

CONTENTS		
S.L	Country Reports	Page No.
1	India Statement: National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine & Inland Small-scale Fisheries, Organized by: National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) In Collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), 19 - 21 September 2011, Kolkata, India	1
	India Report	7
2	Uganda Statement: The National Consultative Workshop for Small-Scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries, Organized by: Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) In Collaboration with Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA), 14th & 15th November 2011, Kampala, Uganda	31
	Uganda Report	35
3	Senegal Declaration: Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, World Fisheries Day Saly, Mbour Senegal, 21 November 2011	47
	Senegal Report	54
4	Sri Lanka Report: A Process of Building Voluntary Guideline for Sustainable, Small Scale Fisheries - Proposal from Sri Lankan Fisheries Community Workshop from 20-21 November: at No. 10, Malwatta Road, Negombo (20-21 November), Policy Dialogue on 22 November: at Rukmanie Devi Cultural, Center, Negombo, 20-22 November Malwatta Road, Negombo, Sri Lanka	61

5	Brazil Statement: VG-SSF Brazil Workshop: Report on Brazil's Inquiry for the Voluntary FAO Guidelines on artisanal fisheries 23-24 November (workshop) for NGOs Community Tourism Center of Prainha do Canto Verde, 25 November (Workshop) for other stakeholders 22-25 November 2011, Prainha do Canto Verde – Ceara, Brazil	83
	Brazil Report	95
6	Honduras Statement: National Consultation in Honduras on the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Organized by CODDEFFAGOLF, member of the WFFP, with support from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) 23-24 November 2011, San Lorenzo, Valle, Honduras	102
7	Costa Rica Recommendations: Recommendations for the Implementation and Development of the Voluntary Guidelines to Secure Small-scale Sustainable Fisheries in Costa Rica, Organized by: CoopeTarcoles and facilitated by CoopeSoliDar, December 7-8, 2011, Tarcoles, Garabito, Costa Rica	111
8	El Salvador Statement: Seminar on "Sustainable Artisanal Fishing: Towards the FAO Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Marine and Inland Fisheries, at International Level" 13 – 14 December 2011, San Salvador, El Salvador	114
9	Panama Report: VG SSF National Consultation, Panama, Organized by the National Federation of Artisanal Fishermen's Organizations (FENAPESCA), 12 and 13 January 2012, Hotel del Sol, David, Chiriqui, Panama	122
10	Nicaragua Statement: A National Consultation on the VG SSF Guidelines, Organized by The Nicaraguan Fisheries Federation (FENICPESCA)24 and 25 January 2012, The city of Chinandega	128
	Nicaragua Report	134

11	Philippines Report : The Philippine Consultation On UN-FAO Voluntary Guidelines For Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, January 27-31, 2012, Quezon City, Philippines	137
12	South Africa Statement: The South African National Consultative Workshop for Small-Scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries, Organised by Masifundise Development Trust, 14th - 16th February 2012, Cape Town, South Africa	164
	South Africa Report	169

STATEMENT

National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine & Inland Small-scale Fisheries

**Organized by:
National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)
In Collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)**

19 – 21 September 2011

Kolkata, India

We, 62 participants representing the inland and marine fishing communities, fishworker organizations, and non-governmental organizations, having gathered at the National Workshop on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-Scale Fisheries, from 19 to 21 September 2011 in Kolkata, West Bengal, India;

Welcoming the decision of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to develop a set of voluntary guidelines addressing both inland and marine small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, and would complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

Noting that about 14 million people are directly dependent on fisheries in India for their life and livelihood, and that vast majority of them are dependent on small-scale fisheries;

Recognizing that fishing has a long tradition in India, and that social development issues are common to all fishers from traditional fishing communities;

Further noting that small-scale inland and marine fisheries provide employment, income and nutritional security, especially to the poor;

Drawing attention to the critical role played by women within fisheries and fishing communities and the need for specific focus on supporting and empowering women;

Call upon the Government of India, the States, the Union Territories, and the Panchayats, as appropriate, to address our concerns and to recognize and defend the rights of small-scale fishing communities, as mentioned below:

Small-scale fisheries

1. In the Indian inland sector, both freshwater capture fisheries and sustainable forms of culture-based capture fisheries, primarily dependent on indigenous species, are small-scale fisheries for us. In the Indian marine fisheries sector, however, only fishing operations by vessels below 20 m length that do not operate trawl, employ no mechanized towing or hauling power, where owners are full-time fishers and where fishing gear is manually operated, are considered small-scale fishing operations by us. Small-scale fishers would include: owner-operators from traditional fishing communities, fishworkers, allied workers in the above fishing operations, as well as women engaged in post-harvest activities.

Resource Management

2. Respect, protect and secure the rights of traditional fishing communities to fishing grounds and resources, considering the importance of fishery resources to their life, culture and livelihood.
3. Recognize and protect the traditional rights of small-scale fishing communities to fish, including in national parks and sanctuaries. The provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and those of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, that protect the rights and occupational interests of traditional fishing communities should be implemented in this context.
4. Facilitate bottom-up processes for managing marine and inland fisheries by revitalizing traditional institutions and by employing traditional knowledge of fishers, within an appropriate policy and legal framework.
5. Make appropriate arrangements to facilitate utilization of water bodies such as ponds, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs and canals for the purpose of fishing.
6. Develop a uniform inland fisheries policy through a participatory process.
7. Protect or grant the right to fish, and to manage fisheries, in inland public water bodies to traditional inland fishing communities.
8. Vest fishing communities with the right to manage resources, including in national parks and sanctuaries.
9. Implement the marine fishing regulation act (MFRA). The MFRA and related instruments should be amended to facilitate participatory management of fishery resources.
10. Adopt measures to phase out bottom trawling from territorial waters over a period of five years, considering its negative impact on marine ecology, biodiversity and the distribution of marine fishery resources.
11. Promote selective and location-specific fishing gear. Prohibit destructive fishing gear such as purse-seine and fine-meshed gear in shrimp seed collection, considering their negative impact on biodiversity.

12. Prohibit the construction of new trawlers and purse-seiners under the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) schemes for fisheries development, with immediate effect.
13. Restrict the ownership of fishing vessels to one vessel per fishing family. Community-based organizations may be involved in regulating the number of fishing vessels at the local level. Community consent may be taken before registering a new fishing vessel.
14. Cancel fishing vessels under the Letter of Permission (LOP) facility and promote vessels fully owned and operated by Indian fishing communities that have the capacity to safely harvest fishery resources such as tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
15. Guarantee preferential access to small-scale fisheries in the Indian maritime zones, also upholding the spirit of Murari Committee (1996) observations and updating its recommendations.
16. Urgently enact legislation for managing fisheries in the Indian EEZ, also taking into consideration the recommendations of the Majumdar Committee (1978).

Coastal and marine environment protection

17. Protect inland, coastal and marine ecosystems from pollution and habitat destruction.
18. Do not permit nuclear and thermal power plants, chemical and other polluting industries to be set up near the coast and water bodies, including wetlands.
19. Consider all factors, including ecological ones, and the threat of coastal erosion, while designing ports and harbours.
20. Establish an inter-departmental co-ordination mechanism to address coastal, marine and inland pollution, encroachment and other issues, with all concerned ministries and departments on behalf of small-scale fishers. The State fisheries departments should take up this responsibility.

Rights to land and housing

21. Secure the rights of fishing communities to land for housing and for fishery-related activities. Land titles (pattas) should be issued for housing, and space used for fishery-related activities should be protected as common property.
22. Protect the rights of fishing communities to housing in urban and tourist areas. Land, as required, should be acquired to assure decent housing for fishing communities.
23. Recognize and secure the land rights of fishers and fishing communities (in relation to both private and common property) in land revenue records.

Rights to social and economic development

24. Guarantee specific forms of protection to traditional fishing communities to enable them improve their socio-economic status.
25. Equip fishing villages with basic services, such as health care, potable water, sanitation and electricity.
26. Extend primary health care to all fishing communities. Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme of Karnataka government could be a good practice to be followed by other States.
27. Deliver nutritional support to pregnant women and children in food-insecure fishing communities.
28. Ensure access to education in fishing villages. Education up to matriculation, including residential facilities at educational institutions, should be made freely available.
29. Provide access roads to fishing villages where they are lacking, as in States on the East Coast of India.
30. Develop hygienic landing centres and all-weather approach roads in fishing villages. Basic facilities such as ice boxes, storage facilities for fishing gear, and toilets for women should be provided at the landing centres.
31. Undertake a census of inland fisher/fishing communities.
32. Enumerate women's work in both inland and marine fisheries.
33. Revive and strengthen fisheries co-operative societies, and support appropriate forms of economic organizations, including self-help groups (SHGs), and fully respect their autonomy.
34. Ensure that access to credit and government schemes, and other economic benefits, are not restricted to the members of co-operative societies.
35. Guarantee credit at reasonable rates of interest to enable all fishworkers to attain economic empowerment and to free themselves from unscrupulous moneylenders.
36. Consider production-enhancing subsidies in small-scale fisheries, subject to the status of fishery resources.
37. Provide adequate compensation to fishers whose livelihood activities are affected due to activities such as oil spill, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, conservation programmes and maritime transport.
38. Ensure diversified livelihoods and appropriate training to fishing communities to reduce pressure on the fishery sector. In this context, fishing community-based tourism, production of

value-added products, and employment of local fisher youth in marine and coastal police, and as lifeguards, should be promoted.

Post-harvest activities

39. Provide hygienic fish markets, basic amenities, transport facilities and assistance to maintain cold chains.

40. Redevelop/upgrade existing fish markets, to ensure hygiene and access to basic facilities such as water, sanitation, and storage.

41. Issue identity cards to fish vendors, including women fish vendors.

42. Protect access of women of fishing communities to fish resources for processing, marketing and food.

43. Provide transport facilities to fish vendors, particularly if they lack access to public transport, or are denied access to it.

44. Take steps to eliminate harassment faced by women in fish markets, in particular, and ensure safe workplace for women.

Labour, working and living conditions

45. Ratify and implement the ILO's Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, and extend its provisions to all fishers, to improve their working and living conditions.

46. Implement uniform social security for all fishers and fishworkers across all States and Union Territories and reduce the minimum age for their old age pension to 50 years.

47. Guarantee access to social security for all those who are engaged in fishery-related activities.

48. Enhance the contribution of the Centre and State governments to the Saving-cum-Relief Scheme to ensure higher monthly payment during closed season. The scheme should be inclusive of inland fisheries and women fish vendors of all States, fish sorters, driers and vendors.

49. Provide toilets on board fishing vessels considering that many fishers meet with accidents while using gunwale as toilet or while using portable toilets on board trawlers and purse seiners.

50. Prevent child labour in fisheries and fishing communities, and protect the right of the child to education. Schools for child workers below the age of 14 years should be set up in coastal areas. In this context, the school for child workers in brick kilns of Orissa may be considered a model.

51. Provide training in, and access to, diversified livelihoods to fishing communities to prevent distress migration.

Climate change and disaster preparedness

52. Utilize effectively the financial resources earmarked for disaster preparedness in the context of natural or man-made calamities of concern to the fishing communities.
53. Take steps to prepare both inland and marine fishing communities for disasters such as flood, sea surge and drought, and other unexpected forms of natural or man-made calamities.
54. Train traditional fishers in disaster preparedness. Periodic drills should be conducted to prepare coastal communities to speedily evacuate from affected areas in the event of an industrial or nuclear accident, or catastrophe.
55. Take steps to ensure that incidents of old ships being accidentally or deliberately sunk in coastal waters are minimized, given the devastating impact of such incidents on fishing activities.
56. Develop, in a participatory way, the adaptive capacity of fishing communities to meet challenges of climate variability and change such as flood and cyclone, and shift or extension in distribution of fishery resources.
57. Introduce fuel-efficient engines and promote bio-degradable fishing gear, towards mitigation, employing financial incentives. Training programmes should be developed to facilitate improved navigation and fishing methods to reduce fuel consumption, as well as to facilitate fishing community initiatives to protect and develop coastal vegetation and features.
58. Create a special fund for cyclone relief, especially to ensure speedy response. Cyclone shelters should be provided in all cyclone-prone States, especially on the East Coast of India.

Capacity-building

59. Strengthen capacity building programmes among fishing communities to enhance their awareness of rights, government schemes, and resource management.
60. Establish systems to ensure that fishing communities are consulted during the process of formulating legislation or policy that could have an impact on their life and livelihood, and to enhance their capacity to engage meaningfully in such processes.

Keeping in mind the above, we urge the Government of India to develop a national policy on small-scale fisheries to protect the rights and interests of small-scale fishing communities.

The States, the Union Territories and the Panchayats may also draw upon this Statement in their policies and programmes for sustainable small-scale fisheries.

We also call upon FAO to draw elements from this Statement in its preparation of voluntary guidelines on sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Workshop and Symposium

Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries

Report

19-21 September, 2011
Kolkata, West Bengal, India

**Organized by
National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)
in collaboration with
The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)**



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
www.icsf.net

Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries:
Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries

19 – 21 September 2011

Proceedings
September 2011

Published by
Chandrika Sharma
for International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
27 College Road, Chennai 600 006, India
Email: icsf@icsf.net Website: <http://www.icsf.net>

Edited by
KG Kumar

Designed by
P. Sivasakthivel

Cover photo by
Venkatesh Salagrama/ICM
A fishing boat being put out to sea

Printed at
L.S. Graphic Print
25 Swamy Naicken Street
Chindhadripet, Chennai 600 002

Copyright © ICSF 2011

ISBN 978-93-80802-07-7

While ICSF reserves all rights for this publication, any portion of it may be freely copied and distributed, provided appropriate credit is given. Any commercial use of this material is prohibited without prior permission. ICSF would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

The opinions and positions expressed in this publication are those of the authors concerned and do not necessarily represent the official views of ICSF.

Contents

List of Abbreviations	5
Preface	7
Prospectus	9
The Kolkata Statement	11
Report of the Workshop	17
Report of the Symposium	27
Appendix 1 Workshop Programme	31
Appendix 2 Symposium Programme	33
Appendix 3 List of Participants	35

List of Abbreviations

BLC	boat licence certificate	MFRA	Marine Fishing Regulation Act
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme – Intergovernmental Organization	MFRMA	Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act
COFI	Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
		mn	million
CRZ	coastal regulation zone	MPA	marine protected area
CSO	civil society organization	NCDC	National Co-operative Development Corporation
DISHA	Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action	NFF	National Fishworkers' Forum
EEZ	exclusive economic zone	NGO	non-governmental organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	PoA	plan of action
		SDF	Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand)
FLC	fish landing centre	SHG	Self-help group
ha	hectare	WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
hp	horsepower	WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers	WLPA	Wild Life Protection Act
ILO	International Labour Organization		
LoP	letter of permit		
NGO	non-governmental organization		
MDG	Millennium Development Goal		

Preface

The India workshop was the first among a series of national consultations organized across the world by civil society organizations (CSOs), following the decision of the 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) approving the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries. The decision to organize such national-level consultations was to ensure that the small-scale fisheries guidelines, a long-standing demand of fishworker and support groups, are prepared through a bottom-up consultative process, and they reflect the day-to-day realities, issues and proposals of small-scale fishing communities themselves.

The India workshop saw 62 participants from both the marine and the inland sector representing 10 states of India. The participants included fishworkers, representatives of fishworker organisations, policy makers, and representatives of multilateral organizations. The workshop was structured to facilitate active interaction and discussion among participants taking into account the language diversity and the contextual differences (marine and inland sectors). The workshop being the first instance where inland

fisheries groups were called along with marine groups under the NFF banner, ample time was provided for them to present their case and context.

Due to the different and diverse understanding of what “small-scale fisheries” means to each participant from different parts of India, it was found useful to explore this issue in detail during the workshop. This discussion set the tone for the workshop. The discussions and proposals from the workshop were synthesized into a statement. The workshop concluded with a symposium on 21 September 2011.

The Workshop and the Symposium contributed to a re-assessment of strategies and policies for fisheries management and development in India in relation to small-scale inland and marine fisheries.

This report is dedicated to Matanhy Saldanha, the late Chairperson of the National Fishworkers’ Forum. Committed to the cause of small-scale fishing and coastal communities and the environment, Matanhy was always at the forefront of battles that involved them. At the Kolkata workshop, Matanhy’s leadership was important in furthering the debate on what constitutes sustainable small-scale fisheries. 3

Prospectus

Millions of fishermen and women engage in fishing and allied activities along the Indian seaboard and its hinterland. They supply more than 40 lakh (4 mn) tonnes of fish, a principal source of cheap animal protein for the poor.

Harvesting nature's bounty can only be sustained if the resource base is conserved. How far the supply of cheap fish from capture fisheries can be sustained is a moot point. The nearshore and inland waters are threatened by habitat degradation and depletion of living resources. The rivers that bring life to estuaries and the sea are dammed up. Inland water bodies are badly polluted and silted up, thus negatively affecting inland capture fisheries. This has also led to the decimation of the biodiversity of small indigenous freshwater fish species, which are an important source of nutrition for the poor. The seaboard has become the gateway of sewage and effluent to the sea. Destructive fishing gear and practices of an ever-expanding fleet of fishing vessels are depleting marine fishery resources. Indiscriminate urbanization, industrialization, coastal infrastructure and aquaculture development, oil and gas exploration and exploitation at sea, among other things, are threatening the inland, coastal and marine ecosystems and the right to life and livelihood of inland and coastal fishing communities. These threats are further exacerbated by the processes of economic globalization. There are, additionally, threats facing fishing communities from natural disasters and climate change.

To address these challenges, legal and policy measures need further

strengthening to help conserve fish stocks, to protect inland, coastal and marine habitats and resources, and to protect the right to life and livelihood, at the sectoral and inter-sectoral levels. It is in this context that the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) organized the "National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries", from 19 to 21 September 2011 at Kolkata, West Bengal, India, in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust, Chennai.

Objectives

The following were the objectives of the workshop:

- to make the role of small-scale fisheries and fishworkers more visible in the context of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of fishery resources;
- to expose non-fishery factors that threaten fishery-based livelihoods in inland and marine spaces, including natural disasters and climate change;
- to draw attention to the specific human-development needs of small-scale fishing communities, such as education, health, organizational development, social services, and financial and physical resources; and
- to contribute to the international civil society initiative to develop guidelines, within the framework of a human-rights approach, for the international guidelines on marine and inland small-scale fisheries being proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Participants

Sixty-two participants from 10 States of India, representing inland and marine fishing communities, fishworker organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), came together for the workshop. The half-day symposium that followed also included policymakers.

The workshop and the symposium contributed to a re-assessment of strategies and policies for fisheries management and development in India in relation to small-scale inland and marine fisheries, as detailed in the report. 3

DEBASIS SHYAMAL/NFF

Participants sharing views during the group discussion at the Kolkata workshop.

The Kolkata Statement

We, 62 participants representing the inland and marine fishing communities, fishworker organizations and non-governmental organizations, having gathered at the “National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries”, from 19 to 21 September 2011 in Kolkata, West Bengal, India;

Welcoming the decision of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to develop a set of voluntary guidelines addressing both inland and marine small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, and would complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

Noting that about 14 mn people are directly dependent on fisheries in India for their lives and livelihoods, and that the vast majority of them are dependent on small-scale fisheries;

Recognizing that fishing has a long tradition in India, and that social development issues are common to all fishers from traditional fishing communities;

Further noting that small-scale inland and marine fisheries provide employment, income and nutritional security, especially to the poor;

Drawing attention to the critical role played by women within fisheries and fishing communities and the need for specific focus on supporting and empowering women;

Call upon the Government of India, the States, the Union Territories, and the *panchayats*, as appropriate, to address our concerns and to recognize

and defend the rights of small-scale fishing communities, as mentioned below:

Small-scale Fisheries

1. In the Indian inland sector, both freshwater capture fisheries and sustainable forms of culture-based capture fisheries, primarily dependent on indigenous species, are small-scale fisheries for us. In the Indian marine fisheries sector, however, only fishing operations by vessels below 20 m length that do not operate trawls, employ no mechanized towing or hauling power, where owners are full-time fishers and where fishing gear is manually operated, are considered small-scale fishing operations by us. Small-scale fishers would include: owner-operators from traditional fishing communities, fishworkers, allied workers in the above fishing operations, as well as women engaged in post-harvest activities.

Resource Management

2. Respect, protect and secure the rights of traditional fishing communities to fishing grounds and resources, considering the importance of fishery resources to their life, culture and livelihood.
3. Recognize and protect the traditional rights of small-scale fishing communities to fish, including in national parks and sanctuaries. The provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and those of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, that protect the rights and occupational interests of traditional fishing communities should be implemented in this context.

4. Facilitate bottom-up processes for managing marine and inland fisheries by revitalizing traditional institutions and by employing the traditional knowledge of fishers, within an appropriate policy and legal framework.
5. Make appropriate arrangements to facilitate utilization of water bodies such as ponds, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs and canals for the purpose of fishing.
6. Develop a uniform inland fisheries policy through a participatory process.
7. Protect or grant the right to fish, and to manage fisheries, in inland public water bodies to traditional inland fishing communities.
8. Vest fishing communities with the right to manage resources, including in national parks and sanctuaries.
9. Implement the Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA). The MFRA and related instruments should be amended to facilitate participatory management of fishery resources.
10. Adopt measures to phase out bottom trawling from territorial waters over a period of five years, considering its negative impact on marine ecology, biodiversity and the distribution of marine fishery resources.
11. Promote selective and location-specific fishing gear. Prohibit destructive fishing gear such as purse-seine and fine-meshed gear in shrimp seed collection, considering their negative impact on biodiversity.
12. Prohibit the construction of new trawlers and purse-seiners under the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) schemes for fisheries development, with immediate effect.
13. Restrict the ownership of fishing vessels to one vessel per fishing family. Community-based organizations may be involved in regulating the number of fishing vessels at the local level. Community consent may be taken before registering a new fishing vessel.
14. Cancel fishing vessels under the letter of permission (LOP) facility, and promote vessels fully owned and operated by Indian fishing communities that have the capacity to safely harvest fishery resources such as tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
15. Guarantee preferential access to small-scale fisheries in the Indian maritime zones, also upholding the spirit of the Murari Committee (1996) observations and updating its recommendations.
16. Urgently enact legislation for managing fisheries in the Indian EEZ, also taking into consideration the recommendations of the Majumdar Committee (1978).

Coastal and Marine Environment Protection

1. Protect inland, coastal and marine ecosystems from pollution and habitat destruction.
2. Do not permit nuclear and thermal power plants, chemical and other polluting industries to be set up near the coast and water bodies, including wetlands.
3. Consider all factors, including ecological ones, and the threat of coastal erosion, while designing ports and harbours.
4. Establish an inter-departmental co-ordination mechanism to address coastal, marine and inland pollution, encroachment and other issues, with all concerned ministries and departments on behalf of small-scale fishers. The State fisheries departments should take up this responsibility.

Rights to Land and Housing

1. Secure the rights of fishing communities to land for housing and for fishery-related activities. Land titles (*pattas*) should be issued for housing, and space used for fishery-related activities should be protected as common property.
2. Protect the rights of fishing communities to housing in urban and tourist areas. Land, as required, should be acquired to assure decent housing for fishing communities.
3. Recognize and secure the land rights of fishers and fishing communities (in relation to both private and common property) in land revenue records.

Rights to Social and Economic Development

1. Guarantee specific forms of protection to traditional fishing communities to enable them to improve their socioeconomic status.
2. Equip fishing villages with basic services, such as healthcare, potable water, sanitation and electricity.
3. Extend primary healthcare to all fishing communities. The Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme of the Karnataka government could be a good practice to be followed by other States.
4. Deliver nutritional support to pregnant women and children in food-insecure fishing communities.
5. Ensure access to education in fishing villages. Education up to matriculation, including residential facilities at educational institutions, should be made freely available.
6. Provide access roads to fishing villages where they are lacking, as in States on the east coast of India.
7. Develop hygienic landing centres and all-weather approach roads

in fishing villages. Basic facilities such as ice boxes, storage facilities for fishing gear, and toilets for women should be provided at the landing centres.

8. Undertake a census of inland fisher/fishing communities.
9. Enumerate women's work in both inland and marine fisheries.
10. Revive and strengthen fisheries co-operative societies, and support appropriate forms of economic organizations, including self-help groups (SHGs), and fully respect their autonomy.
11. Ensure that access to credit and government schemes, and other economic benefits, are not restricted to the members of co-operative societies.
12. Guarantee credit at reasonable rates of interest to enable all fishworkers to attain economic empowerment and to free themselves from unscrupulous moneylenders.
13. Consider production-enhancing subsidies in small-scale fisheries, subject to the status of fishery resources.
14. Provide adequate compensation to fishers whose livelihood activities are affected due to activities such as oil spills, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, conservation programmes and maritime transport.
15. Ensure diversified livelihoods and appropriate training to fishing communities to reduce pressure on the fishery sector. In this context, fishing community-based tourism, production of value-added products, and employment of local fisher youth in marine and coastal police, and as lifeguards, should be promoted.

Post-harvest Activities

1. Provide hygienic fish markets, basic amenities, transport facilities and assistance to maintain cold chains.

2. Re-develop/upgrade existing fish markets, to ensure hygiene and access to basic facilities such as water, sanitation and storage.
3. Issue identity cards to fish vendors, including women fish vendors.
4. Protect access of women of fishing communities to fish resources for processing, marketing and food.
5. Provide transport facilities to fish vendors, particularly if they lack access to public transport, or are denied access to it.
6. Take steps to eliminate harassment faced by women in fish markets, in particular, and ensure safe workplaces for women.

Labour, Working and Living Conditions

1. Ratify and implement the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and extend its provisions to all fishers, to improve their working and living conditions.
2. Implement uniform social security for all fishers and fishworkers across all States and Union Territories, and reduce the minimum age for their old-age pension to 50 years.
3. Guarantee access to social security for all those who are engaged in fishery-related activities.
4. Enhance the contribution of the Centre and State governments to the savings-cum-relief scheme to ensure higher monthly payment during closed seasons. The scheme should be inclusive of inland fisheries and women fish vendors of all States, as well as fish sorters, driers and vendors.
5. Provide toilets on board fishing vessels, considering that many fishers meet with accidents while using the gunwale as toilet or while using portable toilets on board trawlers and purse-seiners.
6. Prevent child labour in fisheries and fishing communities, and protect the right of the child to education. Schools for child workers below the age of 14 years should be set up in coastal areas. In this context, the school for child workers in the brick kilns of Orissa may be considered a model.
7. Provide training in, and access to, diversified livelihoods to fishing communities to prevent distress migration.

Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness

1. Utilize effectively the financial resources earmarked for disaster preparedness in the context of natural or man-made calamities of concern to fishing communities.
2. Take steps to prepare both inland and marine fishing communities for disasters such as flood, sea surges and drought, and other unexpected forms of natural or man-made calamities.
3. Train traditional fishers in disaster preparedness. Periodic drills should be conducted to prepare coastal communities to speedily evacuate from affected areas in the event of an industrial or nuclear accident or catastrophe.
4. Take steps to ensure that incidents of old ships being accidentally or deliberately sunk in coastal waters are minimized, given the devastating impact of such incidents on fishing activities.
5. Develop, in a participatory way, the adaptive capacity of fishing communities to meet challenges of climate variability and change, such as floods and cyclones, and shift or extension in distribution of fishery resources.
6. Introduce fuel-efficient engines and promote biodegradable fishing gear, towards mitigation, employing financial incentives. Training programmes should be developed to facilitate improved navigation and fishing methods to

reduce fuel consumption, as well as to facilitate fishing-community initiatives to protect and develop coastal vegetation and features.

7. Create a special fund for cyclone relief, especially to ensure speedy response. Cyclone shelters should be provided in all cyclone-prone States, especially on the east coast of India.

Capacity-building

1. Strengthen capacity-building programmes among fishing communities to enhance their awareness of rights, government schemes and resource management.
2. Establish systems to ensure that fishing communities are consulted during the process of formulating

legislation or policy that could have an impact on their lives and livelihoods, and to enhance their capacity to engage meaningfully in such processes.

Keeping in mind the above, we urge the Government of India to develop a national policy on small-scale fisheries to protect the rights and interests of small-scale fishing communities.

The States, the Union Territories and the *panchayats* may also draw upon this Statement in their policies and programmes for sustainable small-scale fisheries.

We also call upon FAO to draw elements from this Statement in its preparation of voluntary guidelines on sustainable small-scale fisheries. 3

DEBASIS SHYAMAL/NFF

Participants at the VG SSF workshop in Kolkata

Report of the Workshop

Day I: 19 September 2011

Inaugural Session

WELCOME ADDRESS

Matanhy Saldanha, Chairperson, National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), welcomed participants to the three-day workshop. Tracing the history and contribution of NFF towards securing rights and recognition for small-scale fishworkers in India, Saldanha pointed out that this workshop presents an opportunity for small-scale fishworkers, from both inland and marine sectors in India, to put forward their issues, concerns and proposals. Creating a joint platform of small-scale fishworkers, from both inland and marine sectors, will strengthen the representation and voice of small-scale fishworkers in policy-making bodies, he said. The NFF, on its part, would continue its work of taking forward the demands of the small-scale fishworkers to the government and to international bodies, Saldanha concluded.

Following the welcome address, a message from Mahasweta Devi, eminent author and playwright, conveying her wishes for the successful conduct of the workshop, was read out by Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary, NFF.

Delivering the inaugural address, Madan Mitra, Minister of State for Fisheries, Government of West Bengal, congratulated NFF and ICSF for organizing such a workshop. He informed participants about plans being formulated by the Government of West Bengal to support the fisheries sector, and encouraged participants to present their concerns before the respective

State governments. He also invited two representatives from the workshop to present the proposals from the workshop to a State-level meeting on fisheries being held concurrently, with wide participation from fisheries officials in the State.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF

Providing the background to the workshop, Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF, pointed out that fishworker and support organizations across the world have been advocating for more support to small-scale fisheries, given its inherent advantages. At the FAO Global Conference, titled "Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development", held in Bangkok in 2008, they advocated strongly for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries, pointing to its usefulness in serving as a guide for national policies and interventions. The decision by the 29th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2011, to develop international guidelines on small-scale fisheries, was, therefore, widely welcomed.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have decided to engage with the guidelines process, and influence it, so that it reflects the aspirations of small-scale fishing communities across the world. Toward this, national/regional workshops covering at least 30 countries are being organized in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as

well as in Europe and North America, Chandrika Sharma said. The present workshop in India is the first in the series of workshops being organized. It is expected that the national-level workshops will help CSOs to develop their own positions and to set out, in clear terms, what they would like to see in the guidelines, and help ensure that they are able to influence the proposed FAO guidelines through a bottom-up consultative process. It is also expected that such workshops will raise the profile of small-scale fisheries nationally, strengthen the organizations representing them, and help in opening up channels of communication between national authorities and CSOs. The outputs from such workshops will be synthesized and consolidated, and will be used to influence the content of the guidelines being developed.

Given that the focus of the workshop is on small-scale fisheries, it will be important to be clear on what can be regarded as small-scale fisheries in an inland and marine context in India, Chandrika Sharma stressed. It will be important to come to an agreement among representatives of small-scale fishworkers present at the workshop on how small-scale fisheries can be characterized, and what may be considered as small-scale fisheries. This was particularly important, given the context of rapid technological and other changes that have also led to major changes with the small-scale sector in the past couple of decades.

PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

**CHAIR: V VIVEKANANDAN,
MEMBER, ICSF**

Given the fact that the workshop was the first instance where inland fishers were also invited, an attempt was made to better understand the distinct

problems and concerns of the inland fishery sector. V Vivekanandan invited the representatives from the inland sector to give brief accounts of the contexts of fisheries in their regions.

INLAND FISHERIES

***Tikamgarh District,
Madhya Pradesh***

The struggles of the fishing community in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh were brought to the fore by Shriram Kevat of Vikalp, Madhya Pradesh. Tikamgarh and Chatterpur areas of Madhya Pradesh are dotted with tanks constructed during 10th century AD by the Chandela dynasty. The tanks, though meant mainly for irrigation and for providing drinking water, also came to be stocked with fish from very ancient times. Thousands of fishworkers from the Dhimar caste and its subcastes are currently dependent on these ponds for employment, income and nutritional security. These tanks range widely in size and spread from 10 ha to 5,000 ha, with different species of fish cultivated in them. During summer, when the water dries up, vegetables are grown on the tank beds.

A 1996 provincial policy that defined anyone who fished as a fisherman, opened the gates for influential outsiders to lease out the tanks, alienating traditional fishers. Many fishers were reduced to daily wage labourers. Traditional fishers organized as part of the Machchuara Sangathan to challenge this policy with the support of a local NGO, Vikalp. Their demand was that only traditional fishers be legally recognized to fish in inland water bodies. After a struggle lasting nearly ten years, their demands were met by the provincial government in 2008. The inland fisheries policy of Madhya Pradesh is now based on the recommendations of inland fishers. Likewise, the lease

amount for the tanks is also fixed in consultation with fishers.

Shriram Kevat sought a national campaign to address issues such as rights of traditional inland fishers, enhancing fish stocks in inland waters, and increasing budget allocations for inland fisheries development. He proposed setting up a national network of organizations or individuals working on issues of inland fisheries and fishworkers.

Loktak Lake, Manipur

Sharatchandra Singh, of the Bishnupur District Fisheries and Allied Co-operative Federation Ltd, highlighted the plight of fishworkers involved in *atha phum* fishing (a type of fishing practised from *phumdis* or floating islands) on Loktak Lake. This lake is the largest freshwater lake in the northeastern part of India, located at an altitude of over 750 m and having a water spread of 286 sq km. In 1990, the lake was designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, with a core zone and a buffer zone separately demarcated. The traditional occupation of the people living in about 200 villages surrounding the lake is fishing and agriculture.

