



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



LEVERAGE AND FORCE MULTIPLIERS: Harnessing the power of people

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GEFTW Auckland March 2016



Co-implemented by

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Funded by
European
Union

THE MULTI-AGENCY TASK TEAM (MATT)

Special Organized Environmental Crime Investigation Unit
Ministry of Home Affairs, Tanzania



BRIEF BACKGROUND ON BLAST-FISHING

- Known to occur in Tanzania from 1960's
- By 1980's and 1990's the practice was rampant
- The "TCZCDP" and Navy intervention, blast-fishing decreased until approximately 2004
- From 2005 until present, blast-fishing has become an epidemic
- Every fishing village along the entire coastline uses explosives to fish on shallow reefs and offshore
- Currently fisheries law enforcement is losing the battle against blast-fishing
- Move away from home made explosives to commercial explosives



DESTABILIZERS AFFECTING COASTAL MARINE RESOURCES



1. Population growth and dependence

- Population: 51 million
- Growth rate: 2.79%
- 25% dependent fisheries resources/trade
- Dar es Salaam population of 5 million
- Growth rate 5.1% (growth & urbanization)
- 70% considered below poverty line

2. Environmental uncertainties increasing

- Coral bleaching/Ocean Acidification
- El Nino – undue stress on system
- Climate change

3. Environmental degradation

- Continued overexploitation of fish resources
- Destructive fishing practices increasing
- Pollution

