family.
Roy Clarisse, SIF

It's with deep sadness that I am learning about the passing of our JD. One more voice in fighting Illegal Fishing has been put to rest. We will miss him, his knowledge, expertise, and advice. Please send my deepest condolences to his family and they may find comfort and peace within them to accept their loss. **Elsa Patria**, SIF member

That is devastating. I feel blessed to have known him and my heart goes out to all who were equally fortunate-especially SIF. Above all else, my thoughts are with his Wife and kids. I am sorry for your loss. **Peter Hammarstedt**, Sea Shepherd

It is with deep sadness that we bid farewell to JD, a remarkable leader and passionate advocate in the fight against IUU fishing. JD was a beacon of dedication. I had the privilege of working with him on multiple occasions once, he commended my work, telling me I had done an excellent job and encouraged me to keep up the good work. His unwavering commitment in the fight against IUU fishing has left an indelible mark on the world, and his legacy will continue to inspire those of us who share his passion for safeguarding our seas. **Cynthia Addo**, Ghana inspector



1 Our vision and mission

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

Our objectives are to:

- Provide evidence-based advice to feed into policy reform and improved decision making to fight IUU fishing in African waters.
- Coordinate an African Voice to influence international fishery policy processes.
- Facilitate communications and education to create awareness and advocacy for compliant fisheries.
- Build, develop and assist with practical and effective cooperation tools, mechanisms, and processes to curb IUU fishing.
- Provide capacity building to support the fight against IUU fishing.
- Facilitate improved information and intelligence exchange to improve the effectiveness and timeliness of states' responses to IUU fishing; and
- Grow and support a network of professionals, experts, and champions to lead the African campaign against IUU fishing.

Through our work in these areas and through our ongoing involvement with policy development, and practical support of enforcement officers we aim to stop illegal operators in the fisheries sector. As the blue economy gains importance, protecting and sustainably managing fisheries resources is crucial for securing revenue and nutrition. SIF actively operates across sub-Saharan Africa, leading various initiatives in collaboration with partners and supporters.



2 Project overview and financial summary

2024 was another busy year for SIF, with nine ongoing projects (see Table 1 and Figure 1) and a total income from grants and remittances amounting to 14,192,513 BWP (around 1,016,184 USD).

SIF has continued to focus on the Southern African region, where it has historically had the greatest impact. The organisation's main sources of income were its two largest projects, the SADC Atlantic and Oceans Vigilance projects, for which SIF is the lead implementing partner. We remain grateful to all our partners who support our work and enable us to fulfil our mandate.

SIF grants are primarily allocated to direct project expenses and associated project management costs. Where agreements allow, SIF secures an overhead contribution, which is used to cover essential operational costs, including communications (website maintenance and publications), annual accounting, and Secretariat expenses.

SIF engages an independent accountant to prepare its Annual Accounts for submission to the Registrar of Societies in Botswana. Additionally, the organisation's larger projects are audited annually by auditors appointed by the respective funding partners.

While SIF continues to seek funding to support core operational costs and the direct employment of staff, most funding remains project based. Few donors are willing to provide unrestricted core funding, which remains a challenge for long-term sustainability.