Fishing communities surrounding Loktak Lake have been involved in *atha phum* fishing using encircling gear around the *phumdis*. *Phumdis* are a heterogeneous mass of soil, vegetation and organic matter at various stages of decomposition. They get stabilized over time, and the villagers have built their huts on them. Such *phumdis* are estimated to occupy about two-thirds of the surface area of the lake, with about 25,000 fishers dependent on *atha phum* fishing, catching mainly Indian and exotic carp species introduced into the lake. The co-operative output is over 1,000 tonnes of fish, sold at over Rs54,000 (US\$1,200) per tonne. The proliferation of *phumdis* is thought to have reduced the water-holding

capacity and the water quality of the lake. In 2006, the State government came up with the Loktak Lake (Protection) Act, 2006, and prohibited further establishment of *phumdis* and *atha phum* fishing. Fishing was banned in the core zone, and the *phumdis* are also being removed from there. Fishers are being encouraged to shift to fish culture using pens. Sharatchandra Singh said that some traditional fishers have been using only *atha phum*, and have no experience in other forms of fishing. They need assistance to shift to other fishing techniques that are environmentally sustainable.

West Bengal

The representatives from the inland sector of West Bengal presented three types of inland fishing and aquaculture operations carried out in various parts of the State. Rabin Soren from the Santhal community of Birbhum District talked about a campaign to reclaim stone quarries by converting them to fish ponds. There are many illegal quarries in the region, which tribal communities are trying to convert into fish ponds, while simultaneously trying to secure recognition of their rights to fish in them. About 12 women's groups, each with 25 members, have been formed to carry out these activities. This is also a way to reverse the environmental and other health-related problems, such as silicosis, which had been caused by illegal quarrying, said Soren.

Gobinda Das from Canning District in the Sundarbans narrated the problems encountered while fishing in the vicinity of a tiger reserve (a protected area under the Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA)). Fishing has been banned in the core zone, and is severely restricted in the rest of the reserve. Though the government issues boat licence certificates (BLCs) allowing licence holders to fish, the number of BLCs issued is very limited—fewer than 1,000 though there are more than

50,000 people dependent on fisheries. Those caught fishing are harassed by the Forest Department, and their fishing gear and vessels are confiscated. There has been no consultation with fishers regarding the declaration of the reserve and the demarcation of the core zone, despite the strong provisions of the Forest Rights Act that protect the rights of communities dependent on forests for their livelihoods. Das concluded by demanding the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, and the restoration of the rights of local fishing communities.

Taraknath Bag, a member of the Mudiali Fisheries Co-operative, established in 1961, spoke about how large quantities of industrial and domestic waste water of Kolkata is being recycled to successfully rear different carp species, and to discharge clean water. Although their co-operative is a good example of nutrient recycling, of low-impact aquaculture, and of low-external input sewage/fish systems, it still operates under the threat of eviction by the Kolkata Port Trust Authority that owns the land (about 70 ha is still left). Constant threat of eviction provides no stability for the livelihoods of dependent fishers, comprising about 400 families. Their main demand is to have rights over the area they use for fishing, Bag concluded.

In the discussion that followed, participants sought to explore if such a model could be replicated in other polluted cities, such as Mumbai. There was great potential to replicate it, it was felt, given the benefits. It was cautioned, however, that such fish culture should not be undertaken where industrial effluents contain heavy metals.

Bihar

Suman Singh, from Sakhi, an NGO, narrated the struggle of women from

traditional fishing communities for fishing rights in ponds and water bodies in Madhubani District of Bihar. Women of traditional fishing communities are now organized into self-help groups (SHGs) and co-operatives. Women are handling the entire process from breeding to marketing. In spite of the difficulty in getting recognition, the rights to fish in about 50 per cent of the ponds have been allocated to women. There is need to map all existing water bodies in Bihar through remote sensing, and to ensure that fishing communities are given stewardship of these resources. Singh drew attention to the extremely poor socioeconomic status of the traditional fishing communities in Bihar, and the high rates of illiteracy that are still prevalent. With girls often getting married at a very young age, the situation of women is even more precarious. Urgent attention is needed to improve the socioeconomic situation of fishing communities, she stressed. She welcomed the proposal to form a national network of inland fishworkers.

Manju Devi, a landless fisherwoman from Bihar, who got married as a child, recounted how she and her husband received a pond on a 10-year lease to undertake fish farming, pointing out that such access can be an effective tool for redressing the poverty of landless populations.

Maharashtra

Prakash Malgave of the Vidarbha Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives, Maharashtra, outlined the different types of inland fisheries—in rivers, reservoirs, and in tanks and ponds. In the case of ponds and tanks, fishing is often not seen as an accidental activity. There is a clash of interest over the use of water between fish rearing and agriculture—while the farmer is keen to use the water for irrigation, fishers are interested in keeping the water. Fishermen's

co-operatives have to pay the full lease amount to the *zilla parishad* even if there is no water in the irrigation tanks, he said. There is water to undertake fish culture only during the period from July to September (about 100 days) in a year. Fishers have to seek other forms of livelihood for the rest of the year. Regarding reservoirs, he pointed out that the construction of reservoirs and dams submerge large areas. However, it is only farmers and others who own land who get any compensation. Fishers are never compensated for lost fishing opportunities, even though they are deprived of their livelihoods. At the same time, forests are not cleared from the areas that are to be submerged, making fishing operations difficult once the area is submerged.

Malgave said that instead of subsidies for fishing vessels and gear, more resources should be allocated for conservation of rivers and water bodies, for desilting of tanks and ponds, as well as for fish-seed production. Subsidies should be extended for the conservation of natural seed production areas. The rights of inland fishers are not recorded anywhere; State governments should properly identify and record their historic rights, he said. A comprehensive policy on inland fisheries, and a separate department of fisheries at the State level, is needed, he concluded.

Orissa

Krishna Chandra Jena from Chilika Lake in Orissa—the largest lagoon in India—drew attention to its rich biodiversity. There are about 150 villages around the lake, and around 200,000 fishers who depend on it for their livelihoods. Jena described the negative impact of outsider-owned illegal prawn farming rampant in the lagoon, and its destructive environmental and social consequences, an issue that the fishers have been campaigning against for the past couple of decades,

including through legal means. Five fishermen have even died in the course of the agitations. Despite a Supreme Court ruling ordering the removal of the illegal farms (*gheries*), about half of them continue to operate. Even as this issue persists, the opening of a new outlet in the lake has affected the water exchange and productivity of the lake, and has caused erosion and flooding of villages. There are demands that the opening be closed. The livelihoods of local fishing communities have been badly affected, and many fishers have been forced to migrate to work, for example, on board multi-day fishing vessels in Gujarat. There is need for the NFF to support the struggle of local fishermen, seeking restoration of their traditional rights, Jena concluded.

Andhra Pradesh

Hannu Rao from Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, described the campaign undertaken by local fishing communities against the location of a power plant in productive wetlands that have been their traditional fishing grounds.

Karnataka

Vasudev Bloor of the Akhil Karnataka Fishermen Parishad said that rights to carry out fishing operations in tanks were being given to influential groups. Recently, however, the State government has issued an order that all fishing rights in tanks should be given to fishermen's societies. Bloor also spoke of the struggle launched by the fishing community against pollution and discharge of untreated chemical effluents in water bodies and along the coast.

MARINE FISHERIES

About NFF

Rambhau Patil, General Secretary, NFF, provided a brief account on the origins of the organization, a federation of State-level unions formed in 1978.

Its formation was the direct result of the conflict between the then newly introduced mechanized trawlers and the small-scale traditional and artisanal fishworkers. The demand of traditional fishworkers was for a ban on trawling to protect their livelihoods and fisheries resources. Stressing that issues of biodiversity have always been high on the agenda of NFF, Patil spoke about the “Protect Waters, Protect Life” march undertaken by NFF in 1989, which had traversed the entire coastline of the country. In 1991, NFF led the campaign against the deep-sea fishing policy that allowed foreign fishing vessels to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of India. An all-India fisheries strike was organized on 4 February 1994 to protest against the joint-venture policy. A nine-day hunger strike was also organized. The policy was subsequently revoked on the recommendations of the Murari Committee that had been set up in the aftermath of the massive struggle by fishworkers.

Through such campaigns, NFF has enabled fishworkers to have a voice, said Patil, stressing the importance of organization. In a context of globalization and privatization, the need for such organization is more pressing than ever. There are important livelihood issues that need attention: the takeover and degradation of the coasts; implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification; and scrapping the letter of permit (LOP) scheme and conservation initiatives that deny fishermen the right to fish. There is urgent need to improve management of resources through co-management. Patil concluded with a strong appeal for fishworkers to maintain their unity, and for women to take a lead role in the organization.

Small-scale Marine Fisheries: Issues and the Way Ahead

Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary NFF,

provided an overview of the current activities and campaigns of NFF, related to, among others, improving coastal and fisheries management; securing land rights of fishing communities; ratifying the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007; implementing aquarian reforms to benefit active fishers; improving adaptation to climate change; and improving access to social security. There is need to regulate and proscribe destructive fishing gear such as bottom trawls, as well as foreign fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ under the LoP scheme. A legislation to regulate fishing activities in the EEZ is long overdue, Chatterjee noted.

An important NFF campaign is for legal recognition of the rights of fishing communities over the working and living spaces traditionally used by them. With respect to aquarian reform, NFF is demanding that active fishers from the fishing community should be given priority rights to fish in water bodies (including sea, river, brackishwaters, wetlands, lakes, reservoirs, etc.). Challenging top-down conservation initiatives Chatterjee said that prior consultation with, and consent of, the fishing community should be ensured before any conservation is undertaken, especially if it entails the restriction of fishing activities. Climate change is likely to affect fishing communities, and there is need to develop, in a participatory manner, the adaptive capacity of fishing communities to meet the challenges posed by climate change. Appropriate social-welfare schemes for fishing communities are sorely lacking, and attention to issues such as housing, insurance and education is urgently needed. The saving-cum-relief scheme should be extended to all fishworkers, including women, said Chatterjee. 3

Day II: 20 September 2011

Group Discussion

On the second day of the workshop, participants were divided into three groups—two focused broadly on marine issues, while the third focused on inland fisheries. The groups were asked to reflect on three key issues of concern to their lives and livelihoods, as well as to make specific proposals to address these issues. They were also asked to discuss what is considered to be small-scale fisheries in their contexts. The reports from these group discussions were the basis of the Kolkata Statement that emerged from the workshop.

REPORTING BACK FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group I: Marine Group I (Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu)

From the discussions, it was clear that what was seen as small-scale fisheries varied from State to State and place to place. According to fishers of southern Maharashtra, traditional fishing employing non-mechanized and non-motorized fishing craft within 10 fathoms from the shoreline should be considered small-scale fishing. For mechanized fishing vessel owners in Karnataka, small-scale fishing would include only vessels with engines up to 10 hp, or those without engines. Mumbai fishers said non-mechanized vessels, or those with engines up to 32 hp, undertaking any territorial-water fishing operations other than trawling could be considered small-scale fishing vessels. For the Tamil Nadu fishers, all fishing vessels up to 37 hp undertaking fishing operations, except trawling and purse-seining in territorial waters,

could be considered small-scale. Small-scale fishers, participants agreed, would include owner-operators of the above categories, workers engaged in fishing operations in these vessels, and allied workers and processing workers, including women.

It was agreed to consider non-trawl fishing vessels which is below 20 m in length and using engine up to 20 hp, with manually operated gear, especially with no mechanized towing and hauling power, and whose owners regularly go out to sea, as small-scale fishing in the national context. It was also agreed that small-scale fishers in India would include: owner-operators from fishing communities, and workers on board, and allied to, small-scale fishing, including resident and migrant workers as well as women fish-processing workers. Traditional fisheries can be divided into traditional small-scale and traditional large-scale, it was suggested; the latter would include those who fish in waters beyond the territorial limits. The traditional large-scale fishers should be licensed to fish in the EEZ and the Central government should facilitate this, it was held.

The participants highlighted the immediate need to discontinue the subsidies for building new fishing vessels. It was proposed that tax rebates on diesel fuel for purse-seiners and trawlers should be withdrawn, considering their destructive impact on fishery resources. The group debated, inconclusively, whether or not it is better to consider a one-time subsidy to shift to more fuel-efficient engines,

instead of continuing with the current regime of recurring fuel subsidies. The group also discussed the desirability of re-targeting existing fuel subsidies towards better health and education programmes for fishing communities.

Discussing the equity dimension of ownership, the group was of the view that each fishing family should not own more than one or two vessels. It is ideal to restrict the number of fishing vessels to one per ration card (a card issued by the provincial government for a family to obtain food or other essential commodities, which is treated like a family identity card in India). It was also suggested that community consent should be obtained before registering new fishing vessels.

While discussing bottom-up processes for fisheries management, several questions were raised for consideration, such as how far self-regulation is effective; how far existing traditional arrangements could be useful; the relevance of traditional knowledge in a fast-changing fishery scenario; and the role of government in fisheries management. The group was keen that the government should have an oversight role in all fisheries-management arrangements. There is also need to ratify and implement the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, and to ensure social security for fishworkers across States.

Participants also reflected on issues related to the growing competition over coastal lands and resources, and their own struggles to protect coastal resources. There is need to protect the rights of fishworkers to their living and working spaces on the coast, and, in this context, it is important that revenue records recognize the rights of fishing communities to both private and common property. Attention was drawn to the example of Maharashtra, where rights of *koliwadās* have been reflected in revenue records.

Group II: Marine Group II (Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal)

Participants in this group were from the east coast states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and also included some people from inland fisheries. Attention was drawn to a gamut of problems that continue to face fishworkers and their communities. Several proposals were mooted, with priority being given to the need to recognize the rights of fishworkers to coastal lands customarily used by them, including in urban and tourist areas, as well as their rights to access and manage fishing grounds and water-bodies. This should also include the right to protect them from destruction and degradation. This was particularly in the context of ongoing developments, such as those related to tourism, power generation, ports, industrial development, and conservation initiatives, which were leading to the displacement of fishing communities from their lands and waters, and causing widespread pollution and destruction of habitats and resources. There is also need to ban trawling and other destructive fishing techniques and gear in inland and inshore waters, and to strictly implement the provisions of the State-level Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA). At the same time, the restriction on fishing in sanctuaries and national parks should be reviewed to allow for fishing by traditional small-scale fishers.

Several participants drew attention to the continuing high levels of poverty among fishing communities on the east coast, and stressed the need for specific interventions to reduce the incidence of poverty, including provision of nutritional support to women and children, where needed. The situation was such that it was leading to high levels of out-

migration from fishing communities by those in search of employment. Attention was also drawn to the persistence of child labour in some poor coastal regions, as in the Sunderbans.

The group stressed the need for landing centres equipped with basic infrastructure, good facilities at markets, and access to healthcare, decent housing, sanitation, potable water (especially in the Chilika Lake area), education and roads. Given that much of this area is cyclone-prone, there is need to provide cyclone shelters in every village and to ensure disaster preparedness.

Specific attention was drawn to the need to recognize women fish processors and vendors, including through issuing identity cards and ensuring their coverage under various government social-security schemes, such as the saving-cum-relief scheme. Pointing out that women fish vendors are often not allowed to board public transport buses, the need to address the problems faced by women vendors related to transport and to harassment at markets was repeatedly stressed.

Many of the participants in the group highlighted, in graphic terms, the continuing hold of, and exploitation by, moneylenders and traders, and the need for well-functioning co-operative societies that also provide access to credit at decent rates, including for purchase of craft and gear.

Some participants from West Bengal drew attention to the problem of piracy and lack of security. Pointing out that fishers often face harassment from the coast guard, it was suggested that the important role that they can play in coastal security should be recognized. Fishers could, for example, be employed in the marine police.

Group III: Inland Fisheries

The inland fishery group observed that the right over water bodies for fishing should be granted to fishery co-operatives comprised exclusively of members of fishing communities and traditional fishers. To facilitate this process, the group said, a census of inland fishing communities should be held. The group sought a uniform inland fishing policy, stressing that fishing communities should be consulted when any legislation or policy is drafted that could have an impact on their lives and livelihoods. It further sought the responsibility for dealing with fishing rights in water bodies to be handed over to the department of fisheries. The group upheld the importance of recognizing the role of fisherwomen in inland fisheries and aquaculture, and their right to a secure workplace and dignified treatment. The women fish vendors were sometimes harassed and evicted from local market places. The group sought an end to harassment and exploitation of women in markets.

Lack of education was identified as the main problem behind the exploitation of fishing communities. The group urged that a targeted education programme should be implemented for fishing communities. It pointed out that inland fishers are regularly exposed to disasters such as floods and droughts, to climate change-related processes, and even to unknown disasters. Steps should be taken to prepare fishing communities for these disasters, it was suggested. The group sought the establishment and strengthening of a network of community organizations in the inland sector with the support of the State. 3

Report of the Symposium

Day III: 21 September 2011

Chair: V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF

A symposium was organized on the final day of the workshop, chaired by V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF. The panel members were as follows:

- Akhil Giri, MLA, Chairman, Benfish, West Bengal
- Yugraj Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme—Intergovernmental Organization, (BoBP-IGO)
- S Umananda Singh, Fisheries Extension Officer, Department of Fisheries, Manipur
- Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary, NFF
- Suman Singh, Sakhi, Bihar
- Ujjaini Halim, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)
- Rambhau Patil, General Secretary, NFF, and Representative, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)
- Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Matanhy Saldanha, Chairperson, NFF, welcomed all the panelists. Vivekanandan drew attention to the main issues flagged in the Kolkata Statement of the workshop. Panel members were then invited to offer their comments and suggestions on the presented statement and on the way forward.

Akhil Giri, Chairman, Benfish, recalled that fisheries is the main source of income for the local population in many parts of West Bengal. However, both capture fisheries and fish farming are facing serious problems of resource degradation, and efforts being made by both the State and the central

governments to address the issue are important for the development of the sector. It is also useful that financial institutions are coming forward to invest in aquaculture, given the tremendous potential for its expansion. There is need to address issues like the paucity of training institutions and the lack of access to modern technology and the need for a liberalized regime for imports and exports. Giri also underscored the importance of improving sanitation facilities in fishing communities.

Yugraj Yadava of BoBP-IGO began by complimenting the workshop participants on the comprehensive statement. He said that it raises issues that need to be taken note of by State and national governments, as well as by others.

Referring to the resource depletion observed in both inland and marine fisheries, Yadava said that if appropriate steps to improve management of these resources are not taken, the future of small-scale fisheries would appear bleak. There is urgent need to protect rivers, floodplains and other waterbodies including from encroachments and pollution. There is need to prepare, through a participatory process, a model Inland Fisheries Bill, for adoption and implementation by States. The 2004 Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy should also be reviewed and a revised policy should be brought out, after wide consultations. Yadava added that many of the issues in marine fisheries, including that of the LoP scheme, can be addressed if the

recommendations of the Murari Committee are implemented. It is essential to augment the capacity of fisheries departments, he stressed, especially to improve delivery of services for the benefit of fishworkers, and to work with communities on issues of management.

Yadava also commented on various issues highlighted in the Kolkata Statement. With reference to the demand that subsidies for new trawlers and purse-seiners under the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) Scheme should be withdrawn, he suggested that it would be better if subsidies for introduction of any new craft are withdrawn, given that there is already excess capacity. He also agreed that the government should focus its efforts on constructing fish landing centres (FLCs) and providing better facilities at such FLCs. This will have greater benefits across the coast than the construction of large harbours. On the issue of enhancing benefits from the saving-cum-relief scheme, and ensuring that it covers inland fisheries and women fishworkers, he said that this is a proposal in the 12th Five Year Plan. Finally, Yadava stressed the importance of education to better the lives of fishworkers as well as the importance of tailoring the curriculum to bring in subjects related to fisheries, the coastal environment and climate change.

Umananda Singh, Fisheries Extension Officer, Department of Fisheries, Manipur, provided a brief account of the fisheries sector in Manipur. He emphasized the necessity to protect resources from natural and man-made threats for the benefit of the fisheries sector and fishworkers. He cited the example of Loktak Lake that has greatly reduced in size due to pollution. He also highlighted that the Department of Fisheries in Manipur has always worked together with fishing communities

for the implementation of all schemes and policies.

Pradip Chatterjee, Secretary, NFF, emphasized the importance of resource management. Fishing communities are the natural custodians of their resources—they know well that only if the resources are healthy and well managed will there be any fish. The threat from pollution is very severe today, and pollution of water bodies and coasts should not be allowed. Inland fisheries, said Chatterjee, is very important from the point of view of food security for the poor. In the marine context, apart from revising the MFRAs, there is also need to put in place legislation to regulate fishing activities in the EEZ. Provisions in legislation should recognize, and provide for, the role of fishing communities in fisheries management. There is also need to recognize the common-property nature of the lands and resources used by fishing communities, he said. Further, fishworkers should not be unduly harassed by security agencies in the name of security. Rather, security agencies should recognize them as the first line of surveillance, and efforts should be made to work together with them, as is happening in some areas.

Chatterjee also flagged the issue of corruption in the use of funds available for fisheries. It is important that proper measures are taken to monitor the use of funds such as those earmarked for housing and social security of fishworkers. The benefits of such schemes often do not accrue to genuine fishworkers.

Suman Singh, of Sakhi, an NGO in Bihar, echoed concerns about high levels of corruption. Fishers must have a say in deciding how to use the allotted budget, she said. Interference in the functioning of co-operatives must be stopped, and their autonomy should be ensured. Commenting on the poor socioeconomic conditions of

inland fishing communities in Bihar, Singh stressed the need for improving access to education, healthcare and decent housing, and of addressing social issues such as child marriage, which are common among fishing communities. There is also need to invest in capacity building, especially of community-level organizations, she concluded.

Ujjaini Halim of WFF said that the stress on human rights in the Kolkata Statement is important, as it also emphasizes the need to improve the accountability of governments. Pointing to the current lack of recognition of small-scale fisheries, she called for a pro-small-scale fisheries policy, developed through participatory processes. She also called for developing better networks and solidarity links between fishworkers, including at the international level, given that they face problems that are similar in nature.

Rambhau Patil, General Secretary, NFF, pointed out that fishing communities have consistently highlighted the importance of conservation and management. NFF has led many campaigns and struggles highlighting the need to protect coastal and fisheries resources. He pointed to the alarmingly high levels of pollution near urban centres such as Mumbai, and the impact this has had on fisheries resources. It is important that systems of co-management are put in place, to address the crisis

developing in the sector, he said. For this, the rights of fishing communities to their lands and fishing grounds must be recognized and protected.

Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF, said that the workshop had provided an opportunity for taking stock of issues facing both inland and marine fishing communities in the current context, and in highlighting proposals from communities on how to deal with these issues. Even as many of the 'traditional' issues facing fishing communities, such as the control by middlemen and traders, remain, several new issues additionally threaten the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities today. Such threats include non-fisheries developments that pollute and destroy water bodies and coastal habitats, and the takeover of lands and fishing grounds traditionally used by communities. The Kolkata Statement, she said, captures the proposals from the workshop participants, and it is important that these are taken seriously by policymakers and others. It is also important that the statement influences the content of the international guidelines on small-scale fisheries being developed by the FAO.

In his closing speech Matanhy Saldanha thanked the panelists. He said that the Kolkata Statement will be widely circulated to facilitate awareness on the demands of both inland and marine fishworkers. 3

**Statement from the National Consultative Workshop for Small Scale Fisheries:
Towards FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries - VGSSF**

**Organized by:
Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) In Collaboration with Uganda Fisheries
and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA)**

14th & 15th November 2011

Kampala, Uganda

Preamble

We, 34 participants representing the inland fishing communities, fishworker organizations, and non-governmental organizations, having gathered at the National Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries, on the 14th and 15th of November 2011 in Kampala, Uganda;

Welcoming the decision of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to develop a set of voluntary guidelines addressing both inland and marine small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, and would complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

Noting that about 1.4 million people in Uganda are directly dependent on fisheries for their life and livelihood, and that vast majority of them are dependent on small-scale fisheries;

Recognizing that fishing has a long tradition in Uganda, and that social development issues are common to all fishers from traditional fishing communities;

Further noting that small-scale fisheries provide employment, income and nutritional security, especially to the poor;

Drawing attention to the critical role played by women within fisheries and fishing communities and the need for specific focus on supporting and empowering women;

Hereby call upon the Government of Uganda through its line Ministries, to address our concerns and to recognize and defend the rights of small-scale fishing communities, as follows:

Small-Scale Fisheries

1. The Ugandan inland fisheries sector entails freshwater capture fisheries that is primarily dependent on indigenous and a few exotic species and employs customary capture methods. Artisanal small-scale fisheries utilize various gear including gill nets, longlines, beach seines and mosquito nets. The fishing craft

mainly used are dugouts, plank or fibreglass canoes. Small-scale fishers would include: owner-operators from traditional fishing communities, fishworkers, allied workers in the above fishing operations, as well as women engaged in post-harvest activities.

Resource Management

2. Ensure the equal participation of small-scale fishing communities in fisheries management decision-making at all levels, ensuring their free, prior and informed consent on all management decisions;
3. Protect all fisheries resources from all forms of pollution, and reclamation;
4. Improve institutional coordination at all levels to enhance the well-being of the small-scale fishing communities;
5. Ensure the integration of local knowledge in the fisheries management decision making;
6. Establish and support institutional mechanisms to link Beach Management Units and their Local Governments in the management of shared water bodies.
7. Ensure that Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities are well coordinated and mainstreamed to curtail the rampant corruption levels and victimization of small-scale fishers;
8. Support the formation of a stronger primary producer organization that will protect and promote the interests of the small-scale fisher;
9. Increase efforts to curtail the importation and use of monofilament nets;
10. Revise and update the National Fisheries Policy (2004) in a participatory manner;
11. Focus all small-scale fisheries development efforts on the local and regional supply chain for instance provide incentives for the use of more energy efficient kilns and stoves for smoking and frying fish;
12. Conduct research into the feasibility of species and establishing specific closed seasons in view of supporting sustainable fisheries initiatives;
13. Recognize and support the crucial role and contribution of fisher folk organizations, Non Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations in the effective implementation and sustainability of fisheries;

14. Regulate access to fisheries resources by instituting a thorough registration and licensing process of fishing vessels by involving the Beach Management Units and the department of fisheries in the vetting exercise;
15. Pay particular attention to actors traditionally external to fisheries, specifically those influencing the status and future of the shoreline and water quality and ensure their activities are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable;
16. Subsidize taxes on fishing equipments;
17. Ensure that those responsible for enforcing fisheries regulations have clearly marked legal and approved identification badges and Identity Cards at all times during duty;
18. Ensure that small-scale fisheries workers are fully involved in the formation of decisions that influence their activities, and not simply enforcement;

Securing access rights

19. Protect the access rights of small-scale fishing communities to territories, lands, water and fisheries resources on which they have traditionally depended for their life and livelihood;

Securing post-harvest rights

20. Provide modern fish handling facilities at each landing site;
21. Improve access of women to fish and fish markets, particularly through provision of credit at affordable rates, appropriate technology and infrastructure at landing sites and markets;
22. Put in place institutional arrangements that give priority to fish for local consumption over fish for export;

Securing human rights

23. Prioritize the provision of basic services such as clean water, sanitation, education, health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services to the fishing communities;
24. Ensure that before undertaking any development project that may adversely affect the life and livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities the free, prior and informed consent is sought;
25. Protect men and women engaged in regional cross-border fisheries trade against harassment;

26. Promote awareness of user rights and responsibilities through sponsoring fisheries-related rights awareness campaigns in partnership with the civil society;
27. Mobilize fishers to form cooperatives and marketing associations so as to alleviate their socio-economic status;
28. Provide improved hygienic conditions for women in processing equipped with water and sanitation facilities;
29. Implement legal obligations arising from the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and subsequently adopted human rights legislation such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women aimed at protecting the rights of small-scale fishers;

Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness

30. Provide avenues for mandatory insurance of fisher properties and lives in the face of climate change;
31. Provide weather forecast information support services to small-scale fishers through SMS messages;
32. Support cash initiatives for poorer, marginalized fisheries stakeholders through Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOS);

Capacity Building

33. Provide special education programmes for the children of small-scale fishers and promote functional adult literacy amongst adults;
34. Provide capacity-building support of small-scale fishing communities to enhance their participation in governance of their fisheries resources; and
35. Enhance diversification of fisher communities' livelihoods to reduce dependency on the fisheries resources through training in alternative income generating activities.

Keeping in mind the above, we urge the Government of Uganda to develop a national policy on small-scale fisheries to protect the rights and interests of small-scale fishing communities.

We call on the Government of Uganda to take an active role in the development of voluntary guidelines on sustainable small-scale fisheries and their implementation.

We also call upon FAO to draw elements from this Statement in its preparation of voluntary guidelines on sustainable small-scale fisheries.

REPORT
for
The National Consultative Workshop for Small-Scale Fisheries:
Towards FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries

Organized by
 Katosi Women Development Trust



A member of WFF

In Collaboration with
 Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association



A member of WFFP

14th & 15th November 2011

Kampala, Uganda

December 2011

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	3
INTRODUCTION	4
THE WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES	4
WORKSHOP OUTPUTS:	5
WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH.....	5
WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS.....	6
WHAT CONSTITUTES SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN UGANDA AND WHY SSF SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND GIVEN PRIORITY?.....	6
KEY ISSUES AFFECTING THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SECTOR IN UGANDA	6
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	8
A) ON SECURING SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES	8
B) HOW ORGANIZATIONS CAN STRENGTHEN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES AND IN SECURING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, ONCE ADOPTED:.....	10
GOOD PRACTICES/LESSONS LEARNT IN RELATION TO SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT.....	10
CONCLUSION	12
APPENDIX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	13
APPENDIX 2: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME.....	14
APPENDIX 3: WORKSHOP PHOTOGRAPHS.....	15

ACRONYMS

ACRONYMS:

AFALU	Association of Fishers and Lake Users
BMU	Beach Management Unit
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fisher
IPC	International Planning Committee of Food Sovereignty
KWDT	Katosi Women Development Trust
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
UFFCA	Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association
VG-SSF	Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Small-Scale Fisheries
WFF	World Forum of Fishworkers and Fish Harvesters
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher People

Introduction

The Ugandan National Consultative Workshop as part of the civil society process to influence the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF) was held on the 14th and the 15th of November, 2011 at Pope Paul Memorial Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop provided an opportunity for the civil society (CSO) fraternity in Uganda to build consensus on what they would like to see in, clear and concrete terms, in the VG-SSF so as to enhance the visibility of small-scale fisheries and the role the sector plays in respective economies. The process not only acted as an avenue for CSOs to strengthen their representation but also as a channel of engaging with the State. It drew participation from a cross section of fisheries stakeholders ranging from fishworker organizations, NGOs, policy makers, researchers and managers, boat owners, fishers, fishmongers, small scale processors, boat-builders, and leaders of Beach Management Units (BMUs). Full list of participants is available under *Appendix 1*.

The workshop follows the recommendation from the 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome (January-February 2011), that agreed on the important role played by the small-scale fisheries sector, in the context of food security and poverty alleviation and approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that will secure and sustain small scale fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Small Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF).

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), together with other civil society organizations; World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), International Collective in Support of Fish-Workers (ICSF) and International Planning Committee for food Sovereignty (IPC) through their national members have agreed to work together to enable the civil society engage in the development of guidelines through organizing national consultation workshops in various countries.

The Workshop Objectives

General Objective of this workshop: to contribute to the international civil society initiative to develop guidelines within the framework of a human rights approach for the proposed FAO international guidelines on marine and inland small scale fisheries.

Specific Objectives:

- 1) To make the role of small-scale fisheries and fish workers more visible in the context of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of fishery resources;
- 2) To expose fishery and non-fishery factors that threaten inland fishery-based livelihoods; and

- 3) To draw attention to the specific human development needs of small-scale fishing communities such as education, health, organizational development, social services.

Workshop Outputs:

- 1) Proposals on policies and actions needed to support inland small-scale fisheries in Uganda addressed to national and local governments;
- 2) Proposals to be fed into the VG-SSF process;
- 3) Proposals addressed to the SSF sector itself (how the sector can play a role in using resources in a sustainable way);
- 4) All participants take responsibility to safeguard the fisheries diversity and critical habitat;
- 5) Government policies and legal framework for fisheries management and research will support capture and aquaculture fisheries with utmost financial and governance care to prevent their collapse in support of sustainable small scale fisheries.

The workshop group discussions were guided by specified themes as provided for in the national workshops guidance document sheet. These were: what constitutes small scale fisheries in the Ugandan context; reasons why small-scale fishing in Uganda should be supported and given priority; key issues affecting the sector and how to address them; the quality of life of those involved and dependent on small scale fisheries; and good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries, with a focus on rights-based approaches. In so doing, the participants' views were sought after on all the given themes.

Workshop Methodology and Approach

To achieve the workshop objectives for the national-level consultations, a participatory methodology was adopted. The two day workshop was devoted to presentations as well as group and plenary discussions.

The approach used was such that key-note presentations were made prior to the group discussions to provide background information and generate momentum for further workshop discussions on pertinent issues relevant to small-scale fisheries. Following the key-note presentations, the participants were divided into three groups ranging between 10 to 12 people to reflect on the given themes for further elaboration on key issues and make proposals. The reports from the discussion groups were then presented in the plenary thereafter the issues, proposals and strategies were adopted. All the three groups tackled the same concerns at the same time, had a facilitator and were provided with an aid to group discussions in form of a checklist of issues relevant

to the SSF sector in order to ensure that participant's views are sought on all issues important within the Ugandan context.

Workshop Proceedings

What constitutes small-scale fisheries in Uganda and why SSF should be supported and given priority?

Session one involved three group sessions in which participants discussed what constitutes small-scale fisheries in Uganda and why this small-scale fishing sector should be supported and given priority. Results of the group discussions were presented and discussed in the plenary. It was noted that small-scale fisheries in Uganda are diverse in nature. However, they can be characterized by the following:

- Size of fishing craft/vessel
- Usually non-motorized
- Low investment/capital
- Fishing effort
- Owner operated
- Fishing unit (lone operators, or family, or community group)
- Catch is mainly for home consumption and/or occasional sales
- Inadequate access to social services such as education, health services, credit facilities etc.

A summary of issues highlighted on why small-scale fisheries need support and priority is given below.

- Food and nutritional security – fish provides 50% of nutritional protein
- Employment – employs 1.2 million people directly and supports another 1.4 million livelihoods
- National revenue – number one foreign exchange earner from non-agricultural products
- Way of life for some people
- Vulnerability and risk to natural disaster and climate change is high
- Marginalized sector with limited access to resources
- Sustainable way of fishing
- Medicinal purposes.

