



Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

Collection of contributions received

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Introduction to the topic

Following the recommendation of the 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), FAO engaged in a consultative process to support the development of an international instrument for small-scale fisheries. The text of this instrument, the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines), is now being negotiated by FAO member states¹ with the intention to present a final document to COFI in 2014 for approval.

While the official endorsement of the SSF Guidelines of course is of critical importance, the real challenge lies in their implementation: the SSF Guidelines will only become effective if their provisions are put into practice. Accordingly, the 30th Session of COFI 'agreed on the need to develop implementation strategies for the SSF Guidelines at various levels'. The SSF Guidelines implementation will be a collaborative undertaking that requires concerted efforts by all to be successful.

The FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat is committed to continue the promotion of collaboration and engagement by all stakeholders. We would hence like to invite you to this e-consultation to share your experiences and views on how the SSF Guidelines could be implemented effectively following their adoption by the FAO Committee on Fisheries in June 2014. The outcome of the e-consultation will provide inputs for the FAO Secretariat to draft a holistic and inclusive global assistance programme taking your lessons learnt, best practices, plans and expectations into account. The e-consultation will also allow for a broad based sharing of knowledge and experiences among partners and stakeholders to support effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

We would like to hear your experiences and views with regard to three related topics:

- 1. Partnering for implementation – roles of different actors and stakeholders**
- 2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration**
- 3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions**

With a view to inspire discussion, some questions and initial thoughts and guiding questions on these three topics are presented below. Background information and links to relevant documents related to the SSF Guidelines, their context and the process by which they have been developed, are also given here.

We look forward to your insights and contributions and thank you in advance for your time!
The FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

1. Partnering for implementation

¹ A first round of the Technical Consultation on the SSF Guidelines draft text, which is the FAO process for member state negotiations, took place on 20-24 May 2013. While good progress has been made during that session, the work of the Technical Consultation could not be completed. The resumed session will take place on 3-7 February 2014. Click here for [the draft text as submitted to the Technical Consultation in May 2013](#) and [the Chair's text, which shows the text as it stands after the first session of the technical consultation](#).

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will require engagement and partnerships across different institutions, organizations and actors as the SSF Guidelines implementation does not only require the involvement by fishers but takes into consideration also the role and needs of those around them. Fishing communities, CSOs, academia, NGOs, governments, regional organizations, donors and international agencies and organizations all need to work together - but different actors may have different roles to play to address issues in relation to fisheries governance, gender, post-harvest, consumer interests, wider societal interests, etc. Please share any experiences, both good or bad as well as lessons learned related to partnerships in the implementation of international instruments

- How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?
- How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the 'voices of the marginalized'?
- What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences will be of utmost importance for effective implementation. Available lessons learnt, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and relevant statistics can help making information available and shared.

- What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?
- What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?
- How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

There will be implementation challenges (e.g. financial, political, institutional, cultural) to address but also opportunities to capitalize on. These may vary from one context to another and also differ between the global, regional, national and local levels. Understanding these challenges and opportunities will be important for identifying and designing support activities. The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will need a mix of different types of interventions, including – but not necessarily limited to – the strengthening of political commitment and awareness raising, changes in policies, revisions of legislation and/or regulations, development of capacity and empowerment, improving and sharing information, and strengthened research and communication.

- What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?
- What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?
- How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?

Contributions received

1. Lena Westlund, Facilitator of the discussion, Sweden

Dear colleagues/forum participants,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to this e-consultation on the important issue of the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* – or the *SSF Guidelines* as they are called for short. Writing this welcome note makes me realise how far we have come – but also how much there still is to do. We have come far because of the increased recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries and because we are now close to having an international instrument in their support (still subject to another session of negotiations and formal approval by the FAO Committee on Fisheries – COFI – next year but I feel confident that the remaining process will go well). At the same time, there is still a lot to do because a document does not automatically change the world, even when it is an international instrument having been developed through an extensive consultation process and negotiated at a high level. The SSF Guidelines need to be put into practice to have a positive impact on the lives of all those who depend on fisheries and aquatic resources for their livelihoods and well-being. This of course includes small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities but also others who depend on fish for their nutritional needs as well as all of us who enjoy eating fish and who believe in equitable development and a sustainable use of our global resources. Hence, we all have a stake in the future of small-scale fisheries – let's work together to ensure that they have a secure and sustainable future! I look forward to your contributions, feedback and ideas during this e-consultation that will take place until 3 December. Your inputs will be vital for the continuation of the process towards a comprehensive and effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines and will feed directly into the work of the FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat to draft an inclusive global assistance programme. At the same time, I see this as a great opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences – not only with the FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat but also among yourselves and between different stakeholder groups and disciplines. So, I wish us all an interesting and fruitful discussion – enjoy!

With best wishes,

Lena Westlund

2. Kenneth Senkosi, Forum for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa, Uganda

As regards partnership for implementation: lots of care needs to be given in identifying implementation partners. Experience has proved that many good initiatives have failed to yield tangible results for the poorest as a result of poor allocation of activities between implementation partners. My advice would that activities should be allocated to partners based on their mandate, capacity, consent and proximity to the target clientele/beneficiaries. This will increase chances of the benefits trickling down to the rightful targets and reducing the disappointment of the SSF Guidelines being another good policy document with no traceable outputs at community level.

Regards,

Kenneth Senkosi

3. Manuel Castrillo, Proyecto Camino Verde, Costa Rica

[Original comment in Spanish]

Saludos. Los acuerdos internacionales suscritos por gobiernos, agencias, asociaciones y demás actores involucrados, en muchas ocasiones no son respetados. A pesar del papel del sector en la dieta nutricional, no se le ha dado un status adecuado. La carencia de capacitación y normativas fitosanitarias adecuadas y aterrizadas, la disposición de recursos en general, la desidia burocrática y líderes que omiten por corrupción y contubernio con sectores de pesca masiva, son solo algunos de lo obstáculos para un desarrollo integral de la pesca artesanal. Las oportunidades para generar condiciones competitivas, con reglas claras, creación de valor agregado a los productos y sub-productos, así como, financiamientos blandos, serían seguramente, condiciones para la mejoría. Además, el entorno geográfico (tierra adentro), donde en ocasiones, se genera contaminación por desechos de todo tipo, tiene un impacto en las fuentes pesqueras, sin tener compesación para los pescadores. Las vedas, son instrumentos que deben planificarse mejor, para asegurar, medios de subsistencia apropiados. Las políticas nacionales y regionales, deberían proponer mecanismos de manejo y control, más eficientes, para evitar casos como el aleteo de tiburón. La asignación de recursos tecnológicos es imperativa y accesible económicamente. Las certificaciones ayudarían a valor más el recurso y la investigación ir de la mano de los actores directos, tomando en cuenta la cuestión de género. La importancia y papel que juega en la industria turística, debería dársele la adecuada dimensión, como componente complementario que es, sobre todo, en los países en desarrollo.

[English translation]

1.-Simply providing ideas about the reality of the community involved, ancestral knowledge has always solved diverse conflicts that, for us, are apparently substantial, but are regarded by communities as simple, especially with respect to the basic rights of human beings. Communities address the major issues with an approach based on simplicity. Taken together with the reality of simple production concepts and the necessary support to be provided to communities, the perception of the conflicts at macro level would be simplified.

2.-The challenges consist in entrusting the solution of problems regarded as highly exorbitant and exaggerated from the political, economic and social perspective to the appropriate people. The real situation is based in simplicity. If major solutions were discarded and problem solving was adequately entrusted to communities, we would be surprised by their tendency to adopt small solutions for serious issues. For example, if we give appropriate seeds to the right people, in three months we will realize there are pragmatic solutions to major food challenges. Resources are the fundamental basis for addressing major challenges. Until we adopt a pragmatic and non-political approach, we will be facing intractable problems related to the media that the technological times aim to impose. Actually, these food crises are mere economic crises of major economic groups. These crises do not correspond to small needy groups that know how to solve these economic problems, superficially created to prevent the degradation of the economically powerful sectors.

3.-The most serious problem that governments are facing lies precisely in the public, simple and objective accountability. When governments become aware that social aspects are not complicated when it comes to finding solutions, they will face the reality of their mistaken approaches about simple management public situations, often only related to the granting of rights. When governments clearly and accurately report about their reality, they will understand how close they are to solving easy problems, taking into consideration the majorities required to address the crises.

4. John Kurien, India

As a point of introduction it needs to be highlighted that small-scale fisheries, in most developing countries still forms the (invisible?) backbone of the fishery – marine and inland. The big policy ‘oversight’ made by developing countries – in the 1950s and 1960s -- was to blindly adopt the ‘industrial fishery’ model from the developed world. The implicit assumption behind this policy was that the small-scale fishery (labelled as ‘primitive, traditional’) would just disappear once the industrial fishery established itself. Most of the promotional efforts and subsidies in fisheries went to the industrial fishery; all the capacity building and research initiatives (e.g. fishery schools; research institutes; technology innovations etc.) were oriented to the industrial fishery. However, in reality what happened over the years, despite all this support, is evident for all to witness: the industrial fishery could not replace the small-scale fishery and the small-scale fishery survived despite the discriminatory policy treatment. As a matter of fact, in many countries, instead of complementing the small-scale fishery, the industrial fishery has been in conflict with the small-scale fishery. From the 1980s onwards, in many developing countries, the small-scale fishing communities have been taking firm affirmative actions to highlight and challenge this discriminatory situation. There have been strong initiatives taken by small-scale fishers at the international levels over the past two to three decades to valorise and re-affirm the ecological, economic, social and cultural relevance and superiority of the small-scale fishery.

The current initiative of the FAO/UN for the formulation of the guidelines for SSF must be viewed against this background. It will greatly help in the consolidation of the efforts of the small-scale fishers and their supporters in civil society. It will bring back small-scale fisheries and fishers to the ‘centre of the fishery development and management discourse’. States will now be able to prioritise their small-scale fishery and the fishers and re-orient their policy priorities and financial outlays to strengthen the sector. All this will be most welcome.

1. Partnering for implementation – roles of different actors and stakeholders

Implementation of the VGSSSF will require the committed involvement of a wide range of actors and stakeholders. The fishers/fishworkers; the state; and civil society are the three key players. The fishers and fishworkers from the local level upwards should first take ‘ownership’ of the VG. The various branches of the state must be committed to bringing about the key policy, legislative, and executive changes in order to give SSF their rightful role. The various sectors of civil society – e.g. consumers, researchers and academics, media, social and environmental activists etc. – should support SSF and prioritise SSF interests into their own respective concerns.

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

There are several SSF communities in developing countries that have, through their own initiatives, and sometimes with support from state and civil society, achieved significant results with regard to alternative technology development; formation of organisations; valorising their cultural and customary contexts; ecosystem rejuvenation efforts; management of resources and so forth.

A cataloguing and careful documentation of such efforts must be undertaken and systematic efforts to share these experiences should be made. The focus should be on making good audio-visual products and teaching aids which are people-friendly.

More people-to-people exchange programs should be organised as an important strategy for dissemination of these novel initiatives across countries. The stress should be on

understanding the basic principles of these initiatives so that 'transfer efforts' are not just blind copying of external forms and structures alone.

A cadre of youth from SSF communities across the world should be created who can become SSF brand ambassadors.

The actions and measures taken by states to reorient their fishery policies to focus more on SSF should be widely shared. Important measures include: the social and welfare programs to achieve higher levels of socio-economic development for SSF communities to fulfil their human rights; participatory fishery management initiatives; supportive legislative measures to strengthen the SSF and so on.

Efforts should be taken to ensure that the role and relevance of the SSF be included in the education of children through appropriate incorporation in school text books. In fishery schools and in fishery research and technological institutions special care should be taken to de-emphasise the centrality of industrial fisheries and incorporate more detailed and credible information and facts about SSF. Faculty and researchers in such institutions should be given opportunities to 'discover' the SSF in their countries/region.

Top fishery and agriculture policy makers should be provided with information and data on the SSF in their countries so that they are able to 're-focus' their priorities and be convinced about the place of SSF in the fishery and agriculture plans of their countries.

Environmental and social activists and media personnel should be given greater exposure to SSF realities so that they can obtain a great 'aquarian rationality' and see the point of view of SSF communities on issues such as people-centred conservation and management; technological diversity which respects the limits of nature; economic organisations which can create people-friendly markets and so forth.

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

The major challenge confronting the implementation of the VG will be to get over the mental block that prevails in the fisheries sectors of many countries with regard to the relevance and viability of the small-scale fisheries. The adoption of the VG for the member countries of the FAO/UN in 2014 will no doubt contribute to putting to rest some of the doubts which exist in the minds of policy makers, fishery administrators and researchers. But much needs to be done. Some important realms for support and intervention are the following:

1. Capacity building in the form of training for government functionaries who deal with the fisheries sector. They must become convinced about the economic and social viability of SSF.
2. Make efforts to incorporate the VG concepts into national legislation and formulating a clear characterisation of SSF in each country context.
3. Carving out a separate set of statistics which give a clear picture of the SSF sector in the country. Some significant efforts have already been made by civil society groups (e.g the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) initiative) which need to be supplemented and officially incorporated into the national fishery statistics.
4. Support from consumers is crucial for enhanced value for the produce of SSF. SSF organisations should link up with fair trade initiatives; the Slow Food movement and food sovereignty efforts. When producers and consumers cooperate, the influence of multinational retail chains can be moderated.

John Kurien, India

5. Juan Carlos Gutierrez Mejía, Fundación Eduardoño, Colombia

[Original contribution in Spanish]

¿Cómo ve el papel de su organización y de otros en la implementación de las Directrices PPE?

- Positiva; Desde 1996 hemos participado en varios proyectos relacionados con el desarrollo de la pesca artesanal y van enfocados en los mismos lineamientos del PPE

DIRECTRIZ 1 Democracia, buena gestión pública, derechos humanos y el estado de derecho.

- Respetamos y aplicamos la libertad de información, la libertad de prensa y la libertad de reunión y asociación para favorecer la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional. Los alimentos no se utilizan como instrumento de presión política y económica.

DIRECTRIZ 2 Políticas de desarrollo económico.

- Procuramos que los pescadores, como productores de alimentos, en particular a las mujeres, obtengan un rendimiento justo de su trabajo, capital y gestión, y estimulamos la conservación y la ordenación sostenible de los recursos naturales,

DIRECTRIZ 3 Estrategias (para aplicar las Directrices PPE)

- Aunque las estrategias le corresponden principalmente al estado si procuramos mejorar el nivel de vida de las personas por debajo del umbral de la pobreza y promovemos la igualdad entre mujeres y hombres.
- Desde lo privado promovemos la pesca artesanal, y el aumento de la productividad ajustándonos a las políticas y estrategias planteadas por el estado referentes a los pescadores artesanales, que practican sistemas de explotación tradicionales, con especial hincapié en el desarrollo de la capacidad humana y la eliminación de las limitaciones a la producción pesquera artesanal, su distribución y comercialización.

DIRECTRIZ 4 Sistemas de mercado.

- Promovemos el crecimiento económico como un desarrollo sostenible, fomentamos el ahorro interno, nos acogemos a las políticas estatales dirigidas a las prácticas crediticias, generando niveles adecuados y sostenibles de inversión productiva mediante créditos y en el aumento de las capacidades humanas.
- Procuramos proporcionar a los consumidores una protección adecuada frente a prácticas comerciales fraudulentas, evitamos suministrar información errónea y alimentos nocivos.
- Trabajamos por el beneficio de las oportunidades derivadas del comercio competitivo de productos agropecuarios incluyendo el mayor número posible de personas y comunidades, especialmente de los grupos desfavorecidos.
- Somos aliados y solidarios con el Estado y con las comunidades, cuando se tiene en cuenta las deficiencias de los mecanismos del mercado y se aplican acciones correctivas con vistas a proteger el medio ambiente y los bienes públicos.

DIRECTRIZ 5 Instituciones.

- Aunque es responsabilidad del estado velar por la coordinación de los esfuerzos entre sus instituciones, como entidad no gubernamental estamos en disposición de monitorear la aplicación, el seguimiento y la evaluación de las políticas, los planes y los programas realizados por el estado. También podemos participar y hemos participado, junto con el estado en el fomento a la participación de las comunidades en todos los aspectos de la planificación y ejecución de actividades.

DIRECTRIZ 6 Partes interesadas

- Como parte de la sociedad civil y representando el sector privado, y aprovechando las capacidades especializadas con vistas a facilitar el uso eficiente de los recursos; somos una de las “numerosas partes interesadas en garantizar la seguridad alimentaria nacional reconociendo la responsabilidad primaria del Estado respecto de la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada”.

DIRECTRIZ 7 Marco jurídico.

- Los ajustes que se tengan que hacer en un Marco Jurídico son exclusivos de los Gobiernos. Pero se han abierto espacios para discutir las reformas a las leyes o se han socializado antes de su aplicación en varias ocasiones y en diferentes espacios. Nuestra participación ha estado enfocada a contribuir y apoyar al estado en su propósito de proporcionar “una alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional y la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada”.

DIRECTRIZ 8 Acceso a los recursos y bienes

- En lo referente a “...Los Estados deberían respetar y proteger los derechos individuales relativos a los recursos como la tierra, el agua, los bosques, la pesca y el ganado sin discriminación de algún tipo...” En Colombia los recursos pesqueros son de libre acceso y este es el renglón en el que nos hemos concentrado.

DIRECTRIZ 8A Mercado laboral

- Nuestra organización con sus objetivos coincide con esta directriz cuando se menciona; “...fomentar un crecimiento sostenible con objeto de proporcionar oportunidades de empleo que permitan a los asalariados rurales y urbanos y sus familias obtener una remuneración suficiente para disfrutar de un nivel de vida adecuado, así como promover y proteger el empleo autónomo.”