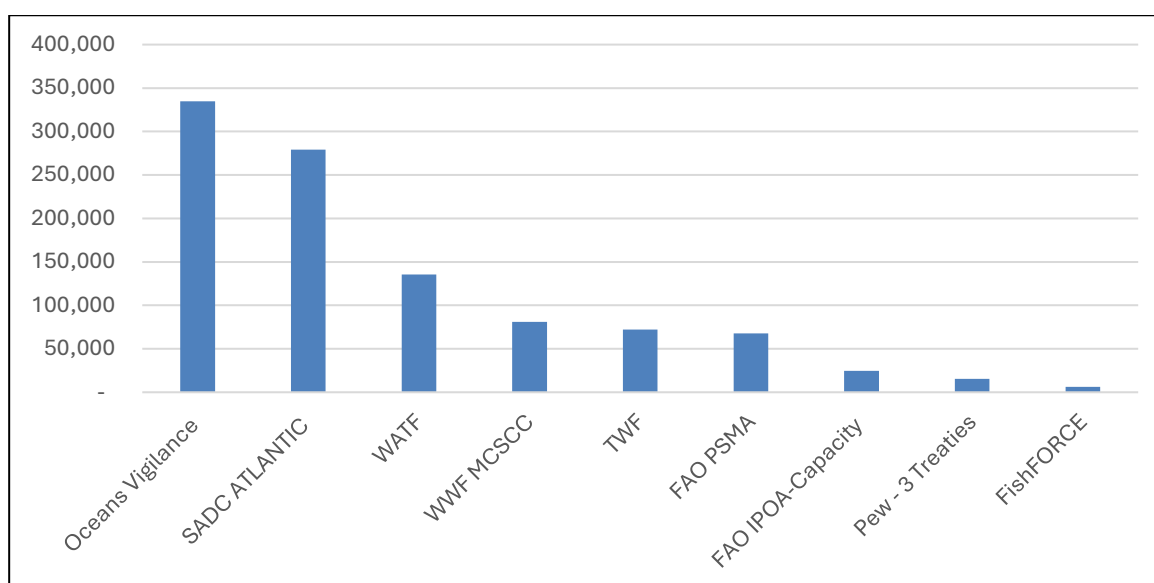


Figure 1: Grants and income to SIF in 2024

Table 1: Summary of grants and income to SIF in 2024

Projects	Comment	USD estimate (based on exchange BWP to USD)
Oceans Vigilance	This 3-year project started in 2023 to develop the policy change needed and practical capacity for a SADC Regional Register of Fishing Vessels enabling a harmonised approach to minimum standards for transparency of fishing vessels in the SADC, funded by Oceans 5.	334,672
SADC Atlantic	This is the second year of the project to support the countries of Angola, Namibia and South Africa to engage more in the SADC MCSCC and to build capacity to assess risk of fishing vessels and to implement port State measures (PSMs). This project is funded by the U.S Embassy in Botswana.	279,312
West Africa Task Force (WATF)	This is SIF's longest-term project, working with the Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and supporting the 6 countries of West Africa, funded by Norad via TMT.	135,358
SADC MCSCC	SIF continued to provide support in intelligence, policy and communications to the SADC MCS Coordination Centre (MCSCC) with funding from Germany via WWF.	80,978
SADC Information Exchange	This project focuses on improving information exchange within the SADC region and SIF works closely with the SADC MCSCC to achieve this, funding from The Waterloo Foundation (TWF).	72,090
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) PSMA	Our ongoing cooperation with the FAO in respect to implementing port State measures, continued in 2024 in Madagascar with funding from Germany via FAO.	67,590
FAO IPOA-Capacity Review	This project involves preparing an FAO Technical Paper on implementation of the International Plan of Action (IPOA)-Capacity for FAO), funding from FAO.	24,467
Pew - 3 Treaties	In cooperation with the Pew Charitable Trusts SIF prepared a workshop on the three treaties combining obligations under the FAO, IMO and ILO for South Africa.	15,462
FishFORCE	Our ongoing partnership with FishFORCE housed at the Nelson Mandela University Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy, South Africa continued in 2024 with the preparation of case studies and reviews, funding from Norad via FishFORCE.	6,255

3 Core activities – Southern Africa

SIF has supported Southern African countries in fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) and fisheries development for over two decades and continues to do so today. We work directly with countries on various projects and initiatives and also through IGOs, including the SADC and its MCS Coordination Centre (MCSCC), the SWIOFC, IOC and the BCC. Our projects focusing on Southern African countries in 2024 included:

- Oceans Vigilance
- SADC Atlantic
- SADC Information Exchange
- SADC MCSCC
- Pew - 3 Treaties
- FishFORCE

3.1 The SADC and the MCSCC

Following the achievement of the two-thirds threshold by SADC Member States on 9 March 2023, the Charter establishing the SADC Fisheries MCSCC officially came into effect on 8 April 2023, marking a significant step in regional fisheries management. The groundbreaking ceremony for the MCSCC took place a year later, on 22 April 2024, in Maputo, Mozambique, attended by His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique, and SIF was happy to participate.



Figure 3: His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique at the MCSCC groundbreaking

The MCSCC Board of Directors (BoD) was established following the Charter’s enactment, with members appointed in early 2024 by SADC Fisheries Ministers. With its legal framework now in place, the Centre has initiated key operations, including coordinating regional fisheries monitoring, data-sharing services, and capacity-building for national MCS systems. One of its major undertakings is the development of a Regional Register of Fishing Vessels (RRFV)—a unified system to regulate vessel access across the region, with transparency as a fundamental tool against IUU fishing which SIF is helping to implement.

SIF continues to strengthen regional and national MCS capacity through in-person training and remote coaching. In 2024, training efforts focused on risk assessments and vessel inspections, equipping 384 officers across 44 sessions with essential skills in communication, remote monitoring, risk assessment, and law enforcement. These initiatives have enabled national authorities to conduct 300+ risk assessments, leading to port denials, fishing license rejections, and successful prosecutions of IUU offenders. These assessments also enhance intelligence-led MCS operations, identifying risk factors associated with fishing vessels and supporting targeted enforcement.

Alongside SIF, the SADC Interim Project Management Unit (IPMU) continues to provide timely intelligence reports to SADC Member States through Basecamp, the regional information-sharing platform. Satellite monitoring technology helps track vessel movements in SADC waters, providing critical insights into fleet activities, improving enforcement, and deterring IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean and Atlantic regions. Additionally, SIF supports the MCSCC's communication efforts, producing reports that highlight regional achievements and enhance visibility for SADC's fisheries enforcement initiatives.

Through these collective efforts, the MCSCC, SIF, and its partners are advancing regional cooperation, transparency, and enforcement capacity to combat IUU fishing and promote sustainable fisheries management across Southern Africa.

3.2 SIF support to SADC regional processes

In 2024, SIF continued to play a role in operationalising the SADC MCSCC. This included attending and often playing a significant role in meetings and processes aimed at strengthening regional fisheries management. These included:

- **The 16th meeting of the SADC Regional Technical Team (RTT) for the MCSCC – 4 – 6 March 2024, Mbabane, Eswatini.** Discussions focused on implementing the MCSCC roadmap, reviewing progress, addressing recent IUU fishing cases, and identifying capacity-building needs. Participants evaluated candidates for the MCSCC BoD, crucial for steering the Centre toward its success. Mr. Per Erik Bergh represented SIF at this meeting, highlighting the importance of the SADC RRFV as both a monitoring and transparency tool, which is essential for sustainability within the MCSCC framework.
- **The 41st meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries – 26 – 27 March 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa.** This meeting involved the updating on implementation of decisions from the various processes. A key topic was the ratification and implementation of the Charter that established the MCSCC. Representing SIF, Ms. Sandy Davies provided insights into our SADC Atlantic and Oceans Vigilance projects and provided information on the process towards the SADC RRFV. This included emphasising the potential revenue opportunities for the MCSCC, alongside the benefits of establishing minimum regional standards for fishing vessels, which are crucial for reducing illegal fishing incidents.
- **The second SADC MCSCC Operational Task Force (OTF) – 17–18 June 2024, Maputo, Mozambique.** The meeting successfully finalised the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Task Force, made headway in technical discussions surrounding the implementation of the SADC RRFV. Furthermore, the OTF identified key priorities necessary to operationalise the MCSCC as aligned with the primary functions outlined in the MCSCC Charter. Delegates from 12 SADC Member States participated in the meeting: Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe; and representatives from the SADC Secretariat, the IPMU, the MCSCC RTT, and partner organizations such as SIF, the BCC, the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC), TRAFFIC, the WWF, and the FishFORCE Academy were also present. Support for the meeting was provided by the Oceans Vigilance project, along with assistance from other partners.
- **17th RTT meeting for the SADC MCSCC – 19 June 2024, Maputo, Mozambique.** SIF participates in the RTT process and is represented by our Coordinator Per Erik Bergh, who has been supporting this process since its formation. During this meeting, the RTT prepared to transfer the responsibilities they had been overseeing to the Board of Directors (BoD).

