

Implementation of the SSF Guidelines: FAO-ICSF Project

Secretariat

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

IYAFA 2022 Small-scale Fisheries Summit

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SSF Guidelines

- A negotiated instrument endorsed by FAO in 2014 to:
- Enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to global food security and nutrition, and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food;
- Contribute to the equitable development of small-scale fishing communities and poverty eradication and to improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fishworkers;
- Achieve the sustainable utilization, prudent and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources complementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

SSF Guidelines

- Promote the contribution of small-scale fisheries to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet and its people;
- Provide guidance for the development and implementation of ecosystem-friendly and participatory policies, strategies and legal frameworks for the enhancement of responsible and sustainable small-scale fisheries; and
- Enhance public awareness and promote the advancement of knowledge on the culture, role, contribution and potential of small-scale fisheries.
- The above objectives to be achieved through the promotion of a human-rights-based approach by empowering small-scale fishing communities to participate in decision-making processes and placing emphasis on the needs of developing countries and for the benefit of vulnerable and marginalized groups

Countries in the FAO-ICSF Project

- Africa
- Ghana, in cooperation with Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD)
- Nigeria: State University of Lagos (SUL)
- South Asia
- India: ICSF Trust
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Forum for Small-scale Fisheries (SLFSSF)
- Southeast Asia
- Indonesia: Koalisi Rakyat Untuk Keadilan Perikanan (KIARA)
- Myanmar: Network Action Group (NAG)
- The Philippines: Tambuyog Development Center (TDC)
- Thailand: Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)
- Viet Nam: Centre for MarineLife Conservation and Community Development (MCD)
- Latin America
- Brazil: Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN)

Ghana

- Translation of the simplified version of the SSF Guidelines into local languages
- Awareness-raising workshops on the SSF Guidelines during the Trade Union Congress (November, 2018); in the Western Region and Volta Region (December, 2018)
- Problems from lack of security of tenure; deterioration of livelihoods from the impacts of pair trawling, illegal transshipment at sea; offshore oil production, extraction of mineral and timber resources
- Prioritised combatting IUU fishing; participation in policymaking and enforcement; incorporating the SSF Guidelines into traditional fishing regulations

Nigeria

- National stakeholders workshop (May 2022) on the SSF Guidelines for State and non-State actors (fisheries, health, civil society, research and academia, human rights, climate change, SDGs, development agencies, African Union, etc.)
- Formation of a National Steering Committee to develop and implement a national plan of action: the SSF Guidelines
- Support from the office of the President of Nigeria on implementing SDG 2 and 14 and the fisheries guidelines policy development

India

Workshops to:

- Develop action points for the implementation of the 2017 National Policy on Marine Fisheries (Chennai, July 2019)
- Mainstream gender into national and subnational fisheries policies and legislation and to develop a national platform for women in fisheries (Chennai, August 2019)
- Improve inland fisheries governance in the context of National Policy on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture (Kolkata, Sept 2019)
- Raise awareness about and build capacity of local self-governments in implementing the SSF Guidelines (November 2019)
- Operationalize the national platform for women in fisheries (April 2022)

Sri Lanka

- Organizing a sensitization workshop (June, 2019)
- Developing communication tools
- Conducting stakeholder meetings to identify gaps and to influence the 2018 National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (tenure rights, decentralizing fisheries management, coastal resources management, spatial planning, international trade in fish and fish products, sea safety, etc.)

Indonesia

- Workshop on customary rights (March, 2019)
- The role of SSF Guidelines in protecting coastal indigenous communities from threats such as reclamation, mining, marine conservation, tourism, and expansion of oil palm cultivation
- Highlighted the need to document all Indigenous Peoples along the coast and their traditional wisdom in safeguarding coastal and marine ecosystems
- Drew attention to protecting human rights of fishers and fishworkers
- Case studies on tenure rights and strengthening the role of women in the governance of fisheries through cooperatives and fishers' associations

Myanmar

- Participatory review of extant co-management arrangements to improve governance and effective participation in Ayeyarwaddy floodplain fisheries management (December 2018, December 2019)
- Study the working conditions of fishers and fishworkers in Kyar Phong fisheries (rafts undertaking bagnet fishing, positioned at sea for months together with workers on board, mostly migrants)
- Training in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change to develop village level action plans on DRR

The Philippines

- Review of major policies and legislation governing the small-scale fisheries subsector (Fisheries Code, Water Code, Local Government Code, the Philippine Constitution, etc.)
- Benchmarking the policies and legislation against the SSF Guidelines and identifying gaps in a participatory manner
- Cluster consultations on identifying challenges to participation in food security and poverty eradication in Mindanao, Luzon and Visayas (Sept 2018, March 2019 and May 2019)
- Consultation workshops with Government agencies on mainstreaming the SSF Guidelines into food security and poverty eradication
- Capacity building for national and local implementation of the SSF Guidelines within the community-based coastal resources management framework
- Identify strategies for advocacy and implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Thailand

- Workshop to strengthen capacity of local organizations to implement the SSF Guidelines (December, 2018): strengthen rights of fishers in relation to the components of the blue economy; housing and social infrastructure of fishing communities; community-led conservation and management measures; improved post-harvest practices and food safety standards; adaptation to climate change impacts; understanding the role of women in fisheries
- Preparation and dissemination of advocacy material on a human-rights-based approach; advocacy against the violation of fishers' rights
- Development of a local level ecosystem-based fisheries management plan

Viet Nam

- Awareness-raising workshop (Binh Dinh Province), Sept 2018: combatting IUU fishing through strengthened co-management, community-based MCS, traceability and certification (Para 5.16 of SSF Guidelines)
- National Workshop (May, 2019) to develop a co-management action plan for the protection of fishery resources and reduction of illegal fishing

Brazil

- Awareness-raising: Indigenous Fishers' workshop (December, 2018)
- Seminar: Indigenous Fisheries in Amazonas and the SSF Guidelines, also with the participation of federal and state level officials (March 2019)
- Sharing of experiences of Indigenous fishers' representatives from Amazon watershed basins on aspects of fisheries management and regulation of sport fishing
- Helped mapping of issues related to fishing in the Indigenous territories

Global awareness-raising products

- Animation films:
 - Governance of Tenure and Resource Management
 - Social Development, Employment and Decent Work
 - Value Chains, Post-Harvest and Trade
 - Disaster Risks and Climate Change

Key Issues and Challenges

- Small-scale fishers and fishworkers, especially women, continue to be poorly recognized in policy space; the tools offered by the SSF Guidelines are being put to use to improve visibility, albeit slow
- Protecting human rights of fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities, especially in relation to securing their access to marine and inland fisheries resources, social development and decent work remain a major challenge
- Protecting tenure rights of fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities often prove difficult in the face of poorly-defined legal rights
- Lack of effective consultation and participation in decision-making processes, and lack of a coherent approach

For more information:

- <https://www.icsf.net/resources/fao-icsfs-ssf-guidelines-implementation-project-2018-2019/>

- Thank you!