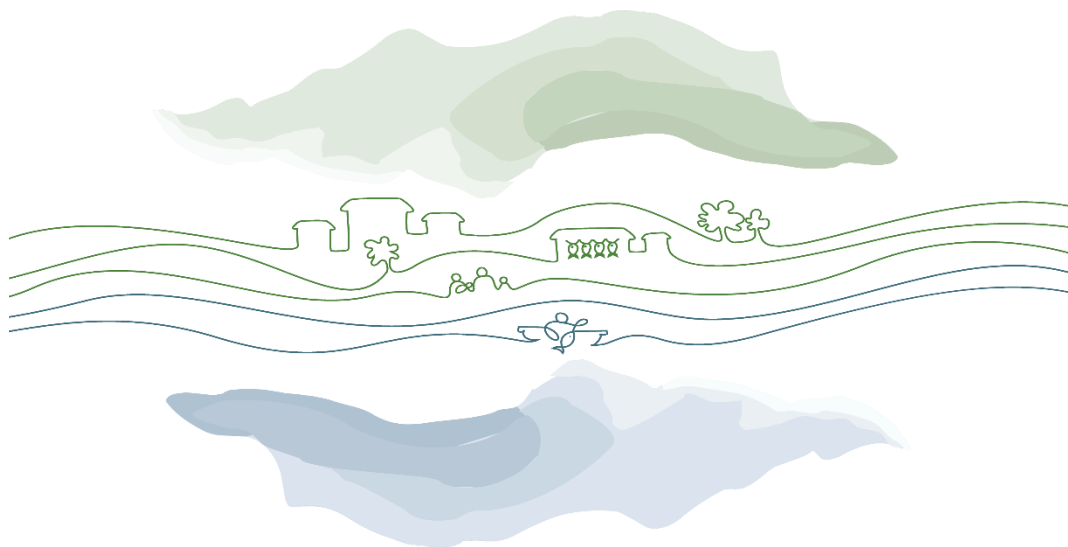




**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Securing sustainable small-scale
fisheries:
Towards monitoring progress of applying the
SSF Guidelines

CONCEPT NOTE



5 – 7 September 2017

The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Centre, Italy

INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the 31st Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ([SSF Guidelines](#)). The SSF Guidelines constitute a unique international instrument, complementing the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and addressing key issues in a holistic manner for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. The SSF Guidelines are grounded in international human rights standards and also relate closely to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (2004) and the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (2012).

During its 32nd Session in 2016, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) reconfirmed the multi-dimensional function of small-scale fisheries in poverty reduction and food security, etc. and stressed the importance of the SSF Guidelines as a tool for achieving sustainable small-scale fisheries in developing and developed countries. In that session, COFI also welcomed the development of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) (described in the document [COFI/2016/7](#)) as a mechanism to support the SSF Guidelines implementation, including in relation to monitoring.

In chapter 13, the SSF Guidelines explicitly refer to the need for monitoring of their implementation:

- **13.4**
States should recognize the importance of monitoring systems that allow their institutions to assess progress towards implementation of the objectives and recommendations in these Guidelines. Assessments of the impact on the enjoyment of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and on poverty eradication should be included. Mechanisms allowing the results of monitoring to feed back into policy formulation and implementation should be included. Gender should be taken into consideration in monitoring by using gender-sensitive approaches, indicators and data. States and all parties should elaborate participatory assessment methodologies that allow a better understanding and documentation of the true contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable resource management for food security and poverty eradication including both men and women.
- **13.5**
States should facilitate the formation of national-level platforms, with cross-sectoral representation and with strong representation of CSOs, to oversee implementation of the Guidelines, as appropriate. Legitimate representatives of small-scale fishing communities should be involved both in the development and application of implementation strategies for the Guidelines and in monitoring.

To allow for this monitoring, indicators that effectively reflect progress achieved as well as gaps need to be identified. A monitoring system should also provide information that helps guide future implementation efforts and it should create learning, promote exchanges of experiences and support identification of good practices, respecting the call for a participatory system.

Such a system should also be closely linked to and coherent with monitoring of other relevant international agreements and commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WORKSHOP PURPOSE

Developing a monitoring system and related indicators is a complex task which requires a holistic approach and consideration of several different dimensions. A first step towards its establishment would be to agree on what should be monitored and what would be a realistic scope of the system.

This workshop therefore brings together experts and key actors to provide recommendations on the scope, potential SMART¹ indicators and participatory principles to form the basis of an SSF Guidelines implementation monitoring system.

The expert workshop is expected to convene some 15 experts from different backgrounds and geographical areas. It will be held over three days at the Rockefeller Bellagio Centre in Italy on 5-7 September 2017.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Informed by a background paper, the workshop is expected to provide recommendations on:

- Scope and structure of monitoring system for SSF Guidelines implementation;
- Key SMART indicators; and
- Recommendations for next steps of the work towards actually establishing a monitoring system.

¹ Specific, measurable, agreed, relevant and timebound.