They also reviewed the ToRs for a consultancy to update the SADC MCSCC Sustainability Plan and discussed the execution of MCS activities by the IPMU.

- **SADC MCSCC Board of Directors – 23 – 27 September 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa.** This meeting marked a noteworthy milestone in the ongoing evolution of the regional fisheries sector. During the meeting, new board members were introduced, the inaugural meeting's record was ratified, and the Secretariat presented its report, including discussions on reporting requirements. Governance matters, such as the draft governance manual, remuneration, and the ToRs for the Board were assessed.



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News

Inaugural meeting of the Board of Directors of the SADC Regional MCSCC

Published 24th June, 2024

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On 20 – 21 June 2024 in Maputo, Mozambique, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and the Regional Technical Team (RTT) for the SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) organised an orientation meeting for the Board of Directors (BoD) of the MCSCC. This meeting aimed to provide the Board of Directors with a comprehensive understanding of the MCSCC and its activities.

The meeting follows significant developments in the SADC fisheries sector, including the adoption of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries in 2001, the Statement of Commitment on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2008, and the entry into force of the Charter for the Establishment of the SADC Regional Fisheries MCSCC in April 2023. This Charter led to the appointment of the BoD of the SADC MCSCC, who will play a crucial role in providing strategic guidance aligned with the Charter's objectives.

3.3 Monitoring, intelligence and analysis of IUU fishing

Throughout 2024, the SIF team continued to monitor territorial waters and exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of SADC countries using automatic identification system (AIS), SeaVision, and Starboard. This effort enabled the effective tracking of fishing vessel movements across all ports, thus assisting the IPMU and SADC States in identifying potential incidents of IUU fishing in their waters. An example is that of the NOVA ZEELANDIA, a 37-year-old reefer flagged to Bahamas. This vessel presented documents to Ghanaian authorities indicating that illegal transshipments had occurred with the donor trawler fishing vessels OLUTORSKY and AVACHINSKY in the Angolan EEZ, our investigation confirmed these suspicions with AIS satellite tracks. As a result, Angola prosecuted the trawlers for one million USD while the reefer NOVA ZEELANDIA was banned from carrying fish in the Angolan EEZ for 5 years. This case demonstrates the importance of surveillance, intelligence analysis and the crucial role of regional information exchange in combatting IUU fishing. This incident also shows an opportunity, and the value in linking the MCSCC of Southern Africa with the Regional MCS Centre (in Ghana) – the RMCSC –of West Africa and creating a pan-African information exchange.

Case studies on the reefer NOVA ZEELANDIA, the fishing vessel TRONDHEIM, and the deep-sea crab vessel RINASCENTE NO.9 are underway. These case studies aim to highlight the effective

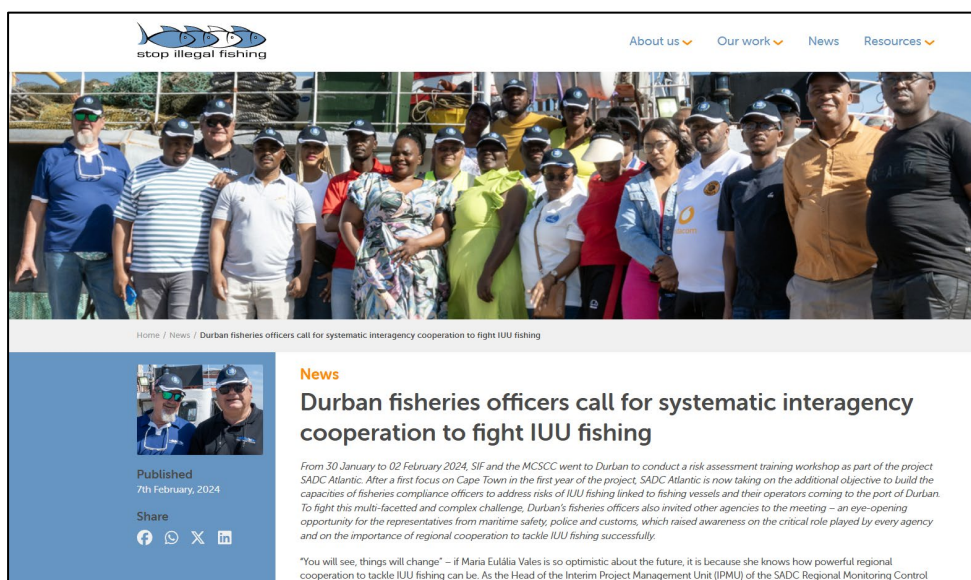
collaboration between the SADC MCSCC, the SADC Member States, and technical partners in their fight against IUU fishing, and to underline the vital role of capacity building and regional and pan-African information sharing.

