Implementing the SSF Guidelines at the National and Sub-national Levels: Challenges and Opportunities

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International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
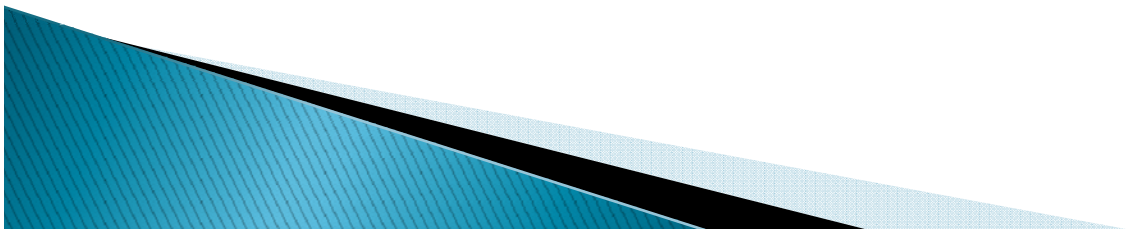Trust, Chennai, India

www.icsf.net

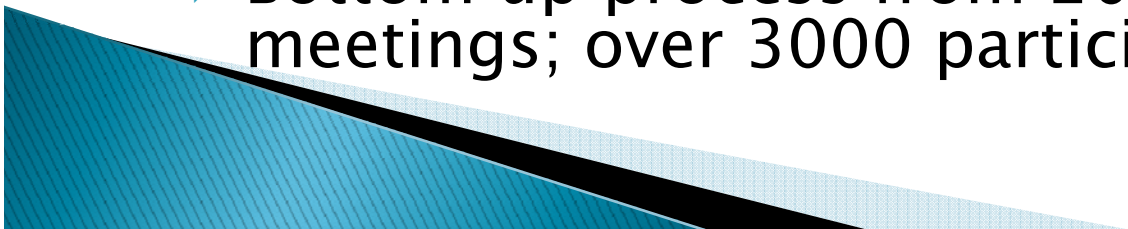International Symposium MECOS3 Marine Ecosystems Challenges and Opportunities, 7–10 January 2020, Kochi, India

1995 Code

▸ *Recognizing the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security, States should protect the rights of fishers and fishworkers, particularly those engaged in subsist ence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood, as well as preferential access to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction (Article 6.18)*

SSF Guidelines

- On 10 June 2014, at the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 31) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 143 Member States adopted the first international instrument dedicated to defending and promoting small-scale fisheries
- For over six years, a platform of civil society organizations (CSOs) has been actively engaged with FAO and its Member States to develop this instrument. These organizations include the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF), the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC), and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF).
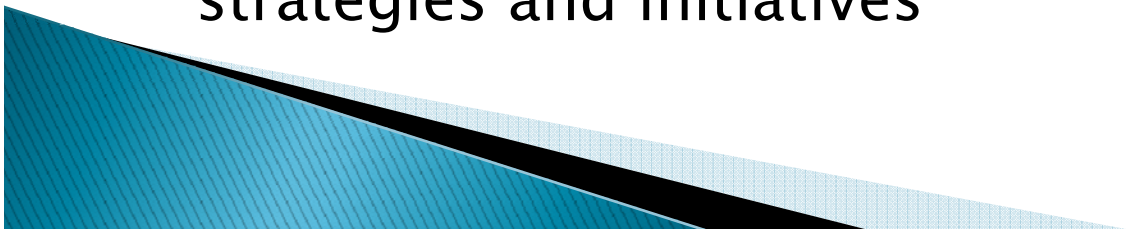- Bottom up process from 2008-2014:120 meetings; over 3000 participants

SSF Guidelines (cont...)