DIRECTRIZ 8B Tierra

- Hemos concentrado nuestras acciones en el fomento de la pesca artesanal marítima principalmente y entendemos los derechos de las personas y las comunidades de pescadores por la tenencia de la tierra y abogamos por el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales y la protección de los ecosistemas y sus especies. Todas las acciones siempre dentro del respeto por los derechos humanos.

DIRECTRIZ 8C Agua

- Puntualmente no hemos realizado acciones referentes a esta directriz, aunque hemos desarrollado por mas de 7 años una campaña de cuidado de los recursos naturales

denominada “conciencia azul” que promueve el cuidado de los recursos naturales, incluida el agua.

DIRECTRIZ 8D Recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura

- No está dentro de nuestras funciones.

DIRECTRIZ 8E Sostenibilidad

- Hemos participado junto con otras instituciones de la sociedad civil, comunitaria y gubernamental en la declaratoria de una ZEPA (Zona Exclusiva de Pesca Artesanal) en la costa Norte del Departamento del Chocó. También hemos firmado varios convenios de cooperación con los Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia, sumando esfuerzos a la conservación y uso sostenible de los recursos naturales.

DIRECTRIZ 8F Servicios

- Siendo la pesca artesanal nuestro campo de acción hemos promocionado el avance tecnológico al impulsar el uso de motores fuera de borda de 4 tiempos para reemplazar los de 2 tiempos que son menos eficientes (-40%) en rendimiento y uso del combustible y contaminan más. También promocionamos las ayudas en la navegación y en la pesca artesanal tecnificada, con la utilización de brújulas, GPS, ecosondas y radio comunicadores.
- En varias ocasiones con el Banco Agrario (entidad estatal) hemos realizado campañas promocionando los micro-créditos explicando sus beneficios y condiciones con resultados tangibles en varias poblaciones de Colombia.

DIRECTRIZ 9 Inocuidad de los alimentos y protección del consumidor

- Es el estado Colombiano quien regula y controla la calidad de los alimentos para que “sean inocuos y se ajusten a las normas nacionales sobre inocuidad de los alimentos.”
- Hemos realizado en varias ocasiones en las costas tanto del Pacífico como del Caribe Colombiano, capacitaciones con pescadores artesanales y comercializadores, cuyo tema es el “Manejo del Producto Pesquero” encaminado en ofrecer un buen producto al público en general cumpliendo las normas exigidas por el organismo de control de la calidad de alimentos en Colombia (INVMA).
- Cuando esta directriz menciona; “Los Estados deberían adoptar medidas para proteger a los consumidores del engaño y la des-información en los envases, las etiquetas, la publicidad y la venta de los alimentos y facilitar a los consumidores la elección velando por la divulgación de información adecuada sobre los alimentos comercializados...” Realizamos varios estudios que se divulgaron en especial sobre la invasión en el mercado del basa (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) que en su etapa inicial de conquista de los mercados, se vendía con otros nombres, (róbalo, filete especial, mero, corvina, etc) y que la regulación de importación de este producto también era confusa pues para importar el mismo producto los oportunistas utilizaban más de 15 partidas arancelarias que no eran claramente identificables, se logró que la aduana colombiana (DIAN) especificara las partidas arancelarias con el nombre del producto, lo mismo que en los supermercados con las etiquetas.

DIRECTRIZ 10 Nutrición

- Dentro de las capacitaciones sobre el manejo del producto pesquero se tiene un capítulo que versa sobre la nutrición y las propiedades alimenticias del pescado y los productos del

mar. En Colombia las comunidades costeras basan su dieta principalmente en el pescado como parte de su cultura. En el interior o región Andina el consumo de pescado es mucho menor y hace falta promocionar su consumo.

DIRECTRIZ 11 Educación y sensibilización

- Entre las capacitaciones que hemos dictado en varias poblaciones costeras de Colombia está lo que hemos denominado “técnicas de pesca responsable, buscando la sostenibilidad del recurso”. (Teniendo como base el Código de Pesca Responsable de la FAO)

DIRECTRIZ 12 Recursos financieros nacionales

“Se alienta a los entes regionales y locales a asignar recursos en sus respectivos presupuestos para la lucha contra el hambre y la seguridad alimentaria.”

“...promover y movilizar el ahorro interno y a atraer recursos externos para inversiones productivas, así como a buscar nuevas fuentes de financiación, tanto públicas como privadas, a nivel nacional e internacional, para los programas sociales.”

- Estos dos postulados son claros en llamar la atención sobre la asignación de recursos; Pero en Colombia, acceder a estos es muy difícil por la tramitología o la falta de difusión pública cuando hay convocatorias o invitaciones a participar en proyectos. Falta más dinámica para los trámites y difusión de las ofertas.

DIRECTRIZ 13 Apoyo a los grupos vulnerables

- Hemos concentrado nuestras actividades en las poblaciones de pescadores artesanales, que habitan en ambas costas colombianas. El perfil de estos es que son personas de pocos recursos económicos, baja escolaridad, la mayoría afrodescendientes y también indígenas. En estas comunidades la pesca artesanal provee un fuente segura y confiable de proteína.

DIRECTRIZ 14 Redes de seguridad

- No hemos participado directamente en estas.

DIRECTRIZ 15 Ayuda alimentaria internacional

- No hemos participado directamente en estas.

DIRECTRIZ 16 Catástrofes naturales y provocadas por el hombre

- “Los alimentos no deberían utilizarse jamás como medio de presión política y económica.” Por fortuna en Colombia la pesca artesanal es de libre acceso.
- Nos acogemos y respetamos las directrices del Gobierno Colombiano respecto a este asunto.

DIRECTRIZ 17 Vigilancia, indicadores y puntos de referencia

- Nos acogemos y respetamos las directrices del Gobierno Colombiano respecto a este asunto.

DIRECTRIZ 18 Instituciones nacionales de derechos humanos

- Respetamos y obedecemos la normatividad colombiana y promulgamos el derecho a la vida como premisa.

DIRECTRIZ 19 Dimensión internacional

- Conocemos los objetivos de la Declaración del Milenio y sabemos que la promoción de la pesca artesanal practicada de una manera sostenible contribuye a que exista una seguridad alimentaria. Desde el gobierno no hemos sido convocados ni hemos concursado en alguna convocatoria sobre este tema.

¿Cómo pueden fomentarse y reforzarse las asociaciones para incluir las “voces de los marginados”?

Promover la asociatividad en el renglón de la pesca artesanal es muy difícil ya que es una actividad individual y el egoísmo domina sobre el trabajo en grupo. Se requiere más asistencia social y de acompañamiento para fortalecer la conformación de asociaciones de pescadores y fortalecer las que ya existen. La jerarquización y el patronazgo oprimen a los menos preparados y faltos de recursos, beneficiando a los más aventajados. Se necesitan organizaciones de carácter comunitario, con una identidad socio-cultural común entre ellos, con unos principios democráticos y de igualdad. Se requieren también canales de comunicación entre los pescadores artesanales y las autoridades que rigen el gremio, en actividades participativas como foros o espacios de participación abiertos. Por experiencia también se ha observado que cuando las asociaciones tienen metas y objetivos y son posibles cumplirlos, se hacen más fuertes y cohesionadas.

¿Qué se requiere a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial para asegurar asociaciones eficaces y eficientes?

- A las comunidades (con pescadores asociados o no asociados) hay que mostrarles las ventajas de trabajar en grupo. Establecer propósitos comunes. Identificar líderes natos con conocimiento cultural de la pesca y sus actividades anexas. Promover la asociatividad desde las entidades del estado, desde la academia y las ONG para invitarlos a agruparse o fortalecer las asociaciones que ya existen.

Información y comunicación.

- En Colombia a penas se están implementando herramientas informáticas para difundir la información. Es común que los gobiernos de turno implementen proyectos de grandes inversiones en infraestructura que se pone a disposición de las comunidades, pero con unas instrucciones precarias o a veces nulas. Las playas son testigos de los activos abandonados por la falta de preparación de los usuarios y por los planificadores y ejecutores, de programas de acompañamiento y seguimiento.

¿Qué mejores prácticas en materia de comunicación recomendaría para la implementación de Directrices PPE a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial?

- La educación, la salud (incluida la salud sexual y la planificación familiar; control natal), la generación de empleo, la eliminación de intermediarios en las cadenas productivas, la seguridad social verdadera (no teórica o imprecisa), procesos democráticos limpios y la

erradicación de la corrupción pueden ayudar mucho en mejorar las condiciones de la población.

¿Cuáles son sus experiencias de seguimiento y evaluación participativos?

- En una ocasión tuvimos la oportunidad de participar en un proyecto con comunidades indígenas que vivían en la Guajira, en una zona desértica costera, que subsistían de la explotación de sal marina, de manera artesanal, hasta que una empresa gubernamental instaló un sistema industrial para la misma actividad, haciendo insostenible económicamente la explotación artesanal de la sal marina. Para compensar a los indígenas se inventaron un proyecto de pesca artesanal, al que fuimos invitados a realizar unas capacitaciones técnicas. La selección de los usuarios se hizo siguiendo los preceptos culturales de los indígenas Wayuú. Se escogieron unas “autoridades tradicionales” como los líderes de cada grupo compuesto por 5 “pescadores”. Ni las autoridades ni sus grupos tenían idea de lo que era la pesca artesanal. De mas de 200 usuarios solo 30 eran pescadores tradicionales. Cuando comenzamos las capacitaciones, la “autoridad” nos recibía y nos presentaba a sus pescadores. A la siguiente capacitación los pescadores eran otros, y así en cada encuentro. Esto impidió completar el programa, aunque los indicadores como “horas de capacitación dictadas” se cumplió a cabalidad. Mientras los verdaderos pescadores eran ignorados y fueron beneficiados en este proyecto. A veces la misma cultura discriminatoria y estratificada en castas, hace fracasar los mejores proyectos diseñados por los mas expertos en las grandes oficinas de planificación de proyectos.

¿Cómo se puede medir e informar del progreso en la implementación de las Directrices PPE de manera útil?

- Para nuestro caso que es el fomento y desarrollo de la pesca artesanal, es importante una pre-selección de los usuarios basada en el conocimiento tradicional de la actividad y luego llegar a un intercambio de saberes dinámico. Luego de una buena dotación de unidades económicas de pesca, vienen las capacitaciones con procesos de compromisos y responsabilidades, siempre basados en en la actividad. Luego teniendo un producto pesquero de alta calidad por su buena manipulación, se requiere canales de comercialización cortos, con el mínimo de intermediarios y poca manipulación del producto, ara ofrecer un alimento de altísima calidad y asequible al público.

¿Cuales cree que son los principales problemas para la implementación, de forma general, así como en el contexto específico de cada país, y cómo pueden superarse?

- Para que sea la pesca artesanal una actividad que contribuya a reducir el hambre y mejorar la condiciones de vida, se debe erradicar la corrupción, (se requiere de líderes sinceros y comprometidos). Eliminar la tramitología estatal que entorpece la mejores intenciones de las comunidades y gobiernos rurales alejándolos de la inversión en proyectos productivos. La estructuración de proyectos de carácter socio-productivos debe ser rigurosa con la selección de los usuarios identificando los perfiles correctos acordes con la actividad, también el acompañamiento y el seguimiento garantizan el éxito de un proyecto. Los proyectos deben cobijar y considerar toda la cadena productiva, desde la producción, procesos y comercialización. También hay que facilitar el acceso a los créditos de fomento sin tanta tramitología, con garantías e intereses blandos.

¿Cuáles son sus experiencias al abordar este tipo de problemas y qué estrategias y enfoques han tenido éxito o no?

- En Colombia en el 2006 se entregaron 84 unidades económicas de pesca, en toda la

geografía costera y fluvial donde se ejerce la pesca artesanal, de las cuales a la fecha menos de 10 están operando. No hubo seguimiento ni acompañamiento. La entrega de equipos e infraestructura por si solo no garantiza el éxito de un proyecto. Se requiere el acceso a un capital semilla, a créditos blandos, y el acompañamiento y seguimiento enfocado en al final sea la misma comunidad la que se apropie del proyecto.

¿Cómo deberían variar las intervenciones, en función del período de tiempo (por ej. qué se puede hacer durante los próximos 12 meses, en los próximos 5 años, a largo plazo) y en función de los recursos existentes (por ej. inversiones en pequeña/mediana escala o inversiones a gran escala/transformadoras)?

- Para los proyectos de pesca artesanal en zonas rurales costeras de Colombia sean viables se puede pensar en la entrega de unas unidades de pesca pero condicionadas a que se utilicen de manera continua y responsable por parte de las comunidades. Que los grupos de pescadores sean constantes. Por parte de la institución que maneja el proyecto debe existir una motivación permanente basada en capacitaciones no solo teóricas, si no demostrativas. Valorar o nivelar, con los avances tecnológicos, el saber tradicional es una ganancia para todos. Esto en el primer año. El acompañamiento y seguimiento diseñado en implementar una autosuficiencia local, que deje una huella de saberes y conocimiento que se retro-alimente garantizará el éxito de cualquier programa. Esto durante los 5 años siguientes a la iniciación de las actividades. Por experiencia la pequeña inversión solo soluciona problemas puntuales, la mediana inversión es mas manejable. La gran inversión desfigura lo comunitario y termina en manos de las grandes empresas cuando no es en escandalosos descalabros financieros.

6. Agri econs5, University of Guyana, Guyana (multiple contributions)

Food security

“Food security is not in the supermarket. It's not in the government. It's not at the emergency services division. True food security is the historical normalcy of packing it in during the abundant times, building that in-house larder, and resting easy knowing that our little ones are not dependent on next week's farmers' market or the electronic cashiers at the supermarket.” – Joel Stalatin.

The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”. Commonly, the concept of food security is defined as including both physical and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs as well as their food preferences.[1]

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO); food security is built on three pillars which encompass (i) Food availability (ii) Food access (iii) Food use.

In the context of this post the group will focus primarily on the role of government in securing sustainable fisheries. Firstly, the role of government is to correct market failures arising either through an externality or provide a public good in the situation of a missing market.

Fishermen generally utilize a common pool resource; the oceans, rivers, tributaries etc. to engage in their economic trade. Their activities impose a social cost which is not accounted for in their private cost .As a result, we can see them exerting negative externalities onto society and eventually making themselves worse off. Moreover the tragedy of commons may prevail if government does not intervene to prevent this market failure. Because of this it will ultimately be the role of the government to implement certain fees or limit the seasons of fishing in order

to sustain the industry, which can be done through the enactment of certain laws and restriction on fishing zones.

A second role of Government entails the provision and dissemination of technical information to farmers so as to raise awareness of negative externalities and ways of cost minimization which can result in a Pareto improvement.

In addition, there exists opportunities for the scope of a public private partnership which will be addressed in a subsequent post.

[1] <http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/>

In this post we seek to address the question "*What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?*" from the perspective of Guyana and the Caribbean.

Guyana's fishing industry sustains a small portion of the population's livelihood by the provision of employment and as a major income earning economic activity. It contributes an approximation of 3% to the country's gross domestic product. Fish consumption is an important source of protein in one's diet especially in Guyana with an average of 57 kg per capita in 2011. Ensuring sustainability in the fish industry is therefore of prime importance in all areas thereby ensuring food security. The prawns industry for example failed in the 1990s due to overfishing. The focus hereon examines how communication practices between the fishing industry and fishery organisations and the government can foster growth at local, national, regional, and global level.

The fishing industry mostly operates on commercialized basis and a traditional one as well in which the small scale fishers are involved. Aquaculture farming also plays a significant part in its contribution to the overall fish production in the country. It was noted that the fish industry continues to expand with revenues amounting to \$24M in 2012 compared with \$7M in 2011.^[1] Even though this seems to be a significant improvement, these fishers are often left without a voice. Communication should thus be enhanced so as to maintain the fishing practices that these fishers undertake, to address problems encountered and to ensure that fishing legislations are made aware to and adhered by all fishers involved in the industry. For the SSF guidelines to be effectively implemented the various current fishing organisations should performing their responsibilities. The Ministry of Agriculture stated that the Fisheries Department maintains sustainable fishing levels of seabob resources by collaborative efforts with the Guyana Association of Trawler Owners and Seafood Processors (GATOSP). Communication via such an organisation in developing countries on the local level and national levels as a whole ensures that small scale fisheries are monitored thereby securing a sustainable fish population for future protein consumption. These organisations can easily monitor the amount of fishery resources being caught and prevents any wastage in resources. As such, fishers are less likely to encounter problems of overfishing and thus secure their livelihood.

Maintaining food security in the region is also key importance in the regional, i.e. the Caribbean region, and global levels. In the Caribbean communication practices among nations is done for example through the establishment of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO). This body aimed to create a network by having countries establish national fisherfolk organisations (NFO) within their country. These NFOs will strengthen the institutional capacities of fisherfolk organisations within countries and ensure proper management of the fishing industry within the country is undertaken.^[2] The CNFO acting as an overseer will further ensure that communication of relevant information is done through the respective NFO networks. The Caribbean as a whole is dependent on the fishery sector for their food security

and nutrition needs and contributes an average of 7% of some country's GDP.[3] Thus with the NFOs, small scale fisheries throughout the Caribbean will be better managed and information in relation to new technologies for example will be circulated throughout the region and enhance the development of small fishers in the entire region. Similar practices can be implemented on the global level.

[1] <http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2012/12/30/guyana-nets-bigger-fish-hauls-in-2012/>

[2] <http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/AboutCNFO/History/tabid/170/Default.aspx>

[3] <http://www.agricarib.org/primary-dropdown/fisheries>

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[3] <http://www.agricarib.org/primary-dropdown/fisheries>

What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?

The Fishing industry in Guyana according to Minister Dr. Leslie Ramsammy while addressing the Fisher Folk convention which was conducted recently at the Guyana International Convention Centre Liliendaal, It is an important and significant industry and contributes to the overall development of Guyana. The industry's success can be characterized into some key indicators. These are as follows. In terms of food security he stated that fishing industry provides a relatively cheap source of animal protein in the Guyanese diet, an essential element in meeting dietary needs, in meeting the caloric intake and in meeting the balanced meal criteria." He further discussed the role of fishing industry in job employment in local markets and its contribution to the country's foreign exchange rate and export levels. These are just a few to which growth in any developing country can be determined. However, there are other indicators on which success are determined. This, seeks to emphasize on the accessibility, stability of pricing and ready availability of nutritious food across the populace.