SIF continues to maintain a log of IUU incidents observed in the region, aimed at supporting the SADC MCSCC and relevant regional bodies and countries. In 2024, we started the fifth volume of the log, detailing incidents numbered 118 to 145, with an addition of 27 incidents within the year. SIF has been refining the recently developed log designed to monitor activity on the MCSCC basecamp platform. It records all interactions on the platform, including user contributions, the nature of each activity, and subsequent actions taken. The objective of this log is to facilitate timely follow-ups on messages, and to ensure that requests from member countries are addressed promptly.

3.4 Support to the Atlantic coast countries

In 2022, SIF launched the SADC Atlantic project with funding from the United States Department of State through the Embassy in Gaborone. This initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of Atlantic coast countries, namely Angola, Namibia, and South Africa, to engage more fully with the MCSCC. While 2024 marked the two-year anniversary of the project, SIF successfully secured a no-cost extension, allowing the project to continue until September 2025. Throughout 2024, the SADC Atlantic project achieved several significant milestones focusing on capacity building and improving regional monitoring and intelligence sharing.

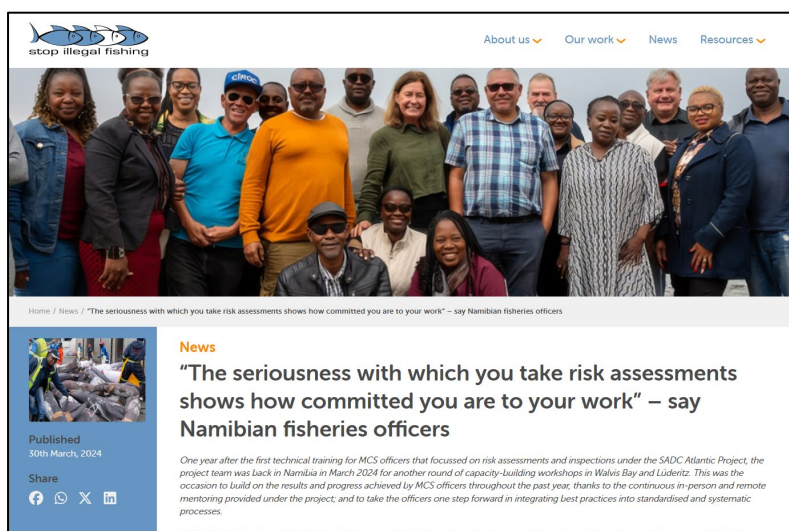
After challenges with starting the project in Angola, an inception meeting was held in Luanda on 20 February 2024. This was crucial for introducing the project, confirming the nation's commitment, and outlining the steps to follow. The launch was inaugurated by Angola's Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, H.E. Carmen dos Santos, and was attended by representatives from the SADC, MCSCC, and the US Embassy in Angola. The event underscored Angola's dedication to combating IUU fishing—a priority concern for the nation. Minister dos Santos emphasised the valuable opportunity the SADC Atlantic project offers national MCS officers, stating, "This is the right moment to join forces, to share knowledge and work together to reach our common objectives. This project aims to guarantee the adoption of better practices, contributing to mitigating the damages caused by IUU fishing." She encouraged Angolan MCS officers to actively participate in the training initiatives. Since its inception in September 2022, the SADC Atlantic Project has yielded significant outcomes, particularly in training MCS officers in Namibia and South Africa. The official launch in Angola paves the way to replicate these capacity-building efforts within the country.



SIF continued to conduct risk assessment training workshops across the three project countries, working with fisheries ministries to facilitate training sessions in several locations:

- Durban, South Africa – 30 January to 02 February
- Luanda and Lobito, Angola – 21 – 23 February and 27 – 29 February
- Walvis Bay and Lüderitz, Namibia – 13 – 15 March and 18 – 20 March
- Luanda, Angola – 3 – 7 June
- Luanda, Angola – 22–25 October.

These workshops empowered MCS officers to better assess fishing vessel risks and improve inspection processes. By involving maritime safety, police, and customs, they fostered regional cooperation against IUU fishing. The training also enhanced engagement with the MCSCC via a regional communications portal, promoting information sharing in SADC waters. Emphasising “Knowledge is Power,” SIF highlighted the network’s benefits for ensuring vessel compliance. Additionally, fisheries inspectors received remote mentoring using body-worn cameras from the SADC Atlantic project, with potential for broader use. As we look ahead, the strides made in 2024 signify a promising path toward stronger actions against IUU fishing, both in the project countries and throughout the region. During the training sessions, Maria Eulália Vales, Head of the IPMU for the SADC MCSCC aptly stated, “It’s our resources, it’s our waters. So, let’s come together to protect them.”

