



## IMPROVING STATES' CAPACITIES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing undermines national and regional efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks, and inhibits progress towards achieving the goals of long-term sustainability. The detrimental effects of IUU fishing are particularly severe for developing coastal states and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), impacting national economies, livelihoods and the environment. In response to this phenomenon, a framework of international instruments has been developed in recent decades, the most important among them the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, commonly referred to as the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). In this context, this Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)-funded project aimed to improve developing countries and SIDS' capability in the cohesive implementation of provision and procedures consistent with the PSMA and related international instruments, regional mechanisms and tools to combat IUU fishing. The main recipient countries of FAO's legal and technical assistance and capacity development comprised Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Madagascar, Namibia and Sri Lanka. Several other developing countries, both Parties and non-Parties to the PSMA, benefited from the project's activities aimed at strengthening regional coordination and cooperation on port State measures (PSMs)/the PSMA and complementary instruments to combat IUU fishing.



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### WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project provided technical assistance and expertise to the six recipient countries, contributing to strengthening national policy and legislative frameworks and enhancing national means and competencies to carry out coordinated monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) operations to combat IUU fishing. National strategies and action plans were drafted for Indonesia, Ghana, Madagascar and Namibia to address the requirements of the PSMA and related instruments. The project also contributed to ensuring the adoption of relevant policies and legislation. This included laying the groundwork for the review of Guinea's national fisheries law and the drafting of its implementation decree, while in Sri Lanka technical assistance was provided for the drafting of a new fisheries and aquatic resources act. Capacity development was a core component of the project, strengthening the beneficiary countries' organizational and operational MCS capacities to enforce PSMs, harmonized with regional and international standards and requirements, among other things. Additionally, the project developed resources to strengthen States' enabling environments such as technical guidelines and checklists on coastal, flag and port State responsibilities to combat IUU fishing. The project also co-financed global and regional meetings to support the implementation of the PSMA. On the basis of the discussions and the consolidated recommendations of the regional meetings, a draft strategy was developed by the Parties to the PSMA to improve the effectiveness of the Agreement.

### KEY FACTS

**Latest Approved Budget**  
USD 2 388 123

**Duration**  
January 2018–December 2022

**Resource Partner**  
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)

**Beneficiaries**  
State Parties to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as well as national authorities and institutions of project recipients which are directly or indirectly engaged in activities related to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and port State controls

# IMPACT

It is expected that the project interventions will contribute to preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing. This will enhance the sustainability of marine fisheries in the recipient countries and beyond, in view of the results of the regional and global meetings in support of the implementation of the PSMA convened under the auspices of the project.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# ACTIVITIES

- National strategies and action plans to address requirements of the PSMA and related international instruments and regional mechanisms drafted for Indonesia, Ghana, Madagascar and Namibia, following participatory country-level assessments held in each country.
- Competency-based fisheries law training course delivered through the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization to 11 government officials from Ghana, Indonesia and Namibia.
- In Indonesia, review of the fisheries legal and policy frameworks.
- In Sri Lanka, training on the international legal framework to address IUU fishing provided for 65 judges and magistrates, nine prosecutors and seven government officials.
- Eight government officials from Guinea and Madagascar participated in FAO's PSM Fisheries Inspector Training in collaboration with the Port of Vigo, Spain.
- In Guinea, an in-country FAO PSM Fisheries Inspector Training provided to 22 government officials.
- Three PSMA statutory meetings, four regional meetings on the implementation of the PSMA, and one global meeting on FAO's Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels convened.
- Checklists and technical guidelines drafted and published: i) *Checklists and technical guidelines to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Volume I: a consolidated checklist of coastal, flag and port State responsibilities to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing* (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5992en>); and ii) *Checklists and technical guidelines to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Volume II: a legal checklist of the main duties and responsibilities of coastal, flag and port States, and internationally agreed market-related measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.* (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6186en>).



## Project Title

Port State Measures Support Project

## Project Code

FAO: GCP/INT/307/NOR  
Norad ref. No. 1701515

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