



ECOWAS COMMISSION  
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# Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS)

A project of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission



Funded by  
the European Union



Support to West Africa Integrated  
Maritime Security  
(SWAIMS)

## BUDGET AND DURATION

EUR 28 million; January 2019–January 2023

## EXPERTISE

Team of thematic key experts in maritime security, private sector and civil society, coordinated by a team leader and supported by short-term consultants. The SWAIMS Technical Assistance Team (TAT) is embedded in ECOWAS' Regional Security Division (RSD), providing advisory services.

## THEMATIC AREAS

- Peace, security and regional stability
- Support to regional initiatives to address the main threats to secure maritime routes in West Africa

## CO-ACTORS

- Navies and law-enforcement authorities
- Maritime, private sector and civil society

## TARGET COUNTRIES

- The 15 ECOWAS member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) and Mauritania

## CONTEXT OF THE ACTION

Stretching over 6,000 kilometres of coastline from Senegal to Angola, the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) straddles critical maritime routes and harbours significant natural resources. Ports from Dakar to Luanda are the gateway to the vast West and Central African hinterland. GoG's wealth in fish stocks and hydrocarbons is pivotal for the regional economy.

However, further development of its potential is at risk due to prevailing insecurity. For example, over the two years (2017–2018) preceding the launch of the SWAIMS Project in January 2019, 127 piracy attacks were reported in the GoG (ICC International Maritime Bureau). Other criminal activities are oil theft; trafficking and smuggling (including drugs, arms and people), illegal fishing and environmental crimes. The economic fall-out is estimated at billions of euros and jeopardises sustainable development.

Under the auspices of ECOWAS, member states have initiated coordinated and concerted regional action through the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) and the Yaoundé Process. As a strategic trading partner, the EU supports these efforts through several EU-funded projects, including the Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS) Project.

## OVERALL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

SWAIMS' objective is to improve maritime security and safety in West Africa. The project has two main prongs:

- (1) strengthening legal, governance and law-enforcement frameworks to better support maritime security; and,
- (2) improving law-enforcement operational capacities and responses through customised institutional and technical capacity-building.

## ACTIVITIES

To realise its objectives, SWAIMS' activities include:



## CONTACTS

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## SWAIMS ONLINE


 <https://www.raosupportcellecowas.com/post/support-to-west-africa-integrated-maritime-security-swaims-actions>

 <https://www.facebook.com/SWAIMSProject>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/swaimsproject>

 <https://twitter.com/SWAIMSProject>

 [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJA65F\\_gvAL57t6WcnZct9g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJA65F_gvAL57t6WcnZct9g)

 <https://www.slideshare.net/SWAIMSProject>

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



Académie Régionale des Sciences  
et Techniques de la Mer  
Institut de Sécurité Maritime  
Interregional, Côte d'Ivoire



Regional Maritime  
University,  
Accra, Ghana



Inter-Governmental Action  
Group against Money  
Laundering in West Africa



Camões, IP  
Portugal



United Nations Office  
on Drugs and Crime

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