Key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries sector in Uganda

The key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries sector in Uganda were discussed during session two of the group discussions. Following these group discussions, each group presented its results in the plenary where it was noted that the small-scale fisheries and their communities face a myriad of issues as highlighted in the summary below.

- Vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change that has resulted into increased risk for fishing vessels capsizing causing death and loss of properties
- High tax levies on fishing equipments, alongside fees for fishing vessel licenses and fish movement permits
- High level of illiteracy among the fisher folk communities due to non-school attendance, school dropout and the high rate of migration
- Lack of sense of ownership of the fisheries resources hence leading to persistent use of illegal fishing practices
- SSF workers have little bargaining power when their fish is destined for industrial processing and export. At the same time, SSF workers, particularly women that supply local and regional markets face disproportionately high tax burdens (and increasingly equipment burdens) that make it difficult for them to profit, and at times even break even from their work.
- Open access to the available fisheries resources due to weak regulations and control, coupled with unemployment and high population growth on landing sites has increased pressures on aquatic habitats
- Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities are not well coordinated leading to corruption and victimization small scale fishers
- The national fisheries policy (2004) governing the development and management of fisheries resources including the pillars supporting the policy are weak and poor
- Outside forces, including tourism, hospitality, agricultural and industrial development on land adjacent to water bodies have increased pressure on fisheries resources
- SSF communities have less access to infrastructure such as; education, health services, savings opportunities and quality roads in comparison to communities with land-based livelihoods
- Overexploitation of small-scale fishers by middle men in the fisheries industry
- Environmental degradation caused by point and non point sources
- High fees charges by BMU from the SSF workers
- Gender inequality, equality and marginalization of women.

Key recommendations

These key recommendations were proposed during session two of the workshop in which the group presentations in the plenary included recommendations to the identified key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries sector in Uganda. Here below is a synthesis of the key recommendations made:

a) On securing small-scale fisheries

1. Provide capacity-building support to small-scale fishing communities to enhance their participation in governance of their fisheries resources
2. There is need to ensure the equal participation of small-scale fishing communities in fisheries management decision-making, ensuring their free, prior and informed consent to all management decisions
3. Establish and support institutional mechanisms to link Beach Management Units and their Local Governments in the management of shared water bodies
4. Improve institutional coordination at all levels to enhance the well-being of the small-scale fishing communities
5. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities should be well coordinated and mainstreamed to curtail the rampant corruption levels and victimization of small-scale fishers
6. There is great need to pay particular attention to actors traditionally external to fisheries, specifically those influencing the status and future of the shoreline and water quality and ensure their activities are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable
7. Government should support the formation of a stronger primary producer organization that will protect and promote the interests of the small-scale fisher
8. Revise and update the National Fisheries Policy (2004) in a participatory manner
9. Need to focus all small-scale fisheries development efforts on the local and regional supply chain for instance provide incentives for the use of more energy efficient kilns and stoves for smoking and frying fish
10. Commission research into the feasibility of species and establish specific closed seasons in view of supporting sustainable fisheries initiatives
11. Provide weather forecast information support services to small-scale fishers through SMS messages

12. Recognize and support the crucial role and contribution of fish folk organizations, Non Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations in the effective implementation and sustainability of fisheries
13. Regulate access to fisheries resources by instituting a thorough registration and licensing process of fishing vessels whereby the BMUs and the department of fisheries play a greater role in the vetting exercise
14. All those responsible for enforcing fisheries regulations must have clearly legal and approved identification badges and Identity Cards at all times during duty
15. Government should protect the access rights of small-scale fishing communities to territories, lands and water on which they have traditionally depended for their life and livelihood
16. Governments should provide modern fish handling facilities at each landing site
17. Provision of credit at affordable rates, appropriate technology and infrastructure at landing sites and markets to improve access of women to fish markets
18. Institutional arrangements should be put in place that gives priority to fish for local consumption over fish for export
19. Prioritize the provision of basic services such as clean water, sanitation, education, health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services to the fishing communities
20. Before undertaking any development project that may adversely affect the life and livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities the free, prior and informed consent should be sought
21. Promote awareness of user rights and responsibilities through sponsoring fisheries-related rights awareness campaigns in partnership with the civil society
22. Mobilize fishers to form cooperatives and marketing associations so as to alleviate their socio-economic status
23. Avenues for mandatory insurance of fisher properties and lives in the face of climate change should be provided
24. Financial support initiatives for poorer, marginalized fisheries stakeholders through Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOS)
25. Provide special education programmes for the children of small-scale fishers and promote functional adult literacy amongst adults
26. Local knowledge should be integrated in the fisheries management decision making

27. Protect all fisheries resources from all forms of pollution, and reclamation
28. Subsidize taxes on fishing equipments
29. Increase efforts to curtail the importation and use of monofilament nets

b) How organizations can strengthen the process of developing the guidelines and in securing their implementation at the national level, once adopted:

1. All concerned parties should continue to lobby state institutions at multiple levels to encourage the initial adoption and implementation of the guidelines
2. Once voluntary guidelines are adopted globally, fisheries-interrelated organizations should work together to compile and disseminate simplified versions of the guidelines for the benefit of those working in small-scale fisheries (SSF). In addition, popularized versions should be translated into local language/s
3. There is need for continued consultative meetings with the key stakeholders in the small-scale fisheries sector
4. There will be a need for continued dissemination of information in form of brochures, public awareness through; media workshops, meetings, brochures during the implementation of these guidelines
5. Annual reviews on implementing the guidelines should be conducted by CSOs, NGOs, and CBOs.

Good Practices/Lessons learnt in relation to small-scale fisheries development, conservation and management

During session three, group discussions were held on the good practices in relation to small-scale fisheries development, conservation and management and the following issues below came out very prominently during the plenary presentations.

- Actors traditionally external to fisheries management, specifically those influencing the status and future of the shoreline and water quality, are indeed relevant to the health of SSF and their management
- NGOs and CBOs are critical for effective implementation and sustainability of BMUs
- It is difficult to convince SSF workers that they own fisheries resources when they rarely own the means of their production, and even more rarely the land on which they live
- SSF workers must be actively involved in the formation of decisions that influence their activities, and not simply enforcement

- Civil society organizations like; KWDT, UFFCA, AFALU and others working with fisheries societies are very instrumental in better service delivery and hence should be supported
- Cost sharing initiatives are laudable since they led to improved sense of ownership and enhance responsibility of community facilities for instance management of pit latrines.

CONCLUSION

The workshop participants extensively discussed the key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries and human development within the framework of a rights-based approach to fisheries and made recommendations for action with regard to the proposed FAO VG-SSF guidelines. Discussions during the workshop were organized around three groups for the three scheduled workshop sessions. Results of the group discussions were presented and discussed in the plenary sessions.

The consultative workshop reaffirmed the crucial global importance of the small-scale fisheries from an economic, social and cultural point of view and considering the problems they face.

The closing remarks were made by the State Minister for Fisheries Hon. Ruth Nakabirwa who reiterated government's commitment to support the small-scale fisheries and their communities efforts towards achieving sustainable livelihoods.

Mbour World Fisheries Day Declaration

David Boilat Training Centre

Mbour, Senegal

21 November 2011

En français

The African Workshop on Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries hosted and organized by the African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA) in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the Mbour Association for the Promotion of Responsible Fisheries (APRAPAM), and the Coalition of Economic Groupings from the Mbour Fish Landing Centre (CPPAM).

We, 120 participants representing artisanal fishworkers, civil society organizations and the journalists' network REJOPRAO from 16 countries in Africa and from 4 countries in the European Union met in Mbour, Senegal to celebrate World Fisheries Day and to share our commitment towards securing sustainable small scale fisheries.

Congratulate and applaud:

- The pupils of the primary school of the David Boila training centre who have excelled in their brilliant awareness raising campaign on fishery resource conservation.

Express thanks to:

- The Prefect of the department of Mbour and his adjutant who agreed to preside over the official opening ceremony.
- The Director of the David Boila Training Centre whose guidance enabled the pupils to make their remarkable contribution.

Our discussions focussed on artisanal fisheries in the African context and the development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries (VG SSF), on which we exchanged perspectives and experiences to make recommendations to the FAO on the content of these Guidelines.

The main issues we discussed were:

- the technical, social, economic, cultural and political aspects that characterize artisanal and small scale fisheries in African countries;
- those aspects that make artisanal fisheries the preferred model for the EEZ – focusing on its good practices, community based activities and co-management ; and
- the most serious problems facing artisanal and small scale fisheries in the African context.

We celebrated the diversity and heterogeneity of artisanal, small-scale, and traditional fisheries on the African continent, a diversity which makes any single definition inadequate and inappropriate. We recognized that fishing is a key part of an integrated fishery production system that is dependent on a chain of mutually dependent pre- and post-harvest activities that require adequate infrastructure, and where women and men play equally important and complementary roles .

We highlighted the important role of small-scale fishworkers in sustaining food and livelihood security and in preserving the marine environment according to centuries-old traditions.

We characterised artisanal fisheries as being small in scale, low in environmental impact, diverse and versatile, producing fresh fish for direct human consumption, for both export and local markets. The lack of cold chain and storage facilities, and the dependence on traditional handling and processing techniques often lead to losses of product and income.

Our fishing communities are vulnerable and exposed to risks, lack access to training and education, and have high levels of illiteracy.

Our recommendations for the VG SSF are as follows:

With reference to the particular characteristics of small scale fisheries, the VG SSF should:

- Recognize that the artisanal fishing sector is a dynamic and social sector that contributes to feeding the world. The integration of the sector into local, regional, and international markets should also be taken account of in the VG SSF, whilst ensuring that supplying international markets and meeting global demands for fisheries products is not at the expense of local food security and domestic consumption.
- Recognize the solidarity and community spirit of artisanal fisheries whilst promoting the organization and strengthening the capacity of the men and women actors to engage in co-management.
- Recognize the over exploited state of resources, encourage the bottom-up development of management plans, and include measures that discourage illegal fishing;

As regards good practices, the VG SSF should consider:

- Strengthening the capacity of men and women actors, especially as regards functional literacy;
- Improving the support function of technicians and others who intervene in the fisheries sector;
- Creating awareness and building capacity in community based institutions through “bottom up” approaches for adopting such measures as fishery management plans, exclusive artisanal fishing zones and Territorial User Rights (TURFs);
- Recommending that small scale fishworkers should form an integral part of the management and decision-making structures for marine protected areas;
- Include fishing communities in the design and implementation of fishery development projects;
- Promote the integration of human rights’ commitments into national legislation;
- Enable civil society to participate fully in fishery decision taking processes and establish protocols within the FAO Committee on Fisheries that enable civil society organizations to participate fully with representatives of Member States, as is the case in the Committee on Food Security;
- Encourage Member States to incorporate artisanal, small-scale and traditional fishery representatives on their delegations to the technical consultations that develop the VG SSF Guidelines.

Promoting responsible fishing, notably through:

- Establishing fishery closures (biological rest periods for reproduction etc.) in artisanal fisheries as a management measure;
- Providing education and support to develop best practices in fishing communities;
- Increasing mesh size (of nets) to improve selectivity;

-
- Limiting fishing effort to conserve stocks, and restricting catches to balance supply and demand;
 - Respecting justice and equity in the regulations
 - Reducing marine pollution.

As regards the problems facing the sector, the VG SSF should:

- Recognize that overfishing is a problem for both the artisanal and industrial fishing sectors, and that tackling overfishing needs a differentiated approach;
- Recommend the elimination of destructive fishing practices and develop good artisanal fishing practices as the preferred model for the entire EEZ without compromising sea safety or decent working conditions;
- Recognize the rights of migratory fishers and establish conflict resolution mechanisms for disputes arising between migratory fishers and local communities, including for the brokering of trans-border fisheries access agreements between such communities;
- Promote access to justice, and consider the establishment of an international tribunal where artisanal fishing communities can claim compensation for damages inflicted by transnational capital and foreign fishing fleets through land and sea grabbing;
- Recommend the improvement of working conditions and the establishment of social security systems for fishers and fishery sector workers, and promote health and safety on both land and sea;

.....*Mbour, Senegal, 21 November 2011*

Participating Organizations:

SLAFU/ Sierra Leone

LAFA/ Liberia

NACOFAG/WFF/ Gambia

FENACOPECI/ Ivory Coast

TransparentSea/ Kenya/ Ivory Coast

ATDEPA/ Tunisia

FNP Artisanal Fishing Section/ Mauritania

GIZ/RIM/ Mauritania

ROPA/ Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde

FENAFIP/Burkina Faso

REJOPRAO/ Burkina Faso/ Guinea / Senegal/ Nigeria

CPPAM/ Mbour, Senegal

CONIPAS/ Thiaroye Quay, Senegal

APRAPAM/ Senegal

ICSF/ Belgium, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal.

CFFA-CAPE/ Belgium

FAO

SSNC/ Sweden

MASIFUNDISE/ South Africa

COASTAL LINKS/ South Africa

Cerad International/ Togo

UNFFPG/ Guinea

FENAPECHE/ Benin



Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries
World Fisheries Day, Saly, Mbour Senegal,
21 November 2011



Interim Narrative Report
(Fuller Report in Preparation)

Background

The African Workshop on Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries was hosted and organized by the African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA) in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the Mbour Association for the Promotion of Responsible Fisheries (APRAPAM), and the Coalition of Economic Groupings from the Mbour Fish Landing Centre (CPPAM). It was organized on November 21 2011.

21 November is celebrated widely as “World Fisheries” Day in many parts of the world, by national governments and civil society alike. Civil society organizations associated with small scale fisheries, notably the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the two World Forums (WFF and WFFP), their members and associated organizations, have since 1997 organized events around this date.

This year, 2011, many fishworker organizations and associated support organizations, assembled in Mbour, Senegal for a four day conference on “Transparency in Marine Fisheries” from 22 to 24 November. Delegations were invited from Mauritania, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Togo, Ivory Coast, Mali, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, South Africa, and Kenya.

Also participating in the event were members from the West African Journalists Network for Responsible Fisheries (REJOPRAO), an organization of journalists from West Africa whose main objective is to increase awareness with the public, decision makers and fishing industry representatives on the importance of sustainable fisheries and the role of ecosystem management. They produced press briefings and other documentation of the event for the various media in West Africa and internationally.

The organization of a workshop to discuss the VG SSF Guidelines on 21 November just prior to the above event enabled an Africa wide consultation to take place for a relatively small cost, and to capitalise on the assembly of a number of artisanal fishing leaders from across Africa. The coincidence of the events also provided an invaluable opportunity to focus attention both on the theme of securing sustainability, and with the interlinked civil society and formal processes geared towards achieving secure and sustainable small scale fisheries. It also enabled synergies to be established with the “transparency” theme of the 4 day

conference, where, along with respect for human rights, access to information and transparency in decision making processes is essential for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

The organization of the event engaged with a local primary school at the Abbé David Boila Training Centre, focussing on the importance of small-scale fisheries and sustaining coastal communities (food and livelihood security, cultural traditions, ways of life, economic development etc). The objective being to emphasise and to make more visible the inter-generational dimension of securing sustainable small-scale fisheries and to raise awareness more widely on this theme. World Fisheries Day also gave added significance to the event.

ICSF's local partners included the African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA), the Mbour Association for the Promotion of Responsible Fisheries (APRAPAM), and the Coalition of Economic Groupings from the Mbour Fish Landing Centre (CPPAM).

Over 120 participants attended the workshop, including 85 from Senegal, 30 from 16 other African countries and 5 from Europe. Around 20 women fish mongers, fish processors and fish traders from the Mbour fish landing centre participated in the event.

Workshop Programme

Workshop participants were provided with various documents in English and French, including the Bangkok Statement, Civil Society Briefing on the VG SSF Process, FAO Discussion Document on the VG SSF, Samudra Report, and Yemaya.

The event opened with a statement from the primary school children, who presented their vision of fisheries, including a display of three of their designs. This was followed by a welcome from the President of the Mbour Association for the Promotion of Responsible Fisheries (APRAPAM). The Prefect's representative opened the workshop officially, but was delayed in traffic for 2 hours, which meant a late start and time lost over the day.

There then followed a double presentation by Mr Abdou Karim Sall, President of the Joal Fadiouth Marine Protected Area (MPA), on the fishery situation in Senegal and West Africa and on the MPA of Joal-Fadiouth. Subsequent interventions included Mr Sid Ahmed Ould Abeid, President of CAOPA, President of the Artisanal Section of the FNP in Mauritania, and representative of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), Madame Mama Yawa Sandouno, President of ADEPEG- CPA in Guinea and Member of ICSF, and Mr Aliou Sowe, National Coordinator of NCOFAG and representative of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF). The theme of these interventions was on a vision for artisanal fisheries in Africa.

There then followed a presentation by Lena Westlund, Consultant to FAO, on the VG SSF Guidelines and the process for their development.

In the afternoon, the participants split into three language groups: Anglophone, Francophone and Wolof. Each group took a theme related to the VG SSF guidelines to discuss and to produce recommendations. The three themes were presented in the form of the following questions:

- What are the technical, social, economic, cultural and political aspects that characterize artisanal and small scale fisheries in your countries? (Francophone Group)
- What makes artisanal and small scale fishing the preferred model for the EEZ? Good practices; community based; co-management? (Wolof Group)
- What are the most serious problems facing artisanal and small scale fisheries in Africa? (Anglophone Group).

Each produced a set of recommendations and key issues, which were presented in plenary and incorporated into a statement by a designated working group.

The statement is included below

Interpretation was provided between three languages (French-English-Wolof) by professional and volunteer interpreters.

Two rapporteurs assigned the task of note taking, and for producing a workshop report. This is still in process.

Workshop Statement

We, 120 participants representing artisanal fishworkers, civil society organizations and the journalists' network REJOPRAO from 16 countries in Africa and from 4 countries in the European Union met in Mbour, Senegal to celebrate World Fisheries Day and to share our commitment towards securing sustainable small scale fisheries.

Congratulate and applaud:

- The pupils of the primary school of the David Boila training centre who have excelled in their brilliant awareness raising campaign on fishery resource conservation.

Express thanks to:

- The Prefect of the department of Mbour and his adjutant who agreed to preside over the official opening ceremony.

- The Director of the David Boila Training Centre whose guidance enabled the pupils to make their remarkable contribution.

Our discussions focussed on artisanal fisheries in the African context and the development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries (VG SSF), on which we exchanged perspectives and experiences to make recommendations to the FAO on the content of these Guidelines.

The main issues we discussed were:

- the technical, social, economic, cultural and political aspects that characterize artisanal and small scale fisheries in African countries;
- those aspects that make artisanal fisheries the preferred model for the EEZ – focusing on its good practices, community based activities and co-management ; and
- the most serious problems facing artisanal and small scale fisheries in the African context.

We celebrated the diversity and heterogeneity of artisanal, small-scale, and traditional fisheries on the African continent, a diversity which makes any single definition inadequate and inappropriate. We recognized that fishing is a key part of an integrated fishery production system that is dependent on a chain of mutually dependent pre- and post-harvest activities that require adequate infrastructure, and where women and men play equally important and complementary roles.

We highlighted the important role of small-scale fishworkers in sustaining food and livelihood security and in preserving the marine environment according to centuries-old traditions.

We characterized artisanal fisheries as being small in scale, low in environmental impact, diverse and versatile, producing fresh fish for direct human consumption, for both export and local markets. The lack of cold chain and storage facilities, and the dependence on traditional handling and processing techniques often lead to losses of product and income.

Our fishing communities are vulnerable and exposed to risks, lack access to training and education, and have high levels of illiteracy.

Our recommendations for the VG SSF are as follows:

With reference to the particular characteristics of small scale fisheries, the VG SSF should:

- Recognize that the artisanal fishing sector is a dynamic and social sector that contributes to feeding the world. The integration of the sector into local, regional, and international markets should also be taken account of in the VG SSF, whilst ensuring that supplying international markets and meeting global demands for fisheries products is not at the expense of local food security and domestic consumption.
- Recognize the solidarity and community spirit of artisanal fisheries whilst promoting the organization and strengthening the capacity of the men and women actors to engage in co-management.
- Recognize the over exploited state of resources, encourage the bottom-up development of management plans, and include measures that discourage illegal fishing;

As regards good practices, the VG SSF should consider:

- Strengthening the capacity of men and women actors, especially as regards functional literacy;
- Improving the support function of technicians and others who intervene in the fisheries sector;
- Creating awareness and building capacity in community based institutions through “bottom up” approaches for adopting such measures as fishery management plans, exclusive artisanal fishing zones and Territorial User Rights (TURFs);
- Recommending that small scale fishworkers should form an integral part of the management and decision-making structures for marine protected areas;
- Include fishing communities in the design and implementation of fishery development projects;
- Promote the integration of human rights’ commitments into national legislation;
- Enable civil society to participate fully in fishery decision taking processes and establish protocols within the FAO Committee on Fisheries that enable civil society organizations to participate fully with representatives of Member States, as is the case in the Committee on Food Security;
- Encourage Member States to incorporate artisanal, small-scale and traditional fishery representatives on their delegations to the technical consultations that develop the VG SSF Guidelines.
- Promoting responsible fishing, notably through:
 - Establishing fishery closures (biological rest periods for reproduction etc.) in artisanal fisheries as a management measure;
 - Providing education and support to develop best practices in fishing communities;
 - Increasing mesh size (of nets) to improve selectivity;

- Limiting fishing effort to conserve stocks, and restricting catches to balance supply and demand;
- Respecting justice and equity in the regulations
- Reducing marine pollution.

As regards the problems facing the sector, the VG SSF should:

- Recognize that overfishing is a problem for both the artisanal and industrial fishing sectors, and that tackling overfishing needs a differentiated approach;
- Recommend the elimination of destructive fishing practices and develop good artisanal fishing practices as the preferred model for the entire EEZ without compromising sea safety or decent working conditions;
- Recognize the rights of migratory fishers and establish conflict resolution mechanisms for disputes arising between migratory fishers and local communities, including for the brokering of trans-border fisheries access agreements between such communities;
- Promote access to justice, and consider the establishment of an international tribunal where artisanal fishing communities can claim compensation for damages inflicted by transnational capital and foreign fishing fleets through land and sea grabbing;
- Recommend the improvement of working conditions and the establishment of social security systems for fishers and fishery sector workers, and promote health and safety on both land and sea;

List of Participating Organizations

International/ Regional Organizations

African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA)
 International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
 TransparentSea
 World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP)
 World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)
 Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA-CAPE)
 Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
 CERAD International (Togo)
 FAO

National/ Local Organizations

Liberia Artisanal Fishermen Association (LAFA)
 Sierra Leone Artisanal Fishermen's Union (SLAFU)
 NACOFAG Fisherfolk Association, Gambia
 National Fisheries Cooperative Federation, Ivory Coast (FENACOPECI)
 Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (ATDEPA)
 Artisanal Fishing Section of the Mauritanian National Fishing Federation (FNP)
 Mauritania 2000, Mauritania
 Artisanal Fisheries Network, Guinea Bissau (ROPA)
 Artisanal Fisheries Network, Cape Verde (ROPA)
 FENAFIP, Burkina Fasso
 National Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations, Senegal (CONIPAS)
 Association for the Promotion of Responsible Fisheries, Mbour, Senegal (APRAPAM)
 Coalition of Economic Groupings from the Mbour Fish Landing Centre (CPPAM)
 REJOPRAO (from Burkina Faso, Guinea, Senegal and Nigeria)
 MASIFUNDISI, South Africa
 Coastal Links, South Africa
 ADEPEG-CPA, Guinea
 National Union of Guinean Fish Smokers (UNFFPG), Guinea
 National Fisheries Federation (FENAPECHE), Benin
 Representatives from local fish landing centres, Senegal
 Department of Fisheries, Senegal.

SRI LANKA WORKSHOP

**A Process of Building Voluntary Guideline for Sustainable,
Small Scale Fisheries - Proposal from Sri Lankan
Fisheries Community**

**Workshop from 20-21 November: at No. 10, Malwatta Road,
Negombo (20-21 November)**

**Policy Dialogue on 22 November: at Rukmanie Devi Cultural
Center, Negombo**

**20-22 November
Malwatta Road, Negombo
Sri Lanka**

The declaration of the Small Scale Fisheries [SSF] community's existence in Sri Lanka

This would be lead to international community in preparation of a global plan to sustain the SSF.

This is documented by the fisheries community activists and civil contenders to ascertain the plight of SSF community to the government of Sri Lanka and its fisheries offciates.

Criterion:

That the coastal fisheries harvest is a potential economic contribution and a cheap source of protein to the low income sector of the country and its viability to sustain.

That more than one million people are self employed in coastal fisheries, brackish water fisheries and fresh water fisheries by easing the job demand from the government,

That the value of fisheries women's contribution to the sustenance of SSF Industry, family food safety, stability of family income, is counted and there by draw the attention of society to offer them care and dignity much needed,

That in realization of the complex problems faced by the fisheries community internationally, regionally and locally with the understanding of the climate change problems generated by global warming and it's impact on fisheries community and with identification of solutions and action needed to apply nationally and globally,

That in realization of the threat, to throw out the SSF from coastal areas, coastal belt, lagoon and fresh water reservoirs.

That the SSF community is pushed into unsustainability by the heavy exploitation,

That being knowledgeable of the clandestine plans to push out SSF from their livelihood,

That knowing even by now practically they are being gradually pushed out in the guise of development projects,

That taking effort in search of potential strategies to up lift the social status of fisheries women who are now being subjected to incapacity within the community,

That in observation of certain activities taking place in the name of development and knowing those are critically harmful to aquatic environment and natural habitation. Hence proposing to regenerate and sustain the aquatic habitat with the SSF,

That with the concern of regular price increase on fishing Gear and artificial decline of fish prices have created a situation on SSF are unable to be self employed as usual,

That though the ILO has categorized fishing as one of the riskiest employment, so far proper attention is not given to minimize the risk.

That to join as a contributor to the "manifesto of global SSF" which is being drafted by the " World Food and Agriculture organization" who is an authorized body of UNO,

That with the intention of highlighting the present plight of SSF in Sri Lanka and opening a debate in global level paving the way to draft and

international fisheries manifesto to assure the sustenance of this industry,

That contribute to the building of globally acceptable fisheries instrument for SSF which is now jointly planning by world forum of fisher peoples', world forum of fisheries workers and fish harvesters, international collective of support of fish workers, and international planning committee for world food dependability.

That to highlight the critical opinions of local fishermen from Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Mannar, Ampara, Jaffna, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Gampaha, Puttlam and Kurunegala districts.

That to pave the way to find the consensus of fisheries community when ever, authoritative decisions are taken in regard to fisheries community, their environment and their welfare,

That to open a stage for Sri Lanka SSF to voice their opinion, contributions and approval in the process of designing an international instrument on SSF by the world food and agriculture organization o Rome.

The contribution of SSF industry to sustain the national food security remains at a high point it is a fact that SSF contribute 54% of country's fish production. Deep sea fishing by multiday crafts contribute only 44%out of the deep sea fish harvest 9% is exported hence their contribution on local fish requirement remains at a lower level.

Its a fact that out of the world fishing more than 50% is harvested by the SSF and 99.9% of their harvest is used for human consumption. Out of the 35 million global fisheries community 90% is from the SSF community. Other than the figures in fisheries community, more than 84 million other people are employed in fishery related sectors. More than 50% of SSF have their female partners contribution in the process. Hence the livelihood of those females are also directly depend on SSF.

Further this community is economy as well as cultural and social ties are based on the SSF industry. Though the life line of SSF community is entirely depending on their employment, their employment is being continuously threatened by various man made problems such as rights for settlements(lands)right to approach fishing ground and market including unexpected exposure to dangerous situations created by nature.

Fish harvest share in Sri Lanka

Fresh water fishery	12%
Coastal fishery	40%
Brackish water fishery	4%
Deep sea fishery	44%

Fish production of four provinces in 2010

North	MT 33600
South	Mt 80970
East	MT 99240
West	MT 125450

Source: Dr. Jayampathy Samarakoon, Presentation on SSF on October 2011

Economics of SSF Livelihoods: Proven Sustainability, (Two Generations from 1948 – 2011)

Total Population/CSSF Population	Total No. NTRB	Total No. NTRB & FRP	Total Production (Metric Tons)
1948: 7 ¹/₂ Million (7,500,000)	12,250	Nil	38,000
40,000 (Govt. of Ceylon, 1951)			(3,000 Kg/Craft)
1088: 14 Million (14,000,000)	13,500	10,050	183,610
78,000 (FAO, 1988)			(7,800 Kg/Craft)
2010: 21 Million (21,000,000)	19,190	21,450	202,240
200,000 (MFARD, 2010)			(5,000 Kg/Craft)

Total value of fish produced by the CSSF in 2002:	=	Rs 7,200 000 000
Total Earning in one generation: 7,200, 000, 000X30Years	=	Rs 216,000,000,000
Individual Earnings by fisherman: 7,200,000,000/125,000	=	Rs 57,000/Year
Total Individual Earning with one generation: 57,000X30	=	Rs 1,710,000

Source: **Importance of Coastal Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) and Coastal Tourism in the Sri Lankan Economy, Presented by Dr. Jayampathy Samarakoon at SSF WS held on October, 2011**

Proposals brought forward by the SSF community of Sri Lanka for the sustainability of their livelihood and their fish resources.

PHASE ONE:

The resourcefulness of SSF community and the small craft fishing industry:

Since small craft fishing is a self employment it has eased the governments burden employing millions SSF generates a cheap source of Protein food. Especially for the country's rural sector and as a whole 65% of their protein requirement is filled from the fishing industry

As the economic input for small craft fishery remains as low cost industry the input to income ratio is higher. Therefore the net in come is shared among a larger number of people. Traditionally the small craft fishing harvest do not generate wastage hence large proportion of

the production is used for direct human consumption.

SSF is also an optional self employment of poor men since it could generate a daily income for the family and they are also free to be employed in other sectors to earn a side income. SSF methods are providing a social bond among the community hence social clashes are comparatively minimum as fishing, processing and marketing is a chain of social links.

SSF is one of the best free lance employment. It has no commitments to others. Accidents from natural disasters while engage in fishing are minimum comparing to deep sea fishing. SSF fishermen do not risk their lives in heavy sea storms and do not get failed in foreign countries due to violations. There fore it could be categorized as an employment without depressed mind which could provide family security too.

SSF itself has adapted to methods of fishing which continue to sustain fisheries resources.

PHASE TWO:

The main problems faced by the industry and proposals to remedy it:

1. **As** a result of development projects in which excavations carried out in the sea to expand the harbors, jetties, built up and land filling has adverse effects. The route of sea water channels has changed creating damages to ocean resources and ocean environment.

Before the implement of development project related to oceanic life, as a general practice the authorities must follow up steps to minimize the damages, which might incur to the nature and habitat and should make facilities to hear the voice of fisheries people whose livelihood might affect as a result of manmade changes in the ocean.

Their fishing tradition also does not encourage them to exploit the resources. The one day fishing method always assures fresh fish supply to the consumer. Therefore the wastage factor of the harvest is negligible.

The fishing knowledge traditionally carried by SSF has contributed to invent modern fishing technical equipments.

SSF is an industry totally based on natural resources. Most of the raw materials needed to make fishing gear are from the natural environment and it is taken from the natural without destroying it. The diversity of the SSF provides more jobs.

This independent minded fishing community also capable of creative act. They continue to contribute to the culture of our nation. Their rural craft work such as wood carvings; decorative flags shell ornaments are most popular.

2. Certain exotic oceanic creatures gradually decreasing in number in Sri Lanka's sea. It is the duty of administrators who handle ocean related subjects to conduct research to find out the cause of the problem whether the decrease is a result of climate changes, or creatures are migrating into other seas, or they are diminishing?

Example in the Trincomalee sea, the sword shark, Turtles, certain reef fish varieties, and octopus varieties are diminishing. In South Seas too certain fish varieties are diminishing.

3. Although the fisheries authorities and technical institutions work on fishery industry believe, that trawling or drag net as a more efficient fishing method. Fishermen believe the above system is causing heavy damages for the sustainability of fishing industry. Specially, "light course" "kandan course". fishing carried out by multiday craft owners, do heavy damages to the fish breeding system causing harvest loss for SSF resulting unemployment, social imbalance, unfair resource utilization etc. taking place.

The legal frame work already existing to prevent malpractices in fishing should by timely implement. The existing controls must not be relaxed from time to time or from area to area.

4. Sri Lanka's fisheries resources are under gradual destruction due to invasive fishery done by the Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan sea. There fore both countries must come in to mandatory agreement to prevent such acts.

5. Fisheries inspectors are designated to inspect more than one fresh water reservoir fishing activities there fore they do not have enough capacity to do a proper inspection, and fishermen also complain that some fisheries inspectors are incapable of handling matters

with the fisheries community to remedy such problems. At least one fishery inspector should be appointed and when appointing fisheries inspectors the priority should be given to the children from fishery families.

6. Necessary steps should be taken to establish fishery employment in a properly accepted social status. there by preventing fisheries children being subjected to incapacitate in educational institutes and in society.

7. Although newly introduced fish species in reservoirs supply a better harvest, those species are incapable of naturally breeding. Except for *Thilapia*, the consumer preference for new species are very low. There fore instead of present unpalatable species. New fish species with natural breeding ability has to be introduced.

8. There has been a continuous attempt to use fresh water and brackish water fishing grounds as components of various tourism attractions. This changes will definitely undermine the sustainability SSF and the natural environment. Therefore tourism project developers must be cautions of the impact which would create problems in the society

A classification of problems faced by the fisheries community in Sri Lanka

1. problems related to access to fishing grounds

The traditional access routes to fishing grounds have been blocked in many areas; fishermen in Trincomalee had been crossing land area allocated to Trincomalee harbor. But now it is prevented by put up by barb wire fence.

There is a proposal brought forward by the authorities to build four feet road right round

the Negombo lagoon. This action will create problems such as blockade of rain water drains causing floods blockade of fish landing points, blocs of land occupied by fishing community. Natural habitat and breeding grounds of shrimps and crustaceans will be lost.