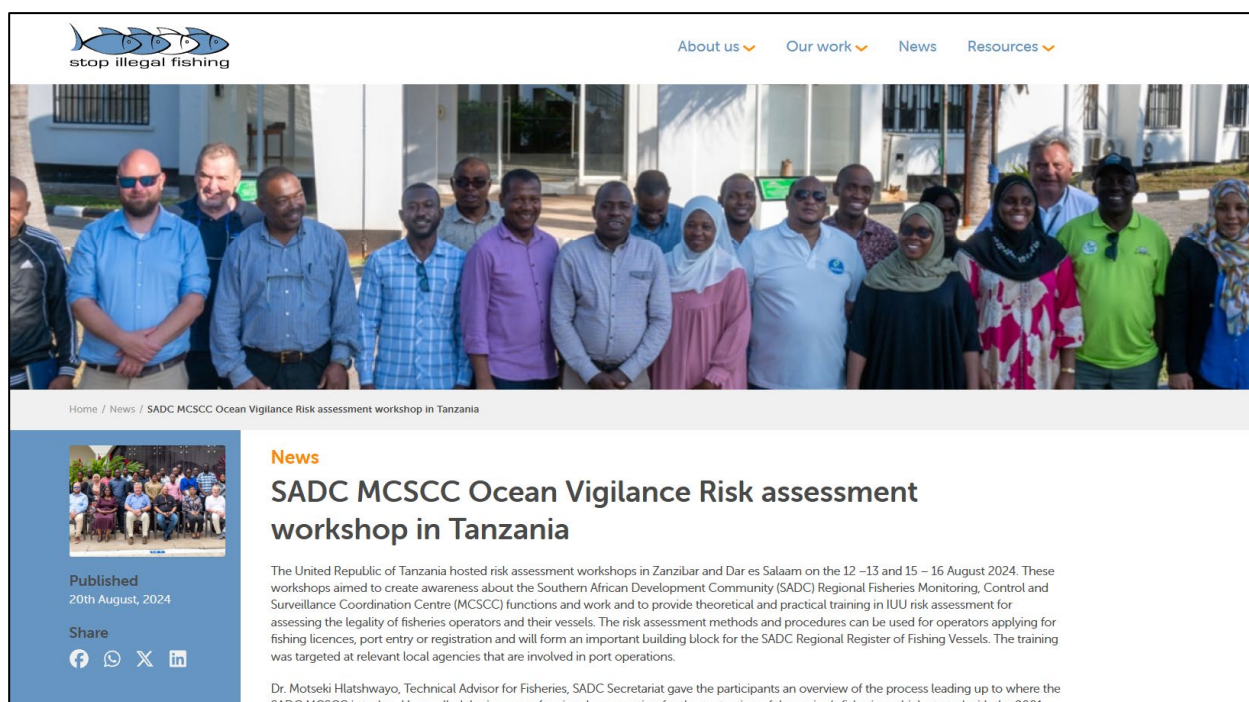


3.5 Oceans Vigilance support to the SADC MCSCC

In the second quarter of 2023, SIF launched the Oceans Vigilance project, a significant initiative designed to reduce illegal fishing in the SADC region through a stronger regional policy commitment to minimum transparency standards, a big part of it being the establishment of a comprehensive RRFV. This is a three-year project (May 2023 to April 2026), funded by an Oceans 5 grant, with SIF leading its implementation on behalf of the MCSCC and SADC Member States.

Harmonisation of MCS across the region is instrumental to closing gaps for illegal operators in marine and inland fisheries, and the MCSCC is a mechanism to support this initiative. Throughout 2024, the project has supported the establishment of the SADC MCSCC BoD and facilitated their first two meetings. To facilitate the SADC wide policy, change to align to the Global Coalition for Fisheries Transparency, the project has also developed policy briefs for the BoD in that emphasise transparency and contribute to the establishment of a SADC RRFV framework. The SADC RRFV is poised to be one of the most important MCS tools within the region, increase compliance, transparency, and therefore, reducing opportunities for corruption. To further support the MCSCC in harmonising MCS standards across the region, SIF has begun preparing a draft inspection Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), informed by our comprehensive risk assessment analysis. The findings from these assessments will be integrated in the SOPs, ensuring that identified risk patterns receive the necessary attention for future policy discussions. Also, through the project, banners on the MCSCC were designed and printed in three languages and displayed during the 2024 SADC MCSCC meetings.

Notably, the United Republic of Tanzania hosted risk assessment workshops in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam on 12 – 13 August and 15 – 16 August. These workshops aimed to enhance understanding of SADC Regional Fisheries MCSCC and to provide both theoretical and practical training in assessing the legality of fisheries operators and their vessels, particularly in relation to IUU fishing. The training specifically targeted relevant local agencies involved in port operations to ensure effective implementation and compliance. During these trainings, Dr. Hlatshwayo expressed gratitude for the Oceans Vigilance project, SIF and TMT for supporting these workshops that are helping Member States such as Tanzania to engage more effectively with the MCSCC.



stop illegal fishing

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SADC MCSCC Ocean Vigilance Risk assessment workshop in Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania hosted risk assessment workshops in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam on the 12 –13 and 15 – 16 August 2024. These workshops aimed to create awareness about the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) functions and work and to provide theoretical and practical training in IUU risk assessment for assessing the legality of fisheries operators and their vessels. The risk assessment methods and procedures can be used for operators applying for fishing licences, port entry or registration and will form an important building block for the SADC Regional Register of Fishing Vessels. The training was targeted at relevant local agencies that are involved in port operations.

Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo, Technical Advisor for Fisheries, SADC Secretariat gave the participants an overview of the process leading up to where the SADC MCSCC is today. He recalled the journey of regional cooperation for the protection of the region's fisheries, which started with the 2001

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3.6 A focus on the Three Treaties

SIF has an established track record in the discussions and implementation of the joined-up approach to implementing fisheries, maritime and labour international treaties including through our GIZ/BMZ-funded project aimed at implementing the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in the African ports of Ghana, Mozambique, and Madagascar from 2018 to 2021 and by developing two policy briefs focusing on Safe Fisheries and PSM in the SADC. Most recently, we have been involved in an FAO-funded project supporting the development of a strategy for implementing the PSMA and related instruments in Madagascar which ended in 2024.