Fishing existed over 100 years ago in mostly rural areas of Guyana which resulted in a cultural fishing tradition in many households especially those of the Amerindians ethnicity and as a form of dietary protein. According to the Fisheries Act, the industry in the earlier days encountered operation challenges in the administrative funding due to institutional weaknesses. Thus, the industry suffered the inability to fathom growth and further strategize on data collection, policy making, implementation, and monitoring growth in the economy.

In the practical case of success in Guyana's case was not possible and was rather stifled in the past because of miscommunication and lack of information and state failure that existed in this industry. From this point and onwards in this post our ***group seeks to address how these challenges were addressed through policy reforms, strategies and approaches used by government officials in accordance with the SSF guideline to rekindle the growth that was visible and continues to grow moderately in long run.***

In the beginning of the late 1980s the fisheries Act was reconstructed and two organizations were formed to oversee the fishing industry. These were Guyana Fisheries Limited (GFL) and Guyana Libya Fishing Company (GLFC) that dealt solely with fishing purposes. Today these organizations no longer exist and there are quite a few new organizations including the Guyana Fishing Association, Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (MFCL), all under the state and with one of the main objectives which is the provision of essential services e.g. marketing information to the fishing industry. On the other hand, and similarly SSF in Guyana are viewing this industry not as just a mere family tradition and a form of income but as a widely, cheap, and nutritious form of eradicating hunger and promoting not only growth of the economy but longevity of one's life. Given the awareness of both parties, i.e. the government and small fishers, especially now with the state there will likely be a continuous flow of information and experiences will be transcended through these networks to facilitate the involvement of Small Scale Fishers and implementation of the SSF in policy reforms.

How to coordinate activities so that Partnerships and cooperatives are effectively implemented?

Fish stocks are becoming limited and the climate is changing. These two major problems raise a high level of concern for both people and governments of developing countries. People in developing countries depend mostly on the fishing industry to provide food for them. Fish provides a source of protein, it is cheap and families could get easy access to it. Small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities also others who depend on fish for their nutritional needs as well as all of us who enjoy eating fish and who believe in equitable development and a sustainable use of our global resources. Therefore we all have a stake in the future of small-scale fisheries – let's work together to ensure that they have a secure and sustainable future.^[1] Thus in order to sustain fish as a major component of food security the following steps will have to be taken. First activities should be allocated to partners based on their mandate, capacity, experience and proximity to the target clientele/beneficiaries. This will increase chances of the benefits trickling down to the rightful targets and reducing the disappointment of the SSF Guidelines being another good policy document with no traceable outputs at community level. Second, raise awareness of the problems and steps that could be taken to solve the problem. Third, provide proper cataloguing and careful documentation to the public through media outlets such as television programs, radio, websites, newspaper and fliers as to the plans that will be undertaken to solve the various problems pertaining to the fishing industry. The plans must be well detailed, outlining clearly the step by step process that will be undertaken to promote sustainability in the fishing industry. The fourth and final step is to educate fish workers about the advantages of enhancing the sustainability of the fishing industry. If people don't understand why they must work together to sustain the fishing industry then all plans made will ultimately fail, persons will become uninterested and lose focus because they do not see the advantages the plans have for the environment and thus the plans will be of no benefit to them. This is the most important step in sustaining the fishing industry.

^[1] Joshua Cinner and Tim McClanahan, (2013), Promoting collaborative management of small scale fisheries in the tropics.

How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?

In order to measure how the SSF guidelines would have been effective, targets can be set to show how food security would have increased or how poverty would have been reduced as a result of the guidelines. These performance indicators can be either qualitative or quantitative but mostly they should be qualitative since it is easy to measure a quantitative change than a qualitative one. In addition there should also be a means of verifying that the actual changes are occurring. This verification can be done using surveys so that the data obtained in the survey can be compared with past data to show if food security would have improved or if poverty would have been reduced. Here fishery products per capita nutritional intake can be done. A disadvantage of this method is that this type of information is usually gathered through a House Budget Survey which is done every few years. Also an alternative to waiting on the next House Budget Survey is to conduct a survey of your own which can be very expensive.

Additionally, in an earlier post we noted that one of the responsibilities of the CNFO is managing the sustainability of the fishing industry through NFOs which works in collaboration with fisherfolk organizations in each country. While addressing fishers' complaints on a timely basis such as that of safety at sea and ensuring that sustainable fishing practices is done, management

is also a key issue. Such management can include the collection of data regarding the average amount of fishery resources extracted on a regular basis, say monthly. These NFOs should however ensure that small scale fishers are encouraged and educated on how to do some form of bookkeeping on, for example on a daily basis, of the quantity of fishery resources they would have sold. Being able to gather such information from these fishers would allow the NFOs of a country to have a better estimate of the improvement of the fishery sector by assessing the returns, thus the livelihood of small scale fishers and the nation as a whole.

How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the 'voices of the marginalized'?

It was noted in our previous contribution to this discussion that the fisheries sector adds a seemingly small percentage to the GDP. However the sector also plays an important role in being able to help in ensuring food security and nutrition as outlined by the SSF Guidelines. The issue at hand is how can those involved in small scale fisheries be furthered developed given that these fishers inclusive of women may lack resources to continue undertaking fishery as their main form of livelihood.

The World Fish Center in Malaysia in a study of the role of *Public Private Partnerships in Small-Scale Aquaculture and Fisheries* concluded that some major factors that can contribute to successful PPPs include a supportive government PPP strategy, good leadership and management within the PPP, and transparency.^[1] These very strategies can be enforced since it will ensure that communication will likely be enhanced allowing small-scale fisheries to be more able to voice their concerns thus ensuring sustainable fisheries in the long run.

Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in relation to this aspect needs the government to play their part. This would entail the full adherence to the laws regarding fisheries in a country. In Guyana for instance fishery legislations are not fully adhered to. There may be some fishers who may for example who may be operating without a license. The strength of a successful PPP needs the support of a government who will at all cost enforce fishery laws since the private sector will of course have no interest in being involved in a partnership where in the near future there are no longer fishery resources available. Laws regarding protected species for example should be enforced.

In addressing the issue to include the "voices of the marginalised" farmers can be represented through co-operatives to voice their issues at the relevant government entities. In Guyana the ministry of Agriculture has a department of fisheries located within the Ministry of Agriculture. For the Public Private Partnership to be successful activities need to be co-ordinated by government. Furthermore, government needs to provide the relevant information necessary to promote growth within the industry. The mobilisation of farmers through co-operatives can spur the growth necessary due to greater bargaining power in the representation of the interests of the farmers in contrast to individual farmers seeking partnerships with government. It can be posited if individual farmers engaged in private public partnerships with the government they can gain an "unfair" advantage over other fisher men due to asymmetric information and more resources. In conclusion, partnerships can be fostered and strengthened through an entity such as a co-operative representing the interests of the fisher folk forming a collaboration with the government to promote efficiency in the sector

7. UG Agricultural Economics Focus 2014, University of Guyana, Guyana (multiple contributions)

In Guyana, the potential role of the CSOs in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scaled Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as "Voluntary Guidelines") was

brought to fore recently when the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA), a vocal watchdog group, mounted a widely publicized and vigorous response to the Guyana Government's inking of Memorandum of Understanding with a Chinese company to assess the feasibility of prospecting for a seafood species in the country's marine space.

The GHRA felt that the pact between the Guyana Government and the Chinese company could lead to the licensing of the Chinese company to operate in deep waters, "Chinese factory ships will be anchored off-shore and fed from the catches from the Chinese trawlers to be cleaned, filleted, frozen and packaged; [which means] work will be taken away from local fish cleaners and others." (Stabroek News).

The GHRA's posture on the issue coincides with the FAO's position as adumbrated in the Voluntary Guidelines, which "recognize that the post-harvest subsector – comprising all activities from capture of the fish through to the consumer – employs more people than the primary production subsector and most of them are women." (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

The UG Agricultural Economic Focus 2014 grouping, for its research project is concentrating on the strengthening of backward and forward linkages in agriculture as a means of enhancing food security. We also share the concern that linkages in the form of corporations, which are owned and staffed by foreigners, vertically integrating chunks of upstream and downstream segments of the value chain into their internal operations, actually destroy local livelihoods and are inimical to the food security of local communities.

Though failure to abide by the Voluntary Guidelines would not result in sanctions, the adoption of these Guidelines creates for national and supranational authorities a moral obligation to adhere to them. Thus, in the current case where it appears that Chinese corporate interests may threaten those of local actor in the small scale fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines, particularly Section 7 thereof, would apply; for example, one very relevant guideline (7.9) says: "States should endeavor to understand the impact of international trade in fish and fishery products and of vertical integration on local small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities. States should ensure that promotion of international fish trade and export production does not adversely impact the enjoyment of the right to food and other human rights especially of people for whom fish is critical to a nutritious diet, their health and well-being and for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily available or affordable."

Additional rules also apply to the scenario under examination; for instance, Voluntary Guideline 7.5 reads, "States and development partners should promote organizational and capacity development for small-scale fish workers in all stages of the value chain, in order to enhance their income and livelihood security. Accordingly, the development of cooperatives and other organizational structures should be supported as appropriate." Incidentally, the UG Agricultural Economics Focus 2014 had iterated at length the role of cooperatives in food security.

Through their activism and public pressure, CSOs can generate public pressure on authorities to follow these Voluntary Guidelines. It is indeed apposite to note how, even in the absence any institutionalizing of the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small Scaled Fisheries, the GHRA was able to widely highlight a potential threat to the integrity of the livelihoods of local small scaled fisheries actors and put the Minister of Agriculture (and Fisheries) and the wider Government on notice.

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Sustaining Small Scale Fisheries through Value-Added Production

Guyana has a low coastal plain which is the focal point of agricultural production. Rice is one of the main agricultural products produced in this region. Rice production in Guyana consists of many small to medium scale farmers, who supply both domestic and export markets.

Fishery production also takes place on the coastal area, given our 459 km Atlantic coastal zone and extensive network of rivers. This is great for sea food production which consists of marine fisheries that include prawns, shrimp, sea bob and a variety of commercial finfish. There is a need for much research to extract other species existing within the zone.

Apart from sea food production, aquaculture is a growing industry. It is still in its developmental stages but has the potential to be propelled to develop once necessary steps are put in place. However, aquaculture has so far been a very lucrative. Aquaculture is an advantageous opportunity for rice farmers to diversify; studies have shown that aquaculture production is much more profitable than the rice production. With irrigation systems already in place for rice production, there is much scope and adaptability for aquaculture production. More so, the byproduct of their rice, rice bran,(used to feed tilapia, the main fresh water fish species produced in Guyana) is used for feed. Chicken starter is also used as a fish feed, and is readily accessible in Guyana.

The Aquaculture can also be part be a diversification for the seafood companies, who would already have the facility and necessary systems in place for fish processing. These seafood companies can take advantage of this, and hence produce value added fresh fish products along with their sea food products. The seafood company to which the rice farmer sells aqua culture fish to can supply the rice farmer with sea bob, which is bountiful in Guyana sea fishing zone.

Initial investment needs capital. There is also need to put systems in place for production of value added products. Governments can help to promote value added production within this newly upcoming industry by implementing the needed credit policy and investing in the necessary research . This will help to ensure that the issue of limited investment is corrected by guaranteeing loans for fish production secure markets for their local producers and put system in place to protect them. The Guyana Small Business Bureau (GSBB) was granted a lump sum of cash to aid in the development of small businesses. It has the capacity of providing 40% of the needed collateral to access loans to start a business. This is an example of a credit policy that can mitigate some of the problems of accessing credit to invest in value-added production. The Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Lives stock (MFCL) manages, regulate and promote development of Guyana's inland and marine fishery resources. MFCL can use their influence to provide extension services and research support to improve the methods and production practices of small scale fish farmers. There are a number of fisheries oriented groups who can benefit from training and implementation of value chain analysis, application of improved and new methods of production to strengthen weakness by collaborating with the Guyana school of agriculture, the government, and investors.

With the aid of the right mix of government intervention, efficient use of natural resources, currently available infrastructure and value-added analysis, small scale fisheries would be a sustained venture within the Guyanese Market.

Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions.

What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?

Indeed there will be challenges that must be contended with. The main implementation challenges that would be highlighted lies within two areas. These would be modifying the SSF guideline in order for it to mesh with each country's political structure and setting up an efficient information network so that different stakeholders can communicate with each other and efficiently send feedback so that the process can be monitored. Each country is different and therefore requires a customized program that would best suite it but still hold to the SFF guideline. To combat this, a sample must be taken from a handful of countries in the different regions of the world. This would help to draw attention to different government structures, allowing for a better, efficient and more effective formulation of plans to be implemented. They would be tailored to what will best serve the given objective. Also the partnership with the government in implementing the laws/legislation necessary for the success of the project may be hindered or prolonged due to conflict of interest with parties that stand to lose in some way by the implementation the SSF guideline. The information network is of the most crucial part of the successful implementation and monitoring of this project. With the need for such a large scope of information sharing, every level of communication even though on different levels, must find common ground of some kind in their communication of information. That been said there must be a standard and universal method of information transition that that would be best suited for this task.

8. Ms. Francisca Gabriela Cruz Salazar, FENACOPEC, Ecuador

[Original contribution in Spanish]

¿Cómo ve el papel de su organización y de otros en la implementación de las Directrices PPE?

La Fenacopec es una organización que tiene 27 años de constitución que ha fortalecido sus bases para poder liderar, programar, proyectar y sociabilizar al sector pesquero artesanal en diferentes temas de interés común.

Participación activa en la toma de decisiones.

El sector pesquero artesanal ha demostrado que es representativo en las calles, a nivel económico (genera fuentes de trabajo) como político.

La Fenacopec aporta con su conocimiento y experiencia en el mejoramiento de las condiciones sociales y económicas del sector pesquero artesanal del Ecuador.

Representa en la toma de decisiones en base a los problemas del sector pesquero artesanal.

Para lograr los objetivos y mejorar las implementaciones de las directrices en la PPE se debe tener conocimiento, liderazgo, tener valores, principios y amor por la organización y defender hasta las últimas consecuencias los derechos de los pescadores artesanales, esto conlleva a

crear regulaciones e integrar y hacer propuestas con la participación activa de todos los pescadores y no unilateralmente.

¿Cómo pueden fomentarse y reforzarse las asociaciones para incluir las “voces de los marginados”?

La FAO o el mecanismo de la sociedad civil debe considerar a las organizaciones nacionales de pescadores artesanales y acuícolas para de esta forma poder expresar los problemas y soluciones.

Organismos internacionales deben apoyar con financiamiento para realizar emprendimientos y proyectos productivos. Este financiamiento debe ser direccionado por las organizaciones nacionales y no por los gobiernos (se convierte en algo político).

Las organizaciones nacionales deben ser convocadas a participar a nivel nacional, regional y mundial en el análisis y toma de decisiones de las directrices PPE.

¿Qué se requiere a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial para asegurar asociaciones eficaces y eficientes?

Apoyar con capacitación a las organizaciones.

Fortalecimiento de líderes.

Motivar e incentivar a las organizaciones mediante la realización de diferentes eventos, talleres, foros, entre otros, mediante lo cual se establezca el avance de los mismos.

Reconocimiento a las organizaciones y líderes por su participación en el desarrollo de las comunidades.

Promover proyectos productivos.

Promover líneas de crédito flexibles para otorgar valor agregado a los productos.

Promover financiamiento para modernización de activos y herramientas de trabajo.

¿Qué mejores prácticas en materia de comunicación recomendaría para la implementación de Directrices PPE a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial?

Respeto hacia la cultura e idioma.

Toda la información que otorgan las distintas instituciones a nivel mundial, deben acoplarse al idioma de cada país y no debe contener una explicación tan técnica, lo cual permita un fácil entendimiento. Esto debe realizarse a través de correo electrónico, redes sociales (facebook, twitter, entre otros).

Realizar talleres nacionales (una vez al año), regionales (2 veces al año) y mundial (1 vez al año).

Realizar las debidas gestiones para obtener un espacio televisivo en donde se de a conocer la importancia de la pesca artesanal, problemas, soluciones y la importancia de los recursos pesqueros en la alimentación nacional.

¿Cuáles son sus experiencias de seguimiento y evaluación participativos?

No existe continuidad en los procesos a nivel internacional.

A nivel nacional no existe el debido abastecimiento de información antes de los respectivos eventos, ante lo cual en la mayoría de los casos las personas desconocen de los diferentes temas a tratar.

A nivel nacional con la participación de los actores y mediante una planificación se le puede dar seguimiento a los temas que uno requiere.

Los temas deben ser sociabilizados con los actores para que sean realmente existosos y se les pueda dar seguimiento.

¿Cuales cree que son los principales problemas para la implementación, de forma general, así como en el contexto específico de cada país, y cómo pueden superarse?

No existen verdaderas politicas pesqueras acorde a nuestra realidad.

No existen ordenamientos en las diferentes actividades pesqueras (ejem: demasiados barcos chinchorreros sin artes de pesca regulados que afectan las pesquerías y causan un daño ambiental)

Irrespeto a las áreas de pesca artesanal.

El desplazamiento de los pescadores por la industrialización de diversos recursos (gas, petróleo).

Al no existir una política sancionadora en cuanto al daño ambiental, esto provoca la escases de los recursos pesqueros.

Creación de un Ministerio del Mar, dedicado específicamente a la pesca y acuicultura.

Restricción de nuevas embarcaciones artesanales e industriales a nivel nacional e internacional.

Implementación de sanciones mas severas.

Estructuración de un cupo de pesca por pescador.

La industria pesquera no cuenta con restricción alguna (areas de pesca, artes de pesca, entre otros) lo cual provoca una disminución del stock de los recursos, lo que genera que los pescadores artesanales tengan que alejarse cada día mas para la extracción de los recursos pesqueros, ante lo cual la inseguridad en el mar ha incrementado en la última década.

Existen 45 barcos pomaderos industriales que siguen depredando la plataforma submarina.

Debe existir una definición clara con respecto a que se considera embarcaciones de pequeña escala, debido a que en el Ecuador hasta 10 TRB son de pequeña escala, las cuales cuentan con medios propulsión (canalete y motores fuera de borda) y la actividad de extracción es de forma manual.

¿Cuáles son sus experiencias al abordar este tipo de problemas y qué estrategias y enfoques han tenido éxito o no?

Eliminación de 122 barcos industriales pertenecientes a la flota arrastrera.

Implementación de vedas.

Regulación de artes de pesca (artesanal más no industrial)

Defensa del area de pesca artesanal (una milla de zona de protección para el desove de las especies y 8 millas nauticas para la extracción de recursos)

Limitar el número de embarcaciones artesanales.

Campañas para la formalización y legalización de los pescadores artesanales ante la autoridad marítima y SEPS.

Creación y fortalecimiento de cooperativas, asociaciones, red y uniones de pescadores artesanales a nivel nacional.

Formación de líderes pesqueros, mediante capacitaciones periódicas.

Empoderamiento y participación activa en los diferentes temas para mejorar las relaciones de diálogo (gobierno-sector pesquero) para lograr los objetivos propuestos.

Movilizaciónes pacíficas y masivas para ser escuchados ante las diferentes autoridades.

Somos parte activa en la toma de decisiones para la protección de especies marina (tiburón, tortuga, etc)

¿Cómo deberían variar las intervenciones, en función del período de tiempo (por ej. qué se puede hacer durante los próximos 12 meses, en los próximos 5 años, a largo plazo) y

en función de los recursos existentes (por ej. inversiones en pequeña/mediana escala o inversiones a gran escala/transformadoras)?

Hasta el año 2014 se debe haber organizado y regulado el 90% de los pescadores artesanales ingresados en la organizaciones.

2014.- Lograr un masivo catastro y legalización de embarcaciones.

2014.- Conseguir un seguro pesquero para las embarcaciones y maquinarias (23.000)

2014.- Conseguir un seguro social hacia el pescador artesanal.

2014.- Generar políticas más drásticas en cuanto a la sanción a los barcos chinchorreros.

2014.- Seguir realizando las gestiones pertinentes para la creación del Ministerio del Mar.

2014.- buscar financiamiento mediante lineas de credito.

El que persevera alcanza.

2014 en adelante.- realizar foros nacionales, regionales para intercambio de experiencias con pescadores artesanales de la región.

2014 en adelante.- creación de una red de pescadores artesanales de america latina y el caribe, con sus respectivos representantes, los cuales puedan ser escuchados en las organizaciones internacionales, exponiendo las necesidades de cada uno de los países de la región.

Las organizaciones internacionales deben dejar de realizar demasiadas consultorias, y mencionado presupuesto debería ser destinado al desarrollo de las comunidades pesqueras de todos los países y buscar cooperantes para nuestras instituciones.

9. Odusina Oluwaseun, Nigeria

1. Partnering for implementation

Question A: How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?

Small scale fisheries actors should develop and/or strengthen SSF associations/cooperatives to contribute to the sustainable management of the resources and strengthen their voice in decision-making. There is a need to encourage the development of policies to protect SSF livelihoods, promote income opportunities and emphasis the socio-economic and cultural importance of SSF. Organization and others should be used to build awareness and political support for the SSF guidelines; SPC can play a role in this process.

Question B: How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the 'voices of the marginalized?

Organizations are already playing vital roles in contributing to addressing development and strengthening SSF, independently or in partnership with government and other actors, including as:

- **Service providers:** delivering services to meet SSF society needs such as education, health, food and security, community economic development; implementing natural resource management; undertaking disaster management, preparedness and emergency response, especially at the community level
- **Experts:** bringing unique knowledge and experience to shape policy and strategy of fishing, and identifying and building solutions on social, economic and environmental issues
- **Capacity builders:** providing education, training and other capacity building via informal as well as formal programmes for a wide range of target fishermen and using a diverse set of capacity building approaches including innovative use of information and communication technologies towards building adaptive capacity in small scale fishing.

- **Representatives:** giving power to the voice of the marginalized or under-represented, including poor communities, resource users and women who are otherwise excluded from decision-making processes
- **Social monitors:** holding governments and private sector to account, promoting transparency and accountability
- **Advocates:** raising awareness of societal issues and challenges and advocating for change, including on a range of sustainable development issues in fishing environments.
- **Innovators:** leading on thinking and practical action new and emerging issues to catalyze development in small scale fishing areas such as green economy, sustainable consumption and production.

Question C: What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

- Invite States to ratify or accede to and implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities;
- Promote the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21 which provides the programme of action for achieving the sustainable development of oceans, coastal areas and seas through its programme areas of integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones; marine environmental protection; sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources; addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change; strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination; and sustainable development of small islands;
- Establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system;
- Encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach, noting the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem and decision 5/6 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Promote integrated, multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral coastal and ocean management at the national level, and encourage and assist coastal States in developing ocean policies and mechanisms on integrated coastal management;
- Strengthen regional cooperation and coordination between the relevant regional organizations and programmes, the UNEP regional seas programmes, regional fisheries management organizations and other regional science, health and development organizations;
- Assist developing countries in coordinating policies and programmes at the regional and sub-regional levels aimed at the conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources, and implement integrated coastal area management plans, including through the promotion of sustainable coastal and small-scale fishing activities and, where appropriate, the development of related infrastructure;
- Take note of the work of the open-ended informal consultative process established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 in order to facilitate the annual review by the Assembly of developments in ocean affairs and the upcoming review of its effectiveness and utility to be held at its fifty-seventh session under the terms of the above-mentioned resolution.

In all, to achieve sustainable fisheries in respect to effective and efficient partnership, I would suggest the following actions are required at all levels:

- Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015;

(b) Ratify or accede to and effectively implement the relevant United Nations and, where appropriate, associated regional fisheries agreements or arrangements, noting in particular the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas;

(c) Implement the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, taking note of the special requirements of developing countries as noted in its article 5, and the relevant Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) international plans of action and technical guidelines;

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

Question A: What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?

- The role of associations and bottom up-approaches to information and capacity development need to be highlighted.
- Stakeholders must be proactive to ensure that adequate training is tailored to their needs.
- It is important to emphasize and promote the use of technology and alternative methods for information dissemination and capacity development, including the use of mobile phones and the Internet.
- The guidelines should specify the need to create a variety of dissemination channels, including information sharing between non-government stakeholders and the use of training attachments and tutor exchanges between countries.

Question B: What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?

- It is important to develop an efficient system for monitoring at the international level that avoids over-burdening countries with reporting requirements— regional organizations could play a role in facilitating this.
- Funding opportunities can be explored by building on the different issues included in the SSF guidelines.
- There is a need to identify priorities within the SS guidelines and define milestones and time frames to achieve them.
- Regional platforms exist (e.g. island councils, Pacific Islands Forum Government Heads, Forum Fisheries Ministers Meeting, SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting) and should be used to build awareness and political support for the SSF guidelines; SPC can play a role in this process.

Attached paper: **TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN THE PHILIPPINES: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM EIGHT REGIONAL SITES**
<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/resources/ODUSINA%20LUWASEUN%20ABBEY%20PAPER%20WORK%20ON%20SMALL-SCALE%20FISHERIES.doc>

10. Agriculture Economics Research Group, 1 University of Guyana, Guyana (multiple contributions)

In responding to the Challenges and Opportunities topic in this discussion.

One of the main implementation challenges in dealing with securing sustainable small-scale fisheries is : The Management of Small -Scale fisheries due to climate change and its implications on food security.

The MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) outlined a list of predictions as to how further worsening of climate change affects fisheries. Among these the most highlighted was the rising of sea temperatures which causes a reduction on the number of fish available to fishers and the relocation of fish. This affects communities locally, regionally and globally.

As a result of this poverty rates increase because fish stock is scarcely available to sustain small scale fisher families, in turn reducing their consumption. This mainly affects developing countries whose poverty rates are already high due to the lack of other resources available to the population and other countries where large percentages of the population depends solely upon fish.

An example in which this was the main implementation challenge was a Case Study done on Solomon Islands on Food Security versus Environment Conservation with small scale fisheries.

In continuation from the previous post made under Challenges and Opportunities needed for Implementing The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries the implementing challenges could possibly be resolved by:

- (1) Gathering of information on the reproduction cycle of fish and to monitor the harvesting of fish.
- (2) Mandates for the limiting amount of catch per family annually, and accountability measures to end overfishing.
- (3) Mandates for no- fishing on coastal areas and during reproduction cycle.
- (4) Allocation of fishing effort, so that present value of future discounted catch aggregated among fishers is maximized.

For the implementation of SSF guidelines there is the need for engagement and partnership along different organisations, institutions and actors. Co operation and dedication to the task will make this venture one of success. Every organisation, institution and actors have different roles to play in the enhancement of the SSF guidelines. Fishing communities, CSOs, academic institutions, NGOs, governments, regional organizations, donors and international agencies and organizations all have a part to play in the implementation of these guidelines.

Fishing communities play a pivotal role in the implementation of the SSF guidelines. Fishing communities are mostly located in rural areas. Hence, these communities make the fishing industry function because they provide the supply of fishes based on average demand for fish. Urban communities would buy fish from these communities or buy the rural workers through higher wages so they will migrate to the urban areas to expand their fishing industry. While, on the other hand academic institutions can be more vocal through the media and through their teaching methods empowering students to be stewards advocating nutrients content and benefits given by fish when consumed.

Therefore, to make the SSF guidelines effective and efficient funds are necessary. This is where the CSOs, NGOs, government, regional organisation, donors and international agencies can function. The fishing industry would have to be enhanced for food security and these organisation can lend their support financially and also in giving their inputs/contributions to the SSF guidelines.

With the help of the different organisations, institutions and actors can make the SSF guidelines an actuality.

11. Future of Agricultural Economics ECN 4103 Group 2, University Of Guyana, Guyana (multiple contributions)

First contribution

“If you want to maintain a sustainable supply of fish you have to farm the fish, rather than mine them. So putting your money into fishing fleets that are going to exacerbate the problem by over-fishing is not the way to preserve the underlying asset.”

-Maurice Strong

In this post we would like to address the challenges and opportunities faced by small scale fisheries on a national and local level.

Small scale fishers face many challenges; which severely threaten their livelihood and sustainability due to their vulnerability as a result of utilizing primitive, labour intensive methods. Some of these challenges are:

1. Pollution: sewage, plastics, oil spills and other waste that contaminate the water lie closer to the shores. Since small scale fishers do not possess the necessary technology to fish away from the shores, as large scale fishers, they are unable to benefit from cleaner, fresher waters.
2. Over exploitation of the fish resources and destructive fishing methods by the large scale fisheries: overexploitation of a scarce resource; such as the fish stock, can have detrimental effects on not only small scale fishers, but also other stakeholders.
3. Globalization: even though globalization is necessary for a country to achieve economic growth, this phenomenon can impose disadvantage to local small scale fisheries. This is so because the added competition of foreign large and small scale fisheries can force local small scale fisheries to withdraw from the industry, thus making them worst off.
4. Access to markets: small scale fisheries are usually found in small rural communities. As a result, the sale of their catch is usually restricted to their own subsistence use and the community use; since it may not be feasible to even consider a bigger market such as other vicinities locally because of storage and transportation costs.
5. Deprivation of Land: small scale fisheries do not have access to the same amount and quality of sea and river locations as large scale farmers because of financial and other constraints.

Those are just some of the main challenges faced by the SSF, which directly and indirectly threaten their sustainability. This sector should therefore be protected and given preference in order to prevent any further increase in poverty.

Opportunities for SSF are seldom self-initiated due to financial constraints and lack of skilled labour. However, opportunities can arise from government intervention; such as: subsidies, price ceilings, easy credit, informative workshops and protection of local SSF from the added competition of the international market.

A major opportunity that the government can pursue in order to benefit SSF is to facilitate ‘fish farming’; which addresses the issues of their inability to venture out on sea and over exploitation of the fish stock. Fish farming is basically a technique whereby fish is reared in a tank under controlled conditions. This method will not deplete the fish stock in the sea, nor will it destroy the environment. In addition, fish farming alleviates some of the risks and insecurities

that SSF have on sea. However, introducing this technique to SSF will require three major actions from the government:

1. Educating and training the SSF.
2. Provision of subsidies and easy credit to launch this initiative.
3. Monitoring the transition of SSF to this new method.

Fish farming, once initiated, creates many opportunities for SSF simply by being able to provide fish to a larger market. This approach, as 'small' as it might seem, will help to sustain SSF; as well as provide a closer step to achieve food security.

Sources:

1. FAO: Strategies for Increasing the Contribution of Small-Scale Capture Fisheries to Food Security and Poverty Alleviation In The WECAFC Region
ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/wecafc/11thsess/WECAFCXI_4E.pdf
2. Fábio H. V. Hazin D.Sc (Year Unknown) *The Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process On Oceans and the Law of the Sea- Fisheries and their Contribution to Sustainable Development: Small Scale and Artisanal Fishing.*

Second contribution

How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the 'voices' of the marginalized?

A marginalized group is one which is excluded from the decision making process, and since they represent a small proportion of the population, their needs for development and sustainability can be easily overlooked. The needs of marginalized groups such as Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) are easily side tracked or "fall through the cracks" as decisions for sustainability are made using the vast majority of the population as the priority. It is thus necessary to examine how important partnerships are for the SSF in order to strengthen their voices and ensure their sustainability.

The contribution of SSF to GDP may not be recognizable, since most of their catches are consumed by their families and villagers. As a result, SSF are marginalized and thus, their voices will not be heard unless supported by the Government, Private Sector or Civil Society. SSF usually require such support because they lack the necessary resources, such as; literacy, technical skills, share of market, mechanical equipment and many other factors that could contribute to their empowerment. However, partnership between one of the listed entities above and SSF can help to enhance their significance and ensure their sustainability; especially since their livelihoods are at stake.

As a result, the government can help small scale fishers by providing rights necessary for the fishery resource and land, in order to prevent bullying from larger scale fisheries, thus avoiding the depletion of vital resources in the area. The government can also provide loans and easy credit to the SSF in an attempt to stimulate their production scale and contribute to their sustainability. The civil society can initiate a SSF Cooperative Society; to facilitate educational seminars on fishery practices and handling, provide a place where added trade can take place and also to encourage and promote SSF. Finally, the private sector can contribute to strengthening the 'voices' of the SSF by sponsoring rental boats, providing rental storage, and facilitating transportation to larger markets.

Through assistance, co-operation and partnership, SSF can be empowered and thus categorized as a group actively involved in the decision making process for a country, as opposed to being marginalized.

Source: (2012) *FAO/CRFM Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small - Scale Fisheries: Group Work Guidance Notes*

On information and communication:

We agree that dialogue or the sharing of experiences is the best way to understand how to help fighting industries and communities better manage their resources, improve their techniques, monitor overfishing and exploitation, educate actors at all levels, and finally out of this process, implement the SFF guidelines effectively as best suited to the conditions that characterize different fishing regions.

Too often, mechanisms such as the SFF Guidelines are top-down approaches fashioned at the global level then passed down to governments of countries who, having been cut out of process from the beginning, are expected to implement the measures against their own constituents. And, gov'ts that fail to promote effective management of fishing within fishing communities AMONG fishermen will inevitably scramble for bearings when the Guidelines are passed to them. When the dangers of overfishing- ¼ of the total fish stock caught is overfished- coupled with water pollution and climate change are imminent, and the deep levels of poverty associated with so many fishing communities are glaring, this approach dangerously marginalizes important actors, rendering the SFF guidelines implementation ineffective.

Fishermen within communities usually work within groups that form their own rule of law, rules for division of catch, penalties and so on. Because these fishermen are the breadwinners of these communities, this gives them the legitimacy to make these decisions on the communities' behalf. CSOs also play a large role in communities by representing the marginalized and making them part of this process so for this reason, among others, all community-level actors should be consulted.

As stated by my colleagues before, *small sale fisheries are very important since they have the potential to contribute significantly to food security and nutrition, economic growth, poverty eradication, rural development, sustainable resource utilization, equitable development and to provide valuable employment opportunities.* Implementing the SSF guidelines set out by the FAO will ensure that these potentials of the SSF be achieved. It is important that the implementation progress takes place through:

- Partnership with fishing communities (not simply fishermen), civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, NGOs, regional organizations, donors and international agencies in order to make the program successful. Through partnership, data and information is more readily collected during the implementation process in order to make informed decisions about what is taking place. This leads to the strengthening of SSF associations and all interested stakeholders could bring their opinions and ideas forward which can perhaps be polished for application.
- Information and communication where experience sharing and collaboration is continuously promoted. Progress should be monitored and evaluated continuously in order to see if the guidelines are working or not and to have relevant statistics to make information available and shared so as to make informed decisions.

It is also important to identify the challenges that the guidelines will face and identify how they can be overcome. Some problems are over-exploitation of resources which leads to higher prices and competing demands and access to resources which has a serious effect on food sustainability. In order to curb these problems, there should be policy responses to overuse of open-access resources include imposing licenses or quotas, moving from an open access system to a more community rights based management and small-scale fishers' access rights can be protected through exclusion zones where the industrial fleet is banned from fishing in certain zones.

12. UGAgri Group7, University of Guyana, Guyana (multiple contributions)

What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?

Fisheries are important contribution to food securities and poverty reduction in a variety of ways. However, there are threatening issues to the contribution of fisheries to food security.

Some countries are faced with the issue of ***open access systems***, which often translates into overexploitation of resources (fishes). Overfishing will result in the stock of fish being depleted and the fish population's ability to replenish itself will be damaged, having makings of both an economic and an ecological collapse. Sustainable management of renewable resources is necessary for the long sustainability of fisheries. Moving from an open access system to a more common property management will help in this sustainability. Common property resources are those owned by a community, without specific assignment of private property rights to individuals or firms. Common property resources can be managed traditionally by use of customs or government management, through social mechanism to control the level of access to these fishing areas. Also policy responses to overuse of open-access resources include imposing licenses or quotas. If fishers must pay a license fee, this will reduce the economic incentive for crowded entries into the industry. Implementation of quotas, or catch limits will reduce the overexploitation. Government officials may decide on the quota for the entire fishery and the method of distributing these quotas.

Another threatening problem is ***competing demands*** and access to fishing areas facing local small scale fishers. This is where large industrialize fishing boats compete with the local fishers for fishing in the same areas, and small scale fishers are the ones to lose out. This has serious implications for food securities in the local areas. For this issue of competing among industrial and local fishers, small-scale fishers' access rights can be protected through exclusion zones where the industrial fleets are banned from fishing in certain zones.

Immoral waste of resources is another threatening issue facing fishers, as a result of large by-catch. Large by-catch affects the sustainability of future fishes and thus likely to reduce the security of food for the future generation. By-catch includes juveniles of commercially valuable species, and biologically important species. The World Wide Fund for Nature estimates the fishing industry discards some 39 million tons globally, while nearly one-third of all fish stocks are considered overfished. To avoid this problem by-catch reduction devices (BRDs) should be adopted by fishers. The fishing officials/Authorities should ensure the use of these devices. If fishers are not abiding by the laws, they should be subjected to a fine and/or ban these fishers from fishing. However, BRDs may be costly for SSF to invest in; other alternatives to avoid by catch are close seasons, close areas and restricted entry.

Partnering for implementation:

Small sale fisheries have the potential to contribute significantly to food security and nutrition, economic growth, poverty eradication, rural development, sustainable resource utilization, equitable development and to provide valuable employment opportunities. The economic and biological functions of fisheries are clear; what are less so is the social objectives that fisheries fulfill in their communities. The livelihood of fishing communities on a whole is sustained by the income earned from fishing and other fishing activities along that value chain, and simultaneously these activities form and influence the social structure of communities- giving communities distinct identities, certain dignities, creating and maintaining relations within the communal sphere, and so on.

To emphasize the gravity of SSFs, consider that nearly 100 million people in the world depend in some way or another on fishing as a sole means of income, making more vulnerable to food insecurity and poverty, young people and women in particular within whole vulnerable communities. The small scale fishing sector globally, and Guyana is no exception, is comprised of largely illiterate and innumerate fishers who depend on traditional fishing knowledge and techniques conduct their craft. Much thought is not given to environmental sustainability or conservation and so on. Intervention is badly needed to alleviate the poverty connected to fishing as a means of livelihood in Guyana through making fisheries more productive, environmentally sustainable, better managed with a view to improving the conditions in the communities, and more diverse.

For these reasons, there is genuine and widespread interest in securing their sustainable development altogether and doing so in a way that includes the participation of all actors in this process. The main participants have been identified as fishing communities (not simply fishermen), civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, NGOs, regional organizations, donors and international agencies. The academic world has an important role to play, as it usually does, in documenting data and information collected over the implementation process of these guidelines referred to and in providing a body of research-biological, economic, managerial- from which to access to inform decisions in this process. For instance, out of the FAO's consultative process, faculty members from universities around the world contributed to crafting the guidelines on sustaining small scale fisheries from their research and experience.

Mr. Odusina Abbey made quite articulate contributions in his paper work on small scale fisheries, suggesting Small scale fisheries actors (at the different levels) should develop and/or strengthen SSF associations/cooperatives to contribute to the sustainable management of the resources and strengthen their voice in decision-making. To facilitate the partnerships being fostered and strengthened, organizations can play roles (and continue to play roles) as service providers, experts, capacity builders, representatives, social monitors, advocates and innovators. CSOs, for instance, have historically played a leadership role in cooperative efforts made by communities, informing, facilitating and mediating between gov'ts and donors and researchers and experts and these groups.

13. Concern 3, University of Guyana, Guyana (multiple contributions)

Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?

This post is aiming to make a contribution towards the Information and communication aspect of the article, more directly, “how can progress in implementation the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?”

Assuming that fishermen have been sensitized and understand the importance of staying in accordance with the proposed guidelines the following are thoughts in which the implementation of these guidelines can be measured. Setting up agencies in different parts of the world, which would be tasked with measuring the implementation of the guidelines by fishermen is one way of collecting data worldwide. Different parts of the world would need to pay more attention to different aspects of the guidelines. The general principle of the guidelines however remains intact.

One way in which the measurement of the implementation can be done is having the captains of the vessels or boats make a report as to how they have abided by the guidelines provided and hand in that report to officials as they return from sea, or at least before they leave the dock. This process may be biased, because the captains would not want to let out any information that would tarnish their reputation and hamper their fish market.

Another approach is to have agents at the docks and market site who would make records as to what species of fish was caught and what quantity, this would put the agents in a better position to understand where the fishers were fishing, if they stayed within their permits and the quantity would tell more about what considerations were taken when allowing for the ecosystem of the species to survive and thrive. This is however, making the assumption that the agencies set up have full knowledge of the ecosystems, their whereabouts, and all other necessary information that would put them in a position to evaluate the data collected by the agents.

Holding quarterly meetings with fishermen, ecologists and market representatives to obtain their inputs on how the implementations of the guidelines have affected them or their surroundings and to what degree they believe the guidelines are being implemented, and what are their recommendations on bettering the processes. These are some of the measures that can be put in place to assist in the collection of data to measure the degree of which the guidelines are being implemented and to some extent their effectiveness.

What will be required at the local, regional and global levels to ensure an effective partnership?

Small-scale fishing is much more significant than most people realize. Like small-scale agriculture, small-scale fishing is widespread and crucial to employment and food supply in innumerable communities in developing nations, where some 95 percent of all fishers ply their trade (FAO 2002a) quoted in (Yumiko, et al., 2004).

Raising awareness of the importance of small-scale fisheries is particularly relevant not only because these livelihoods depend on sustainable use of the natural resource base, but also because these fisheries provide vital local nutritious food and a safety net for many poor households in coastal communities in developing countries (World Bank, 2010).

In addressing the issues of communication among small scale fisheries one need to first address the issues by strengthening the political and economic rights of the small-scale fisheries actors, empowerment and capacity building. Fishing communities should have access to health, education and other social services. Their resilience needs to be increased – in general and with regard to natural disasters and climate change consequences in particular. It requires a focus on reducing vulnerabilities and promoting responsible fishing practices together with addressing social and economic development needs. While some experience exists from such integration of resource governance and social development, tools and methods still need to be developed in

order that environmental, resource and community rights and sustainability are considered concurrently.

When it comes to ensuring an effective partnership at the local level strengthening local organizational structures help people to be represented and take part in decision-making processes. There is a need to work with communities to enhance their organizational capacity, building on existing structures and strengths. The focus should be on enabling individuals and institutions to effectively use their newly acquired capacity to address their priority needs. Also at the local level the evolving of women is important because about (47 percent) of women, mainly engaged in the post-harvest activities, handling the fish after it is caught and ensuring that this important source of nutrition reaches more than 1 billion consumers for whom fish is a key component of their diets (World Bank, 2010).

Moreover, an effective partnership at the regional level can be promoted by fostering a link between stakeholders NGOs and research institutions. These organizations often have specific skills in training extension, communication and research that can assist both government and communities with their responsibilities for fisheries management. These organizations can also help local managers formulate and evaluate their management plans by providing knowledge and advice and helping design and implement effective data collection systems. Other important related roles might include developing communication networks and facilitating information sharing.

Additionally at the global level ensuring an effective partnership can be implemented by supporting knowledge mobilization, leadership capabilities (of men and women), research partnerships and the use of effective communication tools (making use of new technologies and social media). Programs and networks for experience sharing and collaboration would aid in the context of strengthening existing organizations and ensuring that the necessary institutional structures and capacity are in place to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries. Also the need for empowerment through organizational development and collective actions is one of the key elements of SSF Guidelines implementation.

Further readings International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, 2012. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

According to the FAO's State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report 2012, more than ninety percent (90%) of all capture fishers are operating in the small-scale sector, with women playing a key role in post-harvest activities. The livelihoods of about 357 million people, primarily in developing countries, depend on the sector which often constitutes a fundamental way of life as well as an important economic activity. These guidelines establish principles and criteria for the elaboration and implementation of policies and strategies for the enhancement of small-scale fisheries governance and development. It also provides practical guidance for implementation of these policies and strategies. However, these guidelines are subject to challenges as it regards to the implementation process.

Meeting present and future food needs, ensuring environmental integrity and providing income and employment in the fishery sector is a balancing act given the finite productive capacity of resources and a complex challenge given the uncertainty over this productivity. However, addressing these issues is what makes governance possibly the most complex of the challenges. There are potentially many stakeholders who may wish to gain access to, or control over fisheries resources or influence management decisions. These individuals and groups may have very differing views of what sustainability is, based on their world views and attitudes to risk,

and therefore what sorts of priorities, decisions and outcomes would be appropriate for a fishery.

Due to poverty and vulnerability, small-scale fishing communities may lack the incentives to participate in resource management and these aspects of poverty need to be addressed first, or simultaneously. Appropriate incentive structures (institutional, legal, economic, and social) are needed to enable small-scale fishing communities to sustainably manage the aquatic resources they and future generations depend on for their well-being without jeopardizing their social and economic development.

It is important to create opportunities for exchange of views among stakeholder groups to learn from each other. Accordingly, for both implementation and monitoring along with the development of capacity at all levels, appropriate institutional arrangements are required, including partnerships for policy formulation and involvement of grassroots level organizations. Partnerships among all stakeholders are critical for this process. Many opportunities for establishing and strengthening these partnerships already exist and given financial and human resource constraints, existing platforms and institutional arrangements should be used for this purpose. Fisheries agencies for example could interact with peers in other countries and regional organizations (e.g. in Africa, NEPAD Sub-regional Fisheries Commission, in Asia, SEAFDEC, ASEAN, SPC etc.) could play a critical role in facilitating regional, sub regional and national implementation strategies and plans focusing on the issues pertinent to the specific regions and countries.

In the Philippines for example, the Fisheries Code endorses the establishment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils, formed by fisheries organizations, cooperatives and NGOs at the national, municipal and village level, which are mandated to carry out a number of advisory functions in close collaboration with the local government units. Existing inter-sectoral processes and collaborative arrangements such as for climate change adaptation, coastal zone management or socio-economic development and planning at different level are other potential entry points.

FURTHER READINGS: Toward sustainable fisheries management by M.R.A.G.

Supporting instruments for the Implementation of small fisheries guidelines

A key starting point in establishing a sustainable platform can be capacity building of users within targeted zones. By zones we mean fishing areas where several communities or tribes derive their living. Training and education organized through private public partnership can serve as instruments to sensitize users of risks associated with poor practices relative to that of a sustainable behavior. Education in this context of sustainability needs to be mindful of the user background especially in developing countries (DC). Many fishers in DC are so by possibly culture or socialization. Hence, terms such as open access, replenishing rate, depletion and so on may have little value. This form of education must be specialized so that the issues are clearly understood. In addition, information dissemination through technological sources where possible can also provide a ready source of prompt response to users with uncertainty regarding usage of these zones. Training will target best practices.

Oduşina identified the role of advocacy as a critical component in supporting the implementation of voluntary guideline of SSF. However, by extension, the nature of advocacy should also focus on empowering citizens not only for change but to enforce change. This enforcement capacity has been the weakness of several types of implementations whether it be laws or otherwise. Therefore, to ensure cohesion between guidelines and practice capacity

needs to be built so that enforcement is achievable. When enforcement is possible, accountability across all levels becomes a realistic objective.

One of the engines to support the implementation process is partnerships. By partnerships we mean lobbying governments in DC to provide an enabling environment for the Private Sector, NGO, Civil Society, FBO and other organization to freely participate in the process of implementation. Legislative protection must also be part of this partnership framework. It would be difficult for some of these groups to work effectively in potentially challenging environment without a sense of protection. It is natural for people to try to circumvent at some point, rules they may have agreed to sometime in the past. Therefore legislative enactments serve as a deterrent motivating factor.

Finally, to achieve optimal compliance some form of verification and monitoring should be established. Where zones require the use of small boats licensing, would be insufficient to influence operators to adhere to these rules since a cost may be imposed. Therefore to the extent whereby deviation of standard practice is observed a form of corrective measure should be applied to ensure that norms are upheld.

14. Andrew Johnston, Artisanal Fishers Association, South Africa

Guidelines;

We the small- scale fishing communities find ourselves in an era of exceptional economic, cultural and political upheaval, not one of happiness and success but in an environment of prejudice, alienation and inequality. We have become the prisoners of a belief that we can be fashioned at will to an ideology of that if we are industrialized, it will eradicate the poverty. Even though this creates an uncaring, corrupt, dog eats dog society, with human values an after thought. We no longer live in a communally based society but in social isolation. Global warming /climate change is spoken as the foremost issue, as if it is the only plight we face, but hides the much larger and important environmental problems that affronts the small- scale fishers, -that of pollution, over catching, economic oppression, marginalization, mass extinction of stock, dying coral reefs, unjust laws, and bad management. Food security is thus at risk because the harvesting of high value fish is mainly for export rather than for local food needs in fact Africa has become the bread basket for the rich nations and not for the needy at home. The discussion on the trade issue at the forthcoming Guidelines meeting should set importance to the trade proposals and;

Admit that economic growth cannot be achieved if we continue to harvest unsustainably to fuel the economy of the state.

Abandon the obsession with maximum sustainable yields but look to local sufficiency.

Change from the non- caring capitalistic complex economies that has a detrimental effect on the complex frail ecosystem and the vulnerable small- scale fisher folk.

The fluctuation of value of money that leads to high costs of fuel, material, food and taxation keeps the small- scale fishing communities forever in the jaws of impoverishment.

The introduction of the protection of human values beyond and above human rights that is being eroded by Machiavellian economic policies.

End of part 1

Andrew Johnston,
Artisanal Fishers Association,
Republic of South Africa.

15. Austria, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Dear all,

Austria would like to take part in the e-consultation concerning the “Implementing the Voluntary

Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries” and comment as follows:

With reference to the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), Austria would like to underline that these Guidelines are an important step to secure the livelihoods for a great number of people. Although these Guidelines aim in general at the situation in developing countries they meet the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO 1995) and support the part-time income of many fisher-families in Austria.

Austria fully supports the holistic approach to the general principles of SSF Guidelines.

Best regards,

Hedwig Wögerbauer
Head of Division III/3, OECD, FAO, Food Aid, Economic Provision
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 12, 1010 Wien

16. Daniela Campeche, Embrapa Tropical Semi-Arid, Brasil

1. Partnering for implementation

Once we are in a semi-arid region, SSF is highly demanded, especially when food security and budget increase of small producers are involved. Not only for my institution, but for our partners as well as the community involved.

We believe that gathering the results so far achieved and through a media effort to show it around as well, is what needs to be done to include the ‘voices of the marginalized. Once this first process is done, a network can be build up in order to submit research and extensions projects.

A team involved in the cause is the key success to ensure effective and efficient partnership. Although a realistic budget, is essential for a project to achieve its goal.

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

At local level, it is of extremely importance that all stakeholders involved at the SSF chain are in a very clear communication process. Producers must understand what researchers want to achieve, as well as researchers must understand producer's needs. From this level on, the process is easier once meetings and workshops work very well in the communication process where experiences and needs are exchange among different groups involved. Articles published are also a great and essential communication tool.

My experience is at local and national level, where research and extension projects were involved. In my organization's point of view, there is no better tool to monitor and evaluate a project other than be in the field with as many stakeholders as can be involved in the productive chain. Once all together, it is possible to listen, talk, and analyze problems. Also highlight the points of success.

Strategies to measure SSF Guidelines must be settled locally, in my point of view. It can change from on situation to other. The classical way to report is through documents and articles published.

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

Federal government has been investing a lot of efforts and financial support to eradicate poverty. Even though it seems that there is a need of understanding in a deeper level, the importance of SSF in order to maintain small producers living in the country side of the country states, instead of migrating to bigger cities. This is an example of an important challenge to be overcome. But, in the other side there is a huge problem involving the SSF producers, once they have a cultural dependence from the government for any purpose and/or reason.

I have experienced it in couple projects. It is always a great opportunity to be with all stakeholders in the field (SSF). Make producers continue on their own is a challenge! We have not yet settled a strategy to decrease this bottleneck.

17. Lena Westlund, Facilitator of the discussion, Sweden

Dear SSF forum contributors – and contributors-to-be,

Just over two weeks have now elapsed of our e-consultation and we have a bit less than one week to go. I'd like to thank those of you who have already posted your comments and inputs – and encourage those who have not done so yet to start writing and post at your earliest convenience so that we have time to share and consider your experiences!

Reading through your contributions so far, I note that there is broad agreement on that we all have to engage and promote **partnerships for the implementation** of the SSF Guidelines. The special responsibility of governments is being pointed out, in particular with regard to giving priority to the small-scale fisheries sector, but there is often a need to clarify the different roles of different government departments. It is also important that small-scale actors take ownership of the implementation process and, at the local and community level, empowerment, leadership training and organisational development (building on existing structures) are needed. With regard to **information and communication**, aspects highlighted include the need for awareness raising and increased use of various forms of media - respecting cultures and languages - and dissemination of facts and figures to improve the knowledge on and visibility of small-scale fisheries. Some of the **challenges** cited include absence of policy frameworks that reflect the reality of the small-scale fisheries sector, a lack of funding and also the incidence of

corruption. Looking at the brighter side, there are of course also important **opportunities**, for example by seeking increased engagement by youth and support from consumers, including through fair trade initiatives.

This was of course just a very brief overview of some of the inputs – I hope you will read the different contributions to learn more. Please feel free to reply to propositions already made when posting your contributions. I look forward to hearing from you!

With best wishes,

Your facilitator Lena

18. Group 4, University of Guyana, Guyana (multiple contributions)

Dear All,

Fish is an important dietary form of protein that is necessary in achieving the required daily protein intake by every person. It is pervasive in nature in rural areas in that it is easily accessed by the poor for consumption. Primarily due to it being a form of business and employment in rural areas and thereby constitutes a large percentage of the income for the poor who are employed in these areas. Fish is also known as one of the cheapest of meats available to the poor owing to its abundance and the beneficiaries social relations with the seller or patron. With this in consideration, the attempt of implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries plays an important role in outlining what is needed to improve the small-scale fisheries and give persons involve in the fishing industry insights in relation to the maximization of this resource.

Despite fish being cheap, easily accessible and available in large quantities for the poor, they are purchased in small quantities at low prices where as other forms of protein are very expensive and in most parts difficult to access. The underpinning argument behind them being able to purchase fish in small quantities in rural settings is that most fishermen are from rural areas. After their catch, they return home to sell to their counterparts at low prices for their subsistence consumption and the excess are sold on the local market at going local market prices. The access to fish provides the consumer with a significant source of protein, micro-nutrients, and essentially fatty acids that acts as a complement to the carbohydrate-based diet of the poor in developing countries. Therefore, the ability of small –scale fisheries plays a vital and indispensable role of supplying the poor with an easily available and cheap source of protein providing that they do not overexploit their privilege in doing so. More importantly, their involvement in improving food security plays a crucial role.

Given the necessity for fish as a form of protein and its importance in achieving food security in this form, an implementation of the guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries must consider how fisheries can be controlled through managed exploitation, enhancement to increase production and must be able to manage conflict over access to resources as pointed out by Fisheries Management Science Programme(FMSP) Policy Brief, Fisheries and Food Security outline. [\[1\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) FMSP Policy Brief 3, Fisheries and Food Security

Dear Colleagues,

Group 4 is a group of students currently attending the University of Guyana involved in a term project with its hope to improve Food Security with their aims and ideas. We therefore base our contribution to the following area of discussion;

Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

Small-scale fisheries play a vital role in economies as a very important contributor to the alleviation of poverty and in the continuous increasing of food security. Recent data from the FAO has shown that small-scale fisheries contribute to approximately 54 percent of global marine and inland fishing to the developing countries. Small-scale fishermen not only provide themselves with a meal and income but they also provide these to the local market and others leading to a significant increase to nutritious food.

Because small-scale fisheries are so important for every country, implementing voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries is a great way in helping countries as well as accomplishing the MDGs for those countries. As such, this post aims to make contribution towards the 'partnering for implementation' aspect of the FAO article.

For this program to be successful, all should be involved in the partnership for the implementation of the SSF guidelines. To be more specific however, the main actors of this program would involve the government, NGOs, international agencies and the fishing communities. In addition, to be able to include the 'voices of the marginalized', it would be best to produce information and data (results) about this program through viable sources such as the newspaper, the internet via a web page and/or through the television.

Furthermore, there should be a team in charge of this program. Each person will be entitled their own responsibility. For example, a different individual will be in charge of the local level, another at the national level, and so on for the regional and global level, etc. Of course frequent communication will be a major necessity. Assuming that the budget is available, if this is done, then the partnership will be effective and efficient.

19. Mignane Sarr, Université polytechnique de Thès, Sengal

[Original contribution in French]

La sécurisation des pêcheries artisanales se doit faire avec la mise en œuvre des plans d'aménagement et gestion au niveau des Aires Marines Protégées (AMPs). Les AMPs étant des outils de gestion des pêcheries, leur appropriation par les communautés de pêche constitue un chemin sûr pour la restauration des ressources halieutiques.

[English translation]

Securing small scale fisheries needs to be done in the context of the implementation of development and management plans at the level of Marine Protected Areas (APMs). Since APMs are means for managing fisheries, their ownership by fisheries communities represent a step forward for the restoration of fisheries resources.

20. Matthieu Bernardon, France

[Original contribution in French]

Les directives sont développées pour apporter des réponses et une approche intégrée aux défis actuels de la pêche artisanale dans le monde.

Il s'agit d'un secteur très dynamique dont l'importance pour la sécurité alimentaire, l'emploi et le développement social sont reconnus mais qui paradoxalement souffre d'une grande précarité et d'une vulnérabilité préoccupante. Dans de nombreux endroits du monde, les communautés de pêche artisanale n'ont pas accès aux services sociaux minimums et font face à la pauvreté, sans avoir accès à des alternatives. Ces communautés sont exclues des processus de décision ce qui posent un réel problème de gouvernance pour la gestion durable des ressources.

Le défi principal pour la mise en œuvre de ces directives est donc d'atteindre la cible visée, c'est-à-dire les communautés de pêche. Il faut donc que **les communautés de pêche artisanale s'approprient ces directives et soient acteurs de leur mise en œuvre.**

Pour ce faire, la formation, la sensibilisation et le développement de capacités doivent être des pré requis indispensables à la mise en œuvre des directives.

Il faut donc commencer par former des formateurs, issus des communautés de pêche, pour initier un processus de sensibilisation sur les directives et de renforcement des capacités des communautés de pêche.

A ce niveau, le défi est de renforcer l'organisation professionnelle et les osc au niveau local, régional, national et international. C'est un pré requis indispensable aussi bien pour la gouvernance et la gestion durable des pêche, que pour la mise en œuvre des directives.

La mise en œuvre des directives pourrait donc se faire en plusieurs étapes :

1. Développement de capacités et sensibilisation dans chaque pays au niveau local, régional et national. Cette phase doit permettre de former des formateurs, **personnes ressources issues des communautés de pêche**, sur les directives et sur l'organisation professionnelle. L'objectif est de **développer les capacités des communautés de pêche artisanale** et de créer un tissu d'organisations locales (associations, coopératives, groupements de pêcheurs....) représentatif des communautés de la pêche artisanale, gérées par et pour les acteurs du secteur.
2. Diagnostique. Dans chaque région et pays, ces organisations effectuent un diagnostique de la situation (état de référence), pour dresser un état des lieux sur la pêche artisanale selon les cinq thématiques identifiées par les directives :
 1. Une meilleure gouvernance sur les régimes fonciers et gestion des ressources
 2. Le développement social, l'emploi et le travail décent
 3. Les chaînes de valeur, l'activité après pêche et le commerce
 4. L'égalité des sexes (thème transversal)
 5. Les risques de catastrophe et le changement climatique (thème transversal)
3. Restitution du diagnostique. Cette phase doit permettre de diffuser les résultats du diagnostique auprès des acteurs qui doivent être impliqués dans le processus, et de valider ensemble les priorités d'interventions, les activités à mettre en œuvre et les acteurs responsables de leur mise en œuvre
4. Mise en œuvre des activités spécifiques en fonction des priorités d'intervention validées. L'accent doit être mis sur la participation des communautés de pêche dans la mise en des activités.

5. Suivi, évaluation et réajustement et renforcement. Les activités mises en œuvre sont suivies, évaluées, réajustées et/ou renforcées en utilisant les résultats du diagnostique comme point de référence. La encore les communautés de pêche devront être les acteurs clefs sur l'ensemble des étapes de ce processus.

Pour conclure, il semble que la première étape est cruciale pour la réussite de la mise en œuvre des directives. Le développement de capacités, la formation et l'appui à l'organisation sont des processus longs qui demandent un soutien important mais qui sont des pré requis indispensables pour garantir une appropriation des directives par les bénéficiaires.

21. Rudolf Hermes, Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLE), Thailand

Dear Moderator,

In response to your request for comments, I would like to share the following:

Partnering for Implementation

Partnership should be established with all currently active (and future) LME Projects to promote the VG-SSF. Both the 'fish and fisheries' and the 'socio-economic' modules of the LME-approach provide a basis and a mandate for these projects to be active in supporting the implementation of the VG-SSF. This will also function as transboundary or sub-regional mechanisms, since the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (other than some RFBs like SEAFDEC) will rarely be concerned with SSF.

Furthermore, and taking Section 10.6 of the draft as a starting point, States should be requested to clearly designate a focal point / 'desk' within the fisheries agency responsible for SSF concerns. This would be the main point of contact, but there should also be established, under a government decree or similar strong mandate, an inter-agency task force or standing committee dealing with concerns of SSF. This would be a starting point at national level, with clear linkages to local and decentralised levels.

Information and Communication

The language of the VG-SSF is as terse as the CCRF's. I would recommend to also develop a popular version, similar to the "What is the CCRF" series in national / local languages. This should be used as a vehicle to popularize the VG-SSF. Much more can be said regarding the use of electronic communication media. With regard to M&E, there will be no other way as the development of suitable process indicators, as a step along the way to participatory monitoring. It will be more ambitious still to define "socio-economic or resource status indicators", and these should anyway only be expected to be used after several years of implementation.

Challenges and Opportunities

In the short-term, the main challenges will be linked to the two preceding points: communication and "institutionalization". There is a need to develop a comprehensive (and well resourced) communication strategy, and a clear road map for governments to establish functional focal points and inter-agency task forces.

Best regards,

Rudi

Dr Rudolf Hermes

Chief Technical Advisor

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME)

c/o Andaman Sea Fisheries Research & Development Center

77 Moo 7 Sakdidej Rd., Makham Bay

Tambon Vichit, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand

23. Prabir Dubba, Dg Foundan, India

Dear All,

SSF is necessary both for health and poverty alleviation.

Best regards.

(Dr) Prabir Dutta

Dg community

India

24. Brian O’Riordan, CSO Platform on Fisheries (WFF, WFFP, ICSF, CIC, IPC), Belgium

The Civil Society Fisheries Platform

The CSO platform comprises the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), Centro Internazionale Crocevia (CIC), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) and the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF). These organizations have come together to participate as partners in the development of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries being led by the FAO.

They have been involved with the process since its inception in 2008 at *the Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries – Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development*.

Their joint submission is attached, and below.

Partnering for implementation

The Civil Society fisheries platform established by the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF), the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and the International CSO Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty is committed to engaging in the implementation of the guidelines, both as a platform and through the individual organizations and their members.

We see ourselves as a vital partner in the process of implementing the ssf guidelines.

This will require considerable planning, cooperation and coordination, including obtaining the necessary financial support, capacity building of our respective organizations and recruitment of staff.

We see our role as complimentary to and in support of the work of statal organisations and of intergovernmental organizations, to be undertaken both at the policy decision taking level and at the grass roots community level.

A critical aspect is ensuring the incorporation of a human rights based approach into fisheries policies, and achieving coherence between social, economic, trade, agriculture, industrial and other policies with fisheries, where our CSOs have an important monitoring and advocacy role to play.

How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?

Regarding the role of our organizations

- We will work to create awareness about small-scale fisheries and the enormous actual and potential social, economic, environmental, cultural, nutritional and other contributions of this sector, and its importance as a way of life.
- Our organizations will actively summarise, translate and disseminate simplified and condensed versions of the SSF Guidelines. With fishing communities we will work to create awareness about the Guidelines at different levels, including by preparing training modules, organizing workshops and facilitating training and capacity building, particularly for leaders of fisheries organizations and at the community level, on how to use the Guidelines to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries. We will draw attention to how the Guidelines can be used to support ongoing struggles of fishing communities (to access water bodies, to prevent grabbing of their resources, etc.).
- We will work to create awareness of the Guidelines amongst policy makers, international and intergovernmental organizations and the research community.
- We will work with the FAO to promote implementation of the SSF Guidelines at regional and national levels.
- We will seek the active implementation of the Guidelines at the national and local levels, and their adoption in policy and legislation.

In terms of others with key roles:

- The most critical role is that of the local and national governments. They must demonstrate the political will and take the initiative of aligning policy, legislation and practice with the SSF Guidelines, in close consultation with small-scale fisheries groups.
- Intergovernmental organizations, particularly the FAO (and its member States), have a vital role in raising awareness about the Guidelines, seeking resources for their implementation, fostering partnerships for implementation, putting in place transparent and accountable systems to monitor their implementation, ensuring that small-scale fisheries organizations are part of decision making and implementation arrangements etc.
- All UN bodies (including for example the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food) have an important role in supporting and monitoring the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has a special role given the importance of small-scale fisheries for food security. Organizations like IFAD have an important role in supporting the development of capacity of small-scale fisheries organizations.

- Research groups have a role in ensuring that research undertaken helps highlight the importance of supporting SSF, and suggest appropriate and practical steps needed to support the sector etc. It is important that the research community partners with small-scale fisheries groups in an ethical manner, with an emphasis on participatory research that also meets the needs of local communities.
- Media organizations have an important role in creating awareness about issues facing small-scale fisheries and the need to implement the SSF Guidelines.

How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the ‘voices of the marginalized’?

- Given that the SSF Guidelines seek to address issues of poverty alleviation and food security in the context of small-scale fisheries, the active participation of men and women of small-scale fishing communities, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups among them, in all aspects of decision making and their implementation, is vital. Fishing community organizations must prepare for this role, including by strengthening their own organizations and their capacity to engage and seek change, and by partnering with other social movements and organizations representing food producer groups, possibly through such channels as the mechanism provided by the International CSO Planning Committee (IPC) for food sovereignty. Full support needs to be extended by all (including policy makers and intergovernmental organizations) to enable this process of strengthening of small-scale fisheries organizations (including women's organizations). If the voices of the marginalized are to be effectively reflected (and not just in a token manner) this is essential.
- Partnerships are critical to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Small-scale fisheries groups must be an integral part of such partnerships, including with national and local governments. On their part, national and local governments and other organizations partnering for implementation, must actively seek to consult with small-scale fisheries groups and ensure their active role in decision making.
- All efforts at monitoring implementation of the Guidelines must specifically seek information from all those in the partnership about the participation of small-scale fisheries groups (men and women) in implementation and decision making.
- A group which is particularly and vulnerable, and whose voice is not being heard clearly in the policy decision processes is youth. Appropriate platforms and communications need to be developed that enable young people from fishing communities to engage in the implementation of the ssf guidelines. They are the future, and are crucial in the struggle to secure sustainable livelihoods from fisheries and sustaining the culture, traditions and presence of fishing communities.

What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

- At the international level, a coordination mechanism will need to be established, with participation of intergovernmental organization such as the FAO and IFAD, donor organizations, social movements and other CSOs, research bodies, supporting governments, etc. FAO could play an anchoring role in any such mechanism. It should be ensured that this mechanism is accountable and transparent, and that it retains flexibility in its functioning (is not unduly bureaucratic). The effective representation of small-scale fisheries organizations in this body must be ensured, including by making available resources.
- Similar co-ordination mechanisms at the regional levels will be useful, to ensure better regional implementation of Guidelines.

- Partnerships are vital at the *national level* if the Guidelines are to be implemented. It is essential to set up a coordination body for implementation of the Guidelines, in which national and local governments, policy makers, small-scale fisheries organizations as well as NGOs, researchers and the media are represented. The effective representation of small-scale fisheries organizations in this body must be ensured, including by making available resources and enhancing the capacity of such organizations to participate in this body. The political will to support such processes is vital.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines must be inbuilt into the roles of the coordination mechanisms set up, whether at international, regional or national levels.
- Resources need to be made available to facilitate interactions between different partners (at various levels) to identify the role that each partner can best play in implementing the Guidelines, and in monitoring and evaluation.
- **Information and communication - promoting experience sharing and collaboration**

What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?

- Many countries already have legislation or policy measures in place to support small-scale fisheries. Such examples need to be documented and widely shared. The experience of fishing communities in managing resources, getting recognition of their rights to resources, being part of organizations that have protected their economic or socio-cultural interests, also need to be documented and shared. Also to be shared are examples (including methodologies) of participatory research that has effectively supported small-scale fisheries etc. It is also important to share positive experiences of implementation of the Guidelines, and the impact this has had on the wellbeing of fishing communities.
- It is essential that such examples be communicated in effective and innovative ways, keeping in mind the need for dissemination to small-scale fisheries organizations and communities. Direct sharing of experiences (exchange programmes), preparation of videos in local languages, use of social media etc, apart from written documents/pamphlets/reports, should be considered. Availability of material in local languages is vital. A dedicated website to share positive examples of national and local level implementation may be considered. Exposure visits between communities as a tool to share positive experiences is very effective and such visits must be facilitated.

What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?

- So far there are few such experiences that we are aware of for participatory monitoring and evaluation of fisheries policies, legislation and initiatives. However, if the Guidelines are to be effectively implemented, participatory monitoring and evaluations systems are vital. It is extremely vital that small-scale fisheries organizations and other CSOs are part of such systems. It is equally important to provide mandated space for small-scale fisheries organizations and other CSOs to take up independent processes for monitoring and evaluation on implementation initiatives at national and local levels, and to submit reports on their observations.

How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?

Measuring progress

- To gauge progress it is important that key, selected baseline data is compiled before implementation is initiated. This could include data on the socio-economic status of fishing communities, the extent and manner in which they are organized, representation of women in organizations, conditions of work etc. It will then be possible to measure what has been achieved during implementation. (In many countries such data may not be available and the production of such data in the course of implementation should be a basic requirement and indicator of progress).
- It would be important to undertake a gap analysis (comparing policies and legislation in the country, with the guidance provided in the Guidelines).
- Which gaps need to be addressed and how should be decided through a collective participatory process. This should be the framework against which implementation of the Guidelines is measured. Indicators to gauge progress will need to be accordingly prepared.

Reporting

- In terms of reporting, it is important that a systematic and periodic process of reporting is put in place at the national, regional and international levels. It is important that such reporting is also made mandatory by the FAO committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the FAO regional conferences (given how important implementation of these Guidelines are to achieving the objectives of the FAO related to food security, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation). It is important that such reporting is also required by the CFS. Reports submitted by national governments must be made freely available. National governments should make all efforts to make reports available in local languages. COFI should also seek reports on implementation from CSOs engaged with, or following, the implementation process (parallel reports).
- Meaningful forums (at regional and national levels) to discuss reports on implementation should be organized, to share good experiences and to discuss ways to improve implementation. FAO regional offices may be tasked with organizing such forums. Small-scale fisheries organizations and other CSOs must necessarily be part of such forums, and their proposals on how implementation must be improved, must be actively sought and respected.

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?

- In many countries there is a lack of political will to address issues related to small-scale fisheries (or even to address fisheries issues in general). This also stems from a lack of understanding about the important contributions of SSF and the myriad problems facing the sector. There is need for good research on SSF as well as of media coverage on the contributions of SSF.
- Policy attention (including financial support) is often on industrial fisheries and aquaculture. Policies that support large-scale fisheries (including trawling) and export-oriented industrial aquaculture need to be reversed, given also the impacts they have on the livelihoods and wellbeing of small-scale fishers and fishworkers and their communities.
- A basic problem is that SSF organizations in many countries are not well organized and are unable to seek actions from policy makers on their proposals. It is imperative that systematic efforts are made to strengthen the organizational base of SSF organizations, with a particular focus on women, including the adoption of specific measures to

address gender inequity and discrimination, to enable them to be equal partners in the implementation process.

- Implementing the Guidelines requires a multi-sectoral approach, and partnerships with other departments, such as environment, rural development, social welfare, women, etc. However, fisheries departments are often weak, and unable to moot and anchor such partnerships, or to defend the interests of SSF. There is need, in such a context, to raise the profile of the fisheries sector as such (and of SSF), and to create wider awareness about the problems facing communities in SSF. This is also important in a context where the uses of coastal and other aquatic spaces is on the rise, and there are powerful interests staking a claim to such spaces and resources, including mining, tourism, energy, shipping, ports etc.
- There is lack of policy coherence in many countries. Even as one set of policies promote food security, SSF etc., another set promote activities that negatively impact on SSF (like large-scale tourism, industrial aquaculture, SEZs, large ports, thermal and nuclear energy etc) and even lead to their displacement (through grabbing of their land and resources). Processes to promote policy harmonization and inter-departmental coordination, with active participation of SSF organizations, are a must. Related to this is the need to develop increased coherence and synergy between national level ssf policies and international instruments such as CEDAW, some of the ILO and other human rights instruments. There are already well developed sets of indicators and Monitoring and Evaluating tools for these legal instruments, and common indicators for M and E could be usefully developed.
- In many countries planning and implementation within fisheries are typically top-down process. It is important to facilitate participatory process with full and effective representation of small-scale fisheries organizations and other CSOs in designing and implementing fisheries policies and legislation.

What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?

- In our experience where small-scale fisheries organizations are strong, they have been able to challenge and seek reversal of unfavourable policies and developments. The most important strategy is to actively support and strengthen small-scale fisheries organizations, including of women.
- Small-scale fisheries organizations need to make stronger links with other small-scale food producer organizations and networks at local, national, regional and international levels. This has provided a useful platform to seek positive policies in several countries. In some situations environmental groups have allied with small-scale fisheries organizations to challenge industrial fisheries, unsustainable aquaculture, and other large-scale projects with negative implications for livelihoods and the environment.
- Small-scale fisheries groups, through their networks, have also succeeded in establishing effective global linkages with UN institutions. These linkages have been useful in some cases in challenging developments that negatively affect their lives and livelihoods.
- In some countries the collaboration with progressive researchers and media persons has proved effective.

How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?

Next 12 months

- Put in place a mechanism at the international level, with participation of FAO, IFAD, supporting governments, CSOs, researchers etc. to oversee implementation of the Guidelines, raise resources for implementation, develop concrete plans (with indicators) and so on.
- Identify key partners committed to implementation and create opportunities to meet, discuss and plan
- Create awareness about Guidelines at local, national, regional and international levels (develop material in local languages, training modules etc.)
- Identify selected countries for implementation of Guidelines
- Develop plan to support/ develop capacity of small-scale fisheries organizations to implement the Guidelines in collaboration with governments etc.
- Develop plan for monitoring and evaluation, and for systematic reporting

Next five years

- Facilitate the formation of national-level platforms (with CSO participation) for implementation of the Guidelines
- Undertake participatory gap analysis in countries that take the lead in implementation, and based on this, develop and implement plans to support SSF with participation of SSF organizations
- Undertake systematic efforts (locally, nationally and regionally) to strengthen SSF organizations (including women's organizations) to implement the Guidelines
- Organize capacity-building programmes for national and local governments, to implement the Guidelines.
- Organize periodic consultations among those partnering for implementation of the Guidelines as a means of sharing experiences, and planning for the next period
- Undertake ongoing monitoring and reporting of programmes being implemented.
- Develop communication material to share good examples of implementation of SSF Guidelines
- At the end of this period, systematically evaluate the impact of initiatives that have been undertaken, identify areas for course correction, and based on this, develop plans for the next period to strengthen implementation of the Guidelines.

Long-term

- Monitoring and evaluation, course corrections;
- Incorporate the SSF guiding principles into national policies;
- Learning good practices, capturing and sharing the same.

25. Vincent Fernando, Sri Vimukthi Fisher Women Organisation , Sri Lanka

The Civil Society Fisheries Platform

The CSO platform comprises the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), Centro Internazionale Crocevia (CIC), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) and the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF). These organizations have come together to participate as partners in the development of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries being led by the FAO.

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We see our role as complimentary to and in support of the work of statal organisations and of intergovernmental organizations, to be undertaken both at the policy decision taking level and at the grass roots community level.

A critical aspect is ensuring the incorporation of a human rights based approach into fisheries policies, and achieving coherence between social, economic, trade, agriculture, industrial and other policies with fisheries, where our CSOs have an important monitoring and advocacy role to play.

How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?

Regarding the role of our organizations

- We will work to create awareness about small-scale fisheries and the enormous actual and potential social, economic, environmental, cultural, nutritional and other contributions of this sector, and its importance as a way of life.
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- We will work to create awareness of the Guidelines amongst policy makers, international and intergovernmental organizations and the research community.
- We will work with the FAO to promote implementation of the SSF Guidelines at regional and national levels.
- We will seek the active implementation of the Guidelines at the national and local levels, and their adoption in policy and legislation.

In terms of others with key roles:

- The most critical role is that of the local and national governments. They must demonstrate the political will and take the initiative of aligning policy, legislation and practice with the SSF Guidelines, in close consultation with small-scale fisheries groups.
- Intergovernmental organizations, particularly the FAO (and its member States), have a vital role in raising awareness about the Guidelines, seeking resources for their implementation, fostering partnerships for implementation, putting in place transparent and accountable systems to monitor their implementation, ensuring that small-scale fisheries organizations are part of decision making and implementation arrangements etc.
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- Research groups have a role in ensuring that research undertaken helps highlight the importance of supporting SSF, and suggest appropriate and practical steps needed to support the sector etc. It is important that the research community partners with small-scale fisheries groups in an ethical manner, with an emphasis on participatory research that also meets the needs of local communities.
- Media organizations have an important role in creating awareness about issues facing small-scale fisheries and the need to implement the SSF Guidelines.

How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the ‘voices of the marginalized?’

- Given that the SSF Guidelines seek to address issues of poverty alleviation and food security in the context of small-scale fisheries, the active participation of men and women of small-scale fishing communities, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups among them, in all aspects of decision making and their implementation, is vital. Fishing community organizations must prepare for this role, including by strengthening their own organizations and their capacity to engage and seek change, and by partnering with other social movements and organizations representing food producer groups, possibly through such channels as the mechanism provided by the International CSO Planning Committee (IPC) for food sovereignty. Full support needs to be extended by all (including policy makers and intergovernmental organizations) to enable this process of strengthening of small-scale fisheries organizations (including women's organizations). If the voices of the marginalized are to be effectively reflected (and not just in a token manner) this is essential.
- Partnerships are critical to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Small-scale fisheries groups must be an integral part of such partnerships, including with national and local governments. On their part, national and local governments and other organizations partnering for implementation, must actively seek to consult with small-scale fisheries groups and ensure their active role in decision making.

- All efforts at monitoring implementation of the Guidelines must specifically seek information from all those in the partnership about the participation of small-scale fisheries groups (men and women) in implementation and decision making.
- A group which is particularly and vulnerable, and whose voice is not being heard clearly in the policy decision processes is youth. Appropriate platforms and communications need to be developed that enable young people from fishing communities to engage in the implementation of the ssf guidelines. They are the future, and are crucial in the struggle to secure sustainable livelihoods from fisheries and sustaining the culture, traditions and presence of fishing communities.

What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

- At the international level, a coordination mechanism will need to be established, with participation of intergovernmental organization such as the FAO and IFAD, donor organizations, social movements and other CSOs, research bodies, supporting governments, etc. FAO could play an anchoring role in any such mechanism. It should be ensured that this mechanism is accountable and transparent, and that it retains flexibility in its functioning (is not unduly bureaucratic). The effective representation of small-scale fisheries organizations in this body must be ensured, including by making available resources.
- Similar co-ordination mechanisms at the regional levels will be useful, to ensure better regional implementation of Guidelines.
- Partnerships are vital at the *national level* if the Guidelines are to be implemented. It is essential to set up a coordination body for implementation of the Guidelines, in which national and local governments, policy makers, small-scale fisheries organizations as well as NGOs, researchers and the media are represented. The effective representation of small-scale fisheries organizations in this body must be ensured, including by making available resources and enhancing the capacity of such organizations to participate in this body. The political will to support such processes is vital.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines must be inbuilt into the roles of the coordination mechanisms set up, whether at international, regional or national levels.
- Resources need to be made available to facilitate interactions between different partners (at various levels) to identify the role that each partner can best play in implementing the Guidelines, and in monitoring and evaluation.

Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?

- Many countries already have legislation or policy measures in place to support small-scale fisheries. Such examples need to be documented and widely shared. The experience of fishing communities in managing resources, getting recognition of their rights to resources, being part of organizations that have protected their economic or socio-cultural interests, also need to be documented and shared. Also to be shared are examples (including methodologies) of participatory research that has effectively supported small-scale fisheries etc. It is also important to share positive experiences of implementation of the Guidelines, and the impact this has had on the wellbeing of fishing communities.
- It is essential that such examples be communicated in effective and innovative ways, keeping in mind the need for dissemination to small-scale fisheries organizations and communities. Direct sharing of experiences (exchange programmes), preparation of

videos in local languages, use of social media etc, apart from written documents/ pamphlets/reports, should be considered. Availability of material in local languages is vital. A dedicated website to share positive examples of national and local level implementation may be considered. Exposure visits between communities as a tool to share positive experiences is very effective and such visits must be facilitated.

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How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?

Measuring progress

- To gauge progress it is important that key, selected baseline data is compiled before implementation is initiated. This could include data on the socio-economic status of fishing communities, the extent and manner in which they are organized, representation of women in organizations, conditions of work etc. It will then be possible to measure what has been achieved during implementation. (In many countries such data may not be available and the production of such data in the course of implementation should be a basic requirement and indicator of progress).
- It would be important to undertake a gap analysis (comparing policies and legislation in the country, with the guidance provided in the Guidelines).
- Which gaps need to be addressed and how should be decided through a collective participatory process. This should be the framework against which implementation of the Guidelines is measured. Indicators to gauge progress will need to be accordingly prepared.

Reporting

- In terms of reporting, it is important that a systematic and periodic process of reporting is put in place at the national, regional and international levels. It is important that such reporting is also made mandatory by the FAO committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the FAO regional conferences (given how important implementation of these Guidelines are to achieving the objectives of the FAO related to food security, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation). It is important that such reporting is also required by the CFS. Reports submitted by national governments must be made freely available. National governments should make all efforts to make reports available in local languages. COFI should also seek reports on implementation from CSOs engaged with, or following, the implementation process (parallel reports).
- Meaningful forums (at regional and national levels) to discuss reports on implementation should be organized, to share good experiences and to discuss ways to improve implementation. FAO regional offices may be tasked with organizing such forums. Small-scale fisheries organizations and other CSOs must necessarily be part of

such forums, and their proposals on how implementation must be improved, must be actively sought and respected.

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?

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- Policy attention (including financial support) is often on industrial fisheries and aquaculture. Policies that support large-scale fisheries (including trawling) and export-oriented industrial aquaculture need to be reversed, given also the impacts they have on the livelihoods and wellbeing of small-scale fishers and fishworkers and their communities.
- A basic problem is that SSF organizations in many countries are not well organized and are unable to seek actions from policy makers on their proposals. It is imperative that systematic efforts are made to strengthen the organizational base of SSF organizations, with a particular focus on women, including the adoption of specific measures to address gender inequity and discrimination, to enable them to be equal partners in the implementation process.
- Implementing the Guidelines requires a multi-sectoral approach, and partnerships with other departments, such as environment, rural development, social welfare, women, etc. However, fisheries departments are often weak, and unable to moot and anchor such partnerships, or to defend the interests of SSF. There is need, in such a context, to raise the profile of the fisheries sector as such (and of SSF), and to create wider awareness about the problems facing communities in SSF. This is also important in a context where the uses of coastal and other aquatic spaces is on the rise, and there are powerful interests staking a claim to such spaces and resources, including mining, tourism, energy, shipping, ports etc.
- There is lack of policy coherence in many countries. Even as one set of policies promote food security, SSF etc., another set promote activities that negatively impact on SSF (like large-scale tourism, industrial aquaculture, SEZs, large ports, thermal and nuclear energy etc) and even lead to their displacement (through grabbing of their land and resources). Processes to promote policy harmonization and inter-departmental coordination, with active participation of SSF organizations, are a must. Related to this is the need to develop increased coherence and synergy between national level ssf policies and international instruments such as CEDAW, some of the ILO and other human rights instruments. There are already well developed sets of indicators and Monitoring and Evaluating tools for these legal instruments, and common indicators for M and E could be usefully developed.
- In many countries planning and implementation within fisheries are typically top-down process. It is important to facilitate participatory process with full and effective representation of small-scale fisheries organizations and other CSOs in designing and implementing fisheries policies and legislation.

What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?

- In our experience where small-scale fisheries organizations are strong, they have been able to challenge and seek reversal of unfavourable policies and developments. The most important strategy is to actively support and strengthen small-scale fisheries organizations, including of women.
- Small-scale fisheries organizations need to make stronger links with other small-scale food producer organizations and networks at local, national, regional and international levels. This has provided a useful platform to seek positive policies in several countries. In some situations environmental groups have allied with small-scale fisheries organizations to challenge industrial fisheries, unsustainable aquaculture, and other large-scale projects with negative implications for livelihoods and the environment.
- Small-scale fisheries groups, through their networks, have also succeeded in establishing effective global linkages with UN institutions. These linkages have been useful in some cases in challenging developments that negatively affect their lives and livelihoods.
- In some countries the collaboration with progressive researchers and media persons has proved effective.

How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?

Next 12 months

- Put in place a mechanism at the international level, with participation of FAO, IFAD, supporting governments, CSOs, researchers etc. to oversee implementation of the Guidelines, raise resources for implementation, develop concrete plans (with indicators) and so on.
- Identify key partners committed to implementation and create opportunities to meet, discuss and plan
- Create awareness about Guidelines at local, national, regional and international levels (develop material in local languages, training modules etc.)
- Identify selected countries for implementation of Guidelines
- Develop plan to support/ develop capacity of small-scale fisheries organizations to implement the Guidelines in collaboration with governments etc.
- Develop plan for monitoring and evaluation, and for systematic reporting

Next five years

- Facilitate the formation of national-level platforms (with CSO participation) for implementation of the Guidelines
- Undertake participatory gap analysis in countries that take the lead in implementation, and based on this, develop and implement plans to support SSF with participation of SSF organizations
- Undertake systematic efforts (locally, nationally and regionally) to strengthen SSF organizations (including women's organizations) to implement the Guidelines
- Organize capacity-building programmes for national and local governments, to implement the Guidelines.
- Organize periodic consultations among those partnering for implementation of the Guidelines as a means of sharing experiences, and planning for the next period
- Undertake ongoing monitoring and reporting of programmes being implemented.
- Develop communication material to share good examples of implementation of SSF Guidelines

- At the end of this period, systematically evaluate the impact of initiatives that have been undertaken, identify areas for course correction, and based on this, develop plans for the next period to strengthen implementation of the Guidelines.

Long-term

- Monitoring and evaluation, course corrections;
- Incorporate the SSF guiding principles into national policies;
- Learning good practices, capturing and sharing the same.

ENDS

26. Vivienne Solir-Rivera, CoopeSoliDar R.L. Costa Rica

[Original contribution in Spanish]

Aportes al FORO desde CoopeSoliDar R.L:

¿Cómo ve el papel de su organización y de otros en la implementación de las Directrices PPE?

En un contexto de muchos actores e intereses como es el uso de los territorios marinos, debe darse prioridad a los actores que se encuentran en los territorios de mayor interés para la pesca de pequeña escala. El debate de derechos humanos, la distribución justa y equitativa de beneficios y pesca deberá trascender los sectores pesqueros para considerar al menos en A.L. otros sectores como el turismo, y actores en la conservación marina como la cooperación internacional, las organizaciones que trabajan el tema de las adicciones, entre otros.

Estos otros sectores, deberán estar informados y reconocer la importancia de un enfoque basado en los derechos humanos para el desarrollo de los territorios marinos y costeros donde se desarrolla la pesca de pequeña escala y de la importancia del sector de pesca artesanal para la seguridad alimentaria, resiliencia social y la conservación de la diversidad biológica y cultural.

Los países deben promover la elaboración de estadísticas veraces sobre las poblaciones que producen y dependen para su seguridad alimentaria de la pesca de pequeña escala y elaborar mapas de actores para socializar las directrices. En algunos países de AL el sector deberá de ser declarado en “emergencia o situación crítica” para que sea una prioridad que oriente el apoyo y fortalecimiento de capacidades para su recuperación.