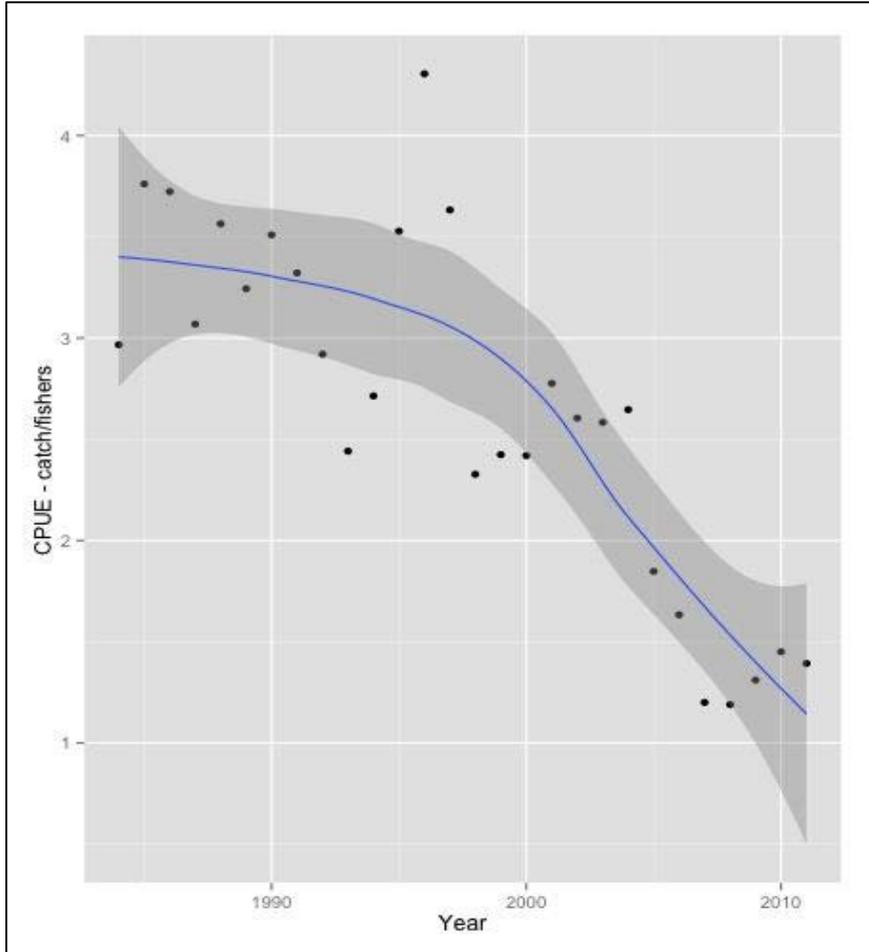
4. Fisheries law enforcement

- Ineffective
- Donor aid dependent



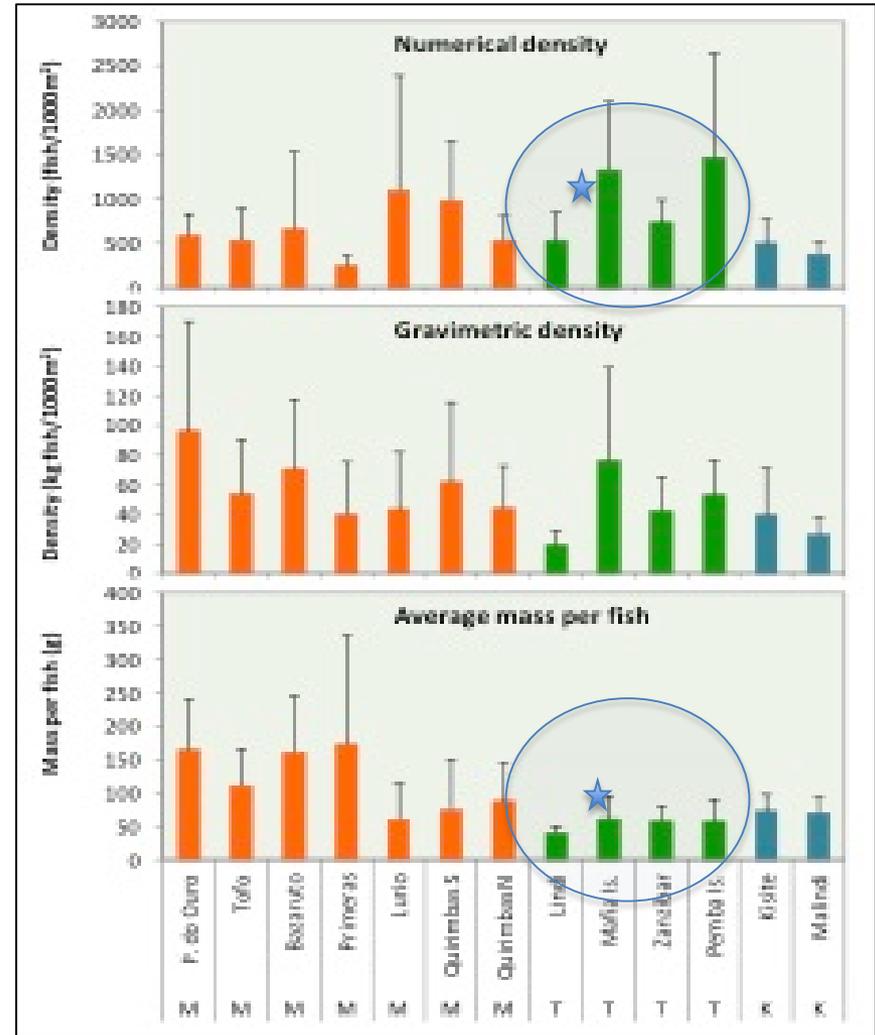
COASTAL FISHERIES SECTOR

Report United Nations University



Standardized CPUE per fishermen during years when Frame Surveys were conducted

Moving Sushi expedition data



Tanzania had average fish mass of 56 grams, less than half of the neighboring Kenya and Mozambique

INCREASING DEPENDANCY ON FISH



**THE GREATER THE COMPETITION BETWEEN FISHERMEN
THE GREATER THE MOVE TOWARDS MORE EFFICIENT
FISHING GEARS**

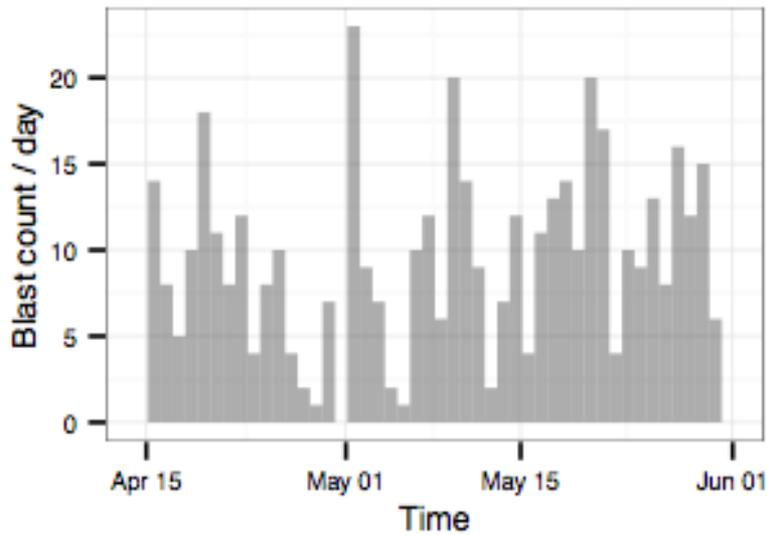




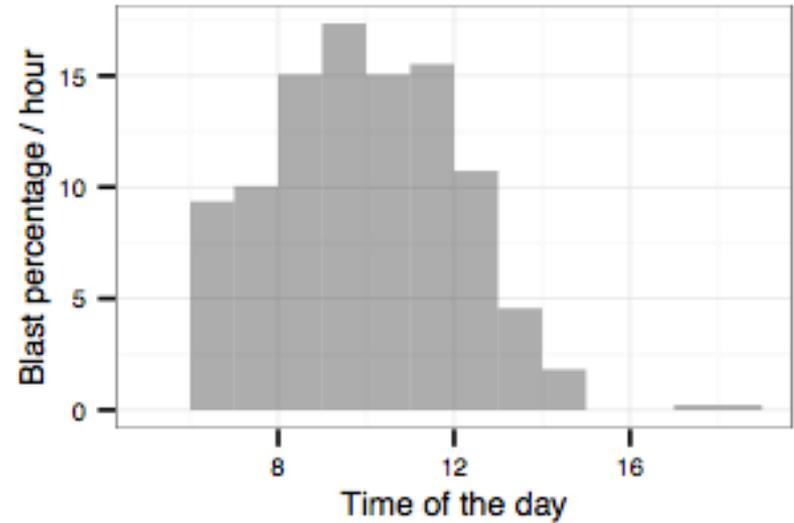
EXPLOSION FREQUENCY RECORDED (data provided by WWF)



DSG Ocean
Acoustic data logger



438 explosions over 46 day period in two locations close to Dar es Salaam



Time of day explosions are recorded

PRE-CONDITIONS PERPETUATING BLAST-FISHING

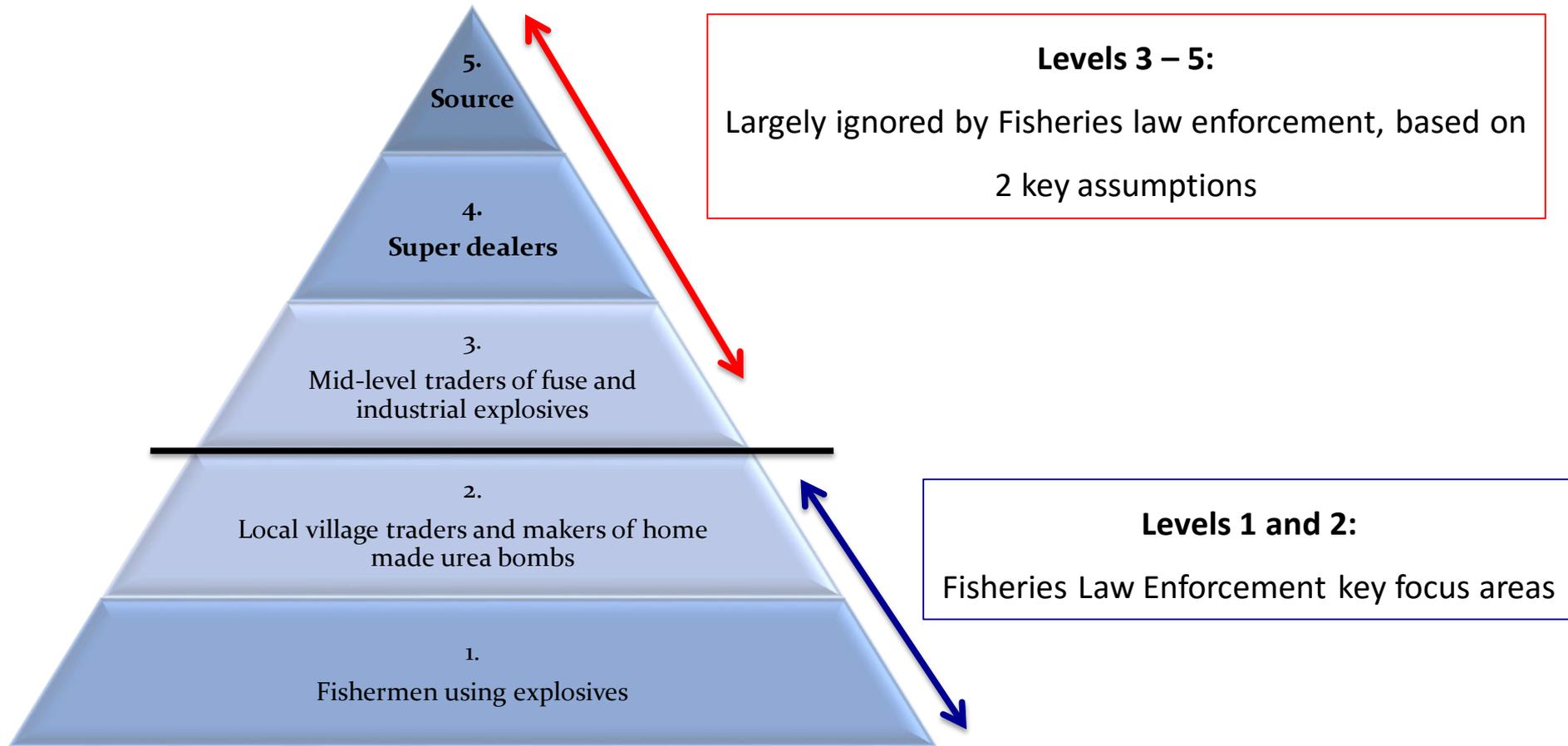
- Pre-established market for fish
- Pre-established market for explosives (mining sector)
- Pre-established market in illicit trade of commodities/criminal networks
- Fisheries compliance & management weak and ineffective
- Few prosecution successes
- Current legal framework not sufficient (outdated)
 - Fisheries ACT
 - Explosives ACT of 1963
- Greater demand for fish with increasing competition (destructive fishing)
- Social political drivers (poverty, unemployment)

***BLAST FISHING HAS BECOME AN ORGANIZED CRIME AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF
TANZANIA.***



***IT THREATENS NOT ONLY FOOD SECURITY, BUT ALSO UNDERMINES THE BIOLOGICAL
INTEGRITY OF THE CORAL REEF, A LIFELINE TO A GROWING POOR AND DEPENDANT
POULATION.***

IDENTIFYING THE CRIMINAL STRUCTURE OF BLAST-FISHING



2 KEY ASSUMPTIONS

1. Local fishers were constructing the explosives themselves
2. The market for blast-fishing was in the fish trade business

FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT MODUS OPERANDI TO COMBAT BLAST-FISHING

Information Gathering and Verification

- No information database
- No informer network operating
- No information sharing between agencies
- Only information pertaining to Level 1 and 2
- Information often misleading and confused

Logistics planning and preparation

- Equipment in a deplorable state
- Planning not professional
- The further the field station from Dar es Salaam the less organized
- Financially dependent on AID money
- Unorganized
- Corruption (information leakages)

MCS PATROLS

Visible policing patrols



RESULTS: NON-QUANTATATIVE

- Blast-fishermen would not go to sea as they knew a patrol was happening
- Blast-fishing syndicates have observation points/informants on law enforcement movements
- Very expensive (fuel, per diems etc.)
- No financing from Fisheries



Target specific operations

PROSECUTION BASED INVESTIGATIONS

- Did not happen
- Strategic operations only started when SmartFish insisted the approach
- Results, arrests made, cases not prosecuted
- Cost effective
- No inter-agency collaboration

RESTRUCTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO COMBAT BLAST-FISHING

RATIFICATION OF THE MULTI-AGENCY TASK TEAM (MATT)

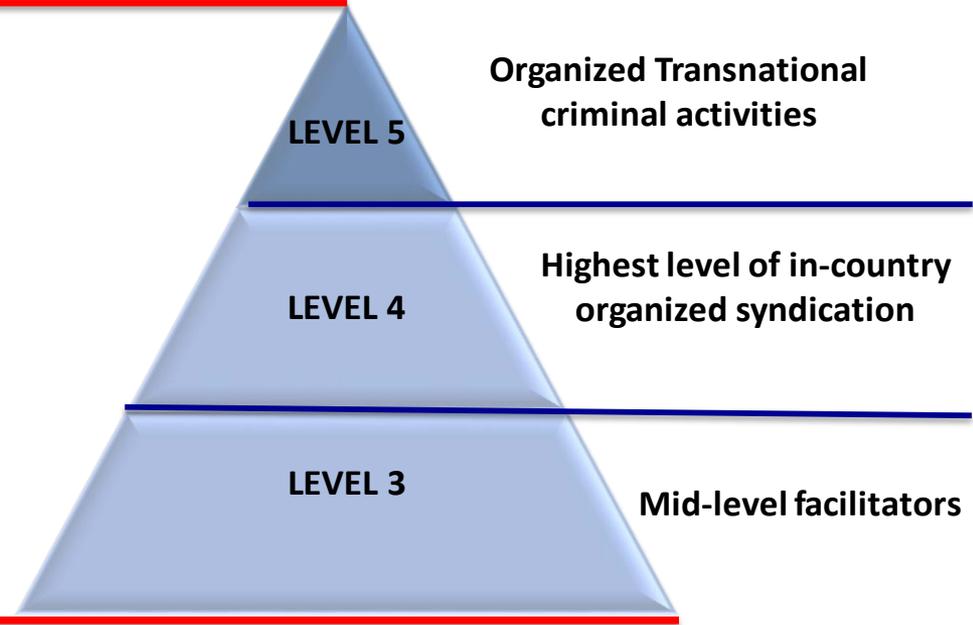
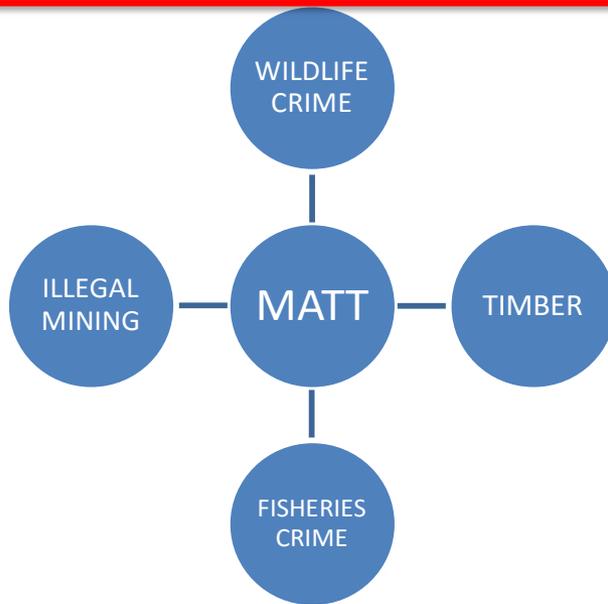
LEAD BY MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

CORE MINISTERIES FORMING THE MATT

- TANZANIA INTELLIGENCE SECURITY SERVICES
- MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT
- MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERALS
- MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- TANZANIAN POLICE FORCE



MATT OPERATIONAL STRATEGY (PROJECT BASED)

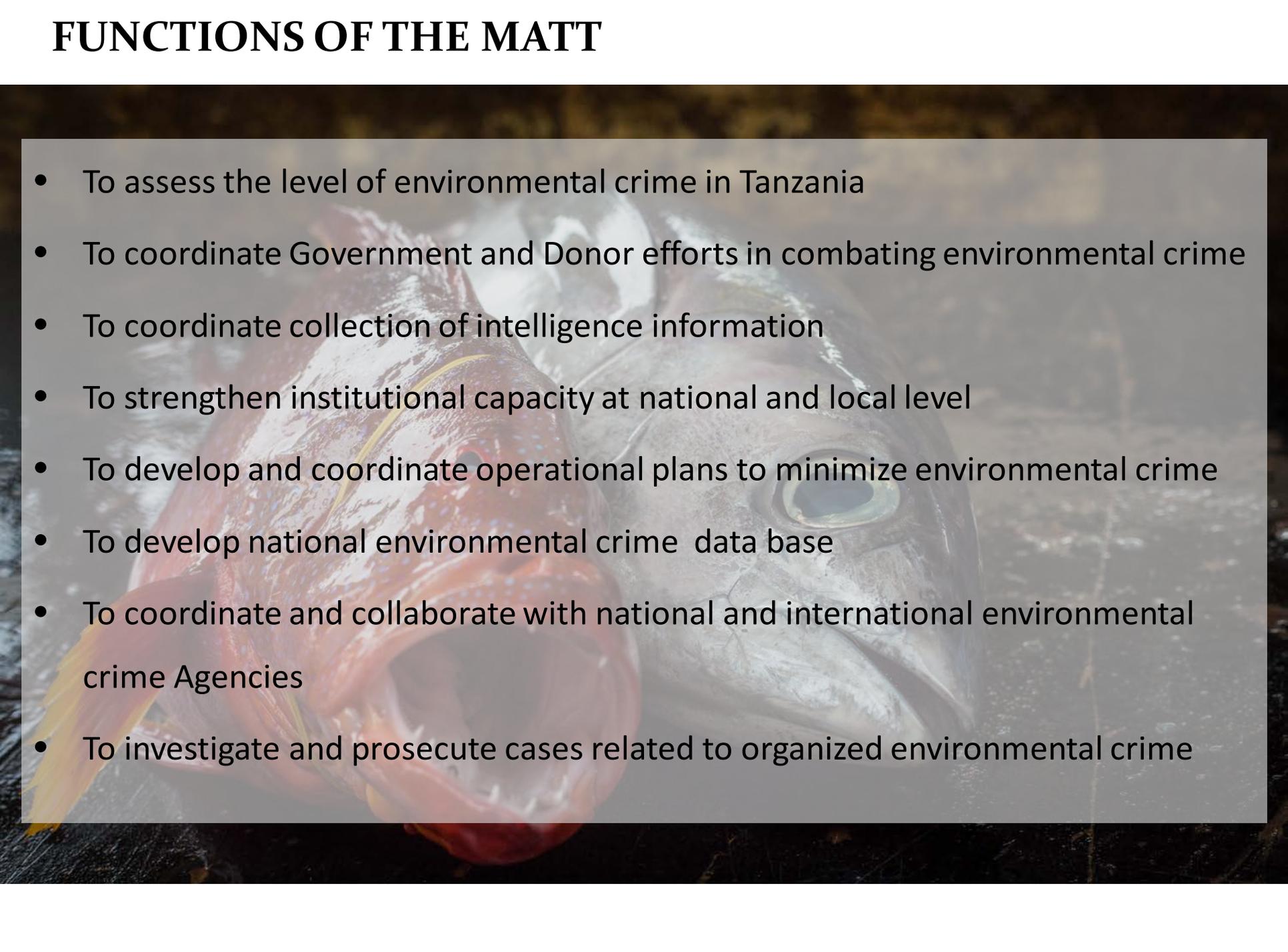


AGENCY SPECIFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES (MCS PATROLS, RANGER PATROLS)

- Visible policing, patrols, rangers must continue
- Source of information for the MATT
- Link to what is happening on the ground

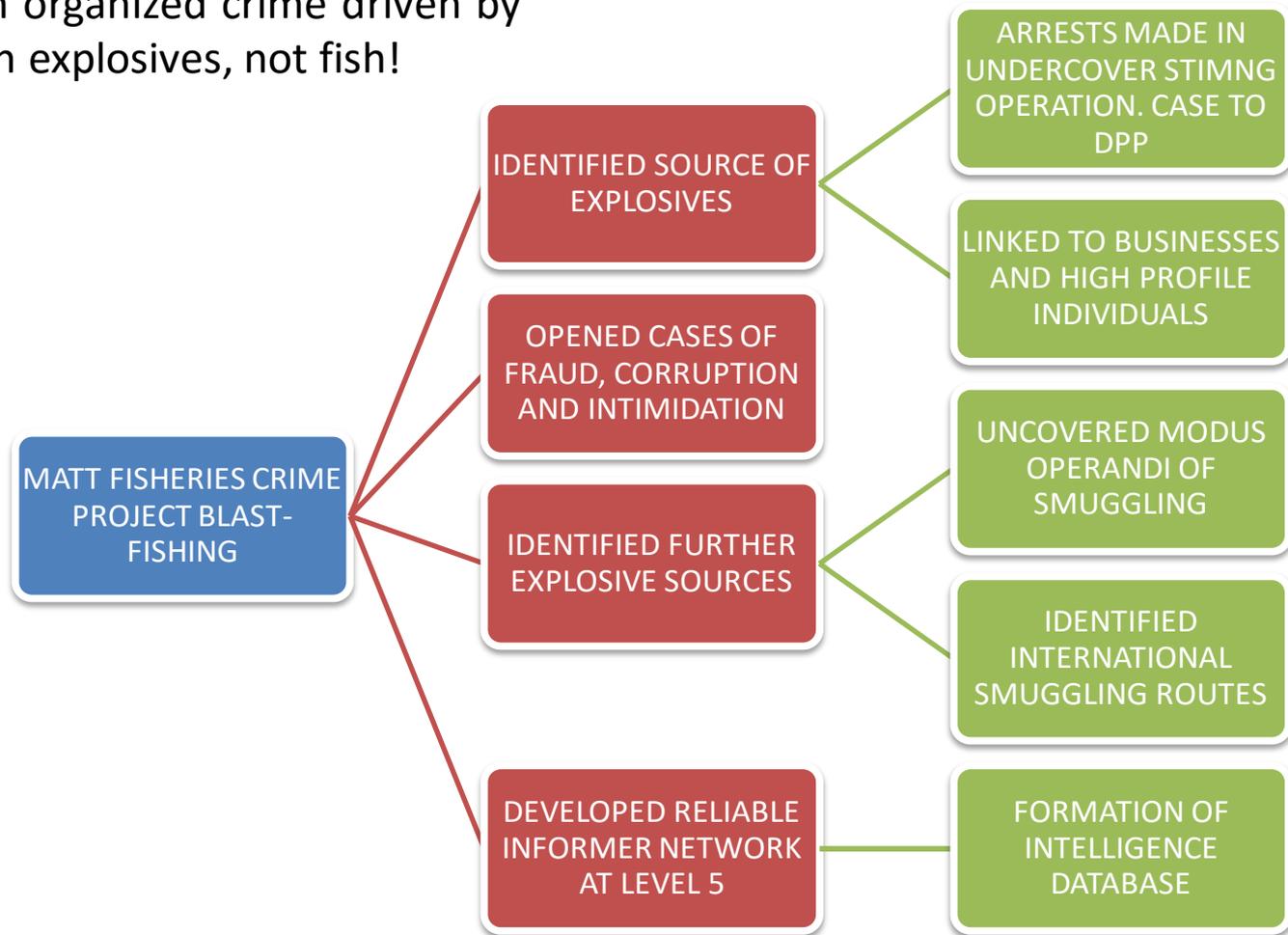


FUNCTIONS OF THE MATT

- 
- A photograph of two fish, one red and one silver, lying on a dark, textured surface. The red fish is on the left, with its mouth open, showing its teeth. The silver fish is on the right, with its mouth closed. The background is dark and out of focus.
- To assess the level of environmental crime in Tanzania
 - To coordinate Government and Donor efforts in combating environmental crime
 - To coordinate collection of intelligence information
 - To strengthen institutional capacity at national and local level
 - To develop and coordinate operational plans to minimize environmental crime
 - To develop national environmental crime data base
 - To coordinate and collaborate with national and international environmental crime Agencies
 - To investigate and prosecute cases related to organized environmental crime

MATT OPERATIONAL SUCCESS FOR FISHERIES CRIME

Blast-fishing is an organized crime driven by the illegal trade in explosives, not fish!



OPERATIONAL SUCCESS WAS ATCHIEVED WITH THE FOLLOWING ASSETS

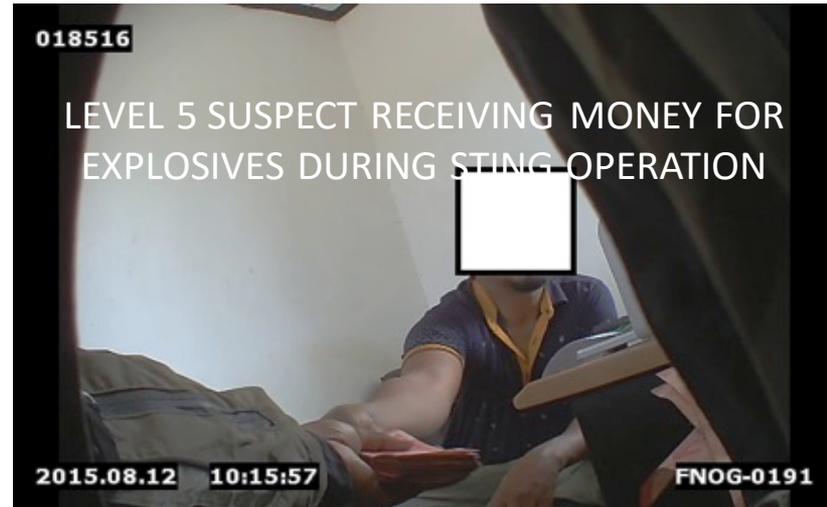
- CORE TEAM OF 5 MATT MEMBERS AND TWO ADVISORS
- PROCESS TOOK 4 MONTHS (*from MATT ratification in June*)
- TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE APPROXIMATELY EURO 25 000



STRATEGIC SEA PATROLS AND RAIDS



SEARCHED DOWN THE MINES AND LINKED SPECIFIC TARGETS AS THE SOURCE OF ILLEGAL EXPLOSIVES



018516

LEVEL 5 SUSPECT RECEIVING MONEY FOR EXPLOSIVES DURING STING OPERATION

2015.08.12 10:15:57

FNOG-0191



010999

SUSPECT PLACING EXPLOSIVES IN UNDERCOVER TEAMS VEHICLE

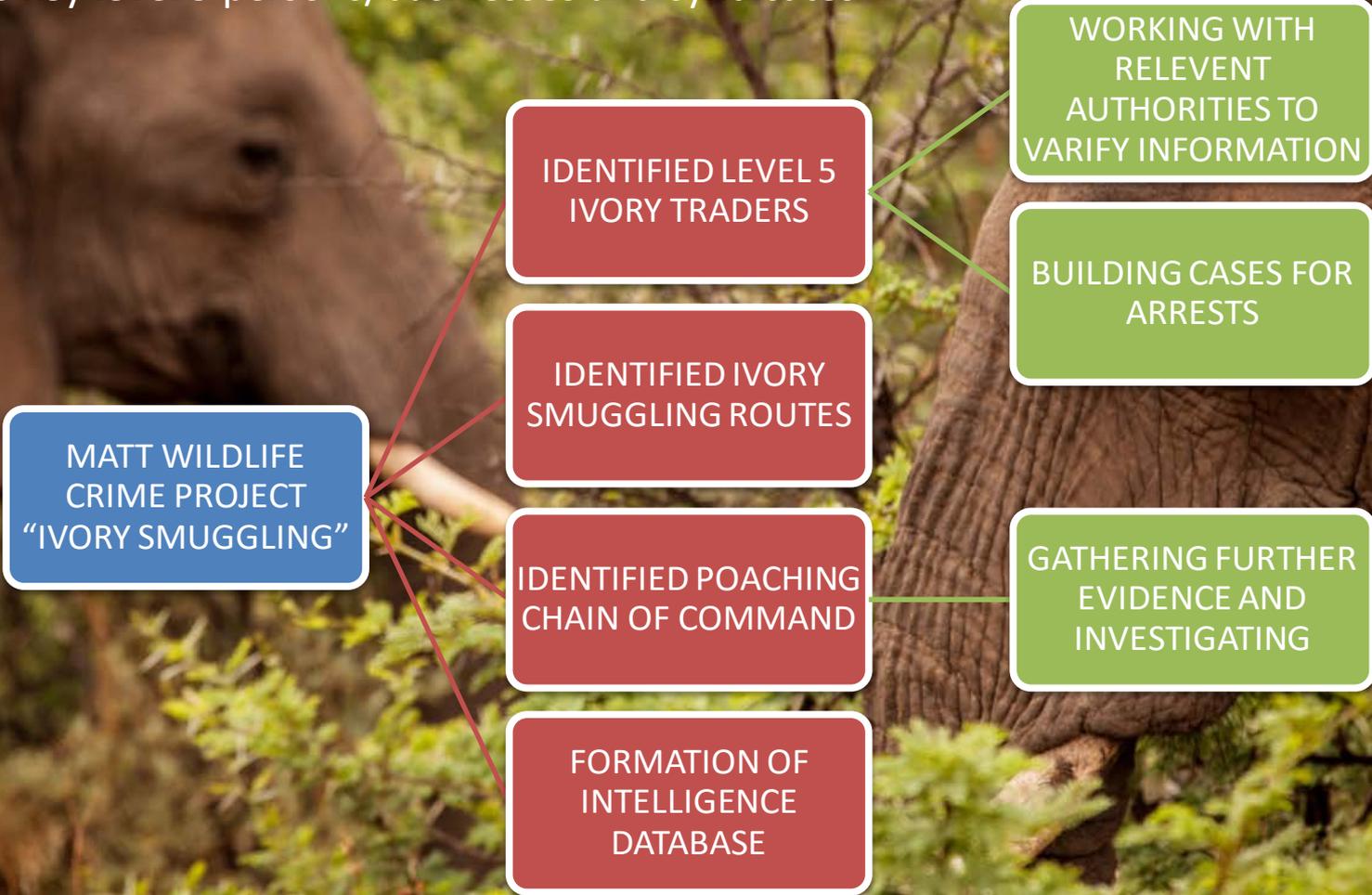
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666 EXPLOSIVE TUBES THAT CAN EXPLODE 26 TONS OF UREA EXPLOSIVES FOR FISHING PURPOSES!

MATT WILDLIFE CRIME PROJECT

MATT assists relevant authorities to investigate and prosecute key level 5 persons/businesses and syndicates



A group of men are sitting on a concrete pier or dock. In the foreground, there is a collection of fishing gear and supplies, including a blue net, several plastic water bottles, a green bag, a white bucket, a yellow rope, and a white buoy. In the background, the legs and feet of other people are visible, suggesting a busy waterfront area. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey box in the center of the image.

THE MATT IS A TANZANIAN SUCCESS STORY THAT AIMS TO WITHIN THE LAW DISMANTLE ORGANIZED ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME SYNDICATES BY WORKING AND SUPPORTING THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES ISOLATED IN THEIR CURRENT LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

JOINT OPERATIONAL TRAINING: Lake Victoria



The Fishery - Predominantly Nile perch

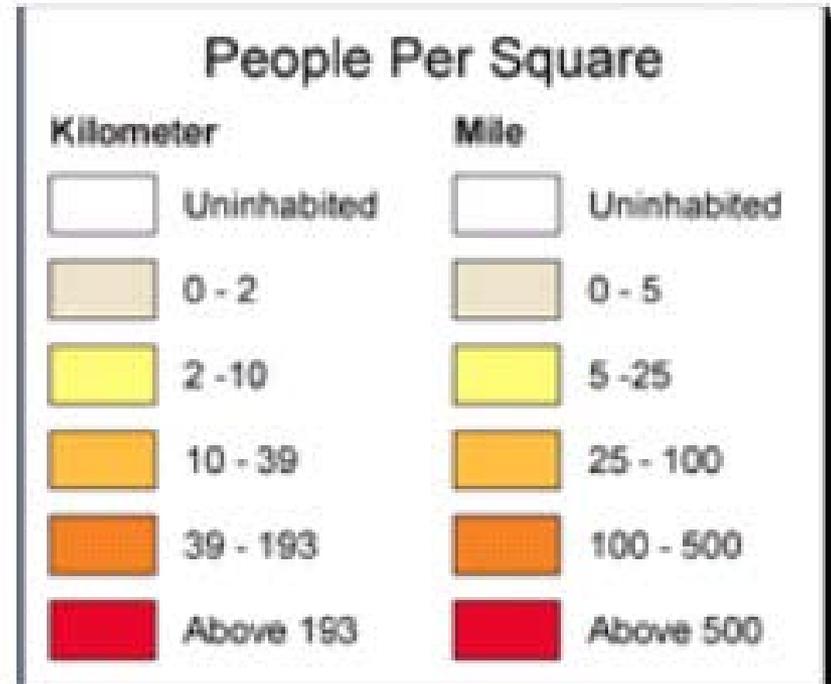
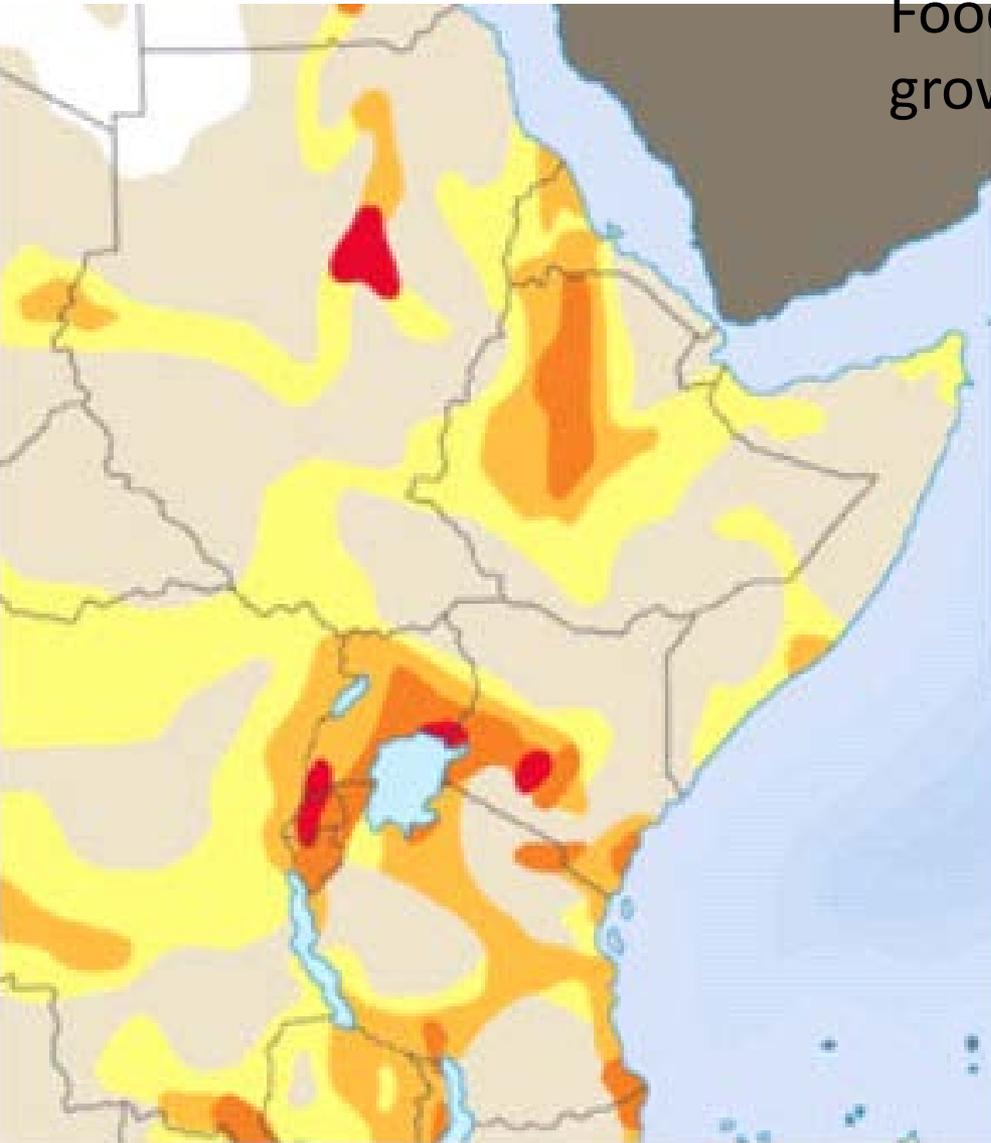
Fishery is worth USD 600 mil
Legal fishery is Export based
Illegal fishery in undersized fish
– Domestic and Regional trade

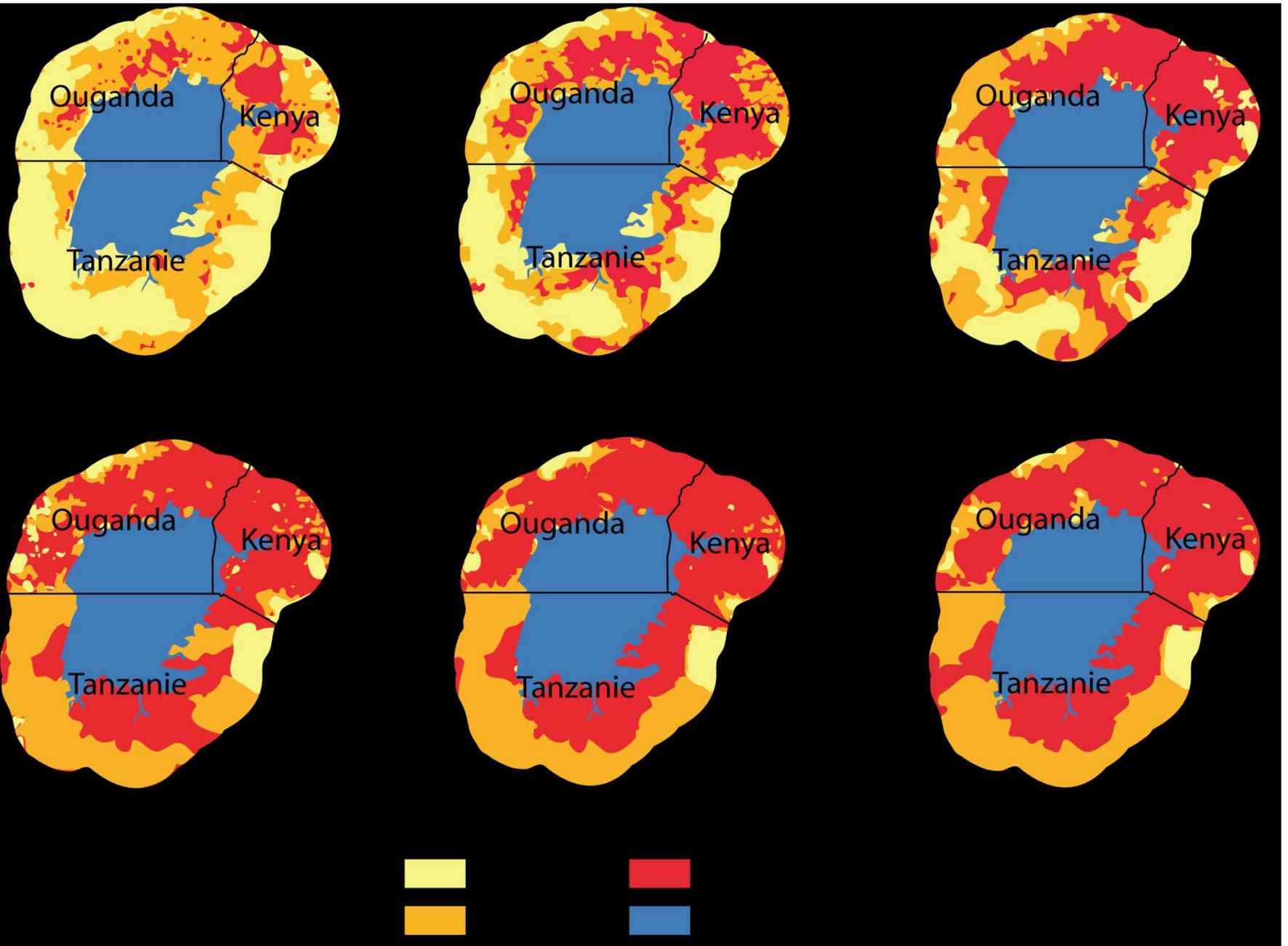


Illegal gear abundant



Food security and population growth





Equipment and budget

- No much of either



How to leverage the available enforcement resources?

- Determine the threat - overfishing
- Determine the impact - food security & economic deterioration
- Determine current response (to IUU) - capability is weak , uncoordinated, unplanned and logistically unsupported



Capacity building

- Planning (does not cost anything)
- Command and control
- Leadership
- Deployment
 - Surveillance & Appreciation
 - Time and task preparation
 - Deployment : Warning orders & Operation
- Logistics

[Actual cost - EU 3000/day > EU 1800/day. 14 days.
3 boats, 2 vehicles and 36 participants.

>> Target is EU 1000/day]



Outcomes

- Physical

- Confiscation of illegal gear (ave. 10M³/day)
- Disruption of illicit supply chain
- Stability for legal industry

- Psychological

- Capacity to undertake operations
- Planning and problems solving
- Logistics and maintenance



THANK YOU

