

SAMUDRA

FORTALEZA

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

Today's Agenda

- Inaugural Session
- Panel Discussions:
 - Responsible Fisheries
 - Distant-water Fisheries
- Group Discussions

Marginally...

SAMUDRA for Fortaleza is a newsletter that will report on the proceedings of this workshop. It will also serve as a forum for the sharing of ideas and experiences, in the form of brief write-ups, interviews and opinion pieces. Please contact the SAMUDRA Team or anyone at the ICSF Secretariat if you have something to contribute. Needless to add, the opinions and viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent the official views of ICSF.

Founded in 1954, Colonia Ecológica Sesc Iparana (SESC)—the workshop venue—is just 20 minutes from the Iracema beach, 17 km from the centre of Fortaleza and 27 km from the airport. It offers various options for leisure and hospitality, including sports, ecological trips, parties and social events.

Bem-Vindos !

Welcome to Fortaleza, the capital of the State of Ceará, home to a vibrant artisanal fishery, and the venue for the 20th anniversary meeting of ICSF

It is now 20 years since the International Collective In Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) was founded in Trivandrum, India, in 1986. Since then, several changes have taken place in fisheries, especially in the small-scale and aquaculture sectors, as well as in the larger political, economic and social framework in which they operate.

This workshop is being held to understand these changes, and to take stock of important developments in fisheries. Participants include ICSF Members and representatives of fishworker organizations, as well as other individuals/organizations that have been working with small-scale fisheries in their respective countries.

The following are some of the major issues that will be discussed in the next three days:

- Responsible fisheries
- Biodiversity
- Labour
- Trade
- Gender
- Disaster preparedness and coastal fishing communities
- Aquaculture
- Fishworkers' organizations

Fortaleza was chosen as the venue for the workshop for a couple of important reasons.

The State of Ceará is home to a very important, well-organized artisanal fishery with a long history of strug-

gle against destructive fishing practices and inequitable policies.

Also, the strategic importance of fisheries for the social and economic development of Brazil has been recognized by President Luiz Inácio da Silva through the establishment of a special Secretariat for Aquaculture and Fisheries.

This workshop is expected to be a forum to share perspectives, discuss and analyze recent developments in small-scale fisheries and fishing communities, explore possible future scenarios, and highlight the actions needed to ensure a secure future for small-scale fishing communities. ☺



What's Inside

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Reflections | 2 |
| Blast from the Past | 3 |
| About Fortaleza | 4 |
| Helpline | 4 |
| Portuguese | 4 |

From Rome to Fortaleza...

The plan for the Rome Conference came out of the blue. A letter. A challenge. With key facilitators around the globe—three women and one man—the job of coordination was so much easier and enjoyable. The event itself was a combination of discussions—very serious and top-rate—and great fun. The involvement of the Commune of Rome and permission to use the Piazza Novona for a cultural event added public legitimacy and popular participation to the event. Overlapping it with the World Conference on Fisheries organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) brought about the widest possible press coverage.

Nostalgia apart, in the run-up to Rome, there was more decentralized, democratic preparatory work, and, at Rome itself, a more delectable assortment of passionate conference agenda and celebratory side events than we seem to be able to put together these days.

We thought it was over with Rome. But the commitment made to the fishworkers to create a supporters' forum lingered. It took over two years to fructify. Discussions in India. Visits by some of us to Norway, Rome, Senegal and Canada, in between. Finally, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) was born in Trivandrum, India, in November 1986.

We had a dream: Make this support network a "force to reckon with" in the world of fisheries. Bangkok in 1990 confirmed that we should move on. Cebu in 1994 set a new agenda. The creation of the two world forums of the "fishworkers" and the "fisher people" made us question the need for our continuance when we met again in

Trivandrum in 1998. But in 2002, at Maputo, we reaffirmed a new vision for support.

Since then, global recognition has come from several quarters: Most importantly, the FAO awarded the Margarita Lizárraga Medal for 2002-2003 to ICSF in recognition of its "comprehensive, sustainable and catalytic initiatives in support of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, through workshops, outreach and advocacy activities, as well as by mobilizing grassroots



support and enhancing human capacity-building, particularly in developing countries." And, more recently, in 2005, Svensk Fisk awarded the Kungsfenan Swedish Seafood Award (also referred to as the "Nobel Prize of the Seafood Industry") to ICSF in recognition of its "efforts to promote sustainable fishing, for working closely with small-scale fisheries and their communities, and for conveying news relating to fisheries and information about sustainable fishing to the general public living in coastal communities."

Thus, we have been able to silently influence major fisheries discussions at FAO, the United Nations (UN) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Our success in influencing global policy in fisheries has perhaps been

far beyond our expectations. However, the recognition from fishworkers and fishing communities themselves has been uneven and varied across the continents.

The strength of any network depends on its weakest link. For us, this has been the difficulty to enlist new members as supporters. Perhaps this mode of support is not relevant anymore. Perhaps the class approach to defining contradictions in the sector is not valid anymore. The need of the times

is for support to coastal communities around the world to resolve complex, evolving and multi-dimensional issues by taking contemporaneous action at the global and the local levels. To achieve this, we have to ask ourselves: How appropriate is the structure we have today to cope with these challenges? Are the links we have made in the last two decades strong enough to further the cause? How effective is our working style in delivering our promises of support?

How good is our stock of knowledge for launching such a pursuit? How best can the goodwill we have earned over the years be used as a foundation to build upon for the future?

Today, these are some of the crucial issues that stare down at us. We need some soul-searching. The onus is on each one of us to articulate our thoughts and offer frank opinions. We came to Rome in 1984 in faith and with expectations and hopes.

At Trivandrum in 1986, we envisioned an approach to support. We reach Fortaleza today, two decades later, with questions and a choice of crossroads. Only time will tell which was the real watershed. 

John Kurien, currently Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, India, is a Founding Member of ICSF

Blast from the Past

The International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters, which led to the creation of ICSE, made these recommendations in July 1984:

We, fishworkers and their supporters from 34 countries of the world who struggle for survival and sometimes die for their cause, urge governments to be responsive to the demands of the local fishworkers' organizations to:

- Reserve and protect for small-scale fishing all near-shore waters and fishing grounds accessible to it
- Ban all technologies that disturb the balance of the ecosystem either through overfishing or pollution, and prevent the use of chemicals that are forbidden in the industrialized countries
- Associate local fishermen's organizations or fishermen communities in devising and implementing regulatory measures (with concrete possibilities of control)
- Respect and guarantee the fundamental rights of fishworkers to free

association; withdraw all measures that penalize the workers

We recommend that governments of the Third World co-operate on a regional basis to ensure effective management of their fish resources in the long term.

We stress the essential role of women in fishing communities, considering their sensitivity to the deteriorating quality of life.

We support them in getting organized to:

- protect their activities in the production process
- improve their working conditions
- alleviate the burden of their work
- actively reduce pollution, and protect the environment

We call for a collective effort in changing attitudes and values towards women in order to get their full participation in decisionmaking at all levels.

We emphasize the positive contribution of non-governmental organizations in the development of technology and forms of participatory management that ensure the future of small-scale fisheries. Priority should be given to lessening dependency on foreign capital, equipment and know-how.

We ask that all scientists who recognize the importance of conserving and enhancing the person-nature relationship take a strong stand on behalf of the small-scale fishermen.

We urge them to work in collaboration with local fishermen's organizations to complement their knowledge of the sea and to enable them to regain their rights over the sea. 

About Fortaleza

Fortaleza (Portuguese for fortress) is the State capital of Ceará, located in northeastern Brazil. With a population of more than 2 million, it is considered the second most important city in the region in economic terms, after Salvador in Bahia. Fortaleza has an area of 336 square km. To the north of the city lies the Atlantic Ocean, to the south the cities of Pacatuba, Eusébio, Maracanaú and Itaitinga, to the east is the county of Aquiraz and the Atlantic Ocean and to west is the city of Caucaia.

History

Fortaleza's history began February 2, 1500 when the Spaniard Vicente Pinzón landed in Mucuripe's cove and named the new land Santa Maria de la Consolación, but because

of the Treaty of Tordesillas, the discovery was never officially sanctioned. The real colonization started when the Dutch constructed Fort Schoonenborch in 1649. Later, the Portuguese expelled the Dutch and renamed it Forte de Nossa Senhora da Assunção. Around the fort, which even today is perfectly preserved, a small village grew to become the fifth largest city in Brazil. In 2004 Luizianne Lins was surprisingly elected as mayor.

Tourism

A complete infrastructure, three thousand hours of sun per year and the constant ocean breeze give the full dimension of this paradise. For those who have more energy, the nightlife is full of attractions, with bars, restaurants, and shows. Not even on Mondays does Fortaleza cool down. The city is known

for having the "wildest Monday nights in the world." The Praia de Iracema (Iracema's beach), one of the first urban nuclei of the city, holds many bars and restaurants. There, the Ponte dos Ingleses (Bridge of the English), the old docks, is located and used to watch the sunset, and spot dolphins.

Warm waters bathe Fortaleza's urbanized beaches, which offer every comfort to the tourist. The scenery is complemented by the jangadas (small and rustic rafts used by many of Ceará's fishermen). From the jangadas come the sea's fruits, responsible for the best Ceará's cuisine. The Praia do Futuro (Beach of the Future) is the meeting place for bathers, concentrating a large number of typical beachside restaurants, with carnauba straw used in its

(contd... Page 4)

(...from Page 3)

construction. The local population calls them "Barracas de Praia." Thursday nights, the beach becomes the biggest sensation in the capital's nightlife, with live music, forró and a lot of crab to eat.

A few kilometers away from the city are some well-known beaches as Prainha, Iguape and Porto das Dunas. In the latter, there are two large water parks.

Culture

Fortaleza has a strong and traditional cultural life. Since the end of the 19th Century, the city has had various cultural institutions. The Instituto do Ceará (Ceará Institute) was established in 1887, and is the oldest institution. Its research has a historic, geographic and antropologic type.

The Academia Cearense de Letras (Cearense Word Academy) was the first institution of the sort in the country, being established in August 15 of 1894.

In 1892 Fortaleza was the place for a cultural movement of literary expression called "Spiritual Bakery" and its

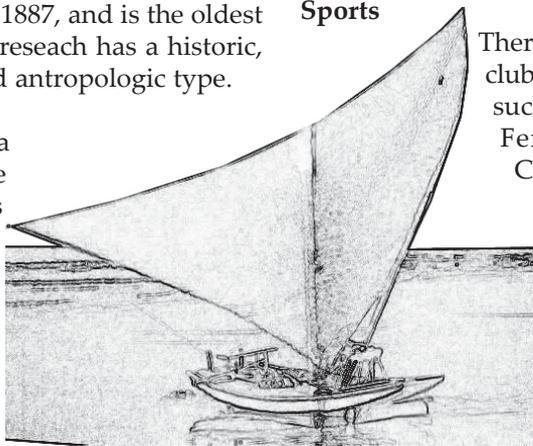
praised literary style was used during the Modern Art Week of 1922.

There are many other cultural centres like the Banco do Nordeste Cultural Centre and the most important, Dragão do Mar Centre of Art and Culture, which is placed on the quarter of Praia de Iracema, an important cultural centre of Fortaleza.

Landmarks

- José de Alencar playhouse
- Mucuripe lighthouse
- Cathedral
- Iracema Statue
- Nossa Senhora da Assunção Fort
- Palace of Light

Sports



There are several soccer clubs based in Fortaleza such as Fortaleza EC, Ferroviário AC and Ceará SC.

With strong winds the Praia do Futuro is an excellent place for nautical sports. Fortaleza hosts world competitions of surfing, windsurfing and kite surfing.

— From Wikipedia

Know Your Portuguese

GREETINGS

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Hello | Olá |
| Good day | Bom dia |
| Good evening | Boa tarde |
| Good night | Boa noite |
| Hi | Olá |
| Good bye | Adeus |
| See you soon | Até logo/Até a vista |

It doesn't matter

Não importa

I don't mind

Não me importo

Of course

Claro

True

Verdade

With pleasure

Com prazer

QUESTION WORDS

Where?

Onde?

When?

Quê?

Why?

Quem?

What?

Qual?/Quais? (pl.)

Who?

Como?

How?

Quanto?

How much/many? *Quanto/Quantos?*

Is/are there?

Há?

GENERAL RESPONSES

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Yes | <i>Sim</i> |
| No | <i>Não</i> |
| That depends | <i>Depende</i> |
| I don't know | <i>Não sei</i> |
| I don't think so | <i>Acho que não</i> |
| I suppose so | <i>Suponho que sim</i> |
| I think so | <i>Creio que sim</i> |

Helpline

Conference Secretariat

Salao de Eventos 2 (adjacent to Conference hall)

Registration/Travel

SESC Reception (Tel: 55 85 3318 6000)

Money Changing

SADOC (Cambio e Turismo, Fortaleza. Tel: 3219-7993)

Emergency Numbers

Police 190

Ambulance 3433-7373

SESC Address

Colônia Ecológica Sesc Iparana
Praia de Iparana S/N Caucaia
Ceará

Cep: 61.605-600

Tel: 55 85 3318 6000

Embratur: 20.03.612.122/0004-70

Site: www.sesc-ce.com.br

“

This (Rome) conference was not conceived as an intellectual experience. It became a living human experience in which spontaneity, life-sharing and self-expression at all levels played a major role.

”

— from the 1984 Rome Conference Report

Tomorrow

- FAO Technical Guidelines
- Biodiversity & Ecosystem Approach
- Fish Trade
- Disaster Preparedness
- Video Documentary Show

SAMUDRA FOR FORTALEZA is a special publication brought out by the SAMUDRA Team for ICSF's 20th Anniversary Meet at Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil

SAMUDRA

FORTALEZA

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

Today's Agenda

- **FAO Technical Guidelines**
- **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Approach**
- **Fish Trade**
- **Panel: Disaster Preparedness**
- **Video Documentaries**

Looking at ICSF at 20

As ICSF enters the adolescence stage, seven of the Founding Members got together to reminisce about the past—and ponder the future

The workshop kicked off with Rene Scharer of Instituto Terrmar, the co-host, and Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary of ICSF, warmly welcoming the participants to Fortaleza, and hoping that the next three days would see much meaningful discussion on the various issues that have brought them together.

Since then, ICSF has been working on issues that affect the artisanal and small-scale fisheries sector, especially in the developing world. It has taken part in and itself organized several significant conferences on these issues.

ICSF has engaged with several UN processes on issues ranging from labour (for instance, highlighting the need to include small-scale fishers under the proposed ILO Convention and Recommendation on Working Conditions in the Fisheries Sector); recognition of the rights of small-scale fishworkers and communities in fisheries and biodiversity management within a larger oceans/biodiversity perspective (UNCED, FAO, CBD); the rights

of small-scale fishworkers to highly migratory fish stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement) and the fishing subsidies debate (UN Environment Programme).

ICSF is a founder member of the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA), which campaigns for fair and equitable fisheries arrangement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) countries.

ICSF, Chandrika said, has also worked steadfastly to foster a gender perspective within fishworker organizations. The organization has been especially successful in disseminating infor-

(...contd. on Page 3)

Marginally...

A total of 57 participants are here at Fortaleza to deliberate, over three days, issues dealing with fisheries and fishworkers. Most of the participants (41) are from the South, while eight are from the North. In terms of geographic spread, Latin America is best represented, with 27 participants, while Asia and Africa have seven each.

The country-wise breakup is as follows:

Argentina 2; Brazil 18; Chile 5; France 3; Ghana 1; Guinea Conakry 1; India 4; Mauritania 1; Netherlands 3; Norway 1; Peru 2; Italy 1; Senegal 2; South Africa 2; Sri Lanka 1; Thailand 2; (Secretariat 8).

In an overview of ICSF, Chandrika Sharma outlined the work done by the organization since its formation in Trivandrum, India, in 1986 by a group of concerned individuals from 18 countries, in response to an invitation from the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS).



What's Inside

- Reflections 2
- Sound Bites 2
- On the Web 3
- Darwin's Nightmare 4
- Portuguese 4

Unique, indispensable counterbalance

Although I became a Member of ICSF only at the end of the 1980s, I had had the opportunity to attend the Rome Conference organized by those who went on to found ICSF. That Rome meeting was determining for me, because I discovered there the burgeoning power of the organizations in the South. The NGOs that I had met up till then were dominated by representatives from the North. The Rome Conference—and, subsequently, ICSF—helped me to understand the shortcomings of industrial fishing and the impact of European policy on Southern countries. Fishworkers from the South made us understand that the future lay in artisanal fisheries.

Coming back from Rome, I decided to publish a newsletter, *Pêche & Développement*, and it has been published regularly ever since. Today, in Lorient, France, where I am based, artisanal fisheries is about the only one to survive, industrial fishing having collapsed at the end of the 1980s. After exhausting the fish stocks in Europe, the old industrial trawlers were sold off to Africa, where they went on to create great damage.

ICSF also greatly helped us to understand the importance of the role of women in fisheries. The Cebu meeting in 1984 particularly stressed this aspect. The deep crisis that affected fisheries in France in 1992-93 showed how fishermen's wives play a major role in sustaining fishing livelihoods; today, they hold important positions in various organizations in fishing communities.

While giving priority to fishworkers from the South, ICSF has been wise enough to maintain links with fishworkers from the North. The evolution of fisheries in the North makes

it possible to understand how artisanal fishing in the South may evolve, and what are the shortcomings to avoid so as to guarantee a sustainable future. One of the big challenges for artisanal fishermen in the South is to develop deep-sea fishing, making sure that they avoid using equipment that is too costly. Markets are often in the North and they have a growing impact on fishing communities in the South. Thanks to ICSF's network and documentation, we were able to take an effective part in the debate in France around the film *Darwin's Nightmare*, on the export of the Nile perch from Africa. Northern countries import more and more fish from the South, and many people question the sustainability and the equity of such trading practices.

ICSF is a unique network that enables people to understand interactions and evolutions in the world's fisheries. It is an indispensable NGO that can strengthen the voice of fishing communities, particularly to counterbalance the growing influence of environmental NGOs, who tend to impose their own points of views. Artisanal fishermen in Northern countries become invisible minorities. In order to survive, they must not only build up alliances with other groups, but also develop links with fishermen from the South, who are much more numerous, to voice their claims on a global scale, once they get organized.

We have reached the limits of the exploitation of the world's fish resources and we must now share them equally. The challenge for the world's fishermen is not only to defend their fishing activities, but also to restore the productive capacity of the coastal zones in which they operate. We have a lot of such positives experiences from around the world—and they nurture our hopes. 

On the workshop:

This workshop should focus on topics like

- access to reserved fishing zones;
- co-management of fishing resources
- access to markets with specific rights
- certification of artisanal fishery
- empowerment of fishworker organizations and coastal communities

On fisheries in Ceara:

The State of Ceara has no official policy on artisanal fisheries at all. The last initiative was the creation of a fishing committee in 1995. But since 1999, nothing has been done.

We fishers in Ceara face many problems. The State government has no political will to tackle the problems, and the federal agency, IBAMA, is inefficient too. Through subsidies, the government encouraged the industrial fishery, and too many boats were built. Today nearly 350 steel boats lie rusted and disused, and illegal fishing for lobster is rampant.

The solutions are well known: participation of coastal communities in co-management, monitoring of fishing resources, genuine control by competent public departments, partnership with international organizations...

On the Instituto Terramar:

The institute was created in 1993 to defend the artisanal fishery in Ceara. Its main aims are to assist fishworker communities and give them technical aid, support coastal social movements, defend fishers' rights against land speculation, protect mangroves and oppose the setting up of shrimp farms.

— These are excerpts from an interview of Rene Scharer by Alain Le Moal, CCFD, France

Alain Le Sann (*ad.lesann@wanadoo.fr*), Publisher and Editor of *Pêche & Développement*, is a Member of ICSF

mation and analysis through its varied output, ranging from publications like *SAMUDRA Report*, Monographs and Dossiers, the Yemaya women-in-fisheries newsletter and other studies, and the ICSF website, *SAMUDRA News Alerts* and multimedia products.

After that overview, seven of the Founding Members reflected on 20 years of ICSF. John Kurien recalled that the original founders of ICSF did not go to Rome (and, subsequently, to Trivandrum) as individuals but with the strong backing of people involved in fisheries. The support of this large number of people worked towards creating a network that is a force to reckon with in the world of fisheries development.

Cornelie Quist recalled that her 22 years of involvement with the ICSF process has been a unique experience of mission and vision, and friendship shared between members. ICSF has played an important role in the valorization of artisanal fisheries at the local and international levels. This became very evident in ICSF's involvement in the post-tsunami work.

ICSF has not only championed the cause of artisanal fishworkers, Cornelie added, but also of women fishworkers and vendors. ICSF's effort to integrate a gender perspective into the dominant discourse was most challenging and unique, so much so that today women's role in artisanal fisheries has been more or less acknowledged.

The greatest contribution of ICSF, Cornelie summed up, relates to the conceptual and contextual analysis of fisheries development. She hoped that in the coming triennium ICSF would take up the challenge of a more integrated approach to fisheries policymaking.

Hector Luis Morales characterized ICSF as a network of not only support but also tolerance. It is important for ICSF to recognize and address the environmental and social changes that have taken place over the past 20 years. The future lies in allowing communities to be stakeholders in the struggle, he said.

Nalini Nayak chose to highlight what she labeled as "some of the confusions" that have evolved over the last 20 years. When ICSF was started, the founders and supporters seemed to be rather sure what the small-scale sector in the Southern part of the world was and quite sure of whom to support. Massive changes have since taken place and, Nalini added, "I am rather confused who the small-scale sector includes and what it represents. This is one of the challenges for us to redefine with our fishworker friends – who we are going to support and for what in the coming years?"

Although ICSF has given importance to the question of women in fisheries, Nalini pointed out, the issue has not gained much ground, mainly because ICSF's principal constituency has been fishworker organizations, which are mainly male-dominated. Where the local community is given power in decision-making processes, there women definitely play a role. Nalini hoped that in the coming decade, ICSF would be able to articulate and realize the concept of sustainability where women, men and nature do actually matter.

Rolf Willmann, Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO, said that ICSF has become mainstream for FAO and is filling a void to counterbalance the presence of the environmental groups by representing the fisheries sector, in general, and fishworkers, in particular. Though ICSF is now mainstream, Rolf said, the crucial issue is translating good policies into ground realities so that we can see real changes in the lives of fishing communities.

James Smith recalled that one of the things that impressed him most at the Rome conference was how the organizers were able to allow the voices of fishworkers from the villages to reach the international level. As for the future, James pointed to the need to think in terms of workers' and human rights, and the place that fishworkers should find in the maritime world. There should be fewer and fewer distinctions between the workers in the maritime field, he said.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Michael Belliveau, a Founding Member of ICSF, who passed away

in 2002. Just before the reminiscence session ended, Nalini reminded the audience that there were actually not just the seven at the founding meeting of ICSF, but a total of around 24 people who came together. Some of them have since moved out due to a lesser involvement with the sector as a whole, while some others remain very active, although at the periphery. In conclusion, Rene quipped, "If ICSF didn't exist, we would have had to invent it."

Lovers on Aran

*The timeless waves, bright, sifting,
broken glass,
Came dazzling around, into the rocks,
Came glinting, sifting from the
Americas*

*To possess Aran. Or did Aran rush
to throw wide arms of rock around a
tide
That yielded with an ebb, with a soft
crash?*

*Did sea define the land or land the
sea?
Each drew new meaning from the
waves' collision.
Sea broke on land to full identity.*

— Seamus Heaney

<On the Web>

The ICSF website, <http://www.icsf.net>, has several resources on fisheries, fishworkers and fishing communities, including all issues of *SAMUDRA Report*, ICSF's triannual journal, and *Yemaya*, the newsletter on women in fisheries. All these, as well as the other publications, are available for free download from the site. You can also subscribe to *SAMUDRA News Alerts*, the free news service designed to deliver fisheries-related news and analysis daily or weekly, in either plain-text or HTML format.

For this workshop, a special website has been created at <http://www.icsf.net/jsp/conference/gb2006>. The site features all the presentations made at the workshop as well as useful information and links related to the themes discussed. The final report of the workshop will also be uploaded to the site.



Darwin's Nightmare

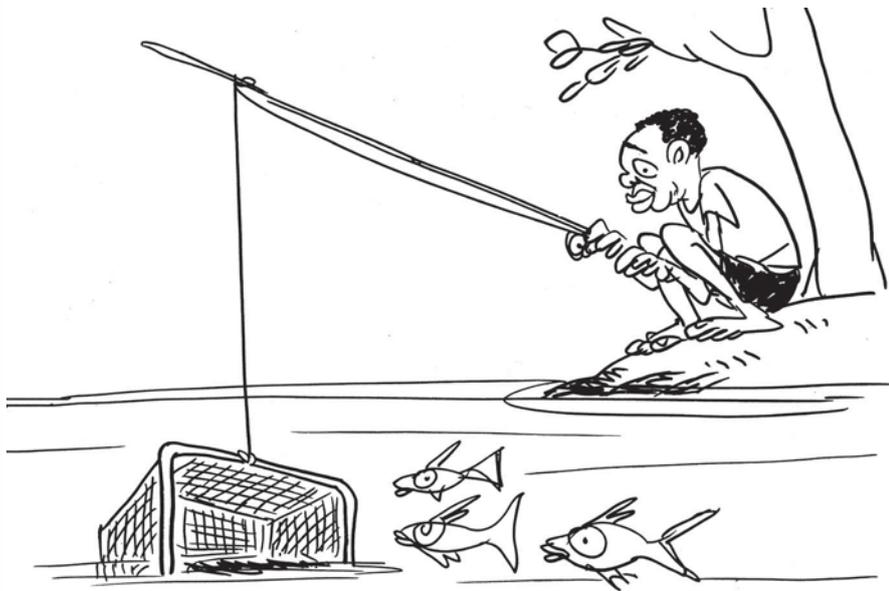
Some time in the 1960s, in the heart of Africa, a new animal was introduced into Lake Victoria as a little scientific experiment. The Nile Perch, a voracious predator, extinguished almost the entire stock of the native fish species. However, the new fish multiplied so fast that its white fillets are today exported all around the world.

Huge hulking ex-Soviet cargo planes come daily to collect the latest catch in exchange for their southbound cargo...Kalashnikovs and ammunition for the uncounted wars in the dark centre of the continent.

This booming multinational industry of fish and weapons has created an ungodly globalized alliance on the shores of the world's biggest tropical lake: an army of local fishermen, World Bank agents, homeless children, African ministers, EU commissioners, Tanzanian prostitutes and Russian pilots.

"Witty, provocative, angry and heart-breaking, this incisive, imaginative film ranges wide in the subjects it covers." — TIME OUT, London

(Darwin's Nightmare was screened here last night. Those who missed the film can request for a private screening.)



Know Your Portuguese

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Congratulations! | Parabéns! |
| Happy Birthday! | Feliz aniversário! |
| Happy Christmas! | Feliz Natal! |
| Happy New Year! | Feliz Ano Novo! |
| Happy Easter! | Feliz Páscoa! |
| Good Luck! | Boa sorte! |
| Enjoy the meal! | Bom apetite! |
| Have a safe journey! | Boa viagem! |

Take Care!

Cuidado!

ETIQUETTE

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Please | Se faz favor / Por favor |
| Thank you | Obrigada |
| Excuse me | Com licença / Desculpe |
| I'm sorry, but... | Peço desculpa, mas... |
| That's a shame | Que pena |
| May I... ? | Posso... ? |

Helpline

Conference Secretariat

Salao de Eventos 2 (adjacent to Conference hall)
Tel: 87390906

Registration/Travel

SESC Reception (Tel: 55 85 3318 6000)

Money Changing

SADOC (Cambio e Turismo, Fortaleza. Tel: 3219-7993)

Emergency Numbers

Police 190
Ambulance 3433-7373

SESC Address

Colônia Ecológica Sesc Iparana
Praia de Iparana S/N Caucaia
Ceará
Cep: 61.605-600
Tel: 55 85 3318 6000
Embratur: 20.03.612.122/0004-70



...it takes the waters of many rivers to make a mighty ocean—a samudra. And so it is with our Collective...



—Viewpoint from
SAMUDRA Report No. 1

Tomorrow

- Labour Issues in Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Fishworker Organizations: Emerging Concerns
- Concluding Session
- Dinner Party/Festa

SAMUDRA FOR FORTALEZA is a special publication brought out by the SAMUDRA Team for ICSF's 20th Anniversary Meet at Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil

SAMUDRA

FORTALEZA

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

Today's Agenda

- Labour Issues in Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Fishworker Organizations:
- Emerging Concerns
- Concluding Session
- Dinner Party/Festa

Obrigado!

As we meet for the last day of the workshop, it's time to thank all those who have spent several months in preparing for this event.

We would like to especially acknowledge the staff of Instituto Terramar, specifically, René Schärer, Eluziane, Thiago, Jefferson, Soraya, Rosinha, and Giselta Maria. And we're not forgetting Michelle...!

Thanks also to the staff of SESC for their hospitality, great food, and help, particularly, Sadi, Alain and Faustino. A special word of appreciation for the translation provided by ITI Translation, Fortaleza.

For the sketches, many, many thanks to Surendra (India) and our very own Gunnar. And to InApp, as always, great work!

And now, *até logo, Boa viagem...!!*

A long and fruitful day

The penultimate day of the workshop witnessed some spirited discussion on a range of issues affecting small-scale coastal fishing communities

The first day's spirited discussions on responsible and rights-based fisheries, and what such an approach would mean for small-scale fishing communities, brought forth concrete examples from Chile and Peru of their experiences with management areas and artisanal fishing zones. These subjects were explored in depth and more specifically in the group discussions that followed. The pre-dinner panel discussion dealt with distant-water fisheries.

The level of enthusiasm set on the first day continued on Day 2, a fairly packed day that saw discussions ranging from the role of the FAO in alleviating the conditions of poverty in fishing communities to trade in fish and fish products and how coastal communities should prepare for natural disasters.

In an exhaustive presentation, Rolf Willman, Senior Fisheries Planning Officer, FAO, described the possible

strategies and policies that could be employed to allow small-scale fisheries to help alleviate poverty and contribute to food security. Small-scale fisheries are undervalued and deserve more attention in policymaking, research and fisheries information systems. They should be provided with greater rights and access to fishery resources, land, water, technology, knowhow and capital, Rolf concluded.

The session on biodiversity and the ecosystem approach featured an elaboration of the CBD process, how marine extractive reserves can serve as an alternative approach to participatory conservation, and the small-scale fisheries perspective on the ecosystem approach to fisheries and oceans.

The post-lunch session on trade in fish and fish products focused on the World Trade Organization and the role of trade in food security. There was also an analysis of how the French public re-

sponded to the film *Darwin's Nightmare* and the role of globalization in the trade of the Nile Perch. How ecolabels affect the small-scale fisheries in Latin America was also discussed. The panel discussion on disaster preparedness and coastal fishing communities featured a range of experiences and potential strategies to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

The post-dinner screening of films rounded off a long and fruitful day, and hopefully set the tone for today, the concluding day of the workshop.

What's Inside

- Reflections..... 2
- Sound Bites 3
- Reflections..... 4
- Gunnar's Album 6

More ups than downs

I am not generally a person who lives in the past, although I do look back at times to take stock of where I am going and why. When I was requested a reflection for *SAMUDRA for Fortaleza* on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of ICSF, lots of memories did come back, and one can say they range wide—from high moments to low, from very successful programmes to some mediocre ones, from very engaging and stimulating friendships to some broken ones, from serious and hard work to exciting, fun times, but always, very constructive discussion and debates that have contributed to ‘valorizing the coastal fisheries’. On average, the ups seem to outweigh the downs.

At the close of the Rome Conference in 1984, the fishworkers present suggested that the supporters continue to support the coastal fishers in their struggle for survival, while they themselves would create and strengthen their collective organizations, demanding their rights to recognition and survival. While the fishworker organizations maintained their autonomy and grew the world over, the ICSF that was created in 1986 sought to:

- build bridges between fishworkers in regions where their fisheries were linked through bilateral agreements;
- see that the coastal fishery and fishworkers found a place in the international discourse and decisionmaking in world fisheries; and
- provide inputs to fishworker organizations on macro-developments that affect them at the micro-level.

I may not be wrong in concluding that ICSF has made significant strides in these directions, and, from that point of view, these two decades have been well worth it.

But this does not preclude the fact that these years have also been tumultuous. While change is inevitable, I do not think any of us foresaw the speed or

manner in which the entire equations of international relations and the mindset of development would change. In a way, capitalism and neoliberalism triumphed, shattering our organizational struggles against that twin ideology, shattering the strength of the organized working class by atomizing and ‘unorganizing’ it. The socialist option was rendered outdated, although the ‘rights perspective’ gained ground in the new global village, where the most powerful still call the shots.

These changes have affected coastal communities, fishworkers, fishworker organizations and all of us in so many ways. While several have been pauperized and rendered redundant, the surviving segment has got overcapitalized and has joined the race to chase the last fish. So has our definition of the ‘coastal fisher’, the ‘artisanal fisher’, the ‘small-scale fisher’ changed? By the very fact that we have worked mainly with fishworker organizations, the base that we relate to has continued to be those fishers that have survived.

But here again, there have been several catches: these are generally male fishers, and this has been one of the main reasons that women have got a back seat and probably one of the reasons why the feminist perspective within ICSF has not evolved to the extent it should have. This does not discount the work done and achieved in this regard, because ICSF has played a significant role in spreading a feminist and gender perspective and awareness among women from fishing communities, which has been the basis for them to organize and thereby expand the horizon and canvas of the coastal fishery.

The other disturbing happening has been the divisiveness in the fishworker organizations themselves, at a time when the world economy is converging as never before. While ICSF spent long years building bridges and understanding between fishworker organizations of the North and the South, East

and West, great mistrust and divisiveness developed when the organizations themselves took the lead in linking up globally. Moreover, the management of power within the organizations themselves has highlighted that alternative forms of organization have not sufficiently evolved to create workable options at the base. Here again, I would venture to add that patriarchal forms of leadership and vision have contributed to this shortcoming.

How we in ICSF have dealt with these changes, has been the challenge, keeping the rudder of the boat firm to weather the storm, while, at the same time, being responsive to the demands of those who keep their heads above the water. The brunt has been borne, in the most part, by the ICSF Secretariat, which was the institution created in 1991 when the Members realized that the demands made on them, and the need to respond to various issues locally, regionally and globally, were beyond the abilities of voluntary service.

But, in a way, the creation of the Secretariat—and an efficient one at that—has resulted in the decline of voluntary participation of the ICSF Members.

Forging a strategy aimed at the future is, therefore, going to be a greater challenge. But given the fact that the ocean resources and the coastal zone continue to be focal points for development, and the fact that there still remains so much energy among the old and young to continue to struggle against overpowering destructive development, I feel certain that new and positive strategies can be crafted to forge ahead.

For me personally, the experiences as a Member of ICSF have led to widening visions, on the one hand, but to great humility regarding the role of a support network, on the other. For this, I am most grateful to all those who have made this possible. 

Nalini Nayak (tom_nalinin@sancharnet.in) is a Founding Member of ICSF

Sound Bites

from South Africa

On the workshop:

We hope this could be an opportunity for representatives from fishworker and other organizations to come together and critically reflect on the gains that have been made for artisanal and small-scale fishers since the Rome Conference. This is also an opportunity to look at how the organizations can network collaboratively to address some of their concerns. It is also a chance to enhance the general understanding of fisheries, particularly in Latin America.

On fisheries in South Africa:

Southern Africa is fairly complex, and South Africa is fairly unique in southern Africa. South Africa has a highly industrial and capitalized commercial fishery, while most of the other countries are not as industrialized. The issues facing the region do certainly differ, even though all share some fish stocks.

The last 100 years saw the rapidly industrializing fishery dominated by four large white-owned companies. Those companies managed a strong stranglehold on the fisheries industry, and, during the apartheid regime, they were able to consolidate their position. In that period, many artisanal fishers lost their rights in the sense they were not allowed to fish on their own right.

With the transition to democracy in 1994, there were lots of hopes and expectations that the locals would be given rights, but that did not materialize at all. On the contrary, they were left out of the legislation and are not legally recognized at all as a sector.

Subsistence fishers are recognized, but this category involves those who fish to put food on the table — they are not supposed to sell the fish. Therefore, the key issue facing the sector is the lack of recognition and the resulting exclusion. It is ironic that

this has happened in this last (post-apartheid) period.

There are many issues facing fishers in South Africa, like enabling the fishworkers to speak for themselves, supporting them in organizing their own groups so that their voices are heard... The South African NGOs have often spoken for, and on behalf of, communities and it is really important that they advocate for their rights.

There are a number of other issues that have come up after the new policy. The small group of fishers that did get the right to fish, ironically, include some women because of the government's commitment to gender equity.

Women were encouraged to apply for rights and they have done so. In some communities, where the man is the traditional bona fide fisher, his partner is being offered the right, and he is now left out or excluded. The people are now going to court against the government because of the failure of the fisheries department to recognize artisanal fishers.

The biggest challenge is to be aware that the government does need to shift the racial profile of South African fisheries, which has, till now, been dominated by the whites. To that extent, they have to bring in new entrants, South African entrants. This is often at the cost of those talented artisanal fishers who have been there for many years. Therefore, the government must do a very fine balancing act.

On Masifundise Development Trust:

Masifundise is a South African NGO founded by a group of black activists, who started with adult education and adult literacy during the apartheid era, and who wanted to support and extend education to the blacks who were denied tertiary education.

In 1994, after the opening up of democracy, the organization went through an effort to re-strategize, and tried to focus on the poorest of the poor, which then led them to the coastal communities and the fisherpeople living on the coast. Now the focus is largely on coastal

developmental issues, mainly integrated coastal area management.

Much of Masifundise's focus is on building capacities in the coastal communities. Another task is to document the impact of the quota systems on people's rights and on traditional forms of harvesting and organizing, since quotas have already started to split the community.

— *These are excerpts from an interview with Jackie Sunde of Masifundise, by Neena Koshy*

from Thailand

On the workshop:

This conference has widened my perspective on what is happening at the international level, which has been useful, since I have been mainly concerned with issues facing fishing communities at the local and national level in Thailand. This meeting is an ideal opportunity for all participants to articulate the key issues facing small-scale fishing, and for ICSF to advocate and lobby at the international level. This meeting has also been a good networking space to engage with other NGOs in different countries and continents.

On fisheries in Thailand:

There are 412 fishing communities in Thailand, and 60 per cent of the communities were affected by the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The organization I work for, Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), in co-operation with a network of NGOs, has been working in the six provinces along the Andaman Sea.

In these provinces, 40 fishing communities were severely affected by the tsunami, and SDF has seen the post-tsunami rehabilitation process as a means to establish an alternative to the top-down approach. It has been advocating the rights of the communities in areas where the "middlemen", in collaboration with government officials, wanted to move

(...contd. Page 5)

20 years of ICSF

1986 was an eventful year for me. It started with the completion of the painful restructuring of the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) as a three-tier co-operative. Soon after, I was struck by Bells Palsy and needed to take a month off for physiotherapy.

Then came my first trip abroad to attend a workshop at FAO in Rome. It was some kind of a consolation trip organized by Rolf as I had missed out on participating in the 1984 Rome Conference due to the unfortunate loss of my passport while it was in transit for my Italian visa.

The FAO visit led to an impromptu visit to the UK at the invitation of ITDG. Brian organized a most interesting exposure trip, including visits to the Grimsby fisheries harbour and the Fisheries College in Hull. The year end saw me saddled with new responsibilities. I got married! To this list of important events in my life needs to be added the meeting at Trivandrum in November that led to the formation of ICSF. By virtue of SIFFS being a co-sponsor of the meeting, I was an automatic invitee and became—by default—a Founding Member of ICSF.

Looking back, I can say that my initial career as an ICSF Member was somewhat lackadaisical. With seniors like John Kurien and Nalini taking a keen interest in setting up the new organization, I was quite happy to be a passenger, focusing my energies on SIFFS, which was still struggling to establish itself. Still, my closeness to Nalini, John and Pierre Gillet ensured that I had a ringside view of the development of ICSF from its early days.

The start of an exciting initiative in West Africa, the launch of *SAMUDRA Report*, the various international meetings and studies, the setting up of the Madras office, etc. come to my mind. The 1990 Bangkok meeting and the 1994 Cebu meeting were part of my early exposures to international fishery issues.

Subsequently, I became a member of ICSF's Animation Team and my involvement became more intense. The participation in the FAO's Code of Conduct process and visits to Brazil and Canada added to my understanding of fishery issues. Still green in my memory is the meeting I attended in the Maritimes with Mike Belliveau, in which wharf representatives of the Maritime Fishermen's Union discussed the pros and cons of a six-inch escape hole for juvenile lobsters in their lobster traps. This was my first exposure to a co-management system.

I can safely say that ICSF has given me great opportunities to learn and widen my fisheries understanding, which influences my work in SIFFS and the Indian fishery in many ways. But for the international exposure I received through ICSF, I would have remained a frog in the well, incapable of relating to entirely different contexts. ICSF has also given me a wide range of contacts internationally and helped open doors that I did not know even existed. Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of being an ICSF Member is the wonderful comradeship that it automatically entitles you to and the warm personal relationships you develop with individuals across the world.

ICSF has clearly developed over the years into an organization with a strong presence in the fisheries world, and has a larger-than-life image disproportionate to its small size and budget. This is clearly the result of the dedication and creativity of many ICSF Members and the professional staff who run the Brussels and Madras offices. Looking back, one can say that ICSF has made an impact in areas that were not foreseen and hardly any in areas that were the original priority. I had assumed that ICSF would, in some way, catalyze the growth of national organizations of fishworkers across the globe. This would perhaps have been through providing inspiration and critical support to individuals who worked with the fishing communities and through capacity-build-

ing support to fledgling fishworker organizations. ICSF's West Africa intervention seemed to be consistent with this course of action. Somehow, we were unable to stay the course, and West Africa remains an exception or even an aberration.

Another area that we had great hopes was in research that would help ICSF play a prophetic role in the fisheries sector, setting the development agenda in favour of the small-scale sector and sustainable fisheries. Shrimp aquaculture was still in its infancy as a global industry and its negative impacts hardly understood. ICSF decided to be an early entrant in this arena and provide sage advice that might have avoided all the subsequent troubles. Unfortunately, the early bird did not catch the worm! Very obviously, we were naïve in assuming that an international organization could be run just on the basis of voluntary work by members who had their own jobs to do and lives to lead.

The areas that ICSF finally made a mark in are in lobbying at the international level and providing valuable information on the fisheries sector. This is the result of the change in the external environment and the skill profile and inclinations of the full-timers who joined the Madras office. When ICSF was set up, the issues facing small-scale fishermen were similar but the actions required were at the national level. The vision was, therefore, a network of members in the Third World who were active at the national and local level, supporting the fishworkers on these issues. The First World Members would, in turn, support these local and national struggles in their own way. However, the start of the Madras office coincided with the fall of the Berlin wall and a new world regime based on entirely new principles started emerging.

While national-level actions remain essential, action at the international level

V. Vivekanandan (vivek@siffs.org), Chief Executive of the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS), is a Founding Member of ICSF

to protect the interests of the small-scale fishermen (even if many are not so small anymore!) and fishing communities has become a new requirement. ICSF was best placed to play this role and it has realized its potential in this regard. Apex organizations (structured as apex or otherwise) operating at higher levels have greater relevance in a globalized world. Local action increasingly needs to be supported at higher levels through networking and federating. Providing timely information on the decisions taken at the higher levels and equipping the local organizations to influence these decisions, as well as to prepare for their consequences, have become important. The formation of the World Fishworkers Forum (WFF) and the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) need to be also seen in this light. As an organization of supporters, ICSF now has additional channels to reach the fishing communities and to enter into a dialogue with them. Documentation and information dissemination have obviously become key requirements, and ICSF is doing a great job in these areas.

The limited base of fishworker organizations and the limitations in their form and functioning continue to limit the effectiveness of ICSF in bringing real change at the grass-roots level, despite great successes in the international arena. Very clearly, the early vision of ICSF promoting fishworker organizations across the globe is not a feasible one. Now that the limitations of the 'fishworker' type of organization have been realized, other

forms of fisherfolk organizations are also required, but not much consensus exists on this. Despite useful contributions like *Conversations* (an ICSF publication), conceptualising fishworker and fishing community organizations remain a major weakness in ICSF. Our strength, largely based on the skill set of the full-timers, is 'sectoral' rather than in 'communities' and 'community organizations'. The theme for the 1998 Trivandrum General Body was chosen in recognition of this, but we could make no headway in developing intellectual capital on the theme of organizing fishworkers and communities.

While we can still discuss the best way to promote fishing community organizations, we should make the best use of our strong points. Our international lobbying and the Documentation Centre activities are best complemented by a vigorous capacity-building programme for community leaders and potential NGO staff. Our limited foray into this territory has shown good results, and we need to significantly scale up this activity, and hope it will result in more actors at the grass roots taking up the challenge. However, this will require significant scaling up in terms of human resources, and one wonders about the sustainability of ICSF at a higher level of overheads. This is something that requires creative thinking at the Fortaleza General Body Meeting.

My salute to all who have contributed in making ICSF what it is today!



Enigmas by Pablo Neruda

*I want to tell you the ocean knows this, that life in its jewel boxes
is endless as the sand, impossible to count, pure,
and among the blood-colored grapes time has made the petal
hard and shiny, made the jellyfish full of light
and untied its knot, letting its musical threads fall
from a horn of plenty made of infinite mother-of-pearl.*

*I am nothing but the empty net which has gone on ahead
of human eyes, dead in those darkneses,
of fingers accustomed to the triangle, longitudes
on the timid globe of an orange.*

*I walked around as you do, investigating
the endless star,
and in my net, during the night, I woke up naked,
the only thing caught, a fish trapped inside the
wind.*

— Translated by Robert Bly

Sound Bites (...contd. from Page 4)

the communities to establish resorts. SDF intervened, believing that the community had the right to the land.

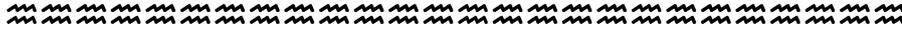
On SDF:

The main goal of the organization is to advocate for community rights in the form of access and management of natural resources. At the micro-level, it concentrates on awareness-raising campaigns, networking and presenting alternatives to managing natural resources. At the macro-level, it lobbies support from other organizations on emerging issues, and campaigns for these issues to be articulated in public policy. Some of the macro-level campaigns focus on aquaculture in coastal areas; a community right law, where communities are fully consulted in any decision-making process; the decentralization of the formal sector into the informal; and, in the post-tsunami phase, human-rights approach in rehabilitation. SDF has a strong gender perspective as it believes that women are often the most vulnerable in fishing communities.

— From an interview of Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Director of SDF, Thailand, by Moenieba Isaacs of the University of Cape Town, South Africa



Gunnar's Album



Helpline

Conference Secretariat

Salao de Eventos 2 (adjacent to Conference hall)

Registration/Travel

SESC Reception (Tel: 55 85 3318 6000)

Money Changing

SADOC (Cambio e Turismo, Fortaleza. Tel: 3219-7993)

Emergency Numbers

Police 190
Ambulance 3433-7373

SESC Address

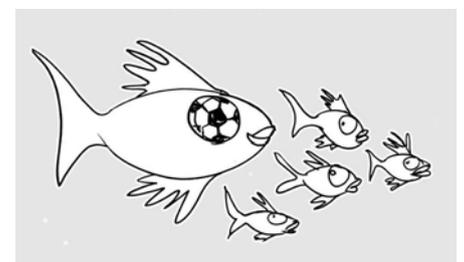
Colônia Ecológica Sesc Iparana
Praia de Iparana S/N Caucaia
Ceará
Cep: 61.605-600
Tel: 55 85 3318 6000
Embratur: 20.03.612.122/0004-70
Site: www.sesc-ce.com.br

“

Conservation should be 80 per cent negotiation, 10 per cent common sense and 10 per cent science.

”

— Antonio Carlos Diegues



SAMUDRA FOR FORTALEZA is a special publication brought out by the SAMUDRA Team for ICSF's 20th Anniversary Meet at Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil

SAMUDRA

FORTALEZA

COLETIVO INTERNACIONAL DE APOIO AOS TRABALHADORES DA PESCA

REFLEXÕES | John Kurien

De Roma a Fortaleza

O plano para a Conferência de Roma aconteceu de repente. Uma carta. Um desafio. Com algumas pessoas chave em alguns países—três mulheres e um homem—o trabalho de coordenação era fácil e agradável. A própria conferência combinou discussões—sérias e de alto nível—e muita diversão. O envolvimento da Prefeitura de Roma e a permissão de utilizar a Praça Navona para um evento cultural trouxeram legitimidade pública ao evento e permitiu a participação popular. Fazer o evento em paralelo à Conferência Mundial sobre Pesca, organizada pela FAO, também possibilitou grande cobertura da imprensa.

Saudades a parte, o caminho que levou até Roma foi descentralizado, o trabalho de preparação foi democrático e, em Roma mesmo, uma mistura de agenda entusiástica e eventos comemorativos que nós conseguimos organizar naqueles dias.

Nós pensamos que tudo acabaria em Roma. Contudo, ficou o compromisso de criar um fórum de apoio aos trabalhadores da pesca. Passaram dois anos para que ele gerasse frutos. Discussões na Índia. Visitas de alguns

de nós a Noruega, Roma, Senegal e Canadá. Finalmente, o Coletivo Internacional de Apoio aos Trabalhadores da Pesca nasceu em Trivandrum, Índia, em novembro de 1986.

Nós tínhamos um sonho: fazer dessa rede de apoio “uma força” no mundo da pesca. Bangkok, em 1990, confirmou que devíamos continuar. Cebu (Filipinas), em 1994, definiu uma nova agenda. A criação dos dois fóruns mundiais, de “trabalhadores da pesca” e de “povos pesqueiros” nos fez questionar sobre a necessidade de continuar existindo, quando nos reunimos em Trivandrum, em 1998. Mas em 2002, em Maputo, reafirmamos uma nova visão de apoio.

Desde então, o reconhecimento global veio de várias frentes: mais importante, a FAO concedeu a Medalha Margarita Lizárraga de 2002-2003 para o ICSF, em razão das “iniciativas abrangentes, sustentáveis e catalisadoras tomadas pelo ICSF em apoio ao Código de Conduta da Pesca Responsável, através de oficinas, atividades de advocacia e difusão, bem como mobilizando apoio na base, atuando na construção de capacidades, especialmente em países em desenvolvimento”.

Mais recentemente, em 2005, Svensk Fisk (da Suécia) concedeu o Prêmio Kungsfenan Swedish Seafood (também conhecido como o Nobel do setor pesqueiro) ao ICSF, em reconhecimento de seus “esforços em promover pesca sustentável, por trabalhar junto aos pescadores de pequena escala e suas comunidades e por distribuir notícias relacionadas à pesca e informação relativa à pesca sustentável ao público das comunidades costeiras”.

Assim, temos sido capazes de, silenciosamente, influenciar grandes discussões sobre pesca na FAO, nas Nações Unidas (UN) e na Organização Internacional do Trabalho (OIT). Nosso sucesso em influenciar a política pública na pesca foi, talvez, bem além do que esperávamos. Contudo, o reconhecimento que recebemos dos trabalhadores da pesca e das próprias comunidades pesqueiras tem sido variado nos diferentes países.

A força de qualquer rede depende de seus elos mais fracos. Para nós, a dificuldade tem sido trazer novos membros como colaboradores. Talvez esse modo de apoio não seja mais relevante. Talvez a perspectiva de classe para definir as contradições

John Kurien (*kurien.john@gmail.com*), Professor no Centro de Estudos de Desenvolvimento, Trivandrum, Índia, e membro fundador do ICSF

existentes no setor não seja mais válida hoje. A necessidade atual é de apoiar comunidades costeiras no mundo para resolver problemas complexos, mutáveis e de muitas dimensões, agindo nos níveis global e local. Para alcançar isso, temos de nos perguntar: Até que ponto a estrutura que temos hoje é adequada para lidar com tais desafios? Será que os laços que construímos nas duas últimas décadas são fortes o bastante para fazer avançar a causa? Nosso modo de trabalho é eficaz para levarmos adiante nossas promessas de apoio? Nosso estoque de conhecimentos é suficientemente bom para tais tarefas? Como utilizar a boa vontade que adquirimos através dos anos como fundamento para construir as ações futuras?

Hoje, essas são algumas das questões cruciais que se levantam para nós. Precisamos de um auto-exame. O dever está em cada um de nós em articular nossos pensamentos e oferecer algumas opiniões francas. Nós fomos a Roma em 1984 com nossa fé, expectativas e esperanças.

Em Trivandrum em 1986, nós delineamos um modo de apoio. Nós chegamos a Fortaleza, agora, duas décadas depois, com perguntas e uma encruzilhada de opções. Só o tempo vai dizer qual terá realmente feito a diferença.

Traduzido de SAMUDRA for Fortaleza por Maria Cristina Maneschy

Um contrapeso único e indispensável

Emboira eu tenha me tornado membro do ICSF apenas no fim dos anos 1980, eu tive a chance de assistir a Conferência de Roma organizada por aqueles que iriam fundar o ICSF. O encontro de Roma foi decisivo para mim, porque descobri lá o crescente poder das organizações do Sul. As ONGs que eu havia encontrado até então eram dominadas por representantes do Norte. A Conferência de Roma – e, depois, o ICSF – ajudaram-me a entender os problemas da pesca industrial e o impacto da política europeia nos países do Sul. Trabalhadores da pesca dos países do Sul fizeram-nos entender que o futuro está na pesca artesanal.

Voltando de Roma, decidi criar um boletim, Pesca & Desenvolvimento, que é publicado regularmente desde então. Hoje, em Lorient, França, onde moro, a pesca artesanal é praticamente a única que sobrevive, já que a frota industrial entrou em colapso no final da década de 80. Depois de exaurir os estoques de pescado na Europa, os velhos barcos de arrasto industriais foram vendidos para a África, onde eles continuaram fazendo grandes estragos.

O ICSF também nos ajudou muito a entender o papel das mulheres na pesca. O Encontro de Cebu (Filipinas) em 1994 enfatizou esse aspecto. A crise profunda que atravessava a pesca na França em 1992-3 tinha mostrado como as esposas de pescadores desempenham um papel fundamental na sustentação das comunidades pesqueiras; hoje, elas ocupam posições importantes em várias organizações nessas comunidades.

Embora dando prioridade a trabalhadores da pesca de países do Sul,

o ICSF tem sido perspicaz em manter laços com trabalhadores da pesca no Norte. A evolução da pesca no Norte torna possível entender como a pesca artesanal no Sul pode evoluir e quais são os problemas a evitar com vistas a um futuro sustentável. Um dos grandes desafios para os pescadores artesanais do Sul é o de desenvolver a pesca de alto mar sem usar equipamentos muito custosos. Os mercados estão frequentemente no Norte e eles têm impactos crescentes nas comunidades pesqueiras do Sul. Graças à rede do ICSF e sua estrutura de comunicação, nós fomos capazes de tomar parte efetiva no debate que se deu na França sobre o filme “Pesadelo de Darwin”, sobre a exportação do peixe Perca do Nilo da África. Países do Norte importam mais e mais pescado do Sul e muitas pessoas se perguntam sobre a sustentabilidade e a equidade nessas práticas comerciais.

A rede do ICSF é única no sentido de capacitar as pessoas a entender as implicações e tendências na pesca mundial. Trata-se de uma ONG indispensável que pode fortalecer a voz das comunidades pesqueiras, especialmente como contrapeso diante da influência poderosa das ONGs ambientalistas, que tendem a impor seus próprios pontos de vista. Os pescadores artesanais nos países do Norte tornam-se minorias invisíveis. Para sobreviverem, eles devem não apenas fazer alianças com outros grupos, mas também com pescadores do Sul, que são muito mais numerosos, para divulgar suas demandas em escala global, uma vez que eles estejam organizados.

Nós chegamos ao limite na exploração dos recursos pesqueiros do mundo e

AlainLe Sann (ad.lesann@wanadoo.fr), editor do boletim Pesca e Desenvolvimento e membro do ICSF

agora devemos repartir esses recursos de modo igualitário. O desafio para os pescadores do mundo não é só o de defender suas atividades de pesca; é, também, restaurar as capacidades produtivas das zonas costeiras onde atuam. Nós conhecemos muitas experiências positivas desse tipo no mundo—e elas alimentam nossas esperanças. 🌍

Mais altos que baixos

Traduzido de SAMUDRA for Fortaleza por Maria Cristina Maneschy

Eu não sou geralmente o tipo de pessoa que vive do passado, embora eu de fato olhe para trás, às vezes, para tomar pé de onde estou e para onde estou indo. Quando me pediram uma reflexão para SAMUDRA para Fortaleza, por ocasião do 20º aniversário do ICSF, muitas memórias voltaram, e posso dizer que elas cobrem momentos altos e baixos, lembranças de programas de muito sucesso e alguns de resultados medíocres, de amizades estimulantes e sólidas, amizades rompidas, de trabalhos sérios e difíceis, momentos excitantes e divertidos. Mas, sempre, discussão muito construtiva e debates que contribuíram para ‘valorizar as pescas costeiras’. Na média, os altos momentos ultrapassam os baixos.

No final da Conferência de Roma, de 1984, os trabalhadores da pesca presentes sugeriram que os colaboradores continuassem a apoiar as pescas costeiras em sua luta por sobrevivência, enquanto eles mesmos iriam criar e fortalecer suas organizações coletivas, lutar por seus direitos ao reconhecimento e permanência. As organizações de trabalhadores da pesca mantinham sua autonomia e cresciam em todo o mundo. O ICSF buscava, nesse contexto inicial:

- Construir pontes entre trabalhadores da pesca em regiões nas quais suas pescarias fossem ligadas por acordos bilaterais;
- Observar que as pescas costeiras e os trabalhadores da pesca tivessem um lugar no discurso internacional e na tomada de decisão na pesca mundial;
- Dar subsídios às organizações de trabalhadores da pesca sobre

desenvolvimentos no plano global que lhes afetavam no nível local.

Eu posso não estar enganada em dizer que o ICSF fez significativos progressos nessas direções e, desse ponto de vista, as duas décadas valeram a pena.

Mas, não se deve esquecer que esses anos também foram tumultuados. A mudança é inevitável, é claro, mas não creio que algum de nós tenha previsto a velocidade ou o modo como as tendências das relações internacionais na perspectiva do desenvolvimento iriam mudar. De certo modo, o capitalismo e o neoliberalismo triunfaram, rompendo nossas lutas organizacionais contra essas ideologias gêmeas, rompendo a força da classe trabalhadora organizada e gerando atomização e desorganização. A opção socialista ficou defasada, embora a ‘perspectiva dos direitos’ se enraizasse na nova aldeia global, onde os mais poderosos ainda são os que têm a última palavra.

Essas mudanças afetaram as comunidades costeiras, os trabalhadores da pesca, as organizações, bem como a todos nós, de maneira profunda. Embora muitos tenham se pauperizado e se tornado dispensáveis, o segmento que sobreviveu se tornou altamente capitalizado e muitos se juntaram na corrida pelo ‘último peixe’. Pergunto: nossa definição de ‘pescador costeiro’, ‘pescador artesanal’, ‘pescador de pequena escala’ mudou nesse sentido? O próprio fato de que temos trabalhado principalmente com organizações de trabalhadores da pesca, a base com a qual nos relacionamos continuou a ser a daqueles pescadores que

Nalini Nayak (tvm_nalinin@sancharnet.in)
émembro fundador do ICSF

sobreviveram. Mas, aqui novamente, várias questões se levantam: são, geralmente, pescadores homens, e essa foi uma das razões por que as mulheres ficaram em um lugar secundário e, provavelmente, uma das razões para o fato de que perspectiva feminista no seio do ICSF não tenha evoluído como deveria. Isso não tira o mérito do trabalho que foi feito e do que se alcançou nessa área, porque o ICSF teve um papel relevante em difundir uma perspectiva feminista e de gênero, bem como a consciência entre mulheres de comunidades pesqueiras, que tem sido a base para elas se organizarem e, assim, expandirem o horizonte e visibilidade da pesca costeira.

Outro acontecimento perturbador foi a divisão ocorrida nas próprias organizações de pescadores, em um momento no qual a economia mundial está mais convergente do que nunca. Enquanto o ICSF passou muitos anos construindo pontes e entendimentos entre organizações de trabalhadores da pesca do Norte e do Sul, Leste e Oeste, desconfiança e divisionismo se desenvolveram quando as organizações decidiram se ligar no nível global. Ademais, a gestão do poder dentro das próprias organizações tornou claro que formas alternativas de organização não tinham se desenvolvido suficientemente para criar opções factíveis na base. Mais uma vez aqui eu me aventuraria dizendo que formas patriarcais de liderança e de visão contribuíram para esse resultado.

Como nós no ICSF lidamos com tais mudanças, tem sido um desafio, mantendo o leme do barco firme para atravessar a tempestade e, ao mesmo tempo, responder a demandas daqueles que mantêm a cabeça fora da água. O impacto foi assumido, em sua maior parte, pelo Secretariado do ICSF, que foi a instituição criada em 1991 quando os membros compreenderam que as demandas que estavam assumindo e a necessidade de responder a várias questões localmente, regionalmente e globalmente, estavam

além de suas possibilidades de trabalho voluntário. Mas, de certo modo, a criação do Secretariado—muito efetivo por sinal—resultou no declínio da participação voluntária dos membros do ICSF.

Construir uma estratégia para o futuro será um grande desafio. Mas, como os recursos oceânicos e as zonas costeiras seguem sendo pontos críticos de desenvolvimento e, também, o fato de que ainda há muita energia para continuarmos a lutar contra o desenvolvimento destrutivo, estou certa de que estratégias novas e positivas podem ser elaboradas para seguir em frente. Para mim, pessoalmente, as experiências como membro do ICSF ampliaram minhas percepções, por um lado e, por outro, me ensinaram a ver com humildade o papel de uma rede apoio. Por isso, eu estou muito agradecida a todos os que tornaram possível essa experiência. 🌍

Traduzido de SAMUDRA for Fortaleza por Maria Cristina Maneschy

20 anos de ICSF

1986 foi um ano ocupado para mim. Iniciou com a conclusão do dolorido processo de reestruturação da Federação de Sociedades de Pescadores do Sul da Índia (SIFFS), como uma cooperativa tripartite. Logo depois, fui surpreendido pela doença de Bells Palsy e precisei tirar um mês para fisioterapia.

Então, veio minha primeira viagem para participar do workshop de Roma. Foi como uma viagem de consolação organizada por Rolf, pois eu havia perdido a chance de participar da Conferência de 1984, devido à perda de meu passaporte.

A visita da FAO levou a uma visita repentina ao Reino Unido, a convite do ITDG. Brian organizou uma viagem muito interessante, incluindo visitas ao porto de pesca de Grimsby e ao Colégio de Pesca em Hull. O ano terminou com novas responsabilidades. Eu me casei! A essa lista de eventos importantes na minha vida, acrescenta-se o encontro em Trivandrum, em novembro, quando foi fundado o ICSF. Pelo fato de o SIFFS ser um co-patrocinador do encontro, eu estava automaticamente convidado a participar e me tornei, assim, um membro fundador do ICSF.

Olhando para trás, posso dizer que minha carreira inicial como membro do ICSF não foi nada extraordinária. Com membros como John Kurien e Nalini envolvidos na criação da nova organização, eu estava contente em ser um passageiro, concentrando minhas energias no SIFFS, que ainda lutava para se estabelecer. Ademais, minha proximidade com Nalini, John e Pierre Gillet me permitia ter uma visão do desenvolvimento do ICSF desde seus primeiros dias.

O começo de uma estimulante iniciativa na África do Oeste, o

lançamento de SAMUDRA Report, os vários encontros e estudos internacionais, a instalação do escritório em Madras, etc., todos vêm à minha mente. O encontro de 1990 em Bangkok e o de 1994 em Cebu fizeram parte de minhas primeiras exposições aos problemas das pescas internacionais.

Em seguida, tornei-me membro do Animation Team do ICSF e meu envolvimento tornou-se mais intenso. Participar do processo de construção do Código de Conduta da Pesca Responsável, da FAO e das visitas ao Brasil e ao Canadá, ampliou meu entendimento das questões da pesca. Ainda vivo em minha memória, o encontro que tive na região marítima do Canadá, com Mike Belliveau, na qual representantes da União dos Pescadores Marítimos discutiram os prós e contras do uso de uma medida de malha nas armadilhas para lagostas, que permitisse a saída dos espécimes juvenis. Essa foi minha primeira experiência com um sistema de gestão pesqueira.

Posso dizer sem dúvida que o ICSF me propiciou grandes oportunidades de aprender e ampliou meu entendimento da pesca, o que influencia meu trabalho na SIFFS e a pesca na Índia, de muitas maneiras. Se não fosse essa possibilidade de experiência internacional que recebi do ICSF, teria permanecido quase ignorante, incapaz de relacionar contextos tão diferentes. ICSF também me permitiu contatos internacionais e ajudou a abrir portas que eu nem sabia que existiam. Talvez o aspecto mais agradável da filiação ao ICSF seja o companheirismo ao qual você tem acesso e as relações estreitas que você pode desenvolver com pessoas em diferentes países.

O ICSF claramente se desenvolveu ao longo dos anos no rumo de uma organização com forte presença no mundo da pesca e construiu uma

imagem muito grande, sem proporção com seu real tamanho e meios financeiros. Isso claramente resulta da dedicação e criatividade de muitos membros do ICSF e do pessoal que trabalha nos escritórios em Madras e Bruxelas. Olhando para trás, pode-se dizer que o ICSF teve impactos não previstos anteriormente e que não faziam parte das prioridades iniciais. Eu tinha assumido que o ICSF iria, de algum modo, favorecer o crescimento de organizações nacionais de trabalhadores da pesca no mundo. Isso provavelmente teria ocorrido caso tivesse havido inspiração e suporte crítico a indivíduos que trabalhavam com comunidades pesqueiras e, também, por meio de capacitação para contribuir com o avanço das organizações de trabalhadores da pesca.

Outra área da qual esperávamos muito era na pesquisa, que ajudaria ICSF a desempenhar um papel proativo no setor, definindo uma agenda de desenvolvimento que fosse favorável ao setor de pesca artesanal e para uma pesca sustentável. A carcinicultura ainda estava engatinhando como indústria global e seus efeitos negativos ainda eram pouco claros. ICSF decidira entrar nessa arena e tentar precaver sobre os problemas que deveriam ser evitados. Infelizmente, apesar disso, falhamos. Obviamente éramos inocentes o bastante para pensar que uma organização internacional poderia funcionar na base de trabalho voluntário dos membros que tinham cada um seus próprios empregos e vidas para tocar.

As áreas em que o ICSF finalmente deixou sua marca: lobbies no nível internacional e produção e difusão de valiosas informações sobre o setor pesqueiro. Quando o ICSF foi instalado, as questões que afetavam os pescadores de pequena escala eram

parecidas, mas as ações necessárias se deviam dar no nível nacional. Víamos uma rede cujos membros no Terceiro Mundo fossem ativos nos níveis nacional e internacional. Os membros do Primeiro Mundo iriam, por sua vez, apoiar as lutas locais e nacionais de seu próprio modo. No entanto, o início do escritório de Madras coincidiu com a Queda do Muro de Berlim e um novo regime mundial baseado em novos princípios emergiu.

Ações de nível local permanecem importantes, mas a ação no plano internacional para proteger os interesses dos pescadores de pequena escala e as comunidades pesqueiras se tornaram uma nova necessidade. ICSF estava bem posicionado para desempenhar tal papel internacional e realizou seu potencial a esse respeito. A ação local precisa cada vez mais de ser apoiada por redes. Tornou-se essencial poder oferecer informação sobre as decisões que ocorrem nos níveis mais altos a essas organizações e, também, contribuir para que elas estejam equipadas para influenciar nessas decisões. A formação do Fórum Mundial de Trabalhadores da Pesca e do Fórum Mundial dos Povos Pesqueiros precisam ser vistas à luz desses fatos. Documentação e disseminação de informação são atividades chave e o ICSF está fazendo um bom trabalho nessas áreas.

Embora possamos ainda discutir o melhor modo de promover as organizações de comunidades pesqueiras, nós devemos fazer o melhor uso possível de nossos pontos fortes. Nossos lobbies internacionais e o Centro de Documentação serão

bem complementados por um programa vigoroso de capacitação para líderes comunitários e para pessoal de ONGs. É necessário planejar em recursos humanos. Reflexão e criatividade são necessários neste encontro do GB em Fortaleza.

Minhas saudações a todos que contribuem na construção do ICSF! 🌍

Traduzido de SAMUDRA for Fortaleza por Maria Cristina Maneschy