Deberá promoverse la comunicación entre los diversos sectores pesqueros de menor y mayor impacto ambiental en la búsqueda de soluciones hacia el respeto de los sectores más vulnerables (pesca de pequeña escala) dentro del sector pesquero. Desde nuestra experiencia hay claridad en los sectores de pesca semi-industrial e industrial de la necesidad de apoyo y valoración de la pesca de pequeña escala en Centroamérica, pero deberá potenciarse ese interés con procesos de resolución de conflictos y buenas prácticas.

Solo con acciones basadas en valores que respeten las diversidades y promuevan el fortalecimiento de capacidades de los actores de la pesca artesanal se darán los cambios necesarios para hacer realidad la implementación de las directrices. Es fundamental dar a conocer a nivel de la cooperación internacional los principios y valores que sustentan esta

visión de conservación y desarrollo basado en los derechos humanos y que las directrices nos recuerdan.

¿Cómo pueden fomentarse y reforzarse las asociaciones para incluir las “voces de los marginados”?

Es fundamental comunicar la experiencia del Consorcio IICAs (www.iccaconsortium.org) y la discusión a nivel de las comunidades de pesca artesanal de las experiencias de gobernanza comunitaria y de pueblos indígenas como una forma reconocida y positiva de retomar control sobre el poder y la toma de decisión sobre los territorios marinos y costeros indispensables para la realización de las actividades. Reforzando el sentido de lo colectivo, de lo comunitario, por encima del espíritu individualista y revalorando el papel de la organización como base para la solución de sus problemas.

Desde la diversidad y la equidad es muy importante visibilizar el papel de las mujeres en la pesca, así como su participación, su conocimiento tradicional, muchas veces no reconocidos y valorizados, en toda la cadena productiva de la pesca responsable.

¿Qué se requiere a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial para asegurar asociaciones eficaces y eficientes?

Los diversos actores deberán de integrar valores para su trabajo y relacionamiento con el sector de la pesca de pequeña escala. Respeto, consentimiento informado previo y los códigos éticos de trabajo deberán de ser prácticas comunes para la interacción entre sectores y actores con el sector de pequeña escala.

El fortalecimiento de capacidades y acompañamiento de largo plazo a procesos más integrales para el desarrollo y conservación costero-marinos serán fundamentales, acompañados de procesos de intercambio de experiencias.

A nivel local, favorecer acciones para revitalizar las, organizaciones de pescadores artesanales, mediante procesos participativos e inclusivos.

El fortalecimiento de los aspectos subjetivos como la identidad cultural desde la costa y el mar, la autoestima del sector pesquero, los liderazgos inclusivos y proactivos, serán fundamentales para asociaciones más efectivas y eficientes.

En el plano nacional, regional y mundial favorecer y apoyar iniciativas de integración del sector, en espacios organizativos, que garanticen la representación y defensa de sus intereses.

¿Qué mejores prácticas en materia de comunicación recomendaría para la implementación de Directrices PPE a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial?

En nuestra experiencia, la mejor forma de comunicación ha sido los intercambios pescador a pescador y manos en la acción. Debe generarse un esfuerzo global para compartir experiencias en donde “en la práctica” las organizaciones de pesca artesanal han ido ganando espacio perdido a otros sectores que ahora dominan la gobernanza de sus pequeñas pesquerías y/o territorios pesqueros. Es fundamental hacer un llamado a los Gobiernos para identificar y declarar estas comunidades (o al menos aquellas que todavía están presentes desarrollando su actividad productiva en las costas) prioritarias de manera que se pueda dar su acompañamiento y protección.

La generación de conocimiento debe integrar tanto la ciencia tradicional occidental como la integración del conocimiento local y sus prioridades en términos de preguntas y valores.

El texto de las directrices/ o una versión simplificada de la misma donde se presenten los ejes principales deberá traducirse no solo a los idiomas oficiales, sino a todas aquellas lenguas vernáculas de comunidades que se dedican a la pesca de pequeña escala.

(ej. Garifuna, Bribri....etc).

Desarrollo de una campaña de educación e información, que resalte la forma de vida de las comunidades de pesca artesanal, sus saberes y su aporte a la conservación marina y a la seguridad alimentaria, por medios alternativos de comunicación (redes sociales) y los sistemas formales de educación en los diversos países.

¿Cuáles son sus experiencias de seguimiento y evaluación participativos?

CoopeSoliDar R.L ha desarrollado un ejercicio de indicadores basados en la directrices y utilizados para la autoevaluación de experiencias que integran al sector de la pesca de pequeña escala en el seguimiento de su desarrollo y bienestar. Este ejercicio ha resultado de gran valor para establecer una línea de base que permita el seguimiento y verificación de avance o retroceso en todos los ejes prioritarios de las directrices.

Es importante la identificación de indicadores tanto cualitativos como cuantitativos, con sistemas de monitoreo creativos desde una visión de proceso y de resultado, que sean concretos sobre la calidad de vida de los pescadores y de las condiciones socio-culturales-ambientales de su entorno.

¿Cuáles cree que son los principales problemas para la implementación, de forma general, así como en el contexto específico de cada país, y cómo pueden superarse?

Desde nuestra perspectiva debe hacerse un esfuerzo fundamental en promover y apoyar la organización del sector pesquero artesanal. Una visión más cooperativa de organización ha sido sustituida en la mayoría de los países de AL y el Caribe por Asociaciones que tienen como objetivos aspiraciones concretas, normalmente materiales, como la obtención de licencias o la recepción de donaciones. Estas organizaciones no surgen para cumplir aspiraciones éticas o sociales, de bienestar humano y rescate de una forma de vida que todavía está arraigada al mar y las costas.

Es difícil establecer alianzas sólidas entre sectores si algunos de ellos tienen la enorme desventaja de no estar organizados o contar con una organización poco sólida ni representativa. Creemos que este elemento y el compartir buenas prácticas que promuevan la organización local de los pescadores y pescadoras artesanales es fundamental, así como elevar sus conocimientos y capacidades para gestionar sus organizaciones y sus proyectos empresariales y sociales.

La creación de redes de apoyo entre organizaciones del sector son fundamentales para la incidencia política y mejoras en la colocación del producto dándose énfasis a los mercados locales y nacionales.

¿Cuáles son sus experiencias al abordar este tipo de problemas y qué estrategias y enfoques han tenido éxito o no?

Seguimiento y acompañamiento de largo plazo, establecimiento de relaciones de confianza y ética profesional para el respeto a las diversidades y visiones de desarrollo local. Trabajo a través de las organizaciones de base existentes en los territorios costeros y visiones más allá de los aspectos económicos de las pesquerías para abordar una visión integral donde los aspectos ambientales, sociales, culturales y económicos se integren al desarrollo y la conservación.

-Puesta en práctica de consentimiento informado previo y códigos éticos

-Fortalecimiento de capacidades organizativas

-Gobernanza comunitaria y participativa

-Mapeo e investigación participativa, más allá del uso de la información de los pescadores para trabajar en la generación de nuevos conocimientos que integren el conocimiento tradicional y científico.

-Líneas de base participativas y medibles en el tiempo.

¿Cómo deberían variar las intervenciones, en función del período de tiempo (por ej. qué se puede hacer durante los próximos 12 meses, en los próximos 5 años, a largo plazo) y en función de los recursos existentes (por ej. inversiones en pequeña/mediana escala o inversiones a gran escala/transformadoras)?

Corto plazo:

-Información y divulgación de los principios de las directrices a todo nivel.

-Selección de casos de estudio para definir líneas de base y seguimiento de forma conjunta entre los gobiernos y la sociedad civil incluida la visión de género.

-Establecimiento de línea de avance en la implementación por regiones o países.

-Canalización de recursos para el fortalecimiento de capacidades del sector de la pesca de pequeña escala y su organización.

-Incentivos y apoyo para aquellos grupos de pesca de pequeña escala organizados en función de sus necesidades productivas más inmediatas y/o acciones orientadas al manejo y uso sostenible (incluida la conservación) de sus recursos.

- Generación de foros a nivel nacional entre diferentes actores relacionados con el uso del recurso marino que aporten ideas y buenas prácticas para avanzar hacia un ordenamiento pesquero con justicia y equidad.

-En el plano nacional, regional y mundial favorecer y apoyar iniciativas de integración del sector, en espacios organizativos, que garanticen la representación y defensa de sus intereses.

Mediano Plazo:

-Reflexión sobre los avances en los casos de estudio seleccionados y su divulgación.

-Intercambio de experiencias por regiones que incluya la incorporación de nuevas políticas o leyes relacionadas al tema en los países miembros de la FAO

-Favorecer procesos de integración del sector de pesca artesanal en experiencias organizativas novedosas, ágiles y eficientes, con capacidad de incidencia política y de defensa de sus intereses y aspiraciones.

Largo Plazo:

-Discusión sobre los impactos y avances de la iniciativa.

-Reportes y divulgación de aquellos países que han avanzado en la implementación de las directrices voluntarias.

-Reconocimiento de experiencias y buenas prácticas que puedan ser relevadas y extraer diversas lecciones aprendidas; multiplicando aprendizajes a diversas realidades nacionales, locales e internacionales.

27. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, Sri Lanka

VG-SSF and National Fisheries Solidarity Movement of Sri Lanka-[NAFSO]

National Fisheries Solidarity Movement[NAFSO] is a net work of fisheries organizations, CBOs, NGOs, Trade Unions, Women organizations, Environmental organizations, church based groups in Sri Lanka. It has been working among fisheries sector for last 15 years on rights based approach in fisheries. It is a membership based organization with 12,000 small scale fisheries members all over the country.

It is widely based in Sri Lankan society and intervene sustainable fisheries through fisheries policy formulation as a bottom up process. It has formulated a people's based Small Scale Fisheries policy during the period of 2000-2004 and submitted the same to Ministry of Fisheries with 500,000 signatures collected from various parts of the country. Unfortunately, the same policy could not implemented although the minister of fisheries himself shared with the NAFSO leadership as they had incorporated 75% the contents of NAFSO policy document in to national fisheries policy formulated by the ministry of fisheries.

NAFSO-Sri Lanka is a member of the global fisher people's movement of World Forum of Fisher Peoples'-[WFFP], which was an active partner of the process of formulation of VG-SSF, beginning from FAO Global Fisheries conference on Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries well known as 4SSF at Bangkok conference in 2008.

So, this move of FAO-COFI is highly welcome by NAFSO and is ready implement the contents after adoption of the VG-SSF with commitment and enhancing fisher people's knowledge and capacities. Even now, we have put the contents in to local languages and conduct education campaign among the fisher members of NAFSO.

Thanks,
Herman Kumara,
National Convener,
NAFSO

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

1. Partnering for implementation

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will require engagement and partnerships across different institutions, organizations and actors as the SSF Guidelines implementation does not only require the involvement by fishers but takes into consideration also the role and needs of those around them. Fishing communities, CSOs, academia, NGOs, governments, regional organizations, donors and international agencies and organizations all need to work together - but different actors may have different roles to play to address issues in relation to fisheries governance, gender, post-harvest, consumer interests, wider societal interests, etc. Please share any experiences, both good or bad as well as lessons learned related to partnerships in the implementation of international instruments

How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?

As an organization work for establish sustainable small scale fisheries in Sri Lanka and work for protects people's rights, National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO) play major role in advocacy and policy lobbying.

In implementation of SSF guideline (VG-SSF), NAFSO work as mediatory organization for Sri Lankan government, community and other stake holders to take the message to grass root level from the international level and also to work with the people to prepare background to implementation of the guideline.

Building of required people's pressure for the State to act in people centered manner and bring the marginalized peoples voice to upper level is also among the NAFSO's role in implementation of the SSF guideline.

Other Stake holders are also should participate to build awareness among wider community in the country to build well educated citizens in the country to pressurize decision makers to implement VG-SSF.

NAFSO will Translate the VG-SSF in to local languages[Sinhala and Tamil] and bring to grass root level through its activists and community leaders. In fact, the available negotiated text also already being translated in to both Sinhala and Tamil languages and discussed among NAFSO membership and received the feedback.

Aware the Organizations work with sectors other than fisheries. E.g. Women, Farmers, workers union etc.

Build required pressure with the people, for adopting required policies for implementing VG-SSF by the government.

- **How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened** to include the 'voices of the marginalized
 - To make proper connection with marginalized people in the society, partnerships must be properly educated.
 - Prepare educational materials on VG-SSF, which can understand by people with lowest educational level/illiterate. (visuals/simple cartoons)
 - *Issue based campaigns with the people together with relevant organizations such as Women related, Human rights, environment, labor etc.*

What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

- For effective and efficient partnership, better build an organizational network working on the subject with partners of local, National and international level and provide proper guidance on VG-SSF. In some cases, we may need to build up links and network on various issues, such as groups work on access rights, post harvest, women rights, disaster mitigation, rights of the IDPs etc.
- Need national level Committed leadership to internalize the important subjects and articulate with clear understanding.
- Adopt effective communication methodologies.
- Share of relevant information regularly as they coming from regional and international levels,

Critical Analysis on the partnerships and wider awareness on how VG-SSF affect to the people life. E.g. for food security etc

Need a team devoted to work on VG-SSF implementation and bring it to other sectors/groups/communities.

Improved media relationship

State and Non-state actors must work together with mutual understanding.

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences will be of utmost importance for effective implementation. Available lessons learnt, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and relevant statistics can help making information available and shared.

- **What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?**

Case studies related to VG-SSF.

Share People's Struggles for sustain their lives, livelihoods and basic human rights,

Documentation of successful co- management practices among people practiced for considerable time period.

Small documentaries on success stories after implementation of VG-SSF

Using of web and social media for publicize the VG-SSF-[You Tube, Face Book]

Using of Comic arts, cartoons to bring VG-SSF to various levels of the society.

- **What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?**

Inter organizational participatory monitoring and evaluation is very difficult while internal monitoring is possible.

However, this is very important to assess the progress and keep the right track of implementation of any international instrument.

Hence, there should be mechanism to monitor the progress of the implementation through cross checking when reporting back and challenge the State reports by non State report/s,

- **How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?**

To measure:

If VG-SSF implemented, VG-SSF based regulation/ policies will be adopted and be activated by the relevant authorities.

The level of investment, increased percentage of welfare on small scale fisheries will show progress in implementation

The level of understanding of VG-SSF among the State actors, mainly the fisheries officials in national State agencies and regional offices of FAO,

The level of change programs in favor of SSF than before,

When it is reporting back to a COFI or any other relevant forum, there should be a parallel reporting process to the State report from civil society should be considered. There should be mechanism adopted to this which should be integral part of the VG-SSF itself.

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

There will be implementation challenges (e.g. financial, political, institutional, cultural) to address but also opportunities to capitalize on. These may vary from one context to another and also differ between the global, regional, national and local levels. Understanding these challenges and opportunities will be important for identifying and designing support activities. The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will need a mix of different types of interventions, including – but not necessarily limited to – the strengthening of political commitment and awareness raising, changes in policies, revisions of legislation and/or regulations, development of capacity and empowerment, improving and sharing information, and strengthened research and communication.

- **What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?**

- Political will is the major challenge for Sri Lankan SSF. State strategy is to develop mega scale fisheries while giving less importance to the small scale fisheries sector development or continuation.
- Political leaders who work with profit motive instead of food sovereignty/ food security, poverty alleviation, rural development, address issues and development of marginalized people or environmental protection won't see any importance of VG-SSF too.

- Until now, our experience is negative once there are instruments which are not legally binding and voluntary in nature. Unfortunately, all the FAO based instruments are voluntary in nature and States are not binding to implement them in national level,
- Some of the States considering Civil society organizations as who work against the government and not ready to work with the CSOs for social development, food security, poverty alleviation etc.

To Overcome such barriers:

- Build up a social movement and Campaigning together with community, mass media, researches, Civil society networks and academia etc. to pressurize the government
- Equip the community leaders, activists in the organizations with knowledge and basic capacities to raise the important aspects of the VG-SSF, may be with the politicians, officials, media and researches etc. This will help to press the policy makers to consider the people's voice and implement what they agreed at FAO level,
- Organize some face to face dialogues with the policy makers and the State actors and Community leaders and independent actors,

What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?

- We have experienced of preparation of sustainable fisheries policy with the bottom up approach and submitted to the government authorities with the half million signatures of the community. Conducted a series of discussion with the government policy makers to get establish the policy while lobby work with the people to pressurize the government.
- With the power of the community, building of Sea plane landing site in Negombo lagoon(25 Km North to Colombo) was stopped even after starting of project work. Awareness and strong leadership was behind the success in the campaign.
- With the fisher people's pressure, government had to grant fuel subsidiary for the fishing people after increase of fuel price in 2012 February.
- In some cases we identified that, it is difficult to unifying people. e.g, Fight against acquisition of lands for development of tourism in Kalpitiya islands and resettlement in Mullikulam (Mannar district -250Km North to Colombo) .

How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?

- Educate fisher people, Fisheries organizational leadership, within one year. For this material productions to bring the VG-SSF to tips of the people's hand is utmost important.

- Preparations of materials, popular manual in local languages is important within the 1st year.
- And develop agreeable policies together with the people in five years. Based on the VG-SSF, policies should be developed and bottom up approach should be promoted among policy makers. Unless, there is a substantial change of attitudes of the policy makers on SSF matters, there is no an effective implementation of VG-SSF too. So, we are careful about this process within the 5 years after adoption of VG-SSF.
- In long term, work for include the developed policy matters to government policies together with people and policy makers in the government.
- There should be national mechanism adopted and a civil team formed to monitor the implementation of the VG-SSF and to guide the policy makers to keep the track.
- National Fisheries advisory body should be formed to evaluate the progress and guide the State mechanisms to implement VG-SSF.
- FAO, COFI should be adopt a mechanism to evaluate the progