



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS)

COUNTING THE GAINS

BACKGROUND

Stretching over 6,000 kilometres of coastline from Senegal to Angola, the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) not only straddles critical maritime routes but is also rich in natural resources. Its vast wealth in fishstocks and hydrocarbons is pivotal for the regional economy.

This potential is at risk from multiple transnational criminal threats. Attacks on shipping, the theft of oil, the illegal and unsustainable exploitation of fisheries, the trafficking of small arms, contraband and illegal migration jeopardise development of the region. In the two years preceding the launch of the SWAIMS project, GoG recorded 127 piracy attacks (source: IMB piracy 2019 annual report).



Funded by
the European Union



Support to West Africa Integrated
Maritime Security
(SWAIMS)

WHAT IS SWAIMS

The Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS) Project began in 2019. Some of its activities will wind up in 2023 while others will end in 2024 on account of delays and disruptions occasioned by COVID-19.

SWAIMS is a project of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and is funded by the European Union (EU).

WHY SWAIMS?

The project directly contributes to the implementation of the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) whose five strategic objectives are:

1. Strengthen maritime governance
2. Safe and secure maritime domain
3. Maritime and environmental management
4. Optimise the ECOWAS maritime economy
5. Promote maritime awareness and research

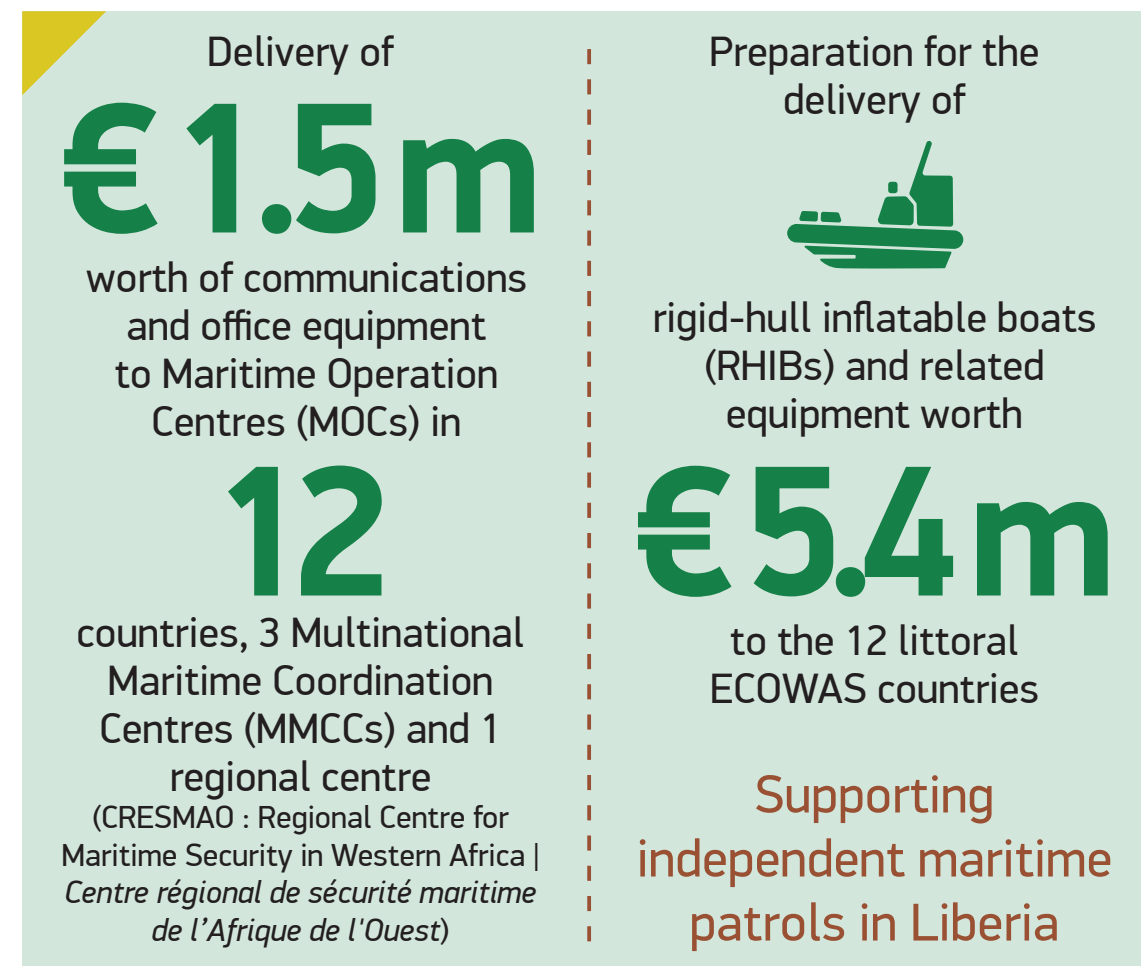
SWAIMS is part of the EU Strategy and Action Plan for the Gulf of Guinea, which takes an integrated approach linking security, governance and development challenges both offshore and onshore.

WHAT DOES SWAIMS DO?