- SSF Guidelines go beyond fisheries (UNFSA, CCRF) and highlight the rights of fishers and fishworkers.
- SSF Guidelines strive to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries, to end hunger and poverty and strengthen human rights.
- SSF Guidelines are a tool to guide dialogue, policy processes and action at all levels, from local communities to global fora.
- How can we implement the SSF Guidelines in our context?
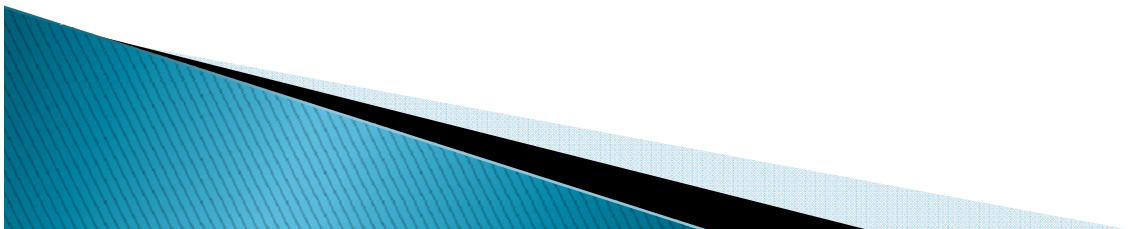
SSF Guidelines implementation in India

- ICSF-FAO organized four workshops in India: Chennai, Kolkata, Chennai and Thrissur
- To enable small-scale fisheries actors to actively participate and engage
- To contribute to securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of the implementation of SSF Guidelines
- To develop short term and long term action points for the implementation of national fisheries policies (marine and inland)
- To support the social, economic and environmental transformation of the small-scale fisheries sector towards its better contribution to food security and poverty eradication as a result of improved policies, strategies and initiatives

Workshops

- National Marine Fisheries Policy (July, 2019)
- Mainstreaming gender into fisheries policies and legislation (August, 2019)
- Draft Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture policy, (September, 2019)
- Raise awareness of local self-governments about SSF Guidelines (November, 2019)

For more information: https://igssf.icsf.net/

Key recommendations

- Legislation to protect diverse forms of legitimate rights
- Protect their tenure rights
- Provide preferential access to resources
- Support vulnerable and marginalized women fishworkers

Participatory forms of management and inclusive approach

- Right to livelihoods
- Inclusive approach to Marine Spatial Planning
- Human rights-based approach
- Use of traditional knowledge
- Input and output controls, and registration
- Principle of scale-subsidiarity

Amending of legislation and policy with fishers rights

- New developments in Indian marine fisheries
- National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017
- Draft Mariculture Policy, 2019
- Cross-sectoral coherence and collaboration

Mariculture

- Demarcation of areas
- Access rights
- Leasing policy
- Social impacts

Fisheries Post-harvest

▸ Hygienic fish storage
▸ Development of marketing facilities
▸ Financial support
▸ Branding
▸ Value addition
▸ Traceability
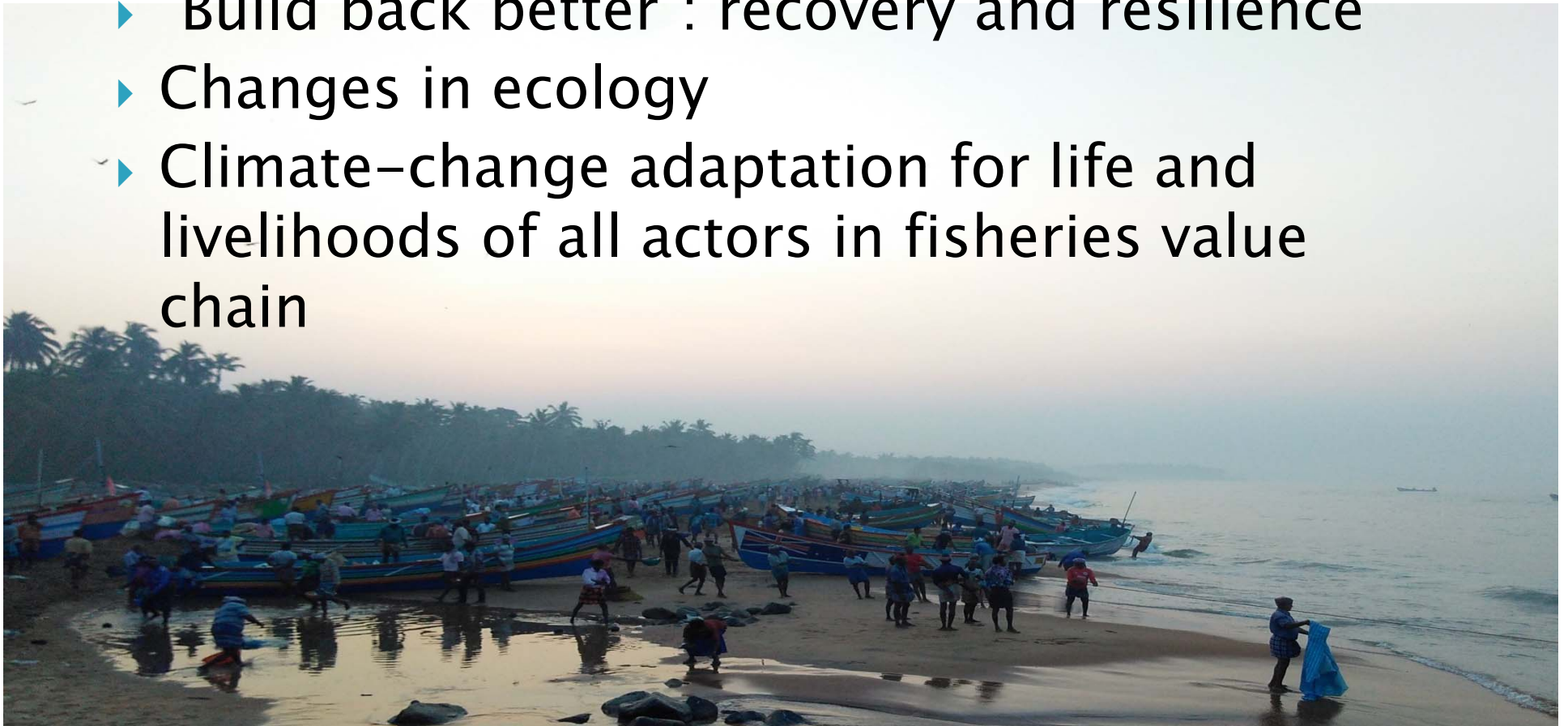▸ Chain of custody
▸ Fishmeal plants and sustainability

National level platform of women fishworkers

- Formation of a National level platform of women fishworkers
- Budget allocation
- Support for women fishworkers
- Women cooperatives in post-harvest sector

Disaster Risk and Climate change

- Restore livelihoods
- Migrant workers
- "Build back better": recovery and resilience
- Changes in ecology
- Climate-change adaptation for life and livelihoods of all actors in fisheries value chain

Social development

▸ Human development in health, education, housing, sanitation and social security
▸ Skill development in fishing and digital inclusion
▸ Enhanced compensation for participation in conservation
▸ Equity
▸ Consultation and participation in decision making processes

Occupational safety and health

- Evaluate occupational safety and health issues
- Develop and enforce sea safety regulation
- Working conditions
- Living conditions
- Migrant workers
- Disaster risk management

Coordination

- Transparency and accountability of institutions and organizations
- Periodic review of policy and legislation
- Legislation for co-management
- Coordination between line agencies and coastal state governments

Local-self governments

- Capacity development of local self governments
- Devolution vs decentralisation
- Budget allocation
- Formation of Matsya Sabhas (fisheries assembly)
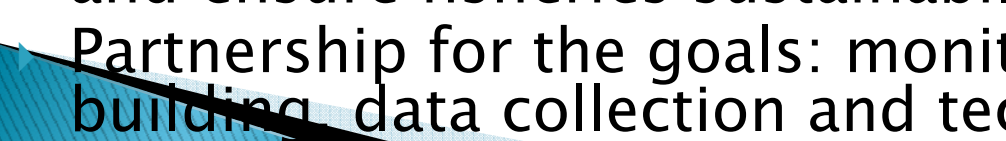- Participation in resource management

Development of implementation plan

- Recommendations by fishworker organizations and CSOs
- Action points with identification of nodal agencies
- Timeline for implementation
- Legislation for EEZ
- Funds for implementation

Sustainable development Goals

- SSF Guidelines are linked to SDGs 1,2,5,8,13,14 and 17
- No poverty- Housing, secure tenure, education, sanitation and health
- Zero hunger- Right to food, food security and nutrition
- Gender equity: gender mainstreaming in policies, participation in decision making process
- Decent work and Economic growth: Integrated value chains, safe work, elimination of forced labour and social security for fishworkers
- Climate action: climate change policies, disaster risk reduction
- Life below water: measures to reduce overcapacity and ensure fisheries sustainability
- Partnership for the goals: monitoring, capacity building, data collection and technology transfer

Thank You