

Nairobi Convention 2021
Science to Policy
Platform Meeting

23-25 March 2021

BLUE NATURE
ALLIANCE

Improving the understanding and regional awareness of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing occurring in small-scale/artisanal fisheries and the impacts it has on ocean conservation, blue economies and communities in the Western Indian Ocean –

Technical and policy recommendations

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What is the Blue Nature Alliance?

The Blue Nature Alliance is a global partnership working to build momentum for large-scale ocean conservation.

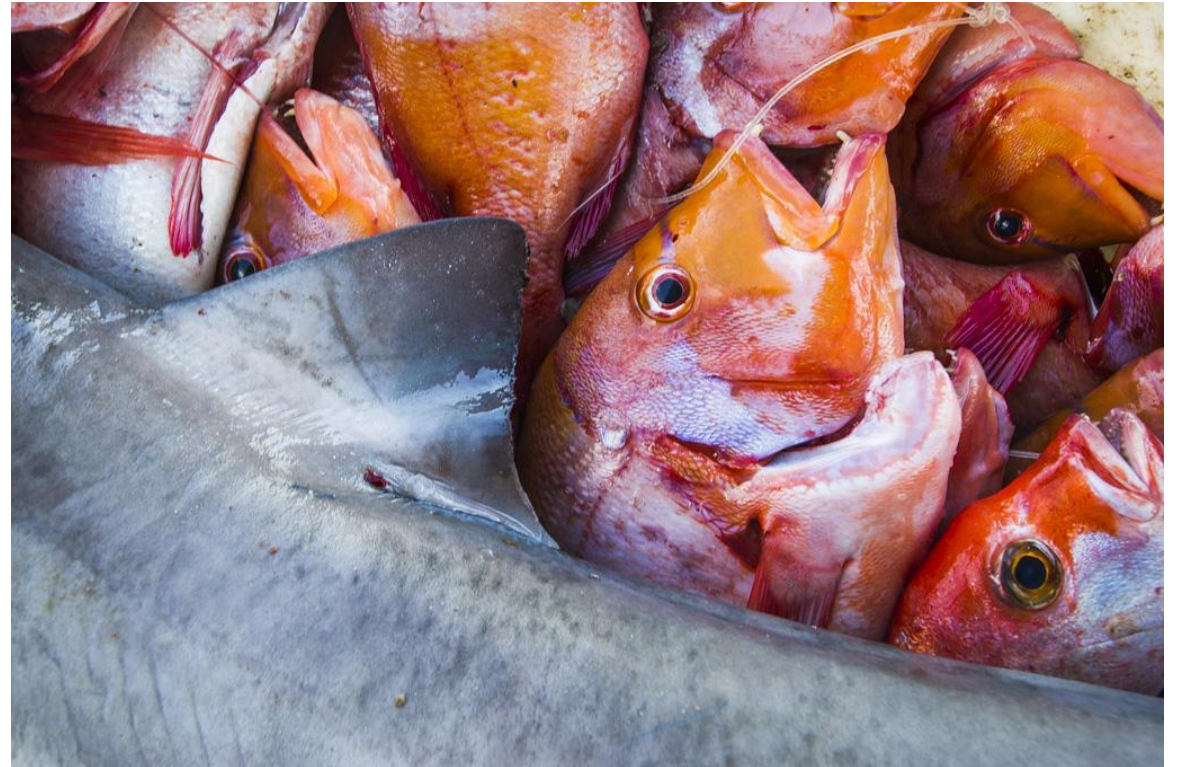
Our goal is to catalyze the protection and conservation of 18 million square kilometers of ocean by 2025.

The Alliance advances the creation, expansion, and improved management of ocean conservation areas around the world.



Context

- Most identified threat to the WIO
- Minimal factual data about IUU fishing within the artisanal/ small-scale fisheries of the WIO region
- Limited understanding of how IUU fishing also impacts:
 - Blue economic growth
 - Achieving SDGs
 - Sustainable management of ocean/ coastal resources
 - Conservation
- Most current knowledge and strategies focus on larger-scale industrial fisheries located offshore



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Goal of our Discussion Paper

To showcase how IUU Fishing occurring in small-scale/ artisanal fisheries:

- is **not only a fisheries issue** but impacts **environmental management** of the marine and coastal space
- threatens the ability to achieve the **Blue Economy** and **SDG Goals** at both country and regional level
- impacts **ocean conservation, blue economies** and **communities** in the Western Indian Ocean
- is **relevant** to be addressed by the **member states** of the **Nairobi Convention**



IUU Fishing in Small-Scale/ Artisanal Fisheries

“Overfishing” and “destructive fishing” practices

Encroachment by larger industrial foreign-driven IUU fishing vessels into the nearshore exclusive artisanal zones

Threat to the effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)



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Why address IUU fishing in the WIO?

Threatens sustainable fisheries and economic development

Impacts food security, foreign exchange, employment, livelihood support services

Barrier for effective conservation and environmental management

Threat to achieving the Blue Economy and SDG Goals at both country and regional level



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Key Partners with Ongoing Initiatives in the WIO Region

Other Regional Bodies	Foundations/ Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SADC• SWIOFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moore Foundation• Oceans 5 Alliance• Oak Foundation• Kingfisher Foundation• Blue Nature Alliance
NGOs	Technology Companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wild Oceans• Stop Illegal Fishing• WWF• RARE• TNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Fishing Watch• Trygg Matt Tracking• Sea Shepard• Vulcan



Recommendations



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Policy Recommendations

1) Achieve recognition and agreement by the member states of the Nairobi Convention that IUU fishing is a threat and should be addressed

2) Develop a WIO regional plan of action by the member states of the Nairobi Convention to address IUU fishing performed by both industrial fishing vessels and small-scale fishermen within artisanal/ small-scale fisheries



Technical Recommendations

1) Conduct a WIO regional threat assessment that focuses on IUU fishing practices by both industrial fishing vessels and small-scale fishermen within artisanal/ small-scale fisheries

2) Establish a regional inter-sectoral expert panel on IUU fishing threats and solutions that will facilitate sustainable ocean-based economic, social and environmental benefits, and share strategies that is part of or aligned to the SADC efforts



On behalf of
the authors,
thank you!

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