Building on this foundation, SIF participated in a groundbreaking three-day workshop held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 16 – 18 April 2024. This workshop was designed to foster an integrated approach to the three key international treaties concerning legal, safe, and fair fisheries: FAO's Agreement on PSMA, the International Maritime Organization's 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), and the International Labor Organization's Work in Fishing Convention No. 188. Collectively referred to as the Three Treaties, this workshop marked a first for the SADC region, paving the way for knowledge sharing and best practices that can benefit other countries.



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News

South Africa works to implement legal, safe and fair fisheries

A three-day workshop was held in South Africa, Cape Town on the 16-18 April 2024 to support an integrated approach to three key international treaties related to legal, safe and fair fisheries: the FAO's Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), the International Maritime

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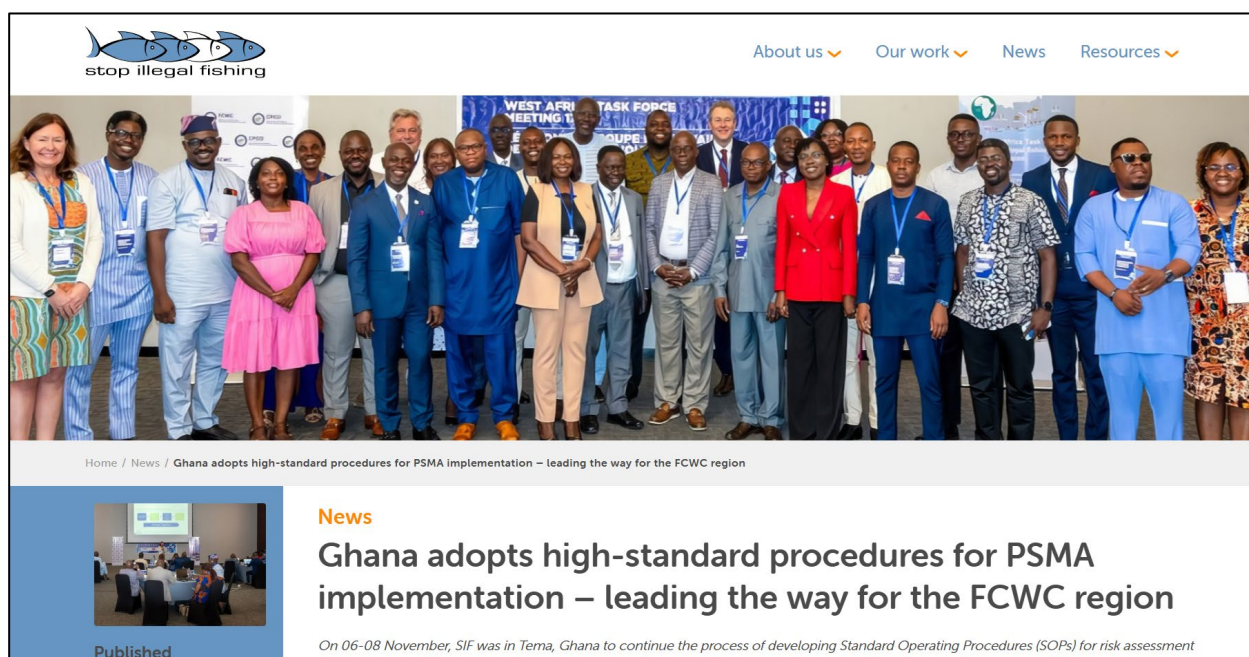
4 Core activities – West Africa

As part of the Technical Team, SIF is committed to supporting the Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and its Member States through the West Africa Task Force (WATF), which focuses specifically on the West African region. This initiative marks the third phase of the Norad-funded project which began in 2014, which will run from January 2024 to December 2026.

4.1 The West Africa Task Force

On 6 – 10 May 2024, the FCWC held a workshop in Ghana for WATF members. This workshop focused on refining the decision-making processes for Advanced Requests for Entry to Port (AREP) as part of the implementation of PSMA, and Ghana's PSMA SOPs were established. The workshop also emphasised the importance of risk assessments in determining whether to inspect a fishing vessel and prioritising inspections based on identified risk areas. SIF representatives Mr. Per Erik Bergh and Mr. JD Kotze facilitated the workshop and noted significant improvements among Ghanaian officials in their practical application of PSMA standards. Mr. Per Erik Bergh stated, "The Ghanaian officials working to implement the PSMA have steadily increased their skills, knowledge and practical application over the last years and now have developed a systematic approach to implementing risk assessment and conducting inspections to validate the risk assessments."

On 12 – 14 June 2024, the Sixteenth Task Force meeting was held in Monrovia, Liberia. This meeting brought together Fisheries Directors and Heads of MCS from FCWC Member States to advance regional cooperation against IUU fishing through the RMCSC. Opened by Ms Emma Metieh-Glassco of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), the meeting stressed the need for cohesive strategies and uniform policies. Significant progress was noted in harmonising MCS practices, testing regional SOPs, risk assessments, inspections, and conservation measures such as closed fishing seasons. A major focus was establishing a Regional Record of Authorized Fishing Vessels (RRAFV), with discussions on its scope and shared responsibilities. Although further discussion is needed, the register is seen as a means to promote sustainability and generate revenue from vessel fees. SIF remains committed to supporting sustainable fisheries management in West Africa.



stop illegal fishing

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News

Ghana adopts high-standard procedures for PSMA implementation – leading the way for the FCWC region

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On 06-08 November, SIF was in Tema, Ghana to continue the process of developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for risk assessment and inspection of fishing vessels. As part of technical support to the WATF, SIF has been working with Ghana's MCS officials since 2022, providing

On 6 – 8 November 2024, Tema, Ghana, SIF conducted a workshop aimed at refining SOPs for risk assessment and inspection of fishing vessels. This workshop culminated in the successful validation of two key SOPs, which will now be integrated into their MCS toolkit. Ghana's commitment to developing SOPs for the implementation of Port State Measures has been a priority as it underscores its efforts to implement standards and mechanisms to restrict access to its ports for IUU-associated vessels. The upcoming phase will focus on the integration of these procedures into the routine operations of all MCS officers. It is our hope that the experience gained in Ghana will serve as a replicable model for the region, furthering the vision of collaborative action against IUU fishing championed by the FCWC Ministers when establishing the RMCSC.

