



Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT)

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT WORK OF AU-IBAR IN THE FIELD OF STRENGTHENING MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS) ACROSS THE CONTINENT



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Harnessing today without compromising tomorrow ...

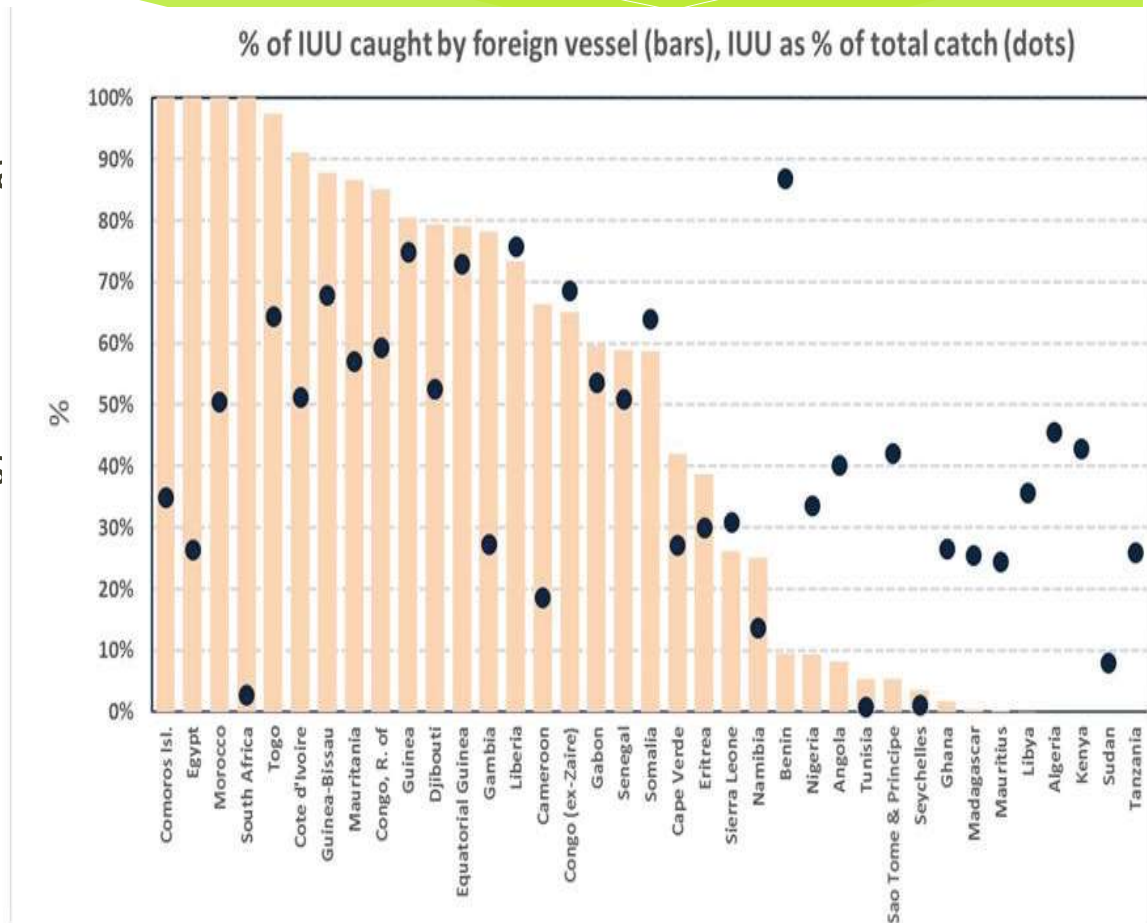


Key characteristics of IUU fishing in Africa



Key contributors to the level of IUU fishing in Africa are **distant water fleets (DWFs)** from developed nations and Asia.

The following figure shows which African states are particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing by **foreign fishing vessels**





Factors making Africa vulnerable to IUU fishing



- Weak governance
- Weak and ineffective MCS
- low penalties for IUU fishing crimes
- weak port inspections
- inadequate legal and justice systems
- absence of political will and necessary diplomatic action to facilitate regional cooperation
- inadequate data and capacity for MCS and inadequate regional sharing of such data
- absence of the necessary platforms from which to launch MCS operations
- lack of transparency and data sharing around foreign fishing arrangements



Forms of support required to strengthen the capacity of African coastal countries to effectively curb IUU fishing



- ❑ **Strengthening MCS capacity** and resourcing
- ❑ Strengthening regional and **international cooperation and coordination**
- ❑ Rolling out awareness raising, **training and capacity building programs**
- ❑ Promoting greater **civil society involvement** in fighting IUU fishing
- ❑ Launching **media and education campaigns to highlight** the nature and negative impact of IUU fishing
- ❑ **Innovation around the acquisition of funding**
- ❑ AU member states to **ensure coherence of their national fisheries** policies on MCS with the relevant provisions of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
- ❑ **A guide for the implementation** of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa would assist member states in developing coherent policies for effective combating IUU



Technical measures for combatting IUU fishing



1. Promoting **compliance with international instruments and agreements**
 - Strengthen **UNCLOS** in relation to IUU fishing
 - Adoption of United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (**UNFSA**)
 - Adoption of International Plan of Action (**IPOA-IUU**) and development and implementation of a NPOA-IUU
2. Fast track adoption and implementation of **Port State Measures**
3. The development and adoption of a global registration of fishing vessels using a UVI (**unique vessel identifier**) system via **IMO**
4. Establishing penalties for transgressions **commensurate with the economic scale** of the crime.
6. Publication of both **positive** (authorized) and **negative** (IUU) vessel lists
7. Imposing **market and trade sanctions**



Effort made by the African Union



CAMFA I recommended that Member States, RECs and RFBs strengthen MCS and foster regional cooperation to curb IUU fishing and subsequently agreed on the need for urgent actions at national and regional levels to deter and eradicate IUU Fishing

CAMFA II strengthen the MCS capacity including implementation of port states measures, flag state measures and related instruments in order to combat IUU fishing

Urged Member States to implement measures to combat IUU fishing by implementing appropriate plan of action and measures including Port State Measures

In consistence with the high level policy interventions which specifically charged African Union to take tangible actions, that the AU-IBAR has taken actions, facilitated initiatives and currently implementing project that adequately address IUU, MCS, PSMA



AU-IBAR and the strengthening Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)



Under the EU funded Project '*Strengthening Institutional capacity to enhance governance of the fisheries sector in Africa*', AU-IBAR, in collaboration with the NEPAD Agency has accomplished a large number of MCS –related activities at regional and national level over the **period 2014 to 2018**. Highlights are:

- **Review and determination of the status of MCs in the 5 regions** of the continent (West, Central, Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa)
- **Development of framework** proposals for regional cooperation on MCS matters in the five regions of the continent
- **Review of the status of fisheries observer and fishing vessel register programs** in the five regions and their further development, **including production of a manual for at seas fisheries observers**



AU-IBAR and the strengthening Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)

- Development of regional fisheries and fishing vessel register arrangements, **including methodologies and a database for implementing a harmonized fishing vessel register and establishing a central fishing vessel register**
- **Development of institutional and human resources** through training covering key topics: at sea boarding procedures and arrangements, MCS and enforcement and prosecution for fisheries crimes – regional level training has targeted personnel from the Fisheries Departments, Judiciaries, Navy from each AU-MS with over 100 people trained



AU-IBAR and the strengthening Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)



- Enhanced awareness of the effect of IUU on Africa economies and the threat posed to food security and social welfare
- A basis has thus been provided to support continent-wide **for implementation of Port State Inspection** under the FAO Port State Measures Agreement 2016



Action Plan

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- 1. Strengthen the MCS working group established under the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism** to galvanize and facilitate co-ordination between regional bodies in the fight against IUU fishing.
- 2. Establish “IUU Regional Network”** comprising RFMO, REC and LME bodies, with IUU regional working groups in each of these.
- 3. Convene a high level policy dialogue on IUU fishing** with key actors (IMO, FAO, the International MCS Network, INTERPOL, IOC-UNESCO, UNEP, UNDOC etc.) to raise awareness at political level on the impacts and economic losses associated with IUU and the options to curb IUU fishing including the implementation of relevant international instruments;
- 4. Design, and implement targeted training and capacity development programs** (including on use of new and appropriate MCS technology) based on country specific needs assessments.

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Action Plan

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5. **Enhance regional co-operation, and the adoption and implementation of regional and intraregional minimum terms and conditions for fisheries access for FFAs.**
6. **Strengthen the capacity of regional institutions in combating IUU, especially for shared stocks**
7. **Include issues of IUU in the African position at WTO negotiations.**
8. **Develop a detailed IUU Strategy and Action Plan (“IUU SAAP”) for Africa, and mobilize resources for its implementation.**

Support member states for implementation of relevant provisions of Pan African fisheries policy framework and reform strategy as well as relevant international instruments in combating IUU



Thank you for your attention

