



# CONCEPT NOTE

WWF-NETWORKING SEMINAR ON IUU FISHING  
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Håndtverkeren, Rosenkrantzgt. 7  
Oslo-Norway

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# CONCEPT NOTE

## WWF-Networking Seminar on IUU Fishing in Developing Countries

### 1) Background.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing threatens sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems globally, causing an annual loss of approximately USD 26 billion for coastal states. Norway has actively supported the fight against IUU fishing globally by supporting the development and implementation of multilateral treaties, funding research projects, promoting technological advancements in fisheries law enforcement and empowering civil society organizations (CSOs). These efforts have positively impacted the global fight against IUU fishing and fisheries crimes, but much work still needs to be done.

### 2) The importance of promoting networking in Norway to combat IUU fishing in developing countries.

According to the 2023 report of the United Nations General Assembly Economic and Social Council on the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 14 (Life below water) has made the least progress compared to the other 16 SDGs. This implies that urgent and concrete actions are needed to speed up the expansion of marine protected areas, decrease pollution, and tackle IUU fishing. Combating IUU fishing is also important for Norway to fulfil its commitments made through both the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). No institution alone can effectively combat IUU fishing on a global scale. Norway has over 14 institutions involved in combating IUU fishing in developing countries through research, technological advancements, and other measures. Through more effective collaboration, they can improve the global fight against IUU fishing to accelerate progress in the attainment of SDG 14, which will also enhance Norway's contribution and reputation as a leader in international fisheries management.

### 3) Objectives of the Seminar.

All Norwegian institutions working to combat IUU fishing globally share a common goal. However, they have different mandates, such as research, technological development, advocacy, etc. At the moment, collaboration amongst these institutions at the technical and practical level, which can leverage global system impact, is limited. The objective of the seminar is.

- To promote cooperation and coordination among Norwegian institutions involved in combating IUU fishing internationally. This collaboration will enable better efficiency and complementarity around mandates and developing best practices. By facilitating networking and collaboration among these institutions, Norway's expertise in IUU fishing can be utilized in a more efficient and organized manner to assist developing countries in achieving SDG14 by 2030, strengthening Norway's role as a major maritime nation in combatting IUU fishing internationally.

#### 4) Expected Outcomes from the Seminar.

- Commitment by Norwegian institutions to collaborate in the international fight against IUU fishing by complementing each other's efforts and mandates in a way which strengthens Norway's foreign policy in ocean conservation and ascertains Norway's global commitment to helping developing countries meet their SDGs.
- Explore stakeholders' desire to organize an IUU conference in Norway in 2025 as one of the ways to promote collaboration and learning in the fight against IUU fishing internationally.
- Establish a long-term vision and a regular platform to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and share international successes and collaboration among Norwegian institutions in the fight against IUU fishing across a broad range of stakeholders with differing mandates.
- Explore the inclusion of other Nordic countries and institutions and build synergies to combat IUU fishing internationally.

#### 5) Seminar Theme.

The main topic of the seminar will be focused on sharing experiences around reducing IUU fishing in developing countries. However, the seminar will also cover elements of fisheries crime, given similar solutions are used in these countries to address both IUU and fisheries crimes, such as real-time monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) operations and more. In some areas, it is still challenging to distinguish between IUU fishing and fisheries crimes, making it essential to include both topics for the purpose of networking and learning.

#### 6) Date, Venue and Nature of the Seminar.

- A one-day **hybrid** seminar with the possibility of live streaming on social media.
- Date of the seminar is **April 24th, 2024**.
- Expected guests, around 50 from 14 institutions, including overseas guests.
- Venue: **Håndverkeren Oslo**.
- The host will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Video format (Aspect Ratio 16:9) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16:9\\_aspect\\_ratio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16:9_aspect_ratio).