On 11 – 12 December 2024, the Advisory and Consulting Committee (ACC) session of the FCWC was held in Monrovia, in advance of the 15th FCWC Conference of Ministers. This session united key representatives from FCWC's three main bodies to boost regional fisheries cooperation. The session opened with a welcome from FCWC Secretary Dr Gaston Antoine Djihint, followed by remarks from Ghana's Fisheries Commission Executive Director and ACC Chair Fred Antwi-Boadu, who highlighted the need for regional collaboration for sustainable fisheries and urged the implementation of a proposed closed fishing season. Ms Sandy Davies then presented the RRAFFV roadmap for 2025–2026, designed to create a comprehensive system for sharing information on authorised fishing vessels and restricting IUU fishing. The success of this initiative depends on the political commitment of Member States and the effective role of the Conference of Ministers.



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FCWC 15th Conference of Ministers – A Milestone for Regional Fisheries Cooperation

On the 11-12 December 2024 at Monrovia, Liberia the Advisory and Consulting Committee (ACC) session of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) took place preceding the 15th FCWC Conference of Ministers. This important session brought together key figures from the FCWC's three main organs to push forward regional fisheries cooperation. The ACC, which includes the heads of national fisheries administrations or their representatives, plays a crucial role in overseeing the Secretariat's activities, offering technical and scientific advice to the Conference of Ministers, and guiding the Secretary-General on the implementation of decisions made.

The conference kicked off with a welcome address from FCWC Secretary Dr. Gaston Antoine Djihint. This was followed by remarks from the Executive Director of Ghana's Fisheries Commission and current ACC Chairperson, Director Fred Antwi-Boadu. He emphasized the importance of

5 SIF in the international arena

SIF continues to increase its efforts in leading the African campaign against IUU fishing. Recognising that safeguarding our oceans requires significant policy change, SIF plays a crucial role in supporting international processes to enhance the representation of African States in important fisheries discussions.

5.1 Our Ocean 2024 – A Commitment to Action

At the ‘Our Ocean 2024’ conference held in Athens, Greece, SIF announced its third commitment aimed at combating the challenges posed by IUU fishing and reinforcing maritime security within the SADC region. The Our Ocean Conference, since its inception in 2014, has become an important forum for stakeholders to address environmental issues related to ocean health, including marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, and climate change.

SIF’s latest commitment focuses on collaborating with the SADC MCSCC to implement a RRFV by 2026. This register is expected to improve compliance and strengthen effectiveness in monitoring and enforcement throughout the region. It will establish harmonised minimum standards that foreign fishing vessels must meet to operate in the region, with criteria such as: not be listed on a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) IUU vessel list, not have been issued any INTERPOL alert, possess a flag State authorisation, and have an official International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number. Also, this register will contribute to the sustainability of the MCSCC by generating income, thus ensuring its long-term viability.

SIF’s commitment to combat IUU fishing builds upon two previous successful initiatives. The first, made at the 2017 Our Ocean Conference in Malta, involved launching a Vigilance program in the Western Indian Ocean on behalf of the FISH-i Africa Task Force. This initiative assessed the legality of industrial fishing vessels licensed by FISH-i Member States—including Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, and Tanzania—covering approximately 500 vessels and culminating in success in 2022. SIF’s second commitment, made in 2018 at the Our Ocean Conference in Bali, focused on supporting the implementation of port State measures across Africa. Through collaboration with the FAO Global Capacity Development Programme for the PSMA, SIF started a four-year capacity-building project. This program aimed to enhance the skills necessary to identify, inspect, and investigate vessels engaged in IUU fishing across ten African ports.

As SIF moves forward with its commitments and initiatives, we remain dedicated to strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing transparency, and promoting sustainable fisheries management practices in Africa. SIF will continue to strive for the protection of our ocean resources and the livelihoods dependent upon them.



SIF announces commitment to work with the SADC MCSCC to develop the SADC Regional Register of Fishing Vessels by 2026.

19th April, 2024

5.2 COFI 36 – continuing to grow the African Voice

In 2024, SIF, alongside various African Member States, participated in the 36th FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meeting as part of their commitment to address IUU fishing across the continent. Convened by the FAO, this biannual meeting brought together global stakeholders to tackle urgent fisheries management issues.

During the session focused on combating IUU fishing, represented by Ms. Sandy Davies and Ms. Maya Bergh, SIF highlighted its collaborative efforts with African governments and international organisations over the last two decades. Ms. Bergh noted that SIF has played a crucial role in establishing Regional MCS Centres, particularly the SADC Centre in Mozambique and the FCWC Centre in Ghana. She explained that these Centres are crucial for harmonising operational procedures among countries, enhancing transparency, combating corruption, and providing solid evidence to inform policy changes. SIF urged COFI Member States and the FAO to align their initiatives with the African Regional MCS Centres, emphasising that “by working together, we can provide meaningful support to combat IUU fishing and ensure sustainable fisheries management.”