By now due to the military acquire of certain points in Mannar Mullikulam, Sampur, Trincomalee, the traditional SSF have lost the access to fishing grounds as a result they are being unemployed.

In Kalpitiya fourteen islands are given on lease to private sector for tourist hotel projects in Mannar south bar some coastal points are privatized and acquired by the private owners.

The traditional fishing has been neglected by the government while developing the Tourism. Hence the coastal belt is becoming the property of tourist trade on financial gains.

Post Tsunami decision of the government to evacuate fisheries families from the coastal belt has created new problems to traditional fishery in certain areas. The new settlements provided are 10-15 Km away from the coast. Now they are unable to provide enough security to fishing gear, their landing points are required for fisheries people are facing landing problems right round the country's coastal belt.

There have been continuous requests to provide such facilities but still fishing craft landing problems are unsettled. For an example, from 1971, Gandara fishing harbor remains doomed.

02. Problems of Marketing

There is no organized market place for SSF product sale. Hence the marketing problem too add financial pressure on them, In places where the fish landing is disorganized, fish traders are not attracted.

The economic burden of fisheries families has increased due to the loss of traditional self employment of fishermen house wives. Their traditional post harvest fish processing jobs have lost as a result of inadequate processing technology and loss of market demand due to poor quality of post harvest products. The impact on family's economic burden now pushing the fisheries house wives to be employed as house maids in foreign countries.

Unfair competition among the middlemen too create marketing problems in certain places. At times they use SSF landing points to dump their excess fish and create problems for marketing which leads into clashes. In spite of all the efforts, SSF are unable to sell without being caught in the grip of middlemen.

Post harvest fish products also face unfair market competition from the imported substitutes such as dry fish and Maldives fish, The imported products are cheaper and attractive to consumers.

Market trend is such that when fish price come down the price of post harvest products also go down with out leaving the advantage of low production cost to post harvest processors specially the fishery house wives haven't got access to technology. As a result their products do not have long shelf life, competitiveness on taste, appearance and packaging.

During monsoon rainy season and during good harvest times there has been considerable loss of fish harvest due to lack of storage facilities.

Fishermen also affected by the increase of cost of production due to continuous increase of fuel price fishing gear cost from 2010-2011.

	2010	2011
Out Board engine HP 25	Rs225,000	Rs350,000
250 x 3000 foot net for herrings	Rs 8,000	13,000

	January 2011	November 2011
Expenses for 20 Liter of Fuel	1200 SLR	1920 SLR
Price of 1 Kg of Herrings	150- 200 SLR	120-180 SLR
Price of 1 Kg of Tuna[Balaya]	350- 400 SLR	320-350 SLR

Source: NAFSO Field Survey conducted in November 2011,

Middlemen's fish price control system offer a lower price for good quality fish from the small craft fishermen while they offer a better price for the fish from the other sources which already having deteriorate Quality

03. Problems of fishery Management

Certain Illegal fishing techniques used by fishermen which are going on unattended cause heavy losses to the sustainability of fishery resources. Within the loopholes in legal frame work, at times destructive fishing systems also registered and it indirectly encourage and legalize the use of destructive fishing techniques. The authorized bodies do not listen to the voice of SSF before they alter or change existing fishing

Lagoons which are being used as fish landing points, continuously polluted as a result of dumping of fish offal, fish refuse Packaging materials, plastic etc. The polluted water exert bad smell and pollute the air, polluted water also destroy the breeding capacity of shrimps and crustaceans. Dumping of burned oil from multiday crafts, in the lagoons also a serious problem. Lagoon fish is affected in many ways and at times lagoon fish become unpalatable due to fuel oil taste.

Traditional fishermen in Mannar district is affected by the free lance harvesters of sea cucumber who come from other areas .Traditionally fishermen in Mannar harvested sea cucumber taking care not to exploit the

rules, there by create hot issues resulting tension unrest among fisheries community. There has been continuous coastal development projects carried out without hearing the voice of fisheries community. But it is the duty of decision makers to discuss with the fisheries community and change out dated law concerning the coastal development.

resources. But they complain the outsiders use diving tank gear and exploit the sea cucumber harvest without looking in to future and sustainability of the fisher folk.

Lack of traditional knowledge on fishing concepts, lack of community feeling, value of preserving nature, preserving resources among young generation too add to the problems concerning sustainability of SSF. Use of drag nets and similar techniques, use of explosives, and use of various such unconventional fishing methods have been gradually destroying coastal fish resources. As a result the new generation them selves have becoming laborers' in multiday deep sea fishing crafts.

04. Fisheries Welfare Problems.

A stable welfare program is not available to look after SSF families in distress situations such as

death of bread winner. With the death of bread winner the entire family income collapses

resulting the loss of a proper meal for the family and discontinuation of children's education.

Fisheries children also face unfair competition from the other families whenever they apply to join for schooling. The available welfare facilities for SSF fishermen are not very encouraging.

The pension for fishermen arranged by the government is not sufficient to sustain. And it has become a difficult task for the retired fisherman to collect that pension.

A proper plan is needed to train and educate fishermen to avoid accidents while employed. Even a proper help programme is not available to rehabilitate SSF after an accident.

The party politics also has adverse affects in which all are not benefited equally. In the process of development welfare packages benefits should reach to people without a different on their cast, race, party or religion.

05. Environmental problems.

As a result of oceanic environment changes due to natural cause or due to human acts there has been a gradual depletion of certain fish species. Ex. Shark, turtle, sword shark, certain species of reef fish and varieties of Octopus.

The oil exploration project carried out in Mannar basin, too disturb the oceanic environment. But fisheries people are helpless.

The garbage and drain water from coastal towns dump in the sea or lagoons. As a result

the polluted water gradually turning coastal issue and lagoons into dead water spots.

The sea erosion in certain places have washed off landing points and settlements. In such distress situations government must quickly take action and look after the affected.

As a result of land filling for tourism related constructions, the mangroves are being destroyed. Mangroves are essential environment factors for the breeding of shrimps, many varieties of fish.

Special fishery problems faced by fisheries people in north and East:

SSF in Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts are heavily disturbed by the fish exploitation of Indian trawler fishermen and multi day craft fishing of south Sri Lanka fishermen. North and east Fishermen complain that the rampageous fishing of those come from outside destroy their fishing gear and resources.

The security ban imposed to sail from Mannar north to Mannar south sea vis-à-vis the fishing capacity of fishermen is affected. Fishermen in Mannar live in fear that they will loose their settlements as a result of oil explorations. Even now in Aadupitti and Thalai Mannar fishermen have lost part of their settlements due to set up of navy guard posts. Beach scene net (madel) fishery in Manthidi is banned due to security reasons. Even after two years of the end of civil war fishermen in north can not enter the sea without permits. The high security zones put up on the coast have bared fishing in traditional fishing rights of SSF. The war affected fishermen who have lost their fishing gear are unable to be employed. There are about 2900 such unemployed fishermen in Kilinochchi alone. A large number of fisheries people in north and east still live in displace camps. There are 56 such camps in Jaffna district. And those people want to be settled for normal life.

The so called surukku-del fishing in Mannar and Kalpitiya, each craft takes 40Kgs sand daily from the beach which could cause sea erosion.

Specific problems of fresh water fishing

Very often, farmers committees enforce restrictions on fishing, farmers committees charge a tax on fishing and farmers do not accept equal rights for fishermen on the use of "vewa"(Tanks). Since always farmers cultivate excess area of land than the capacity of water available in vewa, fish population gets affected due to the draining of water.

As a result of in proper management of, outsiders forcefully harvest fish. Fishermen too have adapted to illegal fishing methods. Use of mechanized boats in vewa as a tourism attraction might damage the vewa environment causing loss of fish. The forest reservations allocated for vewa are being cut down for logging and chena farming. As a result earth wash down to the and water capacity in vewa is reducing annually.

The use of banned fishing gear has been increasing but the law is not properly applied to control such activities. Even the number of fishing inspectors are inadequate, to nab law breakers. Fisheries inspector's in-adequate knowledge on fishing, fish breeding and fishermen problems has become a serious factor on the development of fresh water fishery.

Fishermen are compelled to buy fish fingerlings continuously since the new fish species do not breed in natural conditions. Lack of fish storage facilities and lack of marketing system too another problem in which fishermen do not receive adequate returns on their investment. Lack of fish marketing and distribution in fresh water fishery have caused for instable price and degraded fish product.

Popular local fresh water fish species such a Hirikanaya is in the brink of extinction. An immediate action plan is needed to conserve such valuable local fish species. Since fresh water fishermen remain in low income category, their children's education and their social well being such as adequate food supply needed to be looked after through a special welfare plan for fresh water fishery families.

The potential for fresh water fish farming is very large. The country has got a huge acreage of fresh water reservoirs. But this resource is not adequately utilized.

PHASE THREE:

Our proposals to solve the problems of fishermen and fisheries families.

(1) SSF has been living in coastal belt for generations. Coastal land where they are living is a prime requirement for fishermen for drying fish nets, fish landing, fishing gear repair work, for the safety and the timely management of fishing gear and for the convenience of their simple life style. The government's policy to

acquire this land and to give it on lease for other businesses will definitely have a negative impact on SSF. There fore we demand that those lands which used acquired from fishermen usage must by return to them and the coastal land blocks where the SSF community is living must be

legally conserved for fisheries community and protect their rights to land.

(2) Post harvest fishery product prices fluctuation is based on fish wholesale market prices and the price of imported substitutes. This pricing system is unpredictable. Hence very often post harvest product processors are compelled to sell at a loss. Such a market situation would easily drain off the small working capital. Especially post harvest processing is a self employment of fisheries women. Their earnings do a valuable service to sustain the family, children's education, clothing, medicine and food ration is provided through this income. Further, this cottage industry provides a social service. It conserve foreign exchange earnings drained off for dry fish Maldives fish and canned fish. It provides employment for thousands of cottage women. It can be further expanded and increase production, increase employment without heavy investments. For a better tomorrow reduce the import of post harvest substitutes help post harvest processors by providing them with necessary infrastructure facilities and marketing facilities.

(3) fresh water fishery has become a looting ground. Very often outsiders come and fish in vewa using all kinds of destructive fishing gear. This habit is a real threat on the employment and income of traditional fresh water fishermen. There fore a proper administration on fresh water fishing must be introduced. This needs the back up of policy decisions.

(4) Often fresh water fishermen are being harassed by farmers & farmers association. As a result fresh water fisherman are faced with various problems. At times this actions lead in to clashes or man handling. Farm associations also impose taxes on fresh water fishing. Hence it has become other priority concern to make a policy decision to accept fresh water fishery rights as a

apart of irrigation plans. Once the decisions are taken it has to be implemented with the coordination of the parties concern.

(5) Droughts & various other environmental problems enforce financial difficulties on fresh water fishermen. There isn't a proper social welfare plan to help them in such distress times. We propose to the official concerning the welfare to design a system to help fresh water fishermen in distress times.

(6) Government must establish a proper system of information to protect the lives & property of fishermen when monsoon storm times are on. Country need to setup vigilant force to weather watch & rescue people when there in danger. Radio, television & SMS services can do a great deal of work to protect the lives of people. "Saura" broadcast service which already doing a remarkable service should be expanded to cover up entire Sri Lanka including the country's ocean EEZ. The time allocated for weather forecast on TV channels are extremely short. More information is badly needed by the fishermen.

Further television & radio educate the fishermen, on fishing as well as on the part of weather watch. Government should establish a special fund to assist fisheries families when they are in distress.

(7) We propose to establish a fisheries Cooperative system in which quality fishing gear should be available to fishermen at a reasonable price. Under the present supply situation there is no proper pricing or proper quality management. In spite fishing gear prices are going up for ever, a marketing control on fishing gear also could control the use of prohibited fishing gear.

(8) Schools in fisheries villages should be properly equipped & fisheries children should be encouraged for education. When the children are admitted for year one priority is given to

children who could afford extra money. In such situation fisheries parents are often disappointed at least in the locations where the fishing employment is prominent. Prominence for school entrance for fisheries children must need. And those schools should be equipped with adequate teaching staff & facilities.

(9) As a result of special rules applied on north & east and military controlling system in the coastal belt of north & east, those fishermen who already have suffered from a thirty year war still haven't got freedom as equal as fishermen of other parts of the country. Hence the govt. must now stop this pressure on them. the defense network has to be arranged not to

Problems of entering in to fishing grounds

Whenever the government utilizes the coastal belt and coastal sea for development projects which would fit in to national culture and economy, coastal belt and coastal sea can be used as common property. But, in case of specific places where fishermen had settlements for generations, places which is specially needed for SSF related work must be allocated for fisheries communities use with out other circumstances.

Defense camps and guard points which have posted in fisheries community lands need to be relocate on other suitable places. Fishermen's rights for their lands and their rights to enter in to fishing grounds must be properly established.

Fishermen in north and east encounter problems from the fishing groups who have entered into north and east after the war. This disturbances

Problems of Marketing:

Small Scale Fishermen's harvest volume changes from day to day. Their catchment landing points are spreaded along the coastal belt. Their financial requirements demand that their harvest must be sold on the spot cash. They

confront with the convenience of fishing. This will enhance the fish product out put in north & east. Those fisheries families who are being displaced must be resulted in there usual places so that they will be able to conveniently enter the fishing grounds.

10. As a result of improper information of certain development plans of the government there has been many occasions that the fisheries community got in to impatient un rest. Therefore a careful and responsible information system is needed to properly inform the fishery community when ever any activity carried out within the fisheries environment.

must be stopped and the benefit of the country's law should be should be equal to all the apply of impartial justice.

Booming tourism industry has been acquiring lands in prime importance to the SSF industry. Coastal belt, brackish water lagoons and fresh water weva are gradually slipping in to the hands of tourist investors. This action will hinder the fishermen's livelihoods. Even now they are setting coastal tourist parks and in some places, huge jetties and break waters are building. Sea plane project which might use coastal water belt, lagoons, and weva as landings will definitely undermine the small craft fishing industry. Therefore the future of the small craft fishing must be secured by the law in which the generations old fishermen's rights must be preserved.

belongs to the category of self employed and their income is not steady. In spite of all the disadvantages they are doing a valuable service to the country's economy.

Hence, if some one can plan a suitable marketing system for their products SSF economy will be much improved. They need technology and

Management of fisheries resources:

Generations old fishing technology in the hands of SSF which from generation to generation is valuable source of information on fish finding, fishing, fishing gear making, post harvest processing, sailing etc. This traditional knowledge which is now disappearing has to be collected and processed to pass in to future generations. Their low cost, low risk fishing operation is an asset to the nation.

New fisheries enactments re needed to find solutions for the fishery management problems. The law should treat all equally with out prejudice. If the legal hands act properly and promptly all destructive fishing gears can be eliminated from the sea, lagoon and weva.

The old fishing technologies must be passed to the new generation of fishermen. This process needs government mediation. Making of sails measurements of fishing crafts, materials used, certain sea plants used for making ropes, currents flow in the ocean, star reading, fish movement predictions, etc. are valuable technology in the hands of SSF communities.

The use of high tech gadgets and destructive fishing gear has a negative impact on sustainability of fisheries industry. Therefore an

Fisheries Welfare:

Security and safety at Sea:

Fishermen risk in the ocean must be minimized by producing them with necessary life guard clothing and other equipments. Government must follow the charter which was prepared by ILO in 2007 on Safety of Fishermen in the ocean.

finance to preserve the quality of catchment, post harvest processing and to set up marketing network.

adequate fishing management plan is needed to prevent over exploitation of the ocean resources. This exploitation will soon end up by the declining of fish resources leaving an oceanic desert.

The business groups who have recently migrated to north and east area, presently earning out exploitory fishing in which most sustainable resources are destroyed. These actions must be immediately stopped. They collect Sangu “Conch” and sea cucumbers by employing diving groups and this must be stopped immediately.

Most of the fishing gear presently imported and marketed by traders can be locally manufactured. Local manufacturing process will provide more employment and save foreign exchange. The government must initiate such projects through the incentives offered to manufacturers.

A broad action plan is needed to educate fishermen on sustainable fishery, post harvest processing, on land craft work and fishing gear making. In this process fisheries cooperatives, public organizations, NGOs, can jointly work. Yong generation of fishermen, need a practical education on suitable technology and the value of traditional fishery.

Government must pre-inform the fishermen with regard to the enactments and decisions on the issues related to the fishery activities so that the fishery people’s voice too could be heard before passing enactments or before making a policy decision. Gazette notifications related to

fisheries activities should be posted to reach to

fisheries cooperatives and fisheries unions.

Education of fishing children:

Fisheries children must be considered as a special group needing special attention in education. The number of school drop outs must be reduced through special facilities and through encouraging school activities. Mostly school drop

outs have the tendency to go to stray and join illegal activities. This can be prevented if school can offer encouraging and concessional education plan specially designed for such children.

Food and Nutrition:

It has become an essential cause to educate fisheries families on preparation and consumption enriched food. The education can guide them where to find how to prepare nutritious food and guide them in to hygienic food habits. This will increase the health and potential of fisheries children. A neglected child can always be always

used by others for anti social activities. Hence, when both parents go to work children below must remain with another adult. The parents must be educated on child abuse and anti social acts and the risk of children getting exposed such unattended situations.

Social conditions which need special attention:

As a result of war or other any other natural disasters some fishermen loose their fishing gear and become incapable to restart their self employment. Therefore, a welfare project is needed to rehabilitate the effected fishermen and re-employ them. Because, their production is a net gain to economy and low cost protein and Calcium source to their consumers. SSF annual production can be calculated as below.

Fishermen one day production market value	=Rs. 500.00
Number of working days per year	= 200 days
Fishermen's annual production value 200 X Rs. 500.00	= 100,000
Number of SSF	= 60,000
The annual total production value	Rs. 6,000,000,000.00

This six thousand million rupees is a net gain to the country's economy.

Therefore, this SSF deserve an insurance scheme to look after them when they are sick or unable to go for fishing due to bad weather.

Conservation of Lagoons

Lagoons around the country are a massive source of fishery products. Lagoons also serve as a source which protect and enhance the coastal environment. Lagoons right round the country act as a buffer against sea erosion too. Therefore it is very important to protect the lagoons from

man made disasters. With out realizing the ill effects the authorities who administrate coastal cities use lagoons and mangroves as dumping spots for garbage. This must be immediately banned.

Whenever lagoons are used as anchoring points for large fishing vessels, authorities must take care to prevent the dumping of garbage in to lagoons. Lagoons are also abused by settlers around them they too dump garbage and some times fill for housing. Since mangroves play vital role to keep lagoons enriched, lagoons and mangroves should be taken as one. When mangroves are harmed automatically fishery resources are harvested from lagoons will be lost. High value sea food such as shrimp, crab and some species of fish must have lagoons and mangroves as their breeding grounds. There fore

a scientific research study is required to study and improve this source of sea food.

Construction work and excavations must be carried out very carefully without disturbing oceanic environment. Prawn farmers careless digging and constructions have already heavily damaged the mangroves and lagoons.

For the wastage of post harvest processing also needs a dumping place.

Government also must voice against the dumping of chemicals and nuclear wastes in the ocean by any country in any where in the world.

The specific problems faced by SSF in the N/E region of Sri Lanka.

The central government authorities together with the SL navy should work out a plan to stop exploitation of fisheries resources in SL EEZ by the fishing vessels come from other countries. Indian fishing crfts aggressively exploit northern and eastern coastal fish resources. SL Navy and local fishermen can discuss this matter and develop remedial measures.

Since the war is over now, it is time to with draw “Pass System” which needed to enter to the sea. Northern and eastern provinces fishermen must be allowed to beach seine nets fishery. Most of northern and east fishermen collect a massive catchment during the beach seine season. This generations old fishery is a producer of fresh and dry fish to the people in other parts of the country too.

Some army camps and ground points are built on the land belong to fishermen. These lands must be released to the original owners. Now north and east fishermen should be granted the free access to fishing grounds with out hindrance.

The specific problems faced by Fresh water, inland fishers:

State development plan must include a solid and durable plan for the stability of SSF. Fishery development policy must include proposals to develop SSF. SSF development plan must be attractive enough to attract the young generation to enter in to this field of employment. Specifically the social status of the young fishermen must be up graded. Fisheries extension officers need more education on SSF. And they also must be motivated through training programs. Further the traditional fresh water fishermen’s knowledge and experiences must be

collected for the use of fisheries extension officers.

A welfare program similar to 1960-1970s must be re-introduced. Those welfare programs had 65-90% subsidiary system for fishing gear purchase. This subsidiary scheme should be reintroduced. Fresh water fishermen also need fish storage facilities in close proximity. And also need technical improvements such as introduction of new fish species, a subsidized fishing gear supply etc.

Illegal fish harvesting in vewa must be prevented by strict application of law. Use of Nylon nets and nets with less than 85 mm gill traps must be enforced the ban.

A joint action plan is needed to coordinate fishermen, fishing union members, fisheries extension officers, beneficiaries, NGOs, fisheries professionals, and minister together and implement suitable development plans to improve and expand fresh water fishery.

In the action plan, most suitable fish species must be selected, required volume of fish fingerlings

must be decided and those fish species should be the varieties which can naturally breed. Further there should be a plan to conserve indigenous fish species.

In fresh water fishery activities, a most difficult task has been to get the stake holders in to single opinion on matters related to fresh water fishery management. There fore some kind of communication among fishermen and the rest of the stake holders must be developed. Unity of all fishermen in many fresh water sources is a requirement for their benefit as well as for the development of fresh water fishery.

Contribution of fisheries women in the process of SSF

Fisheries women's knowledge on the process of SSF, post harvest system, fishery family economy, diversification of income food and nutrition must be improved through education. Fisheries women also must be encouraged to organize them selves in to unions. Their voice can carry a long way in developing collective measures to protect SSF and their environment.

They need awareness on the SSF value conserving country's economy, stability of their own family,

peaceful and independent life system, fisheries women awareness in the issues related climate change, climate disasters, such as sea erosions, gales and also value of mangroves and lagoons to the environment, scavenging attitudes of some business people, use of harmful fishing gear, identification and alertness on tsunami, cyclones and tidal waves will be a great asset to the country.

THIRD PHASE

Problems of Organizations in the Fishing communities:

They are reluctant to organize activities in fear of revenge, penalization and insecurity. As a result of politicization of people's social behavior issues related to patriotism, communities' welfare has turned in to individual selfish actions. Instead of common benefits they look for individual benefits settling their problems. Organized united actions are considered as unnecessary burden on them

Politics have systematically pave the way to keep people disorganized. Ex: NGOs beneficiary activities are curbed by disturbing the channels of

finance needed for social work. People also have got in to frustration on the activities organized by the government and related parties because most of the projects started by them never carried out to the expected achievements.

The selfish motives of people too has adverse effects on their social development. When the NGOs work out collective development in spite of government pressure on them, people's interest is lying only on financial gains.

How to overcome?

1. Widely spread fisheries community settlements are highly disorganized as a result of lack of inter communication. Community awareness should be built as the first step.
2. The durability of fisheries organizations has been undermined either through political hands or by other individual exploiter groups. Therefore, all fisheries organizations need to bring in to one frame work in which fisheries society memorandums must be uniform and accepted by the law.
3. Policy related to fishing industry should legalize as the national policy to prevent sudden turn in to other directions by decision makers.

Institutionalized policies, proposals and promises pertain to the SSF

There are enactments and proposals forwarded by the ministry of fisheries and

Aquatic resources in consideration value of fishery industry to the national cause. Promises given by political leaders, policy documents issued by Coast Conservation Department, environmental ministry etc. contain a multitude of statements which has imposed on SSF. In preparation of this document we also have proposed certain plans and actions to be included in to the national fisheries policy. And here we have gathered the fisheries community members' reactions to them.

The Constitution, Sector Policies and Rights

Constitution. Chapter VI

Guiding Principle 52: For making laws and in the governance of Sri Lanka

(e) The realization of an adequate standard of living for all citizens and their families including food, clothing, housing and medical care.

Guiding Principle 54 (1): The provisions of this Chapter do not confer or impose legal rights or obligations, and are not enforceable in any court or tribunal

National Fisheries Policy (MFARD, 2010):

- Increase employment opportunities in fisheries and related industries and improve the socio-economic status of fisher community ***(Organize and strengthen the fisher community to increase the income and living standards).***

Coastal Zone Management Plan 2004: Objectives of the Coast Conservation Department.

To improve the living standards of coastal communities and resource users

Some Important Development Era in the Fisheries Sector since Independence:

Time Frame		Main Emphasis / Importance / Orientation
1948 – 1958	Post-Independence, pre-motorization	Foreign advisors, develop on European model, become self-sufficient, no limits to sea
1959 – 1967	1 st Ten Year Plan – early modernization. Targets set mostly by imagination	Japanese influence – comprehensive plan. 3 ½ ton boats, synthetic gear, fishery training school. Early industrialization – pollution, agriculture development (land for landless)
1966 – 1977	Ceylon Fisheries Corporation plans, monopoly in engines and gear imports	Socialist political orientation – import substitution, state led industrialization, tourism, import restrictions, FRP boat
1978 – 1987	Post-economic liberalization	Private sector main driver, cooperative societies lose influence, multi-day boats begin
1985 – 2008	Ethnic conflict and post-Tsunami 2004 phase	N-E fish supply low, fish prices rise, illegal fishing by Indian fishers, 100/ 200 M buffer zone Enact Fisheries Management act no 02 of 1996. National Aquaculture Development Authority Act[No 53 of 1998]
2005 – up to now.	Post-conflict Mahinda Chintana Phase	Promotion of multi-day boats, tourism, fish canning, target 685,000 tons by 2013

“Mahinda Chinthana” election manifesto

Priority will be given to harvest fisheries resources in the deep sea off shore fisheries in EEZ of SL.

I will take initiative and step by employing fifty deep sea fishing trawlers. In addition five hundred fishing crafts will be distributed among the fishermen in 3 years time at subsidiary price. [Page 46]

Fisher People’s Reaction:

It is a fact that the presently operative deep sea trawling vessels too facing problems of scarcity of fusge resources and as a result, they are compelled to cross borders for fishing. This has ended up by imprisoning the fishermen in foreign countries. Hence with out a proper evaluation and assessment of deep sea fish resources, addition of more and more deep sea craft will damage the sustainability of the fish resources and resulting a critical adverse effects on fishery economy.

“Mahinda Chinthana” says,

“Subsidized fuel ration will be given to fishermen from January 2006”. [Page 47]

Fishermen’s reaction:

There is a continuous price increase on fuel. But, so far government haven’t given a subsidiary on fuel taking it a common requirement applied to all fishermen.

Comments on National Fisheries Policy

SSF people do not contradict the facts included in the national fisheries policy. Yet there are certain clauses which have adverse effects in the fisheries sector.

No.07 of National Fisheries Policy:

The over fishing carried on coastal fishery has adverse effect in the fishing industry. Therefore, the coastal fishing will be diverted other directions, so that they could be directed to find optional sources of income.

Fishermen’s Reaction:

For generations we have been fishing in near coastal shore instead of alienate us from our livelihood. It is good to find out about new entrants for coastal fishing after tsunami. These excess fishermen and fishing crafts can be relocated in to other fields of employment.

The No. 08 clause of national fisheries policy has clearly stated that the traditional coastal fishermen rights will be protected. What is said in the statement will only be achieved by safe guarding traditional fishermen’s fishing rights.

The clause no 09 of the fisheries policy

Oceanic environmental tourism and game hunting of fish like wise selected. Commercial activities will be opened without hindrance to fisheries community activities.

Fishermen’s Reaction:

If things implemented as said in the ninth clause, coastal fishermen have to face many hardships due to tourism and tourism related commercial activities. These disturbances will be on land as well as in the sea too. And the pressure on fish resources will be further aggregated.

Conclusion:

Millions of SSF have been fishing in the coastal sea for generations without being a burden to anybody. But now, this self-employed of theirs come to a decisive point.

Large enterprises have been absorbing all the resources and facilities into their ventures. While the small, traditional, independent livelihoods of people get pushed out of the development process. This is the so-called rapid economic growth. But the SSF community is not prepared to accept this fate.

Their long-standing continuous agitation has been becoming fruitful at the moment. The highest authorities in the world which direct the direction on fisheries activities is now showing their concern over the fate of SSF communities.

Their intention is to introduce a sustainable fishing instrument on behalf of SSF have paved the way for an international mediation, which we consider as a victory for the SSF communities across the world.

We consider this document as a back-up engine which will help to reach the final stage of success. At the same time we believe that the content of the document cannot be limited to a charter paper; instead, it has to be an action plan.

Throughout the history, the suppressed had to agitate for their rights either through collective bargain or through struggle. Therefore, while presenting this document to the authorities concerned and in the hands of the fisheries community, the organization would take either of these paths for the rights of SSF communities.

Further, this document is not a final decree on SSF communities' requirements. In the future, the document will be updated by additions, which would surface through the conversations. While celebrating the World Fisheries Day 2011, this document is presented to the nation.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Submit the recommendations | 2. District Fisheries Extension | 3. Ananda Weerasinghe and |
| District Fisheries Extension | officer Ranjith Bandara | DFEO after submitting the |
| Officer-Gampaha district | addressing the gathering | Recommendations of VG-SSF |

Fisher People in the Negombo town demanding solutions for the SSF through supporting their recommendations to the VG-SSF document on 22nd November, 2011.

Annex 5- World Fisheries Day – Policy Dialogue on VG-SSF.

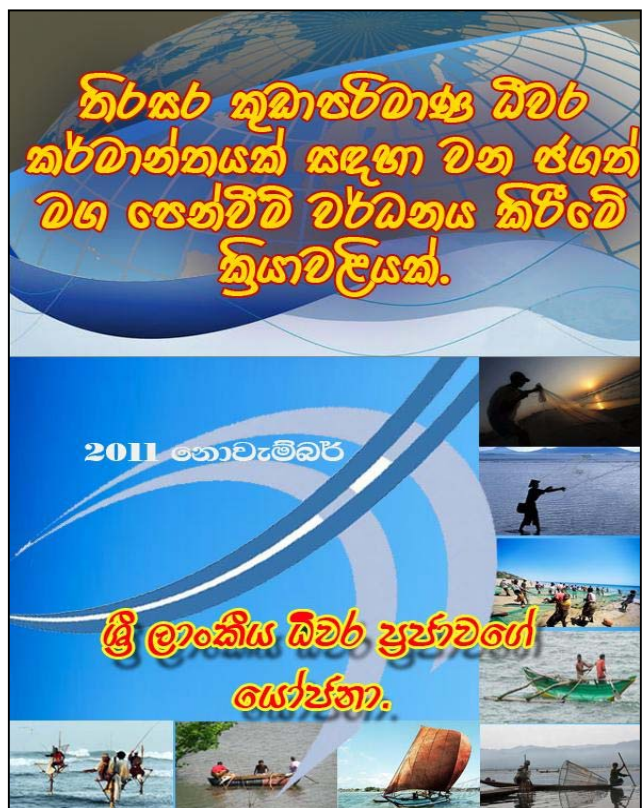
About 600 fisher community members gathered to Negombo on November 22nd 2011 to participate the final event of VG-SSF report. Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, Ampara district members from North and East provinces and Mathara, Galle, district members from Sothern province, Kaluthara, Gampaha districts members from Western province, Puthlam, Kurunegala districts members from North western province and Polonnaruwa district members from North central province were represented all type of fishers and working community in the country.

The event was organized by the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement with parallel to world fisheries day commemoration. Except organizational members of the district partner organizations of the NAFSO, several external organization representatives also participated to the event.

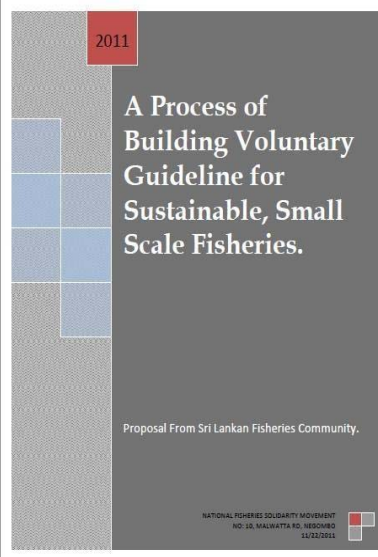
Prepared VG-SSF report, consulting grass root level community was planned to hand over to the minister of Fisheries, Dr. Rajitha senarathne, but he was not participated to the program. But, Including District fisheries extension officer and several officers from Gampaha district fisheries office were participated to the program. Several district members brief the situation they face in the sector and explained why we need sustainable fisheries for sustain the live, hence needy of international mediation to protect the resources.

The report was submitted to Mr. Ranjith Bandara, The district Fisheries Extension Officer – Gampaha, and requested to submit it to the Ministry of fisheries for the sake of small scale fishers in the country.

At the end, participants conducted a peaceful walk and protest demonstration in Negombo town. To show their unity and ask the government to protect the fishers rights.



Cover page of the VG –SSF Sri Lanka Rec. report





1



2



3

Officer-Gampaha district

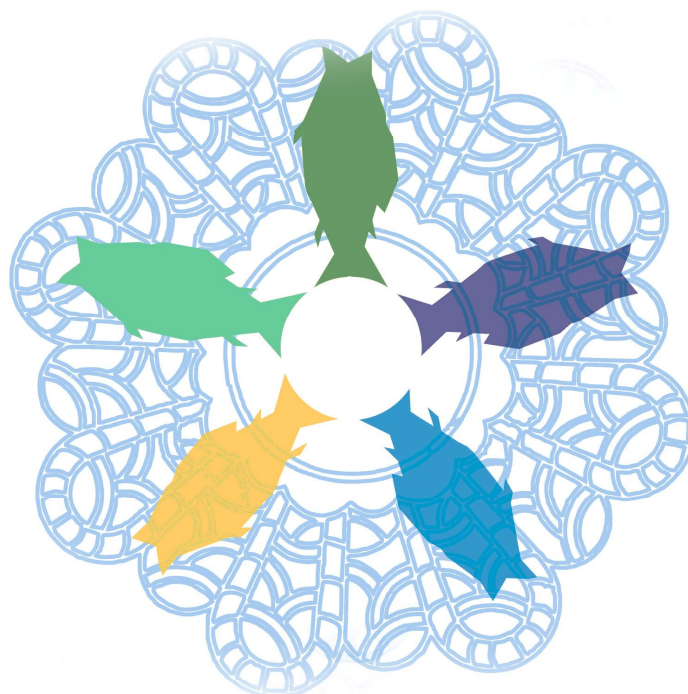
addressing the gathering

Recommendations of VG-SSF

Fisher People in the Negombo town demanding solutions for the SSF through supporting their recommendations to the VG-SSF document on 22nd November, 2011.



