



***Today, one in four fish caught in Africa is caught illegally - Stop Illegal Fishing is working to change this.***

**Stop Illegal Fishing** is tasked by African Governments to champion efforts to end the devastating impacts of illegal fishing across Africa.

**Stop Illegal Fishing** started work in 2007, originally to support southern African countries in the fight against illegal fishing, in 2009 it expanded to become a pan-African Working Group to combat illegal fishing under the auspices of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency as part of the Partnership for African Fisheries, an initiative funded by the UK government's Department for International Development. In 2013, in addition to being the NEPAD's Working Group it gained status as a non-profit organisation to strengthen its ability to facilitate stronger international partnerships.

**Stop Illegal Fishing** has been acknowledged as being effective in coordinating approaches, influencing policies, building capacity and providing tools and strategies required to tackle illegal fishing at national, regional and international levels. Partnerships with governments, regional and continental organisations, civil society, monitoring control and surveillance practitioners, NGOs, intergovernmental organisations and the fishing industry have put Stop Illegal Fishing in a unique position to facilitate actions against illegal fishing. Significant impacts include:

- Coordinating the **African voice** to influence international fishery policy processes such as the UN FAO's Committee on Fisheries.
- Facilitating **communication, awareness and advocacy** especially through the website [www.stopillegalfishing.org](http://www.stopillegalfishing.org) which is the recognised go-to-place for breaking news and information related to illegal fishing in Africa; it showcases good work, encourages cooperation and increases transparency.
- Promoting and providing enhanced fisheries **information and intelligence exchange** through the FISH-i Africa Task Force in Southeast Africa to foster actions against illegal operators.
- Developing and testing **tools to combat illegal fishing**, such as capacity needs assessment methodology to implement port State measures; publicising a consolidated illegal fishing vessel list; and developing tools to assist operational officers.
- Providing **evidence based advice** for policy reform and improved decision-making through the series of case studies that provide practical lessons and advice to policy- and decision-makers.
- **Enhancing capacity** of national monitoring, control and surveillance practitioners through training workshops and events organised with international and regional partners, including recent events in Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and South Africa for participants from over 30 African countries.
- Supporting a **network of professionals**, experts and champions to lead the African campaign against illegal fishing. This includes strengthening cooperation between, and offering technical support to African governments and international partners resulting in legal and administrative actions against more than 50 vessels fishing illegally in Africa, with sanctions of more than seven million US dollars being paid in fines or settlements.

In summary, Stop Illegal Fishing is making a major difference and playing a unique and vital role in Africa's efforts to overcome illegal fishing, in the words of one of Africa's Ministers, the honourable Peter Sinon, Minister of Natural Resources, Seychelles.

***"As a well-established champion in the fight against illegal fishing, Stop Illegal Fishing is able to facilitate cooperation between governments, regional bodies, and local communities, as they struggle to stay one step ahead of illegal fishers on the continent."***