The COFI meeting concluded with a strengthened commitment to international collaboration and capacity building, which are necessary for the fight against IUU fishing. As the fight for our oceans continues, SIF remains dedicated to advocating for enhanced regional coordination and greater transparency in African fisheries governance.



Stop Illegal Fishing Advocates for Regional Cooperation at COFI 36

18th July, 2024

5.3 Review of the FAO IPOA-Capacity

The FAO is reviewing the status of implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) which was endorsed by the COFI in 1999. SIF has been engaged to take a lead on this project. This review will enable the FAO to undertake a global assessment of the status of implementation of the FAO IPOA-Capacity, highlighting examples of successes and best practices and providing recommendations for consideration at the Second Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. SIF will be authoring an FAO Technical Paper based on this review which will be published in 2025 and available for the sub-committee.

The IPOA-Capacity requires that Member States assess and monitor their fishing capacity. This involves identifying fisheries and fleets that need urgent measures and maintaining records of fishing vessels; developing National Plans of Action and policies to manage fishing capacity (NPOA-Capacity); and eliminating factors contributing to excessive fishing capacity. The issue of fishing capacity is rooted in and linked to various challenges; therefore, efforts to advance the implementation of the IPOA-capacity should be approached holistically. It is important to get an understanding of national strategies and capacity for both on the financial and human resources to implement the IPOA-Capacity, and external factors influencing fishing capacity. SIF was involved in this project throughout 2024 and is still ongoing.

6 Awareness material

In 2024, SIF concentrated primarily on updating our website which is due to be launched in March 2025 and providing updates on the website and on X.

Stop Illegal Fishing · 22/11/24 ...

Congratulations Zimbabwe 🇿🇼 for signing the @sadcmscc Charter! "By appending signatures, we express our full commitment to the sustainable development of the #fisheries industry for the benefit of present & future generations" @MoLAFWRD_Zim Minister Masuka



NEW: Zimbabwe signs Sado Fisheries Charter,...

From sundaymail.co.zw

Stop Illegal Fishing · 14/11/24 ...

The WATF takes another major step forward in terms of regional cooperation against #IUUfishing, with recommendations on possible criteria & conditions for establishing a @FCWC_CPCO Regional Record of Authorized Fishing Vessels (#RRAFV) – voicing the #transparency the region wants



Stop Illegal Fishing · 09/11/24 ...

Well done Ghana 🇬🇭 for finalising Standard Operating Procedures (#SOPs) for risk assessments and inspections of #fishing vessels – the result of multiple consultations and testing on the field. A great model for the @FCWC_CPCO and regional fight against #IUUfishing



Stop Illegal Fishing · 24/10/24 ...

We enjoyed the lively discussions with Luanda's #fisheries officers yesterday – focussed on practical case studies and on how to make the most of existing tools to assess risks of #fishing vessels. Definitely exciting to be a #fisheries inspector in Angola 🇳🇬 @sadcmscc @SADC_News



Stop Illegal Fishing · 07/11/24 ...

"#Compliance has increased massively since we started conducted systematic risk assessments & inspections of #fishing vessels coming to our port" – a visible result of Tema's 🇬🇭 #fisheries officers' commitment to build their #MCS capacity, that vessel operators have noticed too.



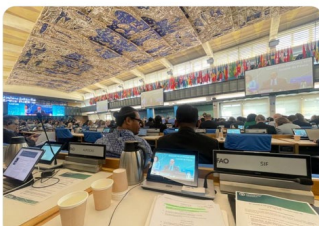
Stop Illegal Fishing... · 29/09/24 ...

"We're here to combat #IUUfishing & ensure sustainable fisheries – for increased benefits of our member countries. For this, we need more commitment from SADC Member States through the #MCSCC, and the Board of Directors must lead the way", Domingos Gove, at 1st MCSCC BoD meeting.



Stop Illegal Fishing · 08/07/24 ...

COFI opens with statements reiterating the need for holistic approaches to #fisheries management reflecting the CCRF as the fundament to achieve SDGs. 🇳🇬 Minister highlighted the importance of SSF to achieving the multiple benefits of fisheries, especially for vulnerable people.



Stop Illegal Fishing... · 09/05/24 ...

Six months ago, we developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on conducting risk assessments & inspections with Tema's #fisheries officers - and we are now testing and improving them to fit their work practices. A key #MCS tool that will be beneficial for all FCWC countries!



Stop Illegal Fishing · 17/04/24 ...

Proud to announce our commitment for #OurOcean, shared with the MCSCC "to implement a Regional Register of Fishing Vessels". This will include the requirement to meet minimum harmonized transparency standards — vessels not meeting these standards being denied access to the region



7 Executive Committee

The SIF Executive Committee consists of up to eight members who are elected during the Annual General Meeting. The committee is responsible for overseeing the Society's activities and the Secretariat, and reviewing and approving work plans, reports, and budgets. They have the authority to create, amend, or repeal the Society's by-laws and regulations, as well as to resolve any disputes or issues that may arise.

Our 2024 Executive Committee were:

- Chairperson – Mark Ssemakula
- Vice-Chairperson – Nicholas Ntheketha
- Vice-Chairperson – Seraphin Dedi
- Secretary – Per Erik Bergh
- Vice-Secretary – Johannes Kotze
- Treasurer – Sandy Davies
- Executive Committee Member – Steven Ambabi
- Executive Committee Member – Hosea Mbilinyi



Executive Committee

 Mark Ssemakula Chairperson	 Dedi Seraphin Vice Chair	 Nicholas Ntheketha Vice Chair	 Per Erik Bergh Secretary
 Sandy Davies Treasurer	 Steven Ambabi Executive Committee Member	 Hosea Mbilinyi Executive Committee Member	