VG- SSF Brazil Workshop



Prainha do Canto Verde - Ceara
22-25/11/2011

Promotion/Sponsorship



Partnership





STATEMENT

National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine & Inland Small-scale Fisheries

We representatives of fishing communities, both inland and maritime, family aquaculture, research institutions and NGO's present at the workshop titled "Consultation Brazil for the elaboration of Voluntary Guidelines for Small-scale / artisanal fishing" from the 23rd to the 25th of November 2011 in Prainha do Canto Verde, Beberibe, Ceará, Brazil.

We emphasise the importance for each country to define artisanal fishing, recognising the diversity of national contexts and cultures. Although there is no unique classification, this does not constitute a motive for exempting governments from seeking to observe the constant principles of these directives.

It is estimated that 800.000 people are directly involved in artisanal fishing in Brazil, although we have to realise that this is a low estimate, especially when we take into account the millions of people who depend on fishing for their subsistence in the Amazonian region and who do not appear in official statistics.

Recognising that the Amazon constitutes a globally important biomass, where fishing is characteristically subsistence, essential for maintaining the communities of traditional and indigenous inhabitants.

Recognising that artisanal fishing exists as a community activity, supporting various actors, women, men and children in activities on land and water - maritime and inland- which support a complimentary production chain, who seek to guarantee the collective rights of communities and their reproduction in diverse social ways, economic, cultural, historical and environmental.

Recognising the need to guarantee working conditions which respect the freedom, physical and moral integrity and human rights for workers in artisanal fisheries, as well as family and community aquaculture.

Considering that the participation of fishers and their communities in all actions of the public sector is of fundamental importance, the strengthening of their organisations is a basic premise for the possibility of their participation, without compromising their autonomy.



Considering that the policies of artisanal fishing should lead to an improvement in living conditions for the communities of artisanal fishers, assuring them their basic rights: territory and access to resources, health, education, security, transport and a healthy balanced environment, in addition to sound management of fishing resources.

Considering that the management of fishing resources should not be realised in a sectoral approach, but consider the importance of the ecosystem as a whole for the maintenance of the communities and the environmental services in a multi species and ecosystem approach.

Recognising and confirming that governmental structures do not give effective priority to artisanal fishing, and that insufficient human and material resources limit attention to artisanal fishers by government and that public policies lack governmental integration, which makes social control difficult.

Considering finally that there is a need for adjustments to the national framework and public policies for artisanal fishers and aquacultures, which calls for the implementation of these directives.

We call on the Brazilian government to recognise these directives and join artisanal fishers in Brazil, in pursuing the rights of artisanal fishing communities as stated below:

Artisanal fishery

Artisanal fisheries in Brazil vary according to the different regions of the big country. From the Amazon region where fisheries are mostly for subsistence to the southern part of Brazil where it becomes more of a commercial and small to medium scale fishery, be it in marine fisheries or interior waters. Due to its continental dimension the definition needs to be regionalised, for a matter of comprehension as well as for the effectiveness of public policies and voluntary guidelines.

There is consensus however that artisanal fishers use small boats with oars, sails or motors up to a maximum of 10 gross tonnage, using coastal areas, estuaries and inland waters, although depending on navigational skills and favourable conditions operations can be far out to sea. The artisanal activity is highly diversified with great versatility and adaptability, and includes a series of activities pre and post capture from net making to the processing and sale of the catch.

Artisanal fishing is a small scale economic activity based on solidarity and partnership within the family and community. Traditional knowledge is transferred

from generation to generation. Labor relations are informal without legal labor contracts. Fisheries involve men and women and often are complemented by other economic activities like agriculture, handicrafts and tourism.



Proposals for voluntary guidelines:

Access Rights

1. Consider the rights of artisanal fishing communities to territory, on land and water as a collective human right, with equality of access to the resource.
2. Carry out the demarcation and recognize the right to maritime and continental fishing areas for artisanal fishers and family (community) aquaculture.
3. Guarantee protection for fishing communities in relation to their territories, along the lines of the Federal Law which recognizes the right of traditional populations to their territory.
4. Guarantee the territories of small scale fishing communities in relation to economic exploration (Tourism, Oil, Hydroelectric, Large scale shrimp farms and wind parks) and safeguard the rights to economic benefits for the communities (rent, royalties, compensation).
5. Guarantee rights to land to fishing communities in case of dislocation due to erosion and impacts of global warming (sea level rise), be they coastal or on the margins of rivers or lakes.

Governance and management of resources

6. Guarantee the participation of small scale fisher communities in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of management measures for coastal marine resources and interior waters including enforcement.
7. Support the insertion of legitimate representatives of small scale fishers in the elaboration and application of public policies, including the control of fishing grounds.
8. Support and strengthen fisher organisations in their autonomous, legitimate and informed participation in the management process.
9. Evaluate the definition of small scale fisheries in Brazilian legislation, considering the specifics of regions and localities with the objective of differentiating from the industrial fishing sector.
10. Reinforce respect for national sovereignty in frontier waters, in order to avoid conflicts of use and safeguard the security and the human rights of all fishing crews.



11. Regulate amateur and sport fishing, acknowledging a priority of use and access to space and resources for artisanal fishing communities.
12. Create or strengthen public policy and legislation specific to small scale fishers in inland waters.
13. Reduce fishing exclusion zones around oil platforms, without prejudicing the environment or the safety of workers and fishers.
14. The systems and measures of control, particularly the concession of licenses and permissions to fish must take into account the diversity of species, characteristic of small scale fishing activity and guarantee the right to multi species licenses.
15. Promote the exchange of fishing and management experiences between fishing communities.
16. Create more conservation units for sustainable use for artisanal fishers such as Sustainable Development Reserves and Extractive Reserves (Example of conservation units in Brazil).
17. Realise economic and ecological zoning with the effective participation of communities to guarantee their rights to the territory.
18. Use fishing agreements as public policy to guarantee the territory (maritime and interior waters) for artisanal fishers.
19. Establish fishing moratoriums (closed season) during the breeding season in interior water bodies, allowing subsistence fishing for the communities to guarantee food security.
20. Guarantee access rights to all the species and the right to other economic activities without prejudice for closed season compensation.
21. Public policies and projects that impact on territories and activities of artisanal fishers and family (community) aquaculture populations, need to be justified with technical and scientific data with knowledge and approval of the members of the communities.
22. Fishers need to control and monitor public policy of artisanal fisheries and family aquaculture with the right to accessible and transparent information, such as information about financial resources for fisheries by sector and region and other relevant aspects.

Protection of the environment

23. Manage the resources in a way that favours conservation of biodiversity and the ecosystem, with strict monitoring of predatory fishing (IUU fishing), always applying the precautionary approach.



24. Stimulate conservation measures in natural hatcheries and areas of reproduction.
25. Use of Marine Protected Areas as a conservation policy for marine biodiversity, considering the interests and practises of the local populations and assuring their participation in the definition and implementation process and applying both scientific and traditional knowledge.
26. Biodiversity conservation programs should use a variety of conservation units, a combination of reserves for sustainable use and totally protected areas.
27. Prevent erosion on the marine coast and in riparian zone of rivers and lakes where it affects and threatens communities.
28. Marine biodiversity conservation needs to include restoration of riparian zones and the watershed.
29. Decree a moratorium on the de-forestation of ecosystems for the agro business for high intensity soya, eucalyptus and coffee plantations, to protect the watersheds of important rivers (example Cerrado Region in Brazil).
30. Realise the restocking of rivers with native species and with egg bearing females captured annually within the hydrographical basin to guarantee genetic diversity.
31. Enforce environmental laws and punish large polluters of water systems such as industries, cattle ranching, agro toxics and untreated domestic waste.
32. Guarantee protection of the environment and biodiversity from the oil business, such as prospecting, drilling, transporting oil and the discharging of ships tanks into water and of pollution in general.

Work and security

33. Recognise the illnesses and occupational risks related to artisanal fishing and family (community) aquaculture for prevention policies, with access to medical attention and respective social welfare rights/compensations.
34. Recognise the illnesses and occupational risks specifically in tasks carried out by women in artisanal fishing, to allow their inclusion in the Register of the Public Health System giving access to preventive measures, medical attention and respective social rights, especially those women who gather shell fish owing to their poor working conditions and the consequences of repetitive physical strain.
35. Guarantee the right to health and security at work for all fishers, illegal divers and for workers in family (community) aquaculture.



36. Guarantee application of legislation and take punitive action against boat owners who use illegal fishing methods (ex: diving with compressor) which constitute risk to life and lobster exporters who buy the illegal catch.

Social and economic development

37. Respect the human rights of artisanal fishers which are fundamental for the permanence of their communities in coastal and inland water territories and are needed to guarantee their quality of life.
38. Combat prejudice, discrimination and violence against artisanal fishers on grounds of race, gender, religion etc on the part of governmental agencies, banks, NGO's and others.

Education

39. Guarantee the right to contextualised education in fisher communities that fosters autonomy and considers the realities and the needs of fishing communities.
40. Include knowledge of human rights e.g. social and territorial rights in the school curriculum of fishing communities.

Training

41. Replicate successful educational practises directed at fishing communities which are adapted to the fishing calendar of the families (schools which permit fishing and studying according to a special school calendar
42. Train members of fishing communities and their leaders for shared fisheries and aquaculture management.
43. Promote digital inclusion of communities of artisanal fishers with free internet access.
44. Promote the training of artisanal fishers to become licensed vessel operators.
45. Training of fishers and fish farmers as community environmental agents in order to render environmental services in their communities (with or without remuneration).

Credit, insurance and subsidies



46. Form community based activities and economic alternatives within fishing communities, such as small scale farming, community based tourism and community aquaculture amongst others, by means of credit concessions, technical support, training and a reduction in bureaucracy
47. Create and refine credit lines designed for artisanal fishing and family (community) aquaculture that take into account their peculiarities, reducing bureaucracy and including all stages of the supply chain.
48. Develop insurance policies specifically designed for artisanal fishing and family (community) aquaculture covering workers, vessels and equipment.
49. Remove subsidies for medium and large scale fishing which promote overfishing. Create a policy of subsidies for artisanal fishers and aquaculture in a form that will not affect the sustainability of resources.
50. Apply exemptions from import duties and local taxes for equipment used by artisanal fishers and family (community) aquaculture.
51. Provide and improve infrastructure in fishing and aquaculture communities, with priority for ship yards, ports of disembarkation, storage, processing and marketing. (Integrated centres for artisanal fisheries program in Brazil - CIPAR).
52. Strengthen the competitiveness of artisanal fishing production and family (community) aquaculture in the face of competition from imports, by the means of improved production practises and protection from imports.

Supply chain

53. Guarantee the right to process and market the products by artisanal fishers and fish farmers and promote the use of cooperatives to increase income from their activities.
54. Foster certification by social and environmental criteria for the products from artisanal fishing and community/family aquaculture.
55. Support artisanal fishing and aquaculture communities in meeting sanitary requirements on storage conditions, processing and sale of their product.
56. Strengthen government programs for direct purchase of artisanal fish and aquaculture products for social distribution (example school lunch / hospitals).
57. Increase and improve commercial structures for fish products from fisher communities (including aquaculture) at food fairs and public markets.



Gender equality

58. Recognise woman fishers in professional organisations, guaranteeing their active participation and access to positions of leadership.
59. Stimulate the realisation of research about the role and situation of woman fishers in order to demonstrate their importance and public policies.
60. Improve the process of generating fisheries and aquaculture statistics, with segmentation by gender and collection of data which show the importance of women in the supply chain.
61. Carry out studies on species most frequently captured by women to form the basis of management, including the possibility of establishing closed seasons and other methods of management, taking into account the rights of fisherwomen to livelihoods.
62. Guarantee woman fishers professional registration, recognising that they realise activities both pre- and post capture, and access to opportunities offered by public policies available to the sector.
63. Guarantee full access to the social security system, especially to rights relative to maternity, health and retirement.
64. Stimulate research into the conditions of health and safety at work for women in fisheries for a better understanding of work related illnesses by the social security authority.
65. Reduce the double load on women by means of a equal division of domestic work between women and men and access to public services that relieve the domestic workload such as nurseries, community restaurants and laundries and educational services outside school hours.

Integration of policies and institutional coordination

66. Better integration and harmonisation between governmental agencies which share responsibilities for fisheries management. In particular agencies with environmental and conservation focus and agencies for economic development.
67. Insert fisheries management and the territories of fishing communities into integrated coastal management programs, applying traditional knowledge and local practices for better management.
68. Assure the participation of fisher organisations in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of public policies for fisheries, aquaculture and biodiversity conservation and consider their proposals and demands.



Research and information, sources of interchange

69. Exchange and integration of traditional ecological knowledge with applied science.
70. Include fishers in the elaboration of methodology and the collection of statistical data, guaranteeing the communities and civil society organisations full access to the results.
71. Establish systematic and permanent collection of data and refinement of fishing statistics, identifying artisanal production in the various stages of the supply chain, including exports.
72. Create a fund to finance development and research on artisanal fishing and family (community) aquaculture.
73. Carry out studies on artisanal fishing and aquaculture production to measure performance and identify data such as: target species, supply chain, generated income and taxes, processing technologies, markets and so on.
74. Carry out studies on the environmental impacts of fisheries and aquaculture and the contribution of management measures such as unemployment benefit paid during a closed season and others.
75. Analyse the conflicts which impact artisanal fishers and aquaculture, such as the environmental and social impacts of amateur/sport fishing, in order to find fair and just solutions for all users,
76. Guarantee return of research results to the communities.
77. Academic papers and other documents on aquaculture and fishing, of interest to fishers and farmers, including translations of papers written in other languages, need to be made accessible for communities, civil society organisations and government staff.
78. Provide access to easily understandable information to the population through media such as community radios and internet.
79. Institutionalise dissemination of information about social, welfare and territorial rights.
80. Fisher organisations need to disseminate information about legislation and other matters of interest to fishers, giving guidance and orientation to members in the communities.
81. There is a need to improve fisheries and aquaculture extension services – not simply for transfer of technology – but for programs and actions which support the autonomy and organisation of fishers and fish farmers.



Safety at sea

82. Guarantee safety in navigation in general, particularly the risks to artisanal fishing boats in areas of marine traffic.

Disaster risk and climate change

83. Preserve areas that are important in mitigating the effects of climatic change such as mangroves, dunes and coastal lagoons, which provide protection of the coast and river banks against erosion and effects of floods, in order to guarantee the maintenance of a healthy and resilient eco-system.
84. Create research programs and monitor known impacts caused by climate change, such as the distribution of species, migration and reproductive cycles of target species (wind and current patterns, water temperature, acidification).
85. Research should always consider the local ecological knowledge of community populations who feel the impact of global warming.
86. Guarantee the right to land for coastal communities who lose their territory caused by rising sea levels or other climate change events.
87. As the impact of climate change increases there is a growing need for citizens to participate in mitigating and adapting to the consequences. Communities reliant on eco-systems of importance in reducing CO₂, such as forests and oceans, can contribute essential environmental services for the conservation of biodiversity and in maintaining ecosystem functions, these services need to be remunerated or compensated.



ANNEX

DEFINITION OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN BRAZILIAN LEGISLATION

Fisheries Code – Law nº 11.959, June 29, 2009

Of the nature of fishery

Art. 8º Fishing for the purpose of this law is classified as follows:

I – commercial:

a) artisanal: when practiced by professional fishers, independently or in family economy regime, with their own means of production or by partnership agreements, without labor contracts, using small scale vessels;

b) industrial: when practiced by individuals or legal entities involving professional fishers, employed or in partnership agreement with profit sharing, using vessels of small, medium and large scale, with commercial objectives;

II – non commercial:

a) Scientific: when practiced by individuals or legal entities, with the objective of scientific research;

b) amateur: when practiced by Brazilians or foreigners with equipment and fishing gear foreseen in specific law, with the objective of leisure and sport;

c) subsistence: when practiced for domestic consumption or barter (exchange) without profit and using fishing gear foreseen in specific law.

Of the fishing vessels

Art. 9º allows fishing activity in waters under Brazilian jurisdiction:

§ 1º Vessels operating in commercial fisheries are classified as:

I – small scale: when possessing gross tonnage GT – equal or less of 20 (twenty) GT;

II – medium scale: when possessing gross tonnage GT - more than 20 (twenty) GT and less than 100 (one hundred) GT;

III – large scale: when possessing gross tonnage GT - equal or more than 100 (one hundred) GT.

§ 2º For purpose of credit, boats, nets and other fishing gear utilised in fisheries or in commercial aquaculture are considered goods of production;

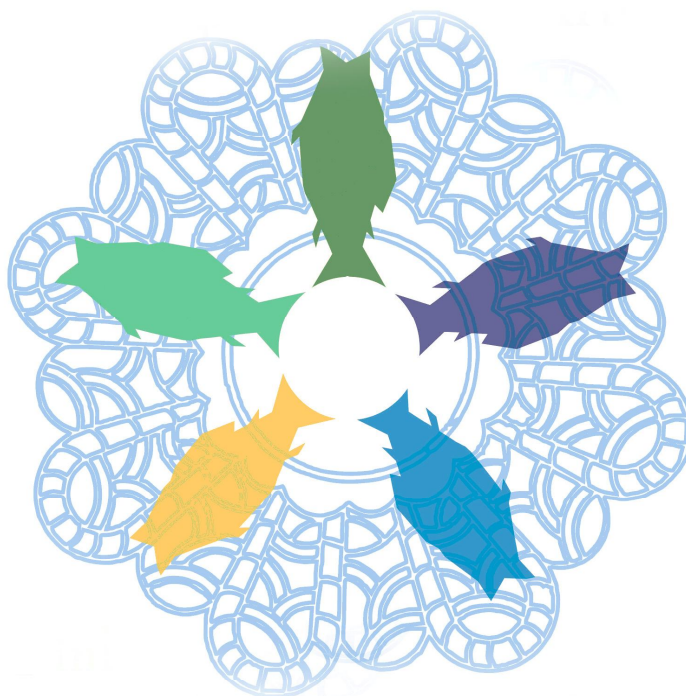
§ 3º For purpose of credit, nets and other fishing gear and equipment utilised in artisanal fisheries are considered working instruments,

§ 4º Artisanal vessels used in artisanal fisheries, when not involved in fishing activity may transport the family of fishers, products of small scale production and from domestic industry, observing regulations of maritime authorities applicable to the type of vessel.

§ 5º Permits children under fourteen (14) years of age on fishing vessels as fisher apprentices, observing labor and social security laws and the Statute of Child and Adolescent Protection, as well as regulations of maritime authorities.

Praia do Canto Verde, December 21, 2011.

VG- SSF Brazil Workshop



Prainha do Canto Verde - Ceara
22-25/11/2011

Promotion/Sponsorship



Partnership





Report on Brazil's Inquiry for the Voluntary FAO Guidelines on artisanal fisheries

Authors: ICSF members in Brazil

1. Introduction

The ICSF members in Brazil took the responsibility to plan and carry out an inquiry and report on Brazil's proposal for the FAO Guidelines on artisanal fisheries to be established by the year 2014.

Planning the event started on 22nd September 2011 and was coordinated by René Schärer, representative of the institution organizing the event – the NGO Instituto Terramar de Pesquisa e Assessoria a Pesca Artesanal (Terramar Institute of Research and Assistance to Artisanal Fishery). The venue for the event was Prainha do Canto Verde, on the east coast of the state of Ceará. The reasons for the choice ranged from the geographical location due to the proximity to the North and Northeast regions, which concentrate about 80% of the fishers in Brazil, to the question of lower costs and funding possibilities to the event by institutions other than just the ICSF.

It was clear that the amount of US\$ 12.000.00 available for the event would be totally insufficient to arrange it with all or most regions of Brazil, especially regarding transportation costs. The ICSF (Chandrika / Brian) was notified about it, as well as requested for an increase in that amount. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture - MPA – was consulted by René on co-financing the amount of \$ 10,000.00; MPA contacts initially signaled that possibility. The project was submitted to the MPA on October 14th, to the person of the Minister of Fisheries himself. René traveled to Switzerland in late September and raised funds of US\$ 10,000.00 as back-up in case the MPA would not finance the expenses to the event. The Association of Friends of Prainha agreed to advance the money to start the registration and issue the tickets in order to ensure low costs. A date before the end-of-the-year holidays (22-26 November) was chosen, when the ticket fares increase to a great deal.

The organization and administration of the event had no big problems, thanks to the contribution of Janice Monteiro, who was hired as secretary, as well as of the ICSF Brazil members. The rapporteurs Cristina, Naina and Beatriz took on a heavy workload right from the planning meeting on November 22 and through



the workshop by digitalizing and registering the results of the working groups until the presentation on November 25 and through the final editing of the workshop statement. Claire Pattison Valente resident of Prainha do Canto Verde assisted the secretariat during the 3 day meeting, translated the voluntary guidelines text from Portuguese to English and is the author of the workshop photos.

Members of the Community association and tourism council of Prainha do Canto Verde were responsible for reception of participants at the airport, transfer to the village, accommodations and meals, as well as meeting organization logistics. The meeting was well organized and guests were well attended by the community organization.

The final cost of the event R\$ 43.430.33 (US\$ 26.600.00) surpassed the expectation of R\$ 38.385.00 giving a deficit of R\$ 5.046.00 (US\$ 3.092.00). Unfortunately the Fisheries Ministry informed us 2 weeks before the event that they were not able to contribute to the event for lack of resources, we had been hoping for a contribution of US\$ 10.000.00. Without the contribution from the Amigos it would have been impossible to organize the event. For this reason we are asking ICSF to help us cover the negative balance of US\$ 3.092.00.

Prior to the event, participants were requested to send their professional profile by e-mail, answering the question "Who are you?", and a short text replying to question "In your opinion, what is artisanal fishery?" The participants received the following documents I) FAO Document 2009 and II) Vision document on What CSOs would like to see achieved through the FAO Guidelines on small-scale fisheries (VGSSF)? as background reading, and several texts were distributed during the event.

- a. Bangkok Statement
- b. A document on the OSC Strategy
- c. The Gender Agenda
- d. FAO Document 2009
- e. Recife's Letter (2010)

A group of 16 representatives of fishermen and fisherwomen, 11 researchers and 11 Government representatives took part in the event. On November 23rd and 24th a workshop was held to collect the guidelines for artisanal fishery, while on 25th they were presented and discussed with the Government representatives, the Federal Government (the Environment Ministry, The Ministry of Fisheries) the State of Ceará Government and Municipality Government of Beberibe,



researchers, the fishing business sector, members of the community and 5 ICSF members (Annex 2).

Event participants were chosen on the basis of knowledge on the subject, on strategic positions occupied in class or community organizations, or because of their experiences as students, researchers, technicians and members of social movements. It is also important to highlight the geographic reach of participants from different regions of the country, from coastal, inland waters and family aquaculture. A gender imbalance was observed: men were the majority. Three women who had confirmed the presence did not attend the event.

With such a profile and despite the gender limitation, the discussions were rich and produced material whose interest goes beyond the scope of subsidizing the development of the proposals from society organizations which should have their own course in the country and abroad. It no doubt reflects the efforts and visions of different organizations and people involved in long-term processes of recognition and defense of fishers and fishing communities on the economic, social and political contexts of world fishery in recent decades.

2. Methodology

The event was planned according to the model suggested by the Guidelines, consisting of two working days with representatives of the civil society and a day of discussion with government officials in order to discuss and submit proposals.

Participatory methodology was used; the basis of the work being the division into groups, sometimes randomly, sometimes into thematic groups: inland fishing, sea fishing and family community aquaculture (Meeting program Annex 3). The work done in the group was presented and discussed in plenary. Prior to presentation of the groups, two lectures were held: one on the FAO Big Numbers Project and the other on the ICSF and the process that will culminate in the document on guidelines on fisheries.

After the daytime work, the reporting team composed of members of the ICSF compiled the resulting information to be worked on the next day.

3. Concepts of artisanal fishery

The organizers had previously asked the participants to formulate a concept of artisanal fishery. Their answers were summarized and presented by the organizers in the opening session. Both technical and social and cultural criteria were highlighted in the proposals. They showed a variety of situations and



contexts throughout Brazil, making it difficult - or invalidating – a definition that could equally serve all, based on empirical criteria such as technology or operation area. As appropriately pointed out by Jose Milton Andriguetto, one must have clarity of what he intends to reach, focus on, protect, so that the criteria for the definition may be chosen.

The most controversial point of that opening session concerned the definition of artisanal fishery according to size, given the fact that its legal definition in Brazil has changed in the latest Fishery Law (2009), a discussion arising from meetings of the Fishery and Aquaculture National Council. It has included as artisanal those fishers who use boats up to 20 tons gross tonnage (GRT), which before 2009 used to be 10 GRT.

Several proposals have emphasized the multidimensional aspect of the profession of the artisanal fishers. So has the fisherman Beto, from Prainha do Canto Verde, summed it up: Artisanal fishery is a combination of things, from the boat to the way of life. Those who fish, long for the boat. Also revealing characteristics of the culture, this time emphasizing the autonomy of those workers, Josemar, from the São Francisco River, recalled: The fisherman already existed with the indigenous peoples. His focus is not the money; he has a culture behind it. We have built our time, we work day and night, but there are days when we say, 'I am not going,' and that is it. These are the elements that are part of the definition of artisanal fishermen. Fisherman Naca, from the Amazon, said that the fishermen practice natural resource management: We work according to the fishery agreement; we share areas, and we define sanctuaries areas as well.

4. Main discussion topics

The themes generating discussion were initially recommended by FAO itself in their guidelines for conducting the workshops, which have been restated in accordance with the proposals: Access system; Governance and management of resources; Environmental protection; Labor and safety; Economic and social development; Education; Training; Credit, insurance, and subsidies; Production chain; Gender equity; Integration of policies and institutional coordination; Research and information needs; Sources and exchange; Safety at sea; and Risks of disaster and climate change.

It was clear that the debates focused mainly on issues relating to access to resources. This theme was quite broadly understood, so to include everything



from access to fishing equipment to the various forms of fishery management and rights to the territories on which communities depend on, both in water and land.

There was emphasis on discussions about the defense of territories. The RESEXs (Extractive Reserves) were frequently cited as institutions that promote guarantee to territory rights. However, in general, except for the case of reserves and other categories of territories that recognize traditional populations, such as the Quilombolas, territory safety of the majority of fishing communities in Brazil seems quite fragile. A keynote in the speeches was the need to provide greater access to information on existing rights that protect coastal communities, as well as access to relevant institutions, particularly the judiciary, against invasion by economic enterprises and infrastructure development projects.

On the other hand, laws that recognize the rights of traditional populations to the lands they occupy are not respected in many cases. Accordingly, various demands make up the final document. To sum up, rights of access to resources and collective territories greatly depends on knowledge and on reaching the relevant legal instruments.

As for the gender perspective, despite the small number of women, a strong awareness of the presence of female workers in the fishery sector could be noticed. We might even assume that women's rights are well considered; the concept of fisherwomen or female fishing workers is no longer strange or questioned, the new Fishery Law of 2009 is generally considered as quite positive for the gender dimension. There is little doubt that the female presence in fishing reinforces the openness to the idea that side activities are fishing activities and that the performers are fish workers. Advances, however, seem to be limited to that. Particular problems arising from gender relations, relations that define and rank the roles in the sexual division of labor were not given bigger attention. The "double shift" of work, which overloads them so much, although mentioned, remains mostly a "woman's problem." In other words, it is important that the consensus achieved does not get limited to mere recognition, leading to political paralysis, when it should be the initial step to a systematic change to ensure legal, economic and political equity between fishermen and fisherwomen. There is a long way between the discursive and formal recognition (by law) and the effectiveness of actions, ranging from the everyday practices in the community to public policies.

On the other hand, there has been frequent reference to the "fishing community", which is also an advance over a more sectorized and corporate view



which tended to prevail and a greater sensitivity to the recognition of women, of children, i.e., the multiple links that make up the fishing activity. One reason for this is the persistence of many struggles to ensure the living space of the fishing community and the quality of life. Another reason is the perception that the focus on the productive fishing chain is still limited to funding policies and in research.

Moreover, concerns about the lack of information about the rights that coastal communities have in the country today, especially those assured by law, should be stressed. These rights do not become effective mostly due to the lack of easy access to information. Within this discussion is the issue of digital inclusion, a necessity to improve access to information mentioned during the event.

During the group discussions and the plenary session, the notion of the importance of the fishers ecological knowledge, their key place in the fishing management processes, as well as the distance between theoretical recognition and its use in official instruments, such as in the institutionalization of fishing closure seasons, were made evident. There is a lack of effective knowledge-sharing dialogues. A good practice in this sense is the fishery agreements in continental waters in the Amazon, recognized by the environmental protection agency IBAMA, which can be applied in other contexts. Fishers from the Amazon mentioned that there are such exchange of experiences between fishing communities of different regions.

The organization of the sector was another issue raised in the workshop. The difficulty in the representation and organization of fishers is a problem that helps to maintain the injustices in fishery sector. The serious problems in the organization of fishermen have historic roots, the State being responsible for problems that still exist, especially in relation to the fishing guilds (colonies). Civil society organizations also have a role to play to contribute.

Concern over natural resources was expressed in the proposals for restocking rivers and the implementation of marine protected areas, which are necessary for the maintenance of stocks and coastal species. The issue was discussed in all groups in order to strengthen fishery management. The need for reliable statistics that reflect the actual production and its socio-economic importance was seen as very important.

The participation of fishermen and fisherwomen in the research and the use of their knowledge was a recurrent theme in the discussions, being widely adopted as a proposal for the voluntary guidelines. Gaps in knowledge about the



environment and resources are only one of the elements that justify the recognition of local knowledge, adding to the transparency of processes, legitimacy, and others.

5.Final Considerations

The event held in Prainha do Canto Verde managed to gather a range of people with knowledge and geographical representation. Despite the short time to organize a national event and the vast Brazilian territory, we consider that the event managed to cover the different needs of sea and inland fishery and family community aquaculture.

The proposals submitted are considered legitimate and representative of the Brazilian civil society. As for the Amazon, however, it is important to mention that the region deserves a particular document. Considering that its ecological importance and artisanal fishing particularities differentiate it from all other regions in Brazil. We suggest specific new proposals should be listed for the Amazon region, even in the FAO final document, which could list specific guidelines for that region and others of global significance.

It is a general agreement that artisanal fishery is considered a productive economic activity with positive results in relation to costs and revenues (as opposed to industrial) and also for the level of employment and income generation with relatively minor environmental impacts. The relationship between biodiversity and eco-system conservation and the health and livelihood of artisanal fishing communities is a consensus.

Artisanal fisheries have the potential to fulfill their role of supplying food and food security, when more support and investments are made available.

Moreover, a focus on rights is an essential ingredient in achieving the goals, as evidenced by the realities of fishers and their communities throughout Brazil. The experiences of recognition of territorial rights deserve attention both in Brazil and in developing countries around the world.

Recife, December 23, 2011.

STATEMENT

National Consultation in Honduras on the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries

Organized by CODDEFFAGOLF, member of the WFFP, with support from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

23-24 November 2011

San Lorenzo, Valle, Honduras

25 men and women representatives from fishworker organizations and associations, Cooperatives and Misquita communities and those of African descent¹, NGOs, government authorities and international organizations with an interest in strengthening inland and marine small scale fisheries, gathered to participate in the "NATIONAL HONDURAN CONSULTATION ON THE FAO GUIDELINES FOR SMALL SCALE FISHERIES", *which took place on 23 and 24 of November 2011* in the port of San Lorenzo, Valle, Honduras.

We expressed our satisfaction at the interest shown by the Committee on Fisheries of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO COFI) in supporting consultations in developing countries on what will be voluntary guidelines for inland and marine small scale fisheries, which could be implemented by Governments that are members of the FAO COFI.

The contribution of small scale and artisanal fisheries in Honduras is not yet taken account of in national economic indices like GNP, although small scale fishing is the main activity of local populations who depend on fishery resources.

We recognize that despite this, fisheries represent an important activity, providing food and jobs for local and remote communities for men and women who work at sea and in their communities, although they don't receive any social benefits and are deprived of the economic incentives that other groups in the country enjoy.

We take into account that inland and marine artisanal fishing is also linked to other cultures, and that it is the main source of food to millions of families who are amongst the poorest and who live directly from these resources.

We are concerned by the progressive loss of aquatic biological diversity, due to the lack of governance in resource management, the lack of an ecosystem based approach and the possible impacts of climate change and the increasing risks from natural disasters.

We stress the fundamental role played by women in fish catching, trade, processing and other activities associated with fisheries and the urgent need to assist them, to make them more visible and to gain equal recognition for their support and participation in the governance of the sector.

¹ Includes communities of Garifuna people.

We are conscious of the need to protect the cultural identity, the dignity and the traditional rights of fishing communities, of indigenous and misquita communities and people of African descent² as provided for in such international instruments as International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169.

We call on FAO to consider our recommendations, and on the Honduran Government to take account of the issues raised in this document in the new Fisheries and Aquaculture Law that is currently being discussed, as well as in other framework and policy instruments that govern the small scale and artisanal fisheries sector in the country.

Food Sovereignty

1. We recommend that fishery closures and other conservation measures be applied to improve fisheries management, whilst providing economic alternatives for fishworkers in the region.
2. Conservation of coastal, marine and inland wetland areas (coral reefs, sea grass beds, lagoons, mangrove swamps and associated ecosystems etc) should be made a priority
3. The implementation of fishery and aquaculture activities should not threaten rivers, lakes, wetland areas and associated ecosystems or put them in danger, and require that comprehensive and effective measures are established for their conservation.
4. The capture of eggs, larval stages and fingerlings in the wild should be prohibited (or at least ensure that methods are used which avoid the mortality of by catch species); reproduction should be managed in hatcheries.
5. The necessary fishery infrastructure to facilitate fishing activities should be constructed, including wharfs and artificial reefs.
6. Community based ecotourism should be promoted, the quality of marine products should be improved prior to marketing them; and alternatives to production promoted.
7. Artisanal fisheries activities should be subsidized, particularly fuel, lubricants, equipment and inputs and lift import taxes on fishing gears and motors to organized groups in small scale fisheries.

² Includes communities of Garafuna people settled in Honduras

Responsible Fisheries

8. Fishery and aquaculture projects that in any way affect the lives of local or indigenous, misquita and African Honduran communities should compensate them and contribute to the improvement of their quality of life, as a commitment to corporate social responsibility.
9. Aquaculture enterprises, sugarcane plantations, agricultural exporters, tourists and even towns and cities should be obliged to have systems for waste water treatment, to maintain purity and so keep fishing areas in a healthy state.
10. Small scale and artisanal fishing should receive State financial support for organizing, training, technical assistance, providing credit and institutional strengthening, so that the fishermen can become small entrepreneurs.
11. Fishing companies and industrial aquaculture, based on a commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility, should support local, indigenous, misquita and African Honduran communities, that are most affected by their operations, investing a percentage - to be defined - of their net profits in socio-environmental projects.
12. Aquaculture industries should allow artisanal and small scale fishing activities to take place in their inlet channels, according to a scheduled, managed and regulated plan, as a way to compensate for cultural damage, and the use of water, biodiversity and other National natural resources.
13. Aquaculture companies that are under State control should, as a first option, have their concessions and farm improvements transferred to fishermen, with support provided to them through a technical assistance and financial plan.
14. In order to protect artisanal and small scale fisheries industrial trawl fishing should be banned on the North coast within 9 nautical miles from the baselines out to sea.
15. Industrial fishing should be banned in areas around cays and fishing grounds within a depth of 60 metres, with access reserved for small scale and artisanal fishing.
16. Industrial fishing vessels and aquaculture (operations) should have contingency plans to deal with accidents at work that include the operation of fast vehicles that can be driven immediately to hospital when necessary.
17. Fishing by divers with (SCUBA) tanks should be banned, with trap fishing and diving with snorkels up to depths of 30 feet promoted as alternatives.
18. All vessels and installations used in aquaculture should have first aid kits, and their staff should be provided with social security and life insurance, including for accidents.
19. The incursion, use and trade in fishing gears that threaten aquatic biodiversity should be banned.

20. The use of clams, shells and other organisms extracted from the environment should be prohibited for processing into compound feeds for aquaculture.
21. A conservation programme for bivalves (clams, mussels, oysters, casco de burro etc.) and crabs should be established, led by the Government, fishworker organizations, and others with competence in the subject.
22. Government departments and private enterprises should participate with communities to apply measures to restrict the use of agrichemicals and plastics that are non-biodegradable and which pollute the aquatic environment.
23. Alternative uses for discarded by-catch species should be researched as soon as possible.
24. The Aquaculture and Fisheries General Directorate (DIGEPESCA) in collaboration with communities should collect and analyze fisheries statistics, and establish the necessary infrastructure to obtain reliable data on a continuous basis.
25. Artisanal fishers and indigenous African Honduran communities should be trained and supported to establish hatcheries for fish and shellfish and for other useful aquatic species.

Human Rights

26. Customary and historic rights of fishers and communities should be ratified in Honduras's new Aquaculture and Fisheries Law with regards to the use of beaches, mangroves, islands, cays and islets that have traditionally been used by fishers as sites for fishing, launching and landing for their gears, fish catches etc.
27. The right of passage should be mandatory so that fishers and other users can have free access to inland and marine waters and to wetlands without payment.
28. Workshops to instruct fishers and to disseminate laws related to human rights should be promoted.
29. The impunity with which offences are being committed against fishers by aquaculture companies, vessel captains and the Honduran civil and military authorities must be stopped.
30. Organisations and associations of artisanal and small scale fishers, members of indigenous communities and people of African descent should be empowered to ensure that the human rights of fishers and their families are safeguarded.
31. The privatisation of aquatic ecosystems and their biodiversity should be avoided, whether through transferable fishing quotas or under any pretext.

Societal and Labour-related Benefits

32. Social benefits must be guaranteed for small scale and artisanal fishers by their employers and the State, including social security, retirement, maternity, disablement, and unemployment insurance.
33. Access should be established to fishers' settlements and basic services (water and sanitation) provided to improve living conditions in the artisanal fishing sector.
34. The Government through the competent institutions should cover the funeral costs of fishers of low means.
35. Before a closed season is declared, DIGEPESCA should make it widely known, whilst assuring alternative sources of income through other activities for small scale fishing.
36. Child labour in fishing should be banned whilst integrated programmes of education, literacy, health and recreation should be simultaneously promoted in fishing communities for which the State should provide incentives through grants and such like.
37. Governments should promote credit programmes for the sector for purchasing decent housing for fishers.
38. Coastal protection should be established and fishers who have lost their homes due to storm surges and other phenomena that affect the coastline should be resettled
39. A fund should be set up for the children of small scale fishers for scholarships for different academic levels and for subjects related to fishery activities.

Sea Safety

40. Jurisdictional boundaries of countries sharing the Gulf of Fonseca should be marked with appropriate buoys and an integrated management plan for coastal marine resources should be initiated, with the participation of the authorities and civil society from El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras.
41. The Honduran government should exercise their sovereignty over waters in the Pacific Ocean, thereby enabling Honduran nationals to fish in these waters.
42. Improve vessel safety by equipping them with life jackets and radio communication systems so that fishers can communicate with a help and rescue service set up by the government, in case of accident, risk of disaster or persecution.
43. A sea safety service should be established that guarantees that artisanal fishers are safeguarded and that they are protected against crime. The Navy should defend our national sovereignty and the physical integrity of fishermen.

44. The total number of artisanal fishers should be documented, free of charge and in centres close to their communities, with the necessary identification and with their respective permission, thereby strengthening the national artisanal fishing register.
45. Awareness raising processes should be initiated aimed at artisanal fishers on the importance of conserving fishery resources through the use of appropriate gears and practices and other measures.
46. A legal mechanism for protecting whistleblowers should be established.

Trade

47. The use of vessels that have chill facilities incorporated should be promoted, so that product quality can be conserved and its market value increased.
48. Credit facilities tailored for artisanal fishers should be promoted, with incentives and preferential interest rates that allow fishers to free themselves from middlemen, to obtain their own fishing equipment and to invest in their activity generally.
49. Storage facilities should be established along the coast equipped with chill systems and complete equipment for handling and conserving fishery products.
50. A system of prices for fishery production should be established so that fishers are not hurt by fluctuating prices.
51. New markets should be opened up, including internationally, for artisanal fisheries for the commercialisation of marine products that guarantee a just and equal distribution of benefits from small scale and artisanal fisheries for both fishing communities and consumers.
52. Systems of auction halls should be established at strategic points that enable fishery products to be stored and traded under the right conditions of quality and price.
53. The processing and development of products derived from the sea should be promoted as alternative ways to increase small scale fishers' incomes.
54. Projects for artisanal fisheries should be equitable for both men and women so that women can also benefit from the means of production that are used in this activity.
55. Control centres for fishery products that are transported by land to markets should be staffed by qualified persons with adequate instrumentation and command of local languages.

Governance

56. DIGEPESCA should be strengthened as an institution, creating sub offices in municipalities, especially in fishing areas, strengthen their control and surveillance and fishery statistics systems, whilst establishing a self sufficient and independent structure within the Secretariat for Agriculture and Livestock (SAG).
57. Create an institute for scientific research on marine resources for the monitoring and conservation of fishery species.
58. Create local surveillance committees with the powers of authority and of decision taking provided by the State and in coordination with the fishery authorities.
59. Promote the harmonisation of artisanal fishery policies with patrolling trans-boundary waters.
60. Strengthen the means for control and surveillance as well as the rules applied for sanctioning industrial trawl fishing within the 9 nautical miles reserved for small scale and artisanal fishing.
61. Industrial fishing should be carried out beyond the 9 nautical mile zone reserved for small scale and artisanal fishing.
62. Taxes and earnings generated through use of fishery resources should be paid in those departments and/or municipalities where the earnings are generated thus providing the possibility for such earnings being reinvested in the affected areas.
63. Consultations on development projects should be undertaken with sufficient prior information to obtain the necessary consent and commitment on what is agreed, and not just be limited to consultation.
64. Fishery management programmes and plans should be equitable but differentiated in the case of indigenous and misquita communities and those of African descent, with rules to preserve the cultural patrimony in accordance with the interests of the local people.
65. The formulation and execution of national fishery development plans should be included in the current legislation.
66. Legal instruments should be devised and applied to eradicate the use of destructive fishing gears and methods that damage aquatic biological diversity.
67. Spaces for dialogue between the government, civil society and small scale and artisanal fishers, should be opened up to define local strategies to manage aquatic resources.
68. Promote the creation of genuine national spaces for integrating artisanal and small scale fisheries in which they are represented by delegates from the four cardinal points and diverse sectors so that the problems discussed are national.

69. The participation of fishing communities in the process of granting environmental licenses for aquaculture should be ensured, which must receive the approval of small scale fishing communities.

Climate Change

70. Studies should be undertaken and changes in marine and inland waters should be monitored to find timely responses to disasters that may be caused by such changes.
71. Monitoring changes in the behaviour of species should be carried out in participation with fishers' organizations; green areas established on the banks of lagoons; regular inventories made of marine flora and fauna species, with studies to update inventories; measures adopted for the establishment and management of artificial reefs as breeding and nursery areas for marine species and food security; programmes of mangrove replanting implemented as sites of diversity in areas of small scale fishing.
72. COPECO (Commission for Emergencies), SERNA (Natural Resources and Environment Secretariat), and SAG should strengthen the resilience and capacity of fishing communities to adapt in the context of disaster mitigation and climate change.
73. DIGEPESCA should establish policies and institutional frameworks for disaster mitigation and adaptation to climate change for small scale and artisanal fisheries.
74. DIGEPESCA along with the COPECO should determine, evaluate and monitor the risks of disaster and climate change with impacts on small scale fisheries and improve early warning systems.

Risks of Disasters

75. A contingency plan should be drawn up which outlines responses before, during and after disasters and natural or manmade catastrophes; building up local capacity for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
76. Through the competent authorities governments should establish a mechanism of financial incentives for alleviating the negative effects and damage caused by phenomena caused by climate change.
77. Measures should be taken to strengthen and equip authorized entities for monitoring marine and inland waters with modern equipment that allows an immediate response to be made to the effects of climate change.
78. A parallel mechanism should be created for monitoring the management of risks comprising fishers organizations to reduce the human losses caused by the effects of climate change.
79. Fishers organizations should be offered opportunities for community based training on issues of climate change and risk management prior to adverse events.

80. A rapid recovery fund should be set up for fishers organizations, with preferential credit facilities and interest rates and with reasonable time limits, so as to reactivate local economies and generate a capacity for resilience to adverse events.
81. Through humanitarian networks the construction and equipping of lodgings should be managed for those affected from fishers organizations so as to ensure safe refuges for fishing communities in emergency situations, as a priority giving special attention to women, girl and boy children and the elderly.
82. Large projects should be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment that includes an analysis of risks and disasters and prevention and mitigation measures. Companies should take responsibility for compensating for the damage caused directly or indirectly by their activities on their neighbours.
83. Knowledge, innovation and instruction should be used to create a culture of security and resilience in small scale and artisanal fishing communities, at both local and national levels.
84. Attempts to reduce the factors that underpin risks for small scale and artisanal fishing communities should be made, as well as strengthening disaster mitigation and adaptation to climate change so as to provide an effective response to these situations.

Recommendations for the Implementation and Development of the Voluntary Guidelines to Secure Small-scale Sustainable Fisheries in Costa Rica.

Tárcoles, Garabito

December 7-8, 2011

We small-scale fishers from different regions of Costa Rica (representing the Northern, Central and Southern Pacific and the Costa Rican Caribbean) meeting at a National Workshop in Tárcoles, Garabito, convened by CoopeTárcoles R.L. to discuss the voluntary guidelines to secure small-scale sustainable fisheries initiated by the FAO, urge the government of Costa Rica to consider the following aspects:

WHEREAS:

The small-scale fishing sector comprises not only fishers but encompasses all sectors of society who play a role in the production chain and who pursue a way of life with its own cultural identity, including women, youth, and the elderly.

Small-scale fishing generates employment, contributes to the national economy, contributes to food sovereignty and affords a great many fishers and fishworkers in both the Caribbean and the Pacific access to decent work.

Due acknowledgement must be given to the social, cultural and environmental differences in the small-scale sector, whilst also recognising the geographical differences between the Pacific and the Caribbean. Thus any policies, regulations and measures put forward should consider and accommodate these conditions and differences.

Costa Rican institutions with a remit for marine and coastal resources, particularly the *Servicio Nacional de Guardacostas* [National Coastguard Service], MINAET (Ministry for Environment, Energy and Telecommunications) and INCOPESCA (Fisheries and Aquaculture Institute), must work together on a more coherent basis

in order for fairer and more equitable decisions to be taken for the maritime and coastal sector.

In the case of protected areas, in line with the “do no harm” principle of governance, the costs of conservation measures should not be borne by the most vulnerable sectors. By the same token the principle of transparency and accountability should involve a requirement to ensure that agreements are monitored and information is provided on the use of financial resources allocated for conservation and development of coastal areas.

Marine Areas for Responsible Fisheries¹ constitute good practice that strikes a balance between conservation and development, while helping to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impacts.

We therefore request:

That the Government of Costa Rica support the voluntary guidelines to secure small-scale sustainable fisheries being developed internationally by the FAO.

That these guidelines be implemented and developed at national level with special regard to the following:

1.- It should be acknowledged that the present staffing and decision-making structures of INCOPECSA fail to duly represent the needs and principles of the small-scale fisheries sector, which leaves the sector feeling disenfranchised as it has no legitimate representation to defend its interests.

We urgently request that the State analyse and restructure this institution for it to duly cater to the needs of the many humble citizens in the coastal regions who live from fishing.

¹ Marine Areas for Responsible Fisheries, in conformity with Executive Decree No.27919-MAG, are defined as areas with important biological, fishery or socio-cultural characteristics, which are demarcated by geographical coordinates and other mechanisms that allow their boundaries to be identified and where fishery activities are regulated in ways that guarantee their long term benefits and where INCOPECSA can count on the support of coastal communities and/or other institutions for their conservation, use and management.

2.-It should be acknowledged that the use of environmentally unsustainable practices, including trawling, has had a negative impact on the ecosystems which support the way of life and the catches of small-scale fisheries. We would ask that permits for semi-industrial fishing not be renewed once they come to term and that no new permits of this kind be issued.

3. The small-scale fisheries sector is entitled to take part in decision making on access to resources, including on access to the territory and to the marine and coastal resources where its activities have been developed.

We request that a halt be called to the evictions of small-scale fishing communities from coastal lands and that an inter-institutional committee is established to identify how these communities can assert their territorial rights so that they can continue their fishery activities.

4. Acknowledgment should be given by the State to the contribution that fishing communities make to marine conservation and responsible fisheries and to solving the problem of overfishing through establishing marine areas for responsible fisheries, and by providing them with the financial and technical support.

Since marine areas for responsible fisheries are a valuable tool for conservation and development, it is vital that INCOPESCA provide the necessary support and follow-up as a matter of priority.

5.- We reaffirm that the country still lacks an organisation encompassing the various forms of legal organisation that are found in the small-scale fisheries sector, which would allow it to participate officially in national, regional and global bodies. We therefore call on the Government of Costa Rica, through INCOPESCA, to support an inclusive and participatory organisation for the sector.

6.- The increasing insecurity and drug-trafficking in the coastal areas is a matter of concern. We therefore call upon the State to prioritize coastal communities in its efforts to fight drug-trafficking by taking preventative steps *inter alia* in the spheres of education, sport and production.

EL SALVADOR WORKSHOP

**Seminar on “Sustainable Artisanal Fishing: Towards the FAO
Guidelines on**

Securing Sustainable Small-Scale

Marine and Inland Fisheries, at International Level”

13 – 14 December 2011

San Salvador

El Salvador

A national consultation was organized on the VG SSF Guidelines in El Salvador on 13 and 14 December 2011. Thanks to arrangements made by the Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) in cooperation with FACOPADES de R.L. and FECOOPAZ de R.L, artisanal fishworkers representing more than 121 cooperatives from inland and marine fisheries were able to participate.

We, artisanal fishermen from marine and inland areas, representing more than 121 member cooperatives of the federation of fishers' cooperatives FACOPADES (R.L) and FECOOPAZ (R.L) in El Salvador, invited by the National Foundation for Development (FUNDE) to participate in the Seminar about "Sustainable Artisanal Fishing: towards FAO guidelines for small-scale marine and inland fisheries, at international level", urge the government of El Salvador to consider the following aspects.

CONSIDERING THAT:

- In El Salvador we consider that artisanal fisheries include the extractive activities carried out both in (inland) water bodies and in maritime waters, where manual techniques dominate and vessels of no longer than 12 metres length are used. That said, the definition should include activities that encompass fishing with hooks, vessels using motors, which depending on their capacity, may extend up to 15 metres in length.
- Small-scale artisanal fisheries constitute a strategic sector in the economies of developing countries and perform a key role in providing livelihoods for millions of families around the world.
- In El Salvador there are some 27,600 artisanal fishermen, of whom 23,400 are men and 4,200 women, accounting for 42% of the total marine and inland fishing production of the country.^[1] Moreover, artisanal fishing creates important linkages that generate a considerable number of indirect jobs and combats hunger and poverty in rural parts of the country.
- Nevertheless, El Salvador's fishery resources are now in an alarming state, falling far short of their productive potential and thus affecting the living conditions not only for those of us who depend on this economic activity but also of society in general.
- To optimize the benefits derived from exploiting fishery resources (protein sources, and employment and revenue), regulation must ensure their use is managed in ways that adequately promote quality of life for the people with an emphasis on future generations.
- We must strive for an effective and efficient system of governance and planning in marine and inland waters which allows for control of fleet capacity and overfishing for

the benefit of resource sustainability both in this country and in the Central American region as a whole.

- The measures adopted with regard to the national fisheries and aquaculture sector have a profound effect on the environment, but social and economic factors should be taken account of in all the possible solutions.

We therefore submit:

- We demand that the Government of El Salvador take into account our proposals and support the voluntary guidelines to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and the protection of the rights of artisanal fishing communities. This process is being led at a global level by the FAO.
- In view of the above, we set out the following concerns and proposals.

Governance of Resources, Access Regimes and Compliance:

1. Active participation must be promoted between central government, ministries, local governments and fisheries institutions with artisanal fishing communities, harmonising individual, sectoral and social perspectives and adopting measures that contribute to food security.
2. Respect, protect and secure the right of artisanal fishing communities to access fishery resources and fishing zones, recognising their use of selective fishing gear.
3. The Executive should encourage the development of economically sustainable Salvadoran fisheries, striking a balance between extractive activities and the protection and restoration of the fisheries environment, as well as the social and economic development of those who depend on these activities.
4. The government authorities should protect those areas where the reproductive cycles of fishery resources are at risk, so that they may be legally designated as a reserve.
5. The relevant bodies should guarantee the legal security of any lands belonging to fishermen and fisherwomen where problems are encountered with the legal title of this asset.
6. Ensure that the General Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Promotion in El Salvador is rigorously observed, as well as the conventions, policies, treaties, rules and regulations agreed to at Central American and international levels.
7. Diffuse and incorporate in the chain the principle of co-responsibility, in which both public actors charged with elaborating, administering and monitoring fisheries policies; and fishermen's organisations, industrial and aquaculture, have a shared responsibility to achieve the development of responsible fisheries and aquaculture.

Social and Economic Development.

1. Guarantee that fishermen and fisherwomen have access to such basic services as drinking water, sanitation, electrification and decent housing, particularly those who are in municipalities with extreme poverty.
2. Link artisanal fishermen's organisations to national and regional rural and agricultural development programmes, to enable them to gain the financial resources needed to develop new ventures or ones that complement fishery activity, contributing to the diversification of income and employment sources.
3. Include the fishing and aquaculture sector within welfare and social security systems, in view of the risks inherent in fishery activities and the conditions in which they are carried out.
4. Incentivise and support any fishermen's cooperatives that are in a condition to upgrade their infrastructure for the development of tourist activity as part of the diversification of income and the creation of local employment.
5. Promote literacy campaigns for adults, with an emphasis on women, in order to reduce illiteracy rates amongst artisanal fishing communities, and in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education, NGOs and Local Governments. Programmes to retain the sons and daughters of artisanal fishermen in elementary and higher education should be promoted.
6. Encourage managerial training programmes for artisanal fishermen's cooperatives and associations in matters of business management: financial administration, accountancy, budgeting, project management, business plans and strategic and internal control systems.

Risks of Disasters and Climate Change for Maritime and Inland Artisanal Fisheries.

1. Natural disasters and climate change represent a high risk to the development of fisheries for they restrict fishermen's main or only source of income, which hinders their ability to obtain food and other basic necessities. It is for these reasons that work must be done directly to prevent, mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change on fisheries.
2. Training and support programmes should be implemented for fishing communities on vulnerability and protection in cases of disasters, so that communities are better organised to respond to emergencies and to rehabilitate coastal and inland areas prone to flooding.
3. The artisanal fisheries sector should be included within the Civil Protection System, because in flood situations it has performed an important role in making available its tools of the trade (boats) to move the population out of harm's way.
4. Mechanisms should be developed at local level to ensure compliance with the ban on cutting mangroves and to promote their recovery in a programme aimed at protecting and reproducing fish species harvestable in the mangroves.

5. A process should be pursued to decontaminate inland water bodies and to ensure that preventative programmes are complied with in order to avoid their recontamination.
6. Clean-up campaigns should be promoted in the estuaries, basins, bays and beaches in order to raise awareness and sensitivity to the importance of conserving fish stocks.
7. Immediate government support mechanisms should be created and targeted at the artisanal fisheries sector for losses caused by emergencies and natural disasters to its work tools, housing and suchlike.

Employment and Value Chains in Post-Harvest Activities

1. It is necessary to favour the sector by guaranteeing market prices that give artisanal fishermen the higher return they need and allowing them to obtain levels of profitability that ensure a sustained growth in income and employment generation, improving the quality of life of this population.
2. Government authorities may develop a Market Intelligence Programme specifically for commercially valuable fishery products, which provides fishermen with opportune information about the market situation, trends, future prices and main centres.
3. Fair competition needs to be guaranteed in the fisheries products' market, with strict control being established over the impact of illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries which result in the saturation of local markets driving down prices.
4. Artisanal fisheries should be incorporated into special programmes promoting business partnerships for co-operatives and artisanal fishermen's organisations, and technical assistance provided for drawing up business plans.
5. Financial and technical assistance should be provided to support the implementation of good practices in the extraction and processing stages which guarantee that consumers receive a quality product.
6. Strategic alliances should be forged with local governments to set projects in motion to improve rural roads, quays and slipways, and so reduce the costs of transporting products from the wharfs to commercial centres.
7. Ensure that technically and financially sustainable programmes are implemented for developing a quality fisheries product for the consumer: application of an artisanal brand, packaging process, product conservation, etc.
8. Awareness raising campaigns should be launched on the virtues of consuming national fisheries products for the population's food security.
9. Mechanisms should be created to permit organisations of artisanal fishermen and fish farmers to access and use the seasonally flooded lands of reservoirs and lakes, allowing them to diversify their productive activities and incomes.

Social and Gender Equality

-
1. Recognition should be given to the important role played by women in the fisheries sector, both as entrepreneurs and as workers, being especially involved in the post-harvest stages like processing and trading. There are also women involved in fish-harvesting activities, repairing nets, maintaining launches and boats, even though there are proportionately fewer of them than men.
 2. Recognition should be given to the fundamental role exercised by women in household food security and in the community developing activities orientated towards conserving inland and coastal fishery resources.
 3. Women, men, the young, the old, and minority populations should be assured fair access on an equal basis to use, control and to benefit from, the goods and services made available by the state for the development of the artisanal fisheries and aquaculture sector.
 4. The participation of all (men and women) in decision-taking should be promoted with respect not only to fisheries governance but also the realm of the social, economic, political, cultural and organisational life of artisanal fishing communities.
 5. Fishermen's cooperatives and associations should develop committees of entrepreneurial women and youth that can become involved in the work of the organisation with the possibility to take on duties at managerial and operational levels.
 6. Develop within the concept of artisanal fishing the inclusion of both inland and marine fisheries, whilst ensuring that policies directed to the sector take into account their similar and diverging needs.
 7. Elderly men and women from the artisanal fishery should be incorporated into the Programmes relating to the Law on Comprehensive Care for the Elderly, guaranteeing them healthcare in rural areas and incorporating special measures to cover the retirement pensions which they don't benefit from.

Policy Coherence, Co-ordination and Institutional Collaboration.

1. The Executive, Legislative Assembly, Judiciary and those government institutions involved in the fisheries sector, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), Centre for the Development of Fishery and Aquaculture (CENDEPESCA), mayors' offices, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MARN), Ministry of Tourism (MITUR), and micro-regions, should share a common vision of developing the country's fisheries and unify ideas about how to improve the conditions of artisanal and inland fishermen.
2. Dialogue should be fostered between the different stakeholders involved in developing the fisheries and aquaculture sector in order to drive through legal and institutional reforms for legislating and developing both sectors. (General Law on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Promotion, Law on Creating the PESCAR (Responsible

Artisanal Fisheries) Trust, Law Eliminating the Road Maintenance Fund, Law on Cooperativism, amongst others.).

3. The Government, especially the Executive, should ensure the development of the artisanal fisheries sector, establishing a forum for dialogue between local governments, producers and distributors about the problems facing them.
4. A mechanism should be established to enable national/local, cross-institutional co-ordination between the entities linked to Fisheries and Aquaculture authorities (MAG, CENDEPESCA), Local Governments, Executive Commission on Hydroelectricity (CEL), MAG, MARN, Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MINEC), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), Health Ministry, Finance Ministry, STAE, Territorial Development Council, National Court on the Right of Asylum (CNDA), Cooperation, and others, with the participation of organised artisanal fishermen, so as to define an Agenda and Action Plan for topics of interest to the sector (programmed closures, use of seasonally flooded lands, clean-up and reforestation campaigns, legal and institutional reforms, security, etc.)
5. A process should be initiated gradually decentralising services assisting artisanal fishermen in order to streamline procedures for registering craft, identity cards, granting of permits and other requests, providing incentives for unregulated fishermen to formalise their situation. This process should include simplifying and automating some services, as this will help the public administration and business climate to become more efficient.
6. Artisanal fishermen operating on the high seas and inland water bodies should be guaranteed protection, via the coordination of security measures between competent authorities. This requires the rapid administration of liability measures for damages suffered by fishermen or their equipment, by other artisanal fishermen or by larger-scale fishing vessels.

Research and Information, Needs and Sources of Exchange

1. Strategic alliances for cooperation should be developed between Universities and Applied Research Centres in order to encourage scientific and technical research projects, innovation and technology transfer in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in coordination with artisanal fishermen's associations, especially with regard to conserving fishery resources.
2. Evaluate the feasibility of creating a National Institute Specialising in Fisheries and Aquaculture (INEPESCA), like those that exist in other Central American countries. This should incorporate a specialised unit dedicated to transferring new technologies to the artisanal fishery.

-
3. Ensure the participation of the artisanal fisheries sector in validating statistical data concerning both the socio-economic situation of the sector and the production and commercialisation processes.
 4. Encourage the establishment of agreements with regional centres specialising in fisheries and aquaculture in order to promote scientific cooperation in areas of production, processing, packaging, labelling and manufacture of sub-products based on fish, viscera and other waste products from the process.
 5. The executive should guarantee the permanent transfer of funds for technical and scientific research into fishery resources.

Capacity-Building, Support for Implementation and Monitoring.

1. A consistent practice of transparency and accountability should be promoted in the administration of public policy, in order to improve the fisheries sector's institutional framework and to strengthen credibility and confidence in the institutions.
2. Programmes should be provided to strengthen and guide training so that fishermen can monitor compliance with approved regulations, legislation, and guidelines.
3. The follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of laws, regulations and declarations on fisheries adopted at national and international level should be accessible for the key actors in the chain and effective and representative participation should be encouraged, with a view to improving policy management in support of the artisanal fisheries sector.
4. Government authorities should provide technical assistance to initiatives arising “from” the sector and “for” the artisanal fisheries sector; treating them differently from the rest of traditional industrial fisheries, but which in turn promotes meetings between both stakeholders with a view to encouraging sharing of knowledge, technologies and information, and development of human resource capacities, in order to promote efficiency and competitiveness in the fisheries and aquaculture sector at national level.

Taking into account all of the above, we call on the Government of the Republic of El Salvador to review the General Law on the Management and Promotion of Fisheries and Aquaculture of El Salvador and to establish as many regulations deriving from this as may be necessary in order to guarantee sustainable fisheries and protection of the rights of communities that depend on this activity, advocating their food security.

In preparing the voluntary Guidelines for sustainable artisanal fishing, we also invite the FAO to extract from our Declaration any elements they consider opportune.

VG SSF National Consultation, Panama
12 and 13 January 2012, Hotel del Sol, David, Chiriqui, Panama
Organized by the National Federation of Artisanal Fishermen's Organizations (FENAPESCA),

37 men and women affiliated to FENAPESCA - the National Federation of Artisanal Fishermen's Organizations - from 24 communities in 10 provinces participated in this two day meeting.

The full report as received and subsequently translated into English is given below. It highlights 6 main issue areas - Climate Change; Conflicts affecting small-scale fisheries; Financial issues; Education, Health and Safety; Fishery Resource Sustainability; and Organizational Development. Under each issue, a series of recommendations is provided. The meeting did not produce a statement.

Proposals on the Content of the Voluntary Guidelines

Region: Central America

Country: Panama

National host: FENAPESCA

1. Climate Change

Problem	Recommendation	Observation/Comments
1. Rising sea levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation programmes for houses at risk. Develop contingency plans to reduce the impacts of climate change on fishing communities. Develop programmes for adaptation to climate change for fishing communities. 	
2. Increasing costs of fisheries production.	Develop programmes or projects to improve trade channels for fishery products.	
3. Presence of invasive species in traditional fishing grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of plans to combat the presence of invasive species that are harmful for traditional species. 	
4. Reduction in the availability of fishery resources on traditional fishing	Fishery improvement plans for the recovery of resources of importance.	

grounds.		
----------	--	--

2. Conflicts affecting small scale fisheries

Problem	Recommendations	Observations/ Comments
1. Outdated fishery laws	• Creation of new fishery laws putting into practice the principle of participation.	The interpretation of fishery laws causes confusion and conflicts
2. Fishery laws created without consultation with the sector.	Encourage active participation of the sector in the creation of new laws.	
3. Some high level officials from the fishery authorities don't show much aptitude for decision taking	• Promote recruitment programmes for suitable officers who demonstrate their aptitudes	
4. Pollution of watersheds by industrial plants and agricultural production	Establish an institutional programme for monitoring industries along polluted watersheds.	
5. In migration of fishers during the fishing seasons	Develop fishery management plans	
6. Illegal fishing practices.	Awareness raising amongst fishers, traders and consumers about illegal fishing practices.	
7. Lack of well defined policies and programmes dedicated to fisheries development	Promote and implement policy programmes for conservation and fishery resource management	
8. Development of artisanal fisheries obstructed by the authorities	• Reduce bureaucracy in fishery resource management	
9. Intervention of NGOs in management plans for fishing areas that	Participation of fishworkers in the development of	

undermine the fishers	management plans and activities, in ways which ensure that they reflect the reality and which take account of fishers in their development	
10. Incumbent authorities are involved with different sectors which overlooks the development of fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a Fisheries Ministry to improve the attention given to the sector. 	
11. Trawl fishing that threatens the safety of the fishermen and the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of rules for fishing areas or zoning which are complied with 	Trawlers operate within the zones where there are artisanal fishers, causing damage and putting lives at risk
The 12. Fisheries Authorities organize actions against the fisheries sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop support programmes for fishermen's associations and to strengthen National Artisanal Fisheries Federations. 	There is not any positive communication between the Fisheries Authorities and FENAPESCA for the well being of the fishery

3. Financial Issues

Problem	Recommendations	Observations/Comments
1. High cost of living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to change the behaviour of fishers and traders, with special social science (sociology, psychology and anthropology) and specialists. • Programs to promote alternatives to fisheries, to improve incomes, such as mariculture, handicrafts, value added products Improve trade channels for products 	Coordination with Organizations, Government and Fishery Business , training, and social work with skilled personnel.

2. Lack of administrative capacity to manage income (constant borrowing with no planning, alcoholism and cultural problems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crating a system to encourage savings improvement in the management of family income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the short and long term benefit of fishing communities

4. Education, Health and Safety

Problem	Recommendations	Observations/ Comments
1. Education: Education and training programmes that cater to the fisheries sector don't exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a programme for adult education with distance learning and flexible hours • Provide grants and incentives for general education for fishworkers • Create educational plans for fishery technicians and fishworkers 	With the clear objective of addressing the global challenges with confidence and knowledge
2. Safety: Fishers lack physical safety in carrying out their tasks, being threatened by drug trafficking, vandalism, bad weather, and unsafe vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernize systems of monitoring and control along the coast and in territorial waters. 	
3. Health: the health system is deficient, seeing as the service provided to communities does not fulfil the expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rules that allow independent fishers to participate in the social security system, according to their economic status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health system may be considered as deficient as it does not provide basic health services in the fishing communities. • The aim of participating in the social security system is to improve quality of life, through adequate medical treatment and a deserved retirement

5. Fishery Resource Sustainability

Problem	Recommendations	Observations/Comments
1. Over exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish management plans that assure resource sustainability. Regulate the activities of political parties within the apex body that governs fisheries issues. <p>Promote strategic alliances.</p> <p>Develop training programmes for fishworkers, on the application of strategies, methods, and policies that should be influenced to guarantee fisheries sustainability</p> <p>Initiate projects that improve environmental sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuity of technical staff specialising in fisheries management needs to be guaranteed because of its diversity and complexity
2. Pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate contingency plans to grapple with the pollution problems in watersheds 	
3. Indiscriminate logging and landfills in mangrove areas for developing tourist projects and urban expansion	<p>Review urban development and tourism policies that the government is initiating in coastal marine areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Induce participation of fishermen's associations in the discussions on the development of such projects that affect mangroves, reefs, and access to beaches. 	<p>The • bad environmental practices of projects that invest in coastal and marine areas cause the decline of fishery resources, and directly affect the development of sustainable fisheries.</p>
Award of illegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic review of the 	Fishermen should

contracts for mangroves.	<p>rules that apply to the governing of how land is allocated in areas adjacent to the coast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishermen's participation in decision taking 	participate in decision taking due to the fundamental role mangroves play in the development and growth of many marine species.
--------------------------	--	---

6. Organizational Development

Problem	Recommendations	Observations/Comments
1. Good relations don't exist between the fisheries authorities and the fishermen's organizations	<p>Strengthen the ecosystems principle in fishery resource management to improve fishermen's participation in the decision taking processes.</p> <p>Strengthen the principles of participation and competitiveness within the fisheries policy</p>	
Most fishermen are not interested in belonging to an organization.	<p>Initiate plans to form fishermen's associations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake programmes to increase the membership of organizations <p>Realize cultural, recreational, and sporting activities to strengthen good neighbourly links between fishery workers.</p> <p>Realize regular social gatherings of fishermen, at national and regional levels to strengthen associations.</p>	

NICARAGUA WORKSHOP

A National Consultation on the VG SSF Guidelines

Organized by

The Nicaraguan Fisheries Federation (FENICPESCA)

25 and 25 January 2012,

The city of Chinandega

The 45 participants included men and women fishworkers from cooperative organizations, representatives and leaders of fishworkers cooperative organizations, representatives from the Nicaraguan Fisheries and Aquaculture Institute (INPESCA), and FAO Country Representative for Nicaragua.

Participants came from Pacific and Gulf of Fonseca coasts, from the coasts and islands of Lake Cocibolca, and from the coasts, keys and islands of the Caribbean. Reflecting the ethnic diversity of the Nicaraguan people, participants included mestizos, indigenous people from the Pacifica and lake areas, and miskitos and people of African descent from the Caribbean.

After formal introductions and a formal presentation by the FAO Country Representative, there followed a presentation, discussion and question and answer session on the VG SSF Guidelines. Participants then divided into three working groups as follows: Group 1: Analyzed and made recommendations on issues of concern arising from the Governance of Artisanal Fisheries and Civil and Political Rights, i.e. the general norms and laws of the country and the way equality before the law and democracy are dealt with, and the particularities that govern or influence the activity, and the role of the authorities (INPESCA, MARENA, the military (navy), police etc.).

Group 2: Analyzed the problems and needs relating to Economic Rights, Access to Productive Resources, Credit, Technical Training, Obtaining a Fair Return on Labour, including Post Harvest etc, as well as the relationships between other members of the sector, including storage and processing plants, suppliers of inputs etc. The group also looked at Access to Markets, at

both national and international level, as well as problems of communication and restrictive legislation etc.

Group 3: Focussed on Social Rights, including Education, Health, Housing, Development of Associative Organizations, Social Services etc, as well as the way in which society at large, the fisheries sector and the State facilitate or make it more difficult for the full enjoyment of these rights. The main output from the meeting was a report with recommendations to be fed into the process to develop the VG SSF.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION IN NICARAGUA ON VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL SCALE FISHERIES (VG SSF) CONCLUDING STATEMENT

We, men and women, representatives of fishermen, middlemen and traders from artisanal fisheries, called by the Nicaraguan Fishing Federation Ltd for a meeting in the city of Chinandega, Nicaragua, come from the Pacific and Gulf of Fonseca coasts, from the coasts and islands of Lake Cocibolca and the coasts, and the keys and islands of the Caribbean. Forming part of the diverse population of Nicaragua, we are mestizos, indigenous people from the Pacific and the Lake, and miskitos and descendants of African origin from the Caribbean, but with poverty and marginalisation in common. We are glad to receive the proposal from the FAO to devise an international instrument for small-scale fishing, or artisanal fishing as we know it in our country, provisionally called *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries*.

After analysing the origin of this initiative, the development of the process to date, the objectives proposed for the guidelines, as well as the fundamental principles which must serve as the basis and guide for them, we undertook to study what has been proposed and to weigh this against our reality with regard to our contribution to food security and the national economy; and against our social and economic rights, after which we have agreed to present our position with respect to the guidelines, as an expression of our will and expectations and as a contribution to the construction of a common position in the Central American region.

In this respect we declare as follows:

We believe that the Guidelines, at least in the aspects of fundamental human rights already protected by other international instruments, must be **binding**, just as we face binding obligations in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). For this reason we prefer to remove the word “voluntary”, and to call them , for example, *International Guidelines for Ensuring Small-Scale Sustainable Fisheries*, which :

-
1. Should provide a new mechanism for strengthening the **social pillar of sustainable development**, which will effectively complement the **CCRF**, with a **human rights based approach to development**.
 2. Should apply to **all parties involved in fisheries**, including governments at all levels, fishermen's organizations, fishing and indigenous communities, other civil society organizations and interested parties like suppliers, traders, consumers, etc. Investors from the fisheries sector must also be included (processors, exporters, etc.) and other interested sectors in areas adjacent to the seas, lakes, lagoons, rivers and other water bodies, such as tourism and agricultural and housing developments, reminding them that their activities must be carried out in keeping with their human rights obligations. We cannot continue to allow fishing communities' access to the sea to be restricted by tourist and urban developments, or to allow farming activities to continue developing only a few meters away from the coast, like in the Gulf of Fonseca, or to allow the ongoing pollution and silting up of the Caribbean coastal lagoons from the expansion of agriculture, all of which is to the detriment of the way of the life and survival of coastal communities and artisanal fishermen.
 3. Should acknowledge and consolidate a **human rights approach** for fishing and artisanal fishing communities, recognising that **human rights (economic, social, political and civil) are indivisible**. This approach must also underline the need for right holders in each fishery to respect the rights of the rest, and to behave responsibly by managing resources correctly for the sake of future generations.
 4. Should focus on how to value and promote the contribution made by artisanal fishing to **food security and sovereignty, the alleviation of poverty and the sustainable use of resources**. The fish we bring to the tables of Nicaraguan homes provides 90% of the fish needed; and moreover artisanal fisheries make an important contribution to employment generation (more than fifteen thousand heads of family, whilst even more are indirectly employed), foreign currency (fifty per cent of that generated by fisheries), and traditionally we have carried out our activities in a resource and environmentally-friendly fashion. **And all of this needs to be recognised, valued and supported.**
 5. Should clearly establish the obligations of the State in guaranteeing the **civil and political rights** of the artisanal fishing community, ensuring the necessary conditions of transparency, equality before the law, democracy, the right to organise and for full compliance with the laws and regulations directly related to artisanal fishing activities, including closed seasons, minimum catch sizes, fishing gear and methods, amongst others, as provided for in the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Law**, and the promotion of the sustainable development of this activity as is established by the official **Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Artisanal Fishing, Food Security, and the Poverty Reduction of the Families Involved**.
-

-
6. Should clearly set out our demands for conditions guaranteeing the sustainable use of resources and rights of access to them, including the protection of the **exclusive zones for artisanal fishing**, within the three mile zone on the Pacific and Caribbean coastlines and within twenty-five miles around adjacent islands and keys, as well as the protection of the inland waters reserved for artisanal and community fisheries, just as the Fisheries Law prescribes, and of the inland waters which have been used by artisanal and subsistence fishermen in ways that conserve their delicate ecological balance; as well as defending against illegal fishing by foreign vessels in border areas of the Pacific, Gulf of Fonseca, and the Caribbean, and other important issues of security for fishermen and their communities. **It is vital that we get the support of both civil and military authorities.**
 7. Should adopt an analytical approach to problems, requirements, and their solutions in the field of the **economic rights of artisanal fishermen**, with regard to their **access** to productive assets, to credits, to strengthening technical capacities, to the market and all that helps or hinders their economic and socially equitable development, by obtaining a **fair income for their work and for the risks entailed in their fishing activities**, strengthening their participation in **value chains**, especially in the **post-harvest** stage (through processing and adding value, which attract better prices) where third parties almost always benefit.
 8. The drawing up of public policy for sustainable fisheries development must, as a fundamental prerequisite, take into account the aforementioned shortcomings, establishing, amongst other things, guarantee funds, training and safety programmes for fishing, as well as facilitating fishermen's access to benefits that already exist but bureaucracy and red tape render them virtually inaccessible.
 9. Provide a vehicle for promoting the **social rights** of artisanal fisheries and for addressing the needs of the fishing communities (**education, healthcare, development of their organisations, social services – like social security – , financial and material resources**). We the members of the artisanal sector are the last in line when it comes to getting those needs met. The shortfalls in those areas are enormous in terms of access to medicines and healthcare, good education, decent housing, as well as recognising ancestral coastal property rights. **We cannot achieve responsible fisheries without social development.** Two of the greatest enemies of environmental sustainability are **poverty and despair.**
 10. Should take into account that fishermen, through fishermen's organisations, not only have a fundamental human right to organise, but in order to safeguard those rights and
-

transparency of public administration, States must recognise those organisations as **essential partners** for matters involving the rights and needs of fishermen at all levels – national, provincial, municipal and community – as well as for managing matters relating to their activity at appropriate levels.

11. Should take into account the heterogeneity, diversity and complexity of artisanal fishing from a human rights perspective, including rights of access, the economic and cultural rights of **native, indigenous and African originating** populations, as well as their **gender, youth and generational** dimensions.

Women perform a fundamental role in the life of communities and artisanal fishing organisations, and this needs strengthening in order to enhance their social and economic empowerment and their contribution to the outputs obtained from this activity. Unless **young people** in our communities are integrated through education, training and economic support, the future of our activity will be bleak and marked by the emigration of the young to cities and abroad, with negative impacts on communities, families and for the fishery itself.

The lack of social security coverage for our fishermen in their **old age** forces them to work until the day of their death, without the chance of a well-deserved retirement or to enjoy free time to enrich the lives of the young with their knowledge and experiences.

12. Should identify and take account of factors wider than fishery related which threaten the livelihoods of those depending on it in coastal and inland areas. These include **natural disasters** and **climate change**, as well as **competition** with other stakeholders in the coasts and waterways and **conflicts** with other members of the fisheries sector.
13. Should direct **national and international efforts to achieving a sustainable artisanal fishing sector**, whilst creating a framework that allows for the monitoring and auditing of its progress based on a human rights approach. In this way they should provide the basis and reference for action plans at national and regional levels to ensure the sustainability of artisanal fisheries, as well as guiding the actions of communities and fishing organisations.
14. Should set clear standards to establish principles and good practice and also suggest **lines of action** with targets and indicators to encourage the implementation of those principles. In other words, they should not merely pay lip-service to principles but rather identify how they can be met, to what degree, and how to measure them. In creating these standards the guidelines should make a contribution, then, towards improving and balancing the CCRF as regards a human rights based approach to artisanal fisheries. **The sustainability of fisheries concerns not only fishery resources but also human**

resources. Therefore their application should be geared towards improving the way the interests and rights of communities are protected whose culture, life and livelihoods depend on artisanal fishing.

We make a very special appeal to the State of Nicaragua to support the process of forming and approving the Guidelines and, once they have been passed by the FAO, that they will ensure they are complied with, making any necessary changes in legislation, rules and regulations to this end.

Finally, we give our thanks to the **International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)** for their support in hosting this Consultation, without which it would not have been possible, and the **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)** for their support for this process of drawing up Guidelines.

To conclude our work, we provide the results of these our deliberations for the attention of our brother artisanal fishermen and other members of the artisanal fisheries sector, the Nicaraguan authorities and our sister organisations in Central America. They should be considered neither exhaustive nor final, but rather are born out of our interest in setting our activities on a course for a more promising future for our families and communities, and contributing to the formation of a common regional position on the Guidelines.

Chinandega, Nicaragua, on the 25th day of January of the year 2012.

Summary of VG SSF National CSO Workshop – Nicaragua

1. Introduction

The National Consultative Workshop in Nicaragua was held on the 18th of February 2012 in Managua. It was hosted by the Central American Artisanal Fishing Confederation (CONFEPESCA) and was attended by various fisher associations and organizations, some representing bordering countries El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras. There were 45 participants in the workshop (*gender of participants is not indicated).

2. Definitions

Small-scale fishers in Nicaragua are described as artisanal fishers. However, the manner in which fishing occurs by local and indigenous communities varies according to location and context. Moreover, the fishers claimed that one cannot precisely define SSF in the country because identifying criteria and indicators for defining small-scale fishing could end up restricting the professionalization of the sector and its potential for commercial development.

3. Principles for the VG-SSF

Guidelines should acknowledge and consolidate a human rights approach for fishing and artisanal fishing communities, recognising that human rights (economic, social, political and civil) are indivisible

4. Themes

a. Gender equality

Women perform a fundamental role in the life of communities and artisanal fishing organisations, and this needs strengthening in order to enhance their social and economic empowerment and their contribution to the outputs obtained from this activity.

b. Climate change and disaster preparedness

Particular action should be targeted at adapting to climate change, addressing rising sea levels, beach erosion, amongst others by government, the private sector and civil society

c. Support to fisheries value-adding

Guidelines should adopt an analytical approach to problems, requirements, and their solutions in the field of the economic rights of artisanal fishermen, with regard to their access to productive assets, to credits, to strengthening technical capacities, to the market and all that helps or hinders their economic and socially equitable development, by obtaining a fair income for their work and for the risks entailed in their fishing activities, strengthening their participation in value chains, especially in the post-harvest stage (through processing and adding value, which attract better prices) where third parties almost always benefit.

d. Governance and management of natural resources

i. Human rights

Governments are required to respect the exercise and enjoyment by artisanal fishers of their human rights: their right to education, healthcare and pensions, to security, to access to

decent housing, to sustainable use of coastal marine resources and with respect to the territorial rights of fishing communities.

ii. Access/tenure rights

Tourist, agricultural and real estate developments limit fishing communities' access to the sea

Guidelines should clearly establish the obligations of the State in guaranteeing the civil and political rights of the artisanal fishing community, ensuring the necessary conditions of transparency, equality before the law, democracy, the right to organise and for full compliance with the laws and regulations directly related to artisanal fishing activities, including closed seasons, minimum catch sizes, fishing gear and methods, amongst others

iii. Participation, representation and organisation

Joint action is required (by the government, the private sector and civil society) to promote active participation by young artisanal fishermen in decision-taking

iv. Co-ordination and integration/harmonisation

Policies, regulations and actions must take into account the high degree of diversity and heterogeneity within artisanal fishing communities

v. Recognition and application of human rights and other instruments

Guidelines should take into account the heterogeneity, diversity and complexity of artisanal fishing from a human rights perspective, including rights of access, the economic and cultural rights of native, indigenous and African originating populations, as well as their gender, youth and generational dimensions

e. Awareness raising, Capacity development, training (education))

The drawing up of public policy for sustainable fisheries development must, as a fundamental prerequisite, take into account, amongst other things, guaranteeing funds, training and safety programmes for fishing, as well as facilitating fishermen's access to benefits that already exist but bureaucracy and red tape render them virtually inaccessible

f. Safety at sea

Criminal activities, from both common and organised crime, like drug trafficking, and through the abuses of middlemen when acquiring fisheries products cause problems with security at sea

g. Protection of food security and sovereignty

Guidelines should focus on how to value and promote the contribution made by artisanal fishing to food security and sovereignty, the alleviation of poverty and the sustainable use of resources. We cannot achieve responsible fisheries without social development. Two of the greatest enemies of environmental sustainability are poverty and despair.

h. Protection of the environment and sustainable use

Guidelines should clearly set out our demands for conditions guaranteeing the sustainable use of resources and rights of access to them, including the protection of the exclusive zones for artisanal fishing. Joint action is required (from government, the private sector and civil society) to control pollution and the destruction of natural resource

i. Securing social economic development rights

i. Livelihoods

Guidelines should take account of factors wider than fishery related which threaten the livelihoods including competition with other stakeholders in the coasts and waterways and conflicts with other members of the fisheries sector

5. Process issues – general comments and recommendations

- Guidelines must be binding; they must apply to all parties involved in fisheries including governments, fisher organizations, markets, etc. The word ‘voluntary’ must be removed and the Guidelines must be renamed, for instance, International Guidelines for Ensuring Small-Scale Sustainable Fisheries
- Guidelines should set clear standards to establish principles and good practice and also suggest lines of action with targets and indicators to encourage the implementation of those principles. In other words, they should not merely pay lip-service to principles but rather identify how they can be met, to what degree, and how to measure them.

NARRATIVE REPORT: THE PHILIPPINE CONSULTATION on UN-FAO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

January 27-31, 2012

Quezon City, Philippines

**Prepared by Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya—
National Federation of Small Fisherfolk Organizations in the Philippines)**

1. Backgrounder

**Leaders of fisherfolk associations from Northern to Southern part of the
Philippine archipelago attentively watch a brief power point presentation
on the current trends in local and international fisheries (Photo by Pamalakaya)**

On January 16, 2012, Pamalakaya director Gerardo Quezon Corpuz based in Bohol, Philippines and Antonio Onorati (IPC Focal International Focal Point) for the contractor based in Rome, Italy signed an agreement to carry out a national consultation in the Philippines on the proposed UN-FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Small Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF) which currently undergoing development process through regional and national consultations.

The national consultation on VG-SSF held in the Philippines from January 27-31 is in response to the historic 29th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in January and February 2011 in Rome where the world food agency pushed for the development of a new international instrument to reinforce the rule of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF).

The Philippine consultation and workshop as envisioned by FAO aims to improve the VG-SSF with the active engagement of small-fishing communities and social movement organizations in further developing and improving the UN-FAO guidelines to protect the rights of small-scale fisheries.

The engagement of Pamalakaya as a civil society organization or a federation of 43 provincial and 9 regional fisherfolk formations in the Philippines on UN-FAO supported workshop on VGSSF is a welcome news for its national and regional leaders and the more than 100,000 mass members of the federation.

The UN-FAO supported consultation in the Philippines as facilitated by IPC in cooperation with International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF) added a new milestone in the advocacy of Pamalakaya for sectoral empowerment now spanning for 25 years since its inception in December 1987. It provided the Philippine fisherfolk association an impetus to actively engage in developmental and institutional support body like the UNF-FAO as far as small-scale fisheries is concerned.

II. Inside Philippine Fisheries (Reports from the Grassroots)

The UN-FAO Philippine Consultation on VG-SSF kicked off with sharing on local situation currently faced by small-scale fisherfolk in their respective communities. This is designed to immediately get an initial glimpse of current developments taking place at the grassroots communities of small-scale fishermen and source initial proposals from participants based on the actual events taking place at the local, regional and national levels.

Fisherfolk from Bulacan province complained about the dumping of chemical wastes and inputs into the rivers by fishpond owners

The participants from different provinces provided these reports: Here are the highlights.

1. Laguna Lake inland fishermen worried about the privatization of the 94,000 hectare lake (Reports from Laguna and Rizal provinces)

- 54 major projects will be implemented in the 94,000 hectare lake
- Dredging of the 94,000 hectare lake to improve navigation, install ferry stations for eco-tourism purposes
- Eco-tourism projects around the lake
- Construction of 100-km road dike from Taytay, Rizal to Sta. Cruz, Laguna
- Reclamation projects along shore land of Laguna Lake, 5,000 hectares of lake shores in Taguig and Muntinlupa will be reclaimed to give way to construction of high end condominiums and world class hotels
- Construction of another international airport in Talim Island, a denuded watershed.
- Big water concessionaires such as Maynilad Water and Manila Water corporations are sourcing 300 million liters and 1 million liters of water from the lake on a daily basis respectively and they want to make it permanent and source more water from the fragile lake.
- The remaining water shed of Laguna Lake is now open for mining. Some 1,236 hectare of Talim Island in Laguna de Bay is primed for basalt mining and sourcing of filling materials.
- The master plan according to leaders of Pamalakaya and the broad alliance Save Laguna Lake Movement (SLLM) will force the eviction of some 500,000 fishing and urban poor families. Another study projected a displacement of 3.9 million people composed of small fishermen, poor farmers and other residents of more than 30 towns and cities surrounding Laguna Lake (Rizal, Laguna and cities of Taguig and Muntinlupa in the National Capital Region)
- The threat to livelihood of some 27,000 inland fishing families sourcing their livelihood from Laguna Lake
- The death of Laguna Lake, Asia's second largest lake and the Philippines largest lake.

2. The National Reclamation Plan of the Philippine Government In Manila Bay and other parts of the country.

- National reclamation plan as projected by the Philippine Reclamation Authority involves 95 reclamation projects all over the country.
- 38 reclamation projects are in Manila Bay area (Cavite to Bataan) that would involve reclamation of 26,234 hectares of foreshore areas, there are 7 reclamation projects in Moro Gulf (238 hectares) and 50 more reclamation projects across-the-archipelago that would entail the reclamation of 5,800 hectares
- Impacts of reclamation include destruction of marine habitats and ecological balance, loss of livelihood and community displacement of fishing villages, diminish and eradicate the natural defense barriers of coastal communities to climate change and storm surge to mention a few

3. Threats of black sand mining all over the country

Eastern Visayas

- According to reports gathered by Pamalakaya- Eastern Visayas chapter there are 107 offshore mining applications in the region, 17 are applied for magnetite mining which covers several municipalities of Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte and Biliran.
- Small fisherfolk in Region VIII feared that magnetite offshore mining operations in the region would usher an era of environmental destruction, perpetual disasters and gross denial of fisherfolk livelihood across the Eastern Visayas region;
- The Department of Environment of Natural Resources (DENR) is now processing the applications of magnetite giants like Nicua Corporation which will cover 5,390 hectares of coastal areas in the towns of Tanauan, Tolosa, Julita and Dulag in Leyte, Kando Mining Company; 3,945 hectares (Dulag, Mayorga and Julita towns in Leyte), Rushfield Mining Company; 5,309 hectares (Palo, Tanauan and Tacloban City, Leyte) and Minoro Mining and Exploration Corporation; 6,375 hectares (Alang-alang, Sta. Fe, Jaro, Pastran and Palo, Leyte);

Ilocos Region and Cagayan blacksand mining

- There are 15 magnetite mining applications in the onshore and offshore areas of San Juan (2, offshore), Bacnotan (2 offshore), Balaoan (2 offshore), Luna (1 offshore), Bangar (2, 1 offshore, 1 onshore), Pugo (1 onshore), Burgos (1 onshore), Santol (1 onshore) and Sudipen (3 onshore) in La Union province alone.
- In Ilocos Sur, there are 57 blacksand mining applications in Ilocos Sur province, with 4 in Tagudin, 4 in Sta.Cruz, 5 in Sta. Lucia, 4 in Candon City, 4 in Santiago, 4 in San Esteban, 5 in Sta. Maria, 5 in Narvacan, 8 in Santa, 5 in Caoayan, 4 in Sta.Catalina and 4 in Vigan City.
- In Ilocos Norte, 86 applications for magnetite mining in Ilocos Norte province are pending before the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which cover the towns of Badoc (6), Pinili (3) Paoay (3), Laoag (3), Currimaog (4), Bacarra (3), Pasuquin (13), Burgos (4), Bangui (1), Pagudpud (2), Batac (1), Banna (5), Nueva Era (7), Marcos (6), Solsona (3), Carasi (5), Dingras (5), Vintar (6), Adams (2), Piddig (3) and Dumalneg (1).
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the provincial and local government units in Cagayan refused to recall magnetite mining activities in the towns of

Aparri, Buguey, Lallo, Camalaniugan, and Gonzaga from ravaging the marine environment of Cagayan River and its coastal areas. About 12,000 hectares of Cagayan coastal area is primed for blacksand mining at the expense of livelihood and environment.

4. The horrible impact of eco-zone project in Aurora province known as Aurora Pacific Economic and Free Port Zone

- Around 12, 427 hectares of indigenous and agricultural lands will be covered by the ambitious eco-zone project. It will also entail the unhampered use of coastal areas along Casiguran Bay. The project will affect indigenous people, small fisherfolk and small farmers
- The project affects about 5,430 residents of five barangays and eventually 22,403 residents of Casiguran or even more from different towns. Among them, at least 796 are fisherfolk, 7,272 are peasant women and 600 women are involved in fishing. Northern Aurora, as well as the whole province is also home for indigenous people such as the Dumagat and Igorot.
- It should also be noted that rice farms in barangay (village) Esteves and Dibet are considered the rice granary of northern Aurora, while the San Ildefonso peninsula supplies fish, coconut and other crop.
- In general, APECO violates the fundamental rights of the people to land, ancestral claim and livelihood to give way to the interests of landlord clan Angara, foreign and local investors and the Aquino government. APECO is not the right path of development for Aurora as it totally disregards the rights and welfare of the people.

5. Fisherfolk woes in Cebu province and Bohol Island in Central Visayas

- Fisherfolk in Cebu, an island province in Southern Philippines are facing various types of problems emanating from different sectors and various usages of fishing waters for private appropriation and use.

- The Philippine government has sold the one of small islets of the province—the village of Gibitngil in the municipality of Medellin in Cebu. The 209 hectare island is primed for another eco-tourism project under the slogan It is More Fun in the Philippines to attract both foreign and local investor in the local tourism industry
- The provincial government of Cebu also planned to undertake reclamation of 110 hectares in Cordova Island, another island which part of Cebu for eco-tourism expansion and construction of an international airport.
- Initially, the government targeted the reclamation of 3,500 hectares of foreshore area and mangrove forest in Cordova, but because of the opposition of local Pamalakaya chapter in Cordova, the project was indefinitely stopped by the local and national government.
- In Bohol Island, the project to put up 2 man-made islands for eco-tourism (the first project is supposed to involve the offshore reclamation of 400 hectares, and the second project will reclaim 200 hectares of offshore waters) was stopped due to fisherfolk and popular opposition put up by local environmentalists and concerned government officials in Panglao Island.
- Commercial fishing vessels still operate within the 15-kilometer municipal fishing waters of all Visayan Sea. Reports said owners of these commercial fishing vessels are based in Cebu and Palawan provinces (Southern Luzon).

6. Bicolano fishermen wary of offshore mining

- Offshore mining for black sand materials will cover several towns of two provinces namely the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay. According to reports, offshore magnetite mining had covered 959,000 hectares of offshore waters.
- Local governments in Albay province are declaring municipal waters as fish sanctuaries and they have been preventing small fisherfolk to fish near in declared

fish sanctuary areas, thus further delimiting areas for fish capture and this measure has tremendously affected fish catch activities of small fishermen. The average fish catch was reduced from a regular low of 5 kilos per day to 2 kilos per day due to undeclared fish ban in fishing municipalities.

- In Rapu-Rapu, Albay, unhampered mining activities had resumed covering 60 percent of the total land area of island town, and the mining company still dumps toxic wastes into the waters of Albay Gulf causing fish kills and big decline in fish catch of small fishermen.
- In Masbate, the common problems faced by small fisherfolk include the exploitation of fishing waters by large-scale commercial fishers, the open pit mining in several towns of the island province, the proliferation of fish sanctuaries which effectively ban small-scale fishermen from fishing and the exorbitant fees imposed on small fisherfolk if they violate fisheries ordinance compared to commercial fishers

7. Battered fishermen of Batangas province

- Coast guards in the province treat small fisherfolk like common criminals if they get near to fish sanctuary areas or if they do not follow certain ordinances like color coding and other fishing ordinance which prohibit them from fishing from their town to another town even if they belong to the same province and situated along a common fishing area such as bay.
- Commercial fishing vessels regularly fish inside the 15-kilometer municipal fishing waters which are reserved for small scale fishermen.
- Batangas fishers are also alarmed of the open pit mining activities to be undertaken near farming and coastal communities all over the province. In January 2012, Provincial Board Resolution No. 253 allowing the Canadian firm Asian Arc- Crazy Horse mining company, along with its subsidiary Kumakata Mining Inc., to explore the town of Taysan for gold, copper, lead and zinc.
- The mining exploration will cover 12,000 hectares. It is now on its second development stage. Prior to the approval of the Crazy Horse permit, the provincial government has endorsed the mining exploration of Mindoro Resources Ltd. (MRL)

which acquired an exploration permit and a mineral production sharing agreement with the provincial government to tap 29,000 hectares of mining area in the hinterlands of Batangas City, San Juan, Rosario, Taysan and Lobo, all farming and fishing communities in Batangas province.

- The mining along farming and fishing villages will affect the destroy these main sources of income and food among the province farmers and fishermen

8. Navotas City reclamation project

- Small fisherfolk oppose the construction of a P 50-B reclamation project in Navotas City, which proponents including the city government hyped will place this fishing city in the National Capital Region (NCR) in the roadmap of national development.
- The P 50-B North Bay Boulevard Reclamation Project which will engage the reclamation of 3.3 kilometer of the city's foreshore areas comprising 14 coastal barangays. Along its stretch, a 145 hectare multi-use hub will be constructed, starting from C-4 to Barangay Tangos.
- A total of 20,000 fishing families will be affected by the reclamation and development projects in Navotas City, one of the 17 cities in the National Capital Region.

9. Offshore mining for oil and gas in the Philippines

- There are 15 contracts offered by the national government for oil and gas mining in the Philippines.
- Majority of these contracts cover the West Philippine Sea/ Spratlys island in Palawan, There are also oil and gas explorations in Sulu in Mindanao, Antique in Panay Island, Ragay Gulf in Bicol Region, Visayan Sea (Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Negros Island)

- The offshore mining in Palawan province will cover 10 million hectares of ocean waters. Most of the investors will come from United States, Europe, Japan and Australia.
- A possible environmental catastrophe in ocean waters due to offshore mining is concluded among fisherfolk organizations and environmental groups.

III. Reports of Workshop Groups

Introduction:

The Philippine consultation on UN-FAO VG-SFF in the Philippines held on January 27-31, 2012 was attended by 56 fisherfolk leaders, environmental NGOs and advocates. About 38 of them are men and 19 are women leaders and coordinators of fisherfolk and advocacy groups in Philippine fisheries.

The participants came from the following provinces and regions: Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon and Palawan in Southern Tagalog Region; Bulacan, Bataan, Zambales and Aurora provinces in Central Luzon region, La Union and Ilocos Sur in Ilocos Region, Cagayan in Cagayan Valley region, Navotas City in National Capital Region, Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate in Bicol Region, all in Luzon Island.

From the Visayas, participants came from the province of Leyte and Northern Samar (Eastern Visayas), Cebu and Bohol (in Central Visayas) and from Iloilo and Capiz provinces in Panay Island.

The lone representative of Mindanao Island came from Northern Mindanao Region who represents the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Cagayan de

Oro and other fishing communities in Caraga region.

WORKSHOP RESULTS ON FGD Topic No.1

Topic: Small Scale Fisheries in Grassroots Context

Workshop Group No. 1

Participants:

1. **Richard Cuyos (Cebu)**
2. **Ricardo dela Cruz (Bulacan)**
3. **Elmer Dayson (Aurora)—rapporteur**
4. **Roman Antazo (Rizal)- reporter**
5. **Armando Pajalla (Rizal)**
6. **Eladio Reyes Jr. (Rizal)**
7. **Elvira delos Reyes (Rizal)**
8. **Luzviminda Medea (Rizal)**
9. **Rebecca Vargas (Rizal)**
10. **Sharon Benitez (Rizal)**
11. **Girlie Pagoy (Cebu)**
12. **Bienvenido Pedrano (Capiz)**

13. **Cynthia Deduro (Iloilo)**
14. **Gerry Albert Corpuz (Bohol)- documenter and rapporteur**
15. **Sweetheart Milagrosa (Leyte)**
16. **Franklin Roosevelt Dimaguiba (Leyte)**
17. **Handog Malaya Vera (Bohol)**

The 17 members of the Focus Group Discussion No.1 on Topic No.1 “***Small-Scale Fisheries in their Context***” discussed and agreed among themselves their definition of small-scale fisheries.

Highlights of the report:

1. Small-scale fisheries represent the most backward element in the Philippine fisheries sector. The system of production is small-scale, scattered and very backward. The fishing gears used by sector in small-scale fisheries are extremely backward and the level of technology is still way below compared to that use by fishing operators in the commercial and aquaculture subsectors.
2. Commercial fishing and aquaculture operators in the country employ relatively advance fishing gears and technologies. Aside from enjoying such advantage, the capital in fishing industry is also concentrated to them and they use this position to monopolize fish catch and fish culture activities in marine and inland fisheries since time immemorial.

The national government and support institutions in the country also provide fishing capitalists the necessary support in terms of budgetary support, fuel discounts and tax holidays to encourage them further to produce more for export rather address the domestic needs of the people. Between, the commercial and aquaculture sector, the latter is focused on exportation of fishery products, while the domestic market still commands most of the fishery products produced by commercial fishery sector.

3. The 1.3 million small fisherfolk employed or engaged in small-scale fisheries are now considered the poorest of the poor in the country. Daily income is pegged between Php 50 to Php 150 due to a number of factors—1. Small catch due to proliferation of commercial fishing vessels inside the 15-kilometer municipal fishing ground which is supposed to be reserved to small-scale fishermen. 2). The exploitation of municipal fishing areas by large-scale, medium-scale and small-scale commercial fishing to the detriment of small-scale fisherfolk. 3). The overpricing of fishing gears and inputs, the high cost of petroleum products. 4). The under pricing of fish products by middle men and fish traders.
4. Nearly 100 percent of the produce of small-scale fisheries is intended for domestic consumption, and therefore, a main source of food and protein of more than 100 million Filipinos all over the country.
5. As for job generation is concerned, 70 percent of the population in a fishing village is directly or indirectly dependent on backward fishing industry.
6. Other problems confronting small-scale fisheries include the unbridled entry of commercial fishing vessels inside the 15-kilometer municipal fishing water, the diminishing fishing area mainly because fish bans, fishing demarcations or ordinances that effectively prohibit fishing due to so-called overfishing and overexploitation of fishery resources.
7. Small-scale fisherfolk also complained against municipal ordinances that effectively ban fishing and on the other hand allow local government units to set up fish sanctuaries not really for preservation and resource regeneration but to attract foreign tourists and private beach developers.
8. People in small-scale fisheries are victims of non- people centered development projects of the national and local governments and their private partners. In Iloilo province for instance, the Philippine government will wipe out 10,000 fishing families and urban poor households along Iloilo River to give way to an eco-tourism project known as Esplanade.

Other development projects which participants in Workshop Group 1 said are threats to their livelihood and community rights include the economic zone project in Aurora

(more than 5,000 families of indigenous people, fisherfolk and farmers will be displaced to give way to ecozone and free port area), the reclamation project in Cordova, Cebu and the 107 black sand mining in the offshore waters of Eastern Visayas.

9. Fisherfolk and NGO participants said while the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the rights of the fishing people to livelihood, and their basic human rights and community rights, pertinent laws and local legislations in Philippine fisheries that are supposed to carry out these recognized rights are not working nor effective in upholding these rights.

Among the laws cited which they said merely favor the interest of fishing capitalists in local fisheries are the 1998 Fisheries Code of 1998 and the Agricultural and Fisheries and Modernization Act (AFMA) which they said are designed to accommodate and follow transnational and corporate interest and greed under neo-liberal globalization and framework of World Trade Organization (WTO) effectively controlled by power fish producing and fish exporting countries.

Workshop Group No. 2

Participants:

1. **Owen Migraso (Cebu)- documenter**

2. **Virgie Rianzares (Laguna)- reporter**
3. **Salvador France (Sorsogon)- rapporteur**
4. **Isabelo Alicaya (Batangas)- rapporteur**
5. **Marisol Minamera (Rizal)**
6. **Rufina Benavidez (Rizal)**
7. **Tomas Agulot (Palawan)**
8. **Rossana Moranda (Rizal)**
9. **Ronnel Arambulo (Rizal)**
10. **Romulo Pangilinan (Bulacan)**
11. **Annabelle Narvasa (La Union)**
12. **Faith Padolina (Quezon City, NCR)**
13. **Marx Segundo (Quezon city, NCR)**
14. **Manay Ambi Soriano (Cavite)**
15. **Pedrito Reyes (Cavite)**
16. **Perlita Romano (Cavite)**
17. **Manny Pescoso (Cavite)**
18. **Joe Marie Santos (Cagayan)**

Highlights of the Report

1. Small-scale fisheries in the Philippines are represented by poor fisherfolk who use motorized banca powered with 16 horse power and below. However, many of them still use paddle or offer their service to small-boat owning fisherman for a part or fraction of net proceeds

2. Even if the 15-kilometer municipal fishing water is reserved to them for fishing, people employed or sourced their income from small-scale fishery cannot even reach the 15-kilometer limit because their boats and gears are extremely backward and the fuel cost eats up 80 percent of production cost.
3. Small-scale fisheries in the Philippines also indicate the massive and extensive use of traditional fishing gears, and low cost techniques and methods such as hook and line fishing, net fishing from small boat, the use of fish traps, shell gathering and fish catching through bare hands.
4. Participants argued that these kinds of fishing methods are not destructive, pro-environment, and therefore should not be misconstrued as destructive fishing employed by commercial fisheries.
5. Seasonal fish workers are also included in small-scale fisheries sector whether they are in commercial fishing or aquaculture production. They stressed that these section of the working people in fisheries receive slave-like wages from their seasonal employers ranging from P 80 per day to P 200 per day which is way below the P 350 per day wage set by the country's regional wage boards in rural areas and P 430 per day for non-agricultural workers in towns and cities.
6. In Laguna Lake, small-scale fishermen cannot pay the required fees set by Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and such exorbitant permit fees imposed to poor fishermen who want culture fish inside the 94,000 hectare lake either disallow them from setting up fish cages and small fishpens nor force them to set up small cages and pens without informing the local authority. When the LLDA talks about illegal fishing in the lake, it is referring to small fishermen who cannot afford franchise or license fees amounting to tens of thousands of pesos.

At present, almost 20 percent (some say it's 30 percent) of the 94,000 hectare lake are occupied by domestic and foreign aquaculture associations for fish culture production, while the LLDA on year round and perpetual basis tags small-scale fishermen as illegal fishers and objects of institutional witch hunting.

7. A small-fisherfolk usually spends 7 hours to 12 hours per fishing trip. He is accompanied by his son and most of the time they return either with five kilos of catch or empty net at all. The wife takes charge of selling his husband and his son's catch.
8. Majority of the small-fisherfolk and their families do not own lands in the Philippines. Even if they are in fishing communities and live in villages for generations, there is no assurance that they will stay there and their community rights secured. The current trend of lump-sum privatization and conversion of fishing grounds and villages for development projects have been displacing small fisher families at an alarming rate since the era of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.
9. Participants said a robust increase in the production of small-scale fisheries can transform an ordinary fishing village into a highly productive and progressive town or city. They said improved fish catch can accelerate growth and progress, mobilize and activate local fish markets, mobilize transportation means to the fullest and promote exchange and sharing of products and services.
10. Participants said current development undertakings of the Philippine government under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program are fast becoming a major threat to small fishing communities. They said the privatization, commercialization and conversion of fishing villages in coastal and inland areas are displacing people in communities in their tens of thousands as showcased by Laguna Lake master development plan project where 82,000 households are to be demolished to pave way for private-funded projects.
11. Among the recommendations of the group for policy advocacy campaign include an immediate halt to all destructive projects along coastal shores and inland shore lands like reclamation, offshore and on shore mining, the provision for production subsidies to small-scale fisheries, quick relief operations in times of disaster, capacity building on climate change and effective disaster response and promotion of mangrove reforestation in threatened fishing communities as part of the general program on rehabilitation.

Working break for UN-FAO VG-SSF participants

Workshop Group No. 3

Participants:

1. **Fernando Hicap (Bohol)- Rapporteur**
2. **Anya Mendoza (Quezon City)- Rapporteur**
3. **Napoleon Escuyos (Rizal)- reporter**
4. **Victor Lapaz (Cebu)**
5. **Darwin Abella (Masbate)**
6. **Richard Collao (Northern Mindanao Region)**
7. **Pelagio Lacas (Bulacan)**
8. **Jose Latina (Rizal)**
9. **Ruben Almodiel (Rizal)**
10. **Arturo Benavidez (Rizal)**
11. **Avelino Dacanay (La Union)**
12. **Pedro Gonzalez (Quezon)**
13. **Rodolfo Sambajon (Bataan)**
14. **Teresita Niba (Rizal)**
15. **Joseph Canlas (Zambales)**
16. **Bert Autor (Albay)**

17. **Billy Javier Reyes (Northern Samar)**

18. **Jon Davila (Sorsogon)**

Highlights of the Report

1. Small-scale fisheries constitute traditional and subsistence fishermen, wage-earning and seasonal fish workers in commercial and aquaculture sectors, fish vendors, boatless fishers and helpers in aquaculture
2. Small fishermen in the country still employ backward fishing methods mostly hook and line, and motorized bancas are powered by 16 horsepower engines or below. They can't go beyond 15 kilometer because of low technology in fishing
3. Due to chronic economic crisis and the failure of economy to boost productivity and increase income among poor fisherfolk, small-scale fishery people are forced to look for other jobs. Fisherfolk also look for menial jobs and engage in construction work, fisherwomen look out for laundry job for additional income.
4. Small scale fisherfolk have no capital to invest and procure additional gears. They use to source loan from merchant capitalists and in return pay 20 percent interest for the loan.
5. Workshop participants insist the national government should provide comprehensive support and protection to small scale fisheries as the following compelling reasons so assert:
 - Most of small-scale fishery folks are located in danger zone areas
 - Small-scale fishery production provide 80 percent of the protein need of the immediate communities, and roughly 50 percent of the produce in fish catch production, the other 50 percent come from commercial fishery sectors

- Communities and villages of small-scale fisheries are highly vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters and even by state development projects causing wholesale demolitions of fishing villages
- Small-scale fisherfolk are battered by high cost of gears and equipment, including weekly increases in the prices of petroleum products
- Decreasing catch and therefore decreasing income, from a high of 10 kilos 10 years ago, the average fish catch among small-scale fishery now pegged between 2 kilos to 5 kilos of fish a day
- Overpricing of inputs and underpricing of fish catch
- Laws, programs and policies of the state are not responsive to the demand and collective interest of small-scale fisheries
- Other current threats to small-scale fisheries include globalization and free flow of goods and capital, bilateral arrangements like Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa)
- Instead of reclamation, participants suggest the government to undertake massive mangrove forestation
- Threats of large-scale mining operations, unhampered and government sanctioned intrusion of commercial fishing vessels
- Non-recognition of fishers rights by the national and local governments and their agencies
- Widespread conversion of mangrove areas to large-scale aquaculture
- Militarization or government troops deployment in fishing villages that sow terror and violations of human rights and political rights among members of coastal and inland communities.

WORKSHOP RESULTS ON FGD TOPIC NO.2

Topic: “How small-scale fisheries would ensure their recommendations and proposals would be carried out in the UN-FAO and in their own country?”

Workshop Group No. 1

Participants:

1. **Isabelo Alicaya (Batangas)**
2. **Fernando Hicap (Bohol)- Rapporteur**
3. **Roman Antazo (Rizal) –**
4. **Romulo Pangilinan (Bulacan)**
5. **Ricardo dela Cruz (Bulacan)**
6. **Richard Cuyos (Cebu)**
7. **Rebecca Vargas (Rizal)**
8. **Owen Migraso (Cebu) -documenter**
9. **Rufina Benavidez (Rizal)**
10. **Bienvenido Pedrano (Capiz)**
11. **Ariel Jaramilla (Rizal)**
12. **Annabel Narvasa (La Union)**
13. **Elvira delos Reyes (Rizal)**
14. **Joseph Canlas (Zambales)**
15. **Joe Marie Santos (Cagayan)**
16. **Billy Guerrero (Northern Samar)- Rapporteur**
17. **Manay Ambi Soriano (Cavite)**
18. **Rodolfo Sambajon (Bataan)**

Highlights of the Report:

1. **The UN-FAO should first be convinced and declared that small-scale fisheries should be prioritized in all levels of policy, laws and governance**
2. **The UN-FAO should also recognize that majority of the workforce in Philippine fisheries are small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisherfolk and therefore, should be given the highest priority and utmost concern for institutional building**
3. **The UN-FAO should also recognize the significant role and socio-economic and political rights of 1.3 million small-scale fisheries in the development of Philippine agriculture and fisheries. The UN body should likewise recognize and respect the indigenous ways and collective culture of small fisherfolk and their principal role in protecting the environment and in nation building**
4. **The UN –FAO should recognize the need to invest global resources and political wisdom through launching of capacity building programs that would enhance the education, organizing and mobilization of small-scale fisheries to secure sustainability and global, regional and national progress in fisheries across the world.**
5. **The UN-FAO should influence states and governments to draft policies that would halt all development aggressions, privatization, commercialization and conversion of coastal and inland communities. These current trends are displacing small-scale fisheries in their tens of thousands.**
6. **The UN-FAO should encourage states and governments to put to review or possible repeal existing policy directions, laws and programs in fisheries which effected negative impacts and adverse affects to rights and livelihood of small-scale fisheries**
7. **The UN-FAO VG-SSF will be rendered ineffective if states and governments will continue to implement their laws, programs and policies detrimental and inimical to small-scale fisheries**
8. **The UN-FAO should encourage states and governments to give appropriate representations to small-scale fisheries in the drafting, decision making and promulgation of policies and programs in fisheries at international, regional, national and local levels.**
9. **The UN-FAO should facilitate conferences and meetings that would convene civil society actors in different parts of the world for global meeting of minds pertaining to securing sustainability of small-scale fisheries and upholding basic human rights**

10. **To effectively address these concerns (1-9), the UN-FAO should carry out institutional support for different capacity building programs involving education, organizing and mass mobilization of small-scale fisheries for effective advocacy.**

In concrete terms, the UN-FAO should pursue massive education campaign on different international laws and instruments relevant and pertinent to small-scale fisheries like the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), ILO convention on the rights of fish workers, the UN declaration on human rights, the UN convention on the socio-economic and political rights and the likes.

The UN-FAO should also support the lobbying efforts of SSF in their respective countries (Philippine Congress, Office of the President, concerned government agencies like departments of agrarian reform, agriculture, environment and natural resources) to make sure the VG-SSF is being considered in formulations of policies, programs, laws and agreements.

11. **The UN-FAO should make use of its point persons/ special rapporteurs to conduct yearly or periodic evaluation and performance of states and governments as far as VG-SSF is concerned, including special rapporteur investigations on issues pertaining to food rights and water rights**

Workshop Group 2 on Topic No.2

Participants:

1. **Cynthia Deduro (Iloilo)**
2. **Ronel Arambulo (Rizal)**
3. **Eladio Reyes Jr. (Rizal)**
4. **Ruben Almodiel (Rizal)**
5. **Pelagio Lacas (Rizal)**
6. **Darwin Abella (Masbate)**
7. **Napoleon Escuyos (Rizal)**
8. **Richard Collao (Northern Mindanao Region)**
9. **Rossana Moranda - Rizal**
10. **Teresita Niba-Rizal**
11. **Victor Lapaz- Cebu – reporter**
12. **Handog Malaya Vera (Bohol)- rapporteur**
13. **Franklin Roosevelt Dimaguiba- rapporteur**
14. **Perlita Romano (Cavite)**
15. **Faith Padolina- Quezon City**
16. **Marx Segundo- Quezon City**
17. **Manny Pescoso- Cavite**
18. **Aldwyn Castro- Navotas City, NCR**

Highlights of the Report:

1. Workshop participants in this group asked the UN-FAO to facilitate the drafting and approval of UN convention for small-scale fisheries and make sure this convention would be binding enough to demand accountability from erring governments and states.

Participants argued that while there are UN instruments which can be used to guide and encourage states as to settle territorial claims and disputes like UNCLOS and Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, these instruments are not sufficient to ensure securing rights of small-scale fisheries.

2. Participants recommend the formation of a committee or body within UN-FAO that will directly focus on and attend to the pressing concerns and issues of small-scale fisheries at the global scale.
3. Participants also asked UN-FAO to establish country committee or commission NGOs or fishery experts that would monitor the conduct of fishery policies per country.
4. Participants in this workshop also recommend UN-FAO to encourage governments or states to put under review all laws governing territorial claims, fisheries and resource management and make these laws responsive to the growing concern of SSF.
5. UN-FAO should strengthen the proposed guidelines by incorporating pertinent instruments, conventions and protocol that would promote fishing rights as primordial concern of every government or state and its officials.
6. UN-FAO should put up mechanisms or machineries that would ensure governments and states and civil society actors are obliged to support effort in combating climate change and in promoting risk disaster reduction campaign to help vulnerable sectors like SSF cope with extreme change or disturbances in weather conditions and in times of natural calamities

7. **UN-FAO should influence policy making in every state to make sure policies pertaining to fishing livelihood, climate change and water environment are thoroughly considered in formulation of development policies, thrusts and directions.**
8. **UN-FAO should support legal and para-legal programs in support of SSF. In developing countries like the Philippines, legal and para-legal services are not within reach by small-scale fishers because they don't have the money to pay for legal services. Participants suggest UN-FAO to instruct member-states and nations to ensure adequate legal support to small-scale fisherfolk.**

WORKSHOP GROUP NO. 3 ON TOPIC NO.2

Participants

1. **Elmer Dayson (Aurora)- reporter**
2. **Arturo Benavidez (Rizal)**
3. **Armando Pajalla (Rizal)**
4. **Tomas Agulot (Palawan)**
5. **Bert Autor (Albay)**
6. **Sharon Benitez (Rizal)**
7. **Marisol Minamera (Rizal)**

8. **Girlie Pagoy (Cebu)**
9. **Romeo Cerafica (Rizal)**
10. **Pedro Gonzalez (Quezon)**
11. **Virgie Rianzares (Laguna)**
12. **Salvador France (Sorsogon)**
13. **Billy Guerrero (Northern Samar) –rapporteur**
14. **Jon Davila –rapporteur**
15. **Sweetheart Milagrosa (Leyte)**
16. **Jose Latina (Rizal)**
17. **Gerry Albert Corpuz (Bohol)- rapporteur**
18. **Avelino Dacanay (Ilocos Sur)**

HIGHLIGHTS of the REPORT

1. **UN-FAO should support initiatives of small-scale fisherfolk organizations and NGOs for capacity building programs which include regular and periodic inputs of leaders and leading actors of SSF and civil society movements**
2. **Massive information dissemination campaign on the current thrust of UN-FAO and COFI at the grassroots level**
3. **Support to organizing of small fishermen into associations and cooperatives**
4. **Information technology development, utilization of third media such as internet for propagation of UN-FAO voluntary guidelines for small-scale fisheries**
5. **At all levels, SSF organizations and advocates should reach out other groups for effective**

advocacy

6. **UN-FAO should encourage states and governments to listen more to grassroots organizations instead of giving more time and emphasis to corporate voices and agenda**

South African consultative workshop International SSF Guidelines.

THE SCOPE OF THE CONSULTATION

This consultation was attended by members of small-scale fishing communities coming from all four coastal provinces. Community based aquaculture projects and in-land fishing are either non-existent or insignificant hence they were not represented. But also present were researchers, members from para-statal and environmental stakeholders.

PREAMBLE

We live with and from the sea. Our lives are directly connected to its power to produce life, and to take life. We have experience of the range of relationships between people and the sea, from a spiritual respect and gratitude, to greed and destructive exploitation. We have experience of those with power marginalising our way of life, excluding our communities, limiting our access to the harvest, and severely undermining our ability to grow. We claim our rights in full knowledge that the sea is a vital life sustaining eco-system and that its need to thrive is paramount.

WHO ARE WE

We are indigenous fishers who for generations have fished as a central part of our livelihood along the coast of South Africa. We are descendants of a tradition of fishing and remain connected to its customs, methods and the spirituality that links our destiny to the quality of life in the sea. We fish firstly to feed our families and communities and then to achieve a quality of life that ensures dignity and provides opportunities for our children to be educated, to progress and to have choices about their future contributions to society.

We are as diverse in our practices as the parts of the coastline we come from. We have been shaped by where we fish and what we fish for. We have been affected by the development, or lack thereof, that has taken place around us. Some of us live in deeply isolated parts of the country. We compete with wealthy holiday makers and recreational fishers drawn to the unspoilt beauty of the places we have inherited from our ancestors. Others of us compete with the large and powerful commercial fishing industry and with mining, as its focus increasingly moves to the sea and seashore.

WHAT WE ARE STRIVING FOR

We envision vibrant coastal communities in which we live with dignity, where our children are developing to the fullness of their potential, and our lifestyles are in keeping with what can be sustained by our efforts and the eco systems we draw on.

We are demanding that our inalienable customary rights of access to our fishing grounds and resources are protected. We are fighting for a prioritised place for small scale fishing. We are striving to organise ourselves in ways that promote our development as people and as communities benefitting from our rightful and equitable share of what we contribute. We are demanding that our knowledge, culture, traditions and practices are recognised and supported. We are insisting that our ecological understanding and sustainable practices be included in the research that informs the management of the resource. We are determined to participate actively in co-management of the resource with other relevant authorities. We are committed to

continue learning and sharing skills towards becoming more effective in adaptive co-management of a sustainable resource.

The rich social fabric of our communities and families is breaking down. Our children are at risk of becoming disaffected, too hungry to succeed at school, increasingly lured into drugs and anti-social behaviour. We are promoting small-scale fishing as an ecologically sustainable way of harvesting from the sea. And as importantly, as an effective way of us maximising the potential of our own communities that have a wealth of expertise to give but often live in abject poverty as a result of their exclusion from the dominant economic arrangements.

We are fighting against the constant threat of the power of big business and the authority of the state coming together to relegate our livelihood to the criminal status of poaching. We are fighting for a system where the sea and its bountiful natural resources are cared for and sustainably used.

RESOLVING OUR DILEMMA

We are struggling to find our place and our way between two worlds. We carry in us the knowledge, experience and memories of vibrant and sustainable communities. We are still linked to a world of relationships between people, and between people and the sea that was based on values of cooperation and interdependence. But we are conscious that even in ourselves this world is fast fading. Our aspirations and those of our children have also been shaped by a world of technical progress and competition. We are vulnerable to the greed that results from its excess.

In this world the temptation to use whatever opportunity and advantage you have to extract and benefit as much as you can is compelling. Our will to live dignified lives is strong and we are determined that our children will achieve their fullest potential. We are frustrated and often angry. But our tradition keeps alive in us a sense that we must find new ways of building and using our power. We have seen how all too often power is used in ways that exploit and undermine the potential of women and men, of communities and of eco-systems.

To resolve our dilemma we need help to organise ourselves in new ways to co-manage the resources on which we depend. As our communities and fisheries are increasingly impoverished we are returning to the principles of cooperation and interdependence to guide us in all that we do.

FOCUS AREAS FOR SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHING

1. Access to and distribution of the resource.

When regarded as individual small-scale fishers we are powerless to negotiate an equitable share against larger commercial and political interests. For this reason we are promoting communities as collective small-scale fishing rights holders. We will continue to mobilise and organise ourselves at community level and also nationally to build and consolidate our power base.

We need the authority of the state to protect and ensure the inalienable right of small-scale fisher communities' access to marine resources. We need support in our efforts

to regain rights that have been lost. In claiming our rights as small-scale fishers we are asserting our related basic human rights such as the right to dignity, to freedom of occupation, to education, and to health care.

In addition to guaranteed access we are calling for the re-distribution of the rights allocated to harvest marine resources. We are fully aware of the limited nature of the stocks and the fact that access, too, must inevitably be limited. We are however equally aware of how inequitably the right to harvest from the resource has been distributed. Access to and the redistribution of marine resources alone will not be a sufficient basis for the future development of our communities. More equitable distribution is also critical in the areas of land rights and provision of infrastructure for small-scale fishers.

2. Participation in the management of the resource.

Within our own communities and organisations we are committed to changing the power dynamics and roles between women and men towards full inclusion, equity and participation in all aspects of small-scale fishing. We have made some progress but recognise that in practice there is still a long way to go.

We have been organising ourselves at community level for many years now. Our organisation is progressing well in linking organised small-scale fishing communities nationally along the full length of our coast. We have worked hard at sharing our experience to shape a national policy for small scale fishing in South Africa. It is about to become law. We are preparing ourselves to be centrally and actively involved in the implementation of this policy.

We are building and strengthening our organisations towards being skilled in co-management. We have experienced failed attempts to manage and control our livelihoods from distant centralised authorities. We are proposing an alternative approach where small-scale fishing matters are dealt with at the smallest, lowest and most local level of authority where appropriate and sufficient knowledge and competence exists¹ or can be cultivated.

We have learned through the work we have done in building our organisations that this takes a skilled and concerted effort over many years and needs financial and human resources that are very difficult to secure. We must identify the skills and competencies we need and find good providers of training and capacity building.

We know that being effective in co-management requires changed relationships with a range of stakeholders, in particular with government. In addition to various departments and spheres of government we need to actively engage with research institutions, and other parties with vested interests and functions. There is a lot of work to be done in preparing the different role players for the challenge of effective co-management. Having recognised our need to develop new skills and capacities in our own organisations we know that the same applies for those we need to collaborate and share responsibility with. The dominant organisational relationships in our society are characterised by hierarchical structures of power

¹ The organising principle of subsidiarity.

and authority. None of us are used to sharing responsibility and will need to commit to learn together to organise ourselves around the principles of cooperation and interdependence. Officials and researchers need to be educated too.

We are determined to transform Marine Protected Areas regulated and managed only by the authorities to co-managed Community Protected Areas (from MPAs to CPAs). Together we must face the challenge of enforcing regulations and addressing the underlying causes that result in fishers not abiding by them. Local knowledge must be included in designing and informing research.

3. Harvesting from the resource

Pre-harvest.

In order to maximise the value of our fishing rights to our communities we require infrastructure that we are unable to provide ourselves. The requirements vary from community to community but include access roads, safe launching sites, and access to capital to acquire safe equipment, and provisions for safety at sea.

Post-harvest.

We who do the fishing and risk the dangers of the sea benefit least from our labours. After generations we remain poor while those we deliver our catches to, prosper. We experience being looked down upon as the lowest even in the communities we live in. We refuse to be exploited. We must benefit from more of the value of our catches by engaging in more of the post harvest processing and selling (see more under value chain integration)

The need for infrastructure continues after harvesting. Again needs vary but often include landing sites with facilities to process the catch, water and shade, holding and drying facilities, and amenities that facilitate the participation of women such as child care and toilets.

When we sell our catches outside our communities it is important that our produce is labelled in ways that trace where it comes from and informs buyers about the sustainable small-scale practices and lifestyle by which they have been harvested. It is important that such labelling is voluntary and assists in actively promoting the societal benefits of small-scale fishing and does not only react to market needs and preferences.

4. Value chain development

For our communities and families to progress we need to integrate further into the fishing value chain and to diversify our livelihoods. This needs to start with the promotion and support of the sale of our catches into our own communities and the surrounding economy. When selling beyond our own community we must develop the skills and access the financial resources to set up our own holding and processing facilities and mechanisms through which to sell our produce. By adding more value to our produce before selling it we will be creating much needed employment in our communities and opportunity for advancement.

As a limited number of people living in our communities can make a living from the sea we have to diversify our livelihoods. This can be achieved by realising our children's right to education so that they can move into other occupations. With our knowledge and experience some of us will have a competitive advantage when diversifying into fields linked to the sea and the communities we have grown up in. If promoted and supported there are opportunities for job creation in the tourism, hospitality, and aquaculture industries to name a few examples.

As members of historically impoverished communities we are particularly disadvantaged in our ability to access capital to fund future development. We are starting to explore possibility of a specialised marine bank that would have a particular focus on and expertise in this field.

5. Human and community development.

Our communities always seem to end up sucking the hind teat when it comes to the distribution of societal resources and services. Through our organisations community leaders are bringing together those who remain determined to address these challenges. Much remedial work needs to be done to realise our dignity and potential.

Access to quality education is central to turning our situation around. This need starts with provision of early childhood development facilities and continues through to the level of access to affordable tertiary education. Fields of study that equip our children to develop profitable occupations in our particular circumstances are crucial.

We need remedial programmes to address a range of urgent social problems including out of school youth, substance abuse, dysfunctional parenting, and physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

Community based organisations like our own, that focus on different areas of community need, must to be supported. We have to organise ourselves to take responsibility for our situation while simultaneously demanding our rights. We have learned how difficult this is and how we ourselves can so easily slip into being a part of the problem. We realise that to achieve what is in our best long-term interests we must learn many new skills. We have learned through the work we have done in building our organisations that this takes a skilful and concerted effort over many years and needs financial and human resources that are very difficult to secure.

CLOSING

We live in a country with one of the greatest gaps between the rich and the poor in the world. We are a part of a world that extracts wealth in ways that threaten the human and eco-systems that sustain life. We share in the need to let go of old ways to learn new ways of being. We seek to collaborate. We offer generations of local knowledge of living off the sea and our experience of living on very little. We demand to be included equitably in the allocation of resources and access to opportunity.

REPORT

of

The South African

National Consultative Workshop for Small-Scale Fisheries:

Towards FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries

Organised by

Masifundise Development Trust

14th - 16th February 2012

Cape Town, South Africa

Programme facilitated and report compiled by:

James Taylor – CDRA

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
The Workshop Objectives.....	4
Workshop Approach.....	4
The workshop process.....	5

Workshop outputs and outcomes.....	8
FINANCES.....	9
Appendix I: FINANCIAL REPORT.....	10
APPENDIX II: List of participants.....	11
Appendix III: Workshop programme.....	14

Introduction

The South African National Consultative Workshop was planned as part of insuring that civil society perspectives from around the world are available to be taken into consideration when crafting the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF). The workshop was held from the 14th to 16th February 2012 in the Ritz Hotel in Sea Point, Cape Town. The consultation was attended by 48 members of small-scale fishing communities coming from all four coastal provinces. Community based aquaculture projects and in-land fishing is either non-existent or insignificant and as a result were not represented. Researchers, members from parastatal organisations and environmental stakeholders also attended the workshop.

(A full list of participants is available as *Appendix II*.)

The workshop was organised and hosted by Masifundise Development Trust who has a long record of supporting and organizing small-scale fisher communities. While all participants fish in coastal waters and estuaries, the fishers who came together are involved in a diverse and wide range of fishing livelihoods. They range from small-scale commercial to traditional subsistence fishing. Some of the participants had previously engaged with many of the issues discussed and some have been involved in advocating for and shaping a national policy on small-scale fisheries in South Africa. The workshop however also provided an opportunity to bring representatives of some far flung communities into conversation with each other for the first time.

While focusing on the primary purpose of the workshop a secondary function of strengthening relationships between established and fledgling small-scale fisher organisations was an added benefit.

The Workshop Objectives

Overall Objective of the workshop:

To obtain contributions from small-scale fishers, as part of the international civil society initiative, in developing the proposed FAO international on SSF using a human rights based approach.

Ancillary Objectives:

1. To provide the opportunity for representatives of small-scale fisher organisations to share experience, learn from each other, arrive at commonly held conclusions and positions, thus strengthening their voice.
2. To identify common needs and issues of common concern and interest.
3. To learn more about the national and international SSF context.
4. For small-scale fishers to inform and learn from other stakeholders such as researchers, environmentalist and members of parastatal organisations.

Workshop Approach

A highly participatory process was adopted. Care was taken to make time and create opportunities for all participants to get to know more of each other and the realities and circumstances that their communities face. As the participants come from parts of the country where different languages are spoken the process was conducted in different languages and time was made to translate and interpret.

Information was provided by means of an information pack with documents translated into different languages. Further background information was provided by means of speakers doing presentations with opportunity for questions and further exploration. The consultation took place by means of facilitated small group discussion guided by broad questions. The small groups then presented their conclusion to the plenary using a variety of creative means of distilling, capturing, and conveying the outcomes of rich conversations. Further exploration and distillation of themes was conducted in the plenary sessions.

The design of the workshop helped the participants create textured accounts (or pictures) of the past, the present, and ideal future realities of different communities. These pictures were then engaged in depth to find the underlying themes that were common to the diverse experience of participants.

Group discussions

The ultimate themes and conclusions that emerged were not dictated by presenting a framework of major themes and issues. The themes emerged from the collective grand narrative that was built from the individual stories drawn from the lived experiences of the participants.

The process sought to draw not only on the rational and analytical but also on the emotional and intuitive. To create a picture of a preferred future imagination and creativity was also called upon.

The workshop process

Essential design elements of the process:

The design of the process was shaped to achieve the following functions:

- Building relationship and getting to know more about each other and the communities represented.
- Creating an environment of safety, trust and creative and purposeful engagement.
- Providing and processing information critical to the purpose of the consultation process.
- Reflecting on, consolidating, and communicating the richness and meaning of the lived experience and knowledge of participants relevant to the purpose of the consultation.
- Exploring and clarifying to the point of understanding each other's perspectives.
- Distilling common themes and conclusions.
- Getting feedback on preliminary conclusions.
- Building common cause and intention.

The flow of the workshop process:

The areas of focus on day one revolved around getting to know each other and the realities and characteristics of the communities represented. The presentation of the essential background information required to give focus to the consultation. Towards the end of the day the participants started processing the implications of the voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries.

Putting thoughts to paper

Day two started with the sharing of overnight homework exploring who small-scale fishers are. Who is in and who is out? The rest of the day was spent on the business of consultation. This was facilitated by building pictures of the present reality, projecting into preferred futures and then identifying what needs to take place to get from the present situation to a situation that would be acceptable. Towards the end of the day themes and conclusions were distilled in preparation for sharing with additional stakeholders who attended the final morning. A part of the final distillation included identifying what individual fishers, fisher organisations and their leaders need to do to take responsibility for achieving the desired progress. Alongside this the responsibility of government was also identified.

Visioning

Overnight the facilitator wrote up in rough draft the conclusions of the consultation and presented them near the beginning of the third and final morning. This along with further information on the well-being of fishers in South Africa and was engaged with by the additional stakeholders who attended the final morning. They provided input and feedback. The workshop ended with agreeing on next steps.

The flow of the workshop was assisted by ice- breakers, solidarity singing, the occasional prayer and many very humorous stories.

The content of the consultation was conveyed in a variety of creative ways. Stories were told, creative images of the future were drawn in great detail, and scenes were dramatically enacted (through role play) depicting much of the detail of the experiences of small-scale fishers. At various points in the process, but particularly towards the end, emotions reflected frustration and anger and these were shared through calls to mobilise to action.

(For more detailed programme see *Appendix III*)

Workshop outputs and outcomes

The results of the workshop exist at three levels.

- 1) A statement to be fed into the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries process (see separate document).

-
- 2) The beginnings of a strategy to engage the South African Government around presenting the perspective of small-scale fishers articulated in the statement. And also around issues of implementing the national small-scale fisheries policy that is about to be enacted.
 - 3) A heightened awareness and openness to discuss and explore some of the complex and difficult responsibilities of the small-scale fishers themselves and their organisations. The most difficult of these issues revolve around holding members, and occasionally even leaders, accountable when transgressing regulations and agreements.

The dominant themes that emerged include.

- 1) The infringement of the human rights of small-scale fishers and the need to organise and campaign around the achievement of justice. The injustice occurs in many forms and at many levels the most extreme being the shooting and killing of traditional fishers as poachers.
- 2) The particular diminished role of women with recognition of small gains made in consciousness and the enormity of the work ahead to achieve equity.
- 3) The need to organise nationally and take ownership at community level towards co-responsibility for and to co-management of the resource and the regulation thereof.
- 4) The practical consequences of economic exclusion and impoverishment on the prospects of children and the quality of community life.

(These themes are expanded upon in the separate Statement document.)

Finances

The cost of the workshop was covered through costs from IPC to Masifundise and an additional amount came from within the Masifundise programme.

Financial report – *Annexure I* is attached.

Appendix 1

Appendix II: List of participants