SWAIMS' work targets all the 15 ECOWAS member states and Mauritania, with two main goals:

1. Strengthening legal, governance and law-enforcement frameworks to better support maritime security
2. Improving law-enforcement operational capacities and responses through customised institutional and technical capacity building
3. Re inforcing and expanding the infrastructure of the Yaoundé Architecture

Equipment and operations



Legislation, governance and structures



CAPACITY BUILDING



Training and human resources

4

Training workshops on various geographically focused aspects of maritime security in ECOWAS Multinational Maritime Coordination Centres (MMCCs)

Participants
62

285 Maritime professionals trained

Thematic maritime security training at

**Regional Maritime University
Accra**

2

intensive courses

36

trainees

*Institut de sécurité
maritime interrégional
Abidjan*

10

extensive courses

249

trainees

Administrative and organisational support for maritime activities of ECOWAS Secretariat

5

Roundtables on identifying threats and policy priorities with maritime stakeholders (Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone)

16

Countries engaged in SWAIMS activities related to CSOs and private sector. **All ECOWAS member states and Mauritania**

10

Webinars

690

Total number of participants

7

Webinars with civil society organisations (CSOs)

Participants

502

3

Webinars with private-sector actors

Participants

188

ADVOCACY, ENGAGEMENT AND CREATING AWARENESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARITIME SECURITY





47

CSOs that have partnered with
SWAIMS Technical Assistance
Team (TAT)

2

federations
encompassing
at least

x

20

associations
each

2

Regional face-to-face
workshops

Participants

50

Women

20
40%

Men

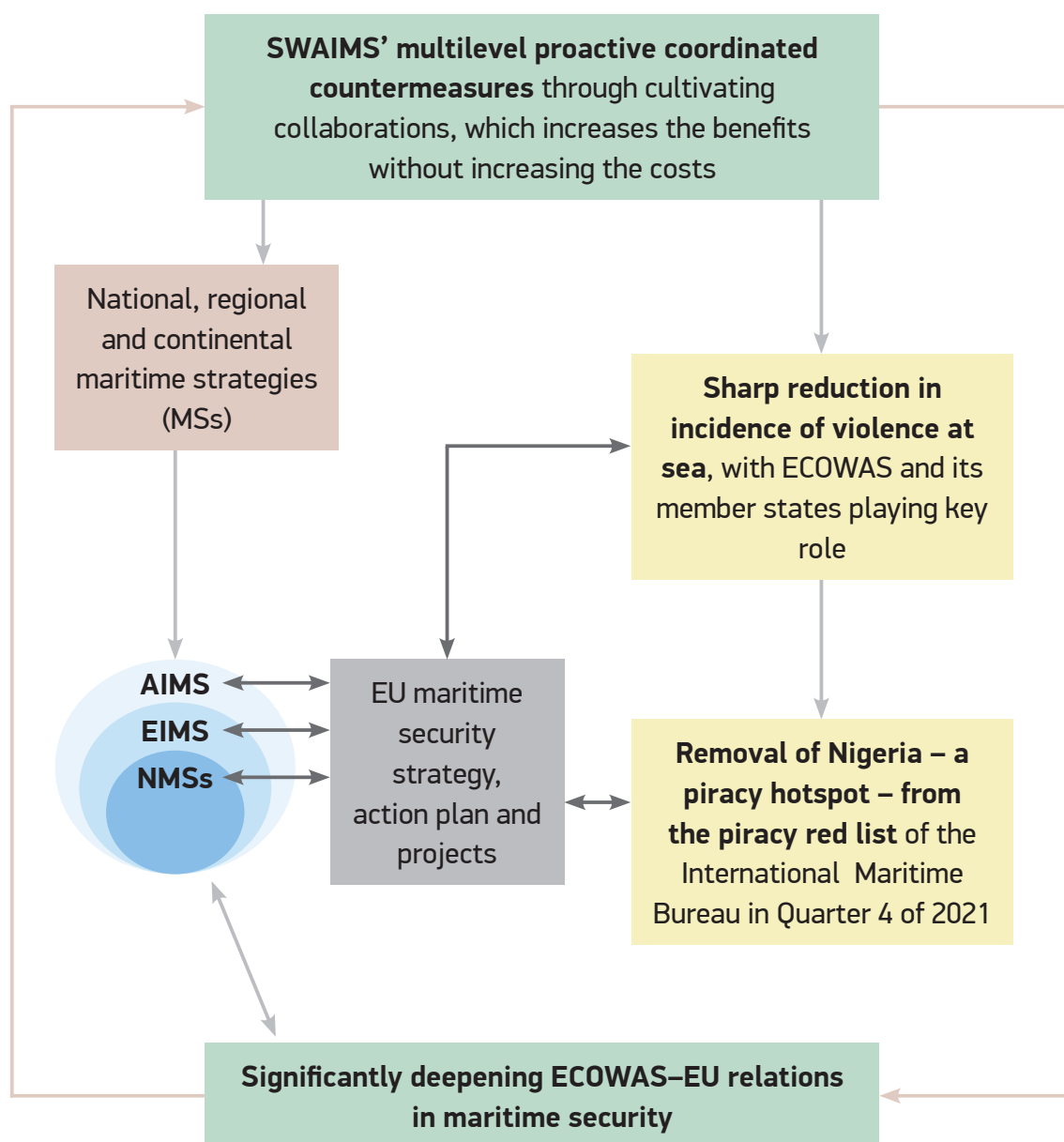
30
60%

6

Validated national studies (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire,
Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Togo) with
recommendations for better financial investigations
into methods for laundering the proceeds of
maritime crime in conjunction with GIABA*

*GIABA: Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in
West Africa | *Groupe intergouvernemental d'action contre le blanchiment
d'argent en Afrique de l'Ouest*

Contribution to combating maritime crimes and strategy implementation



AIMS: Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050) – African Union
EIMS – ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy
NMSs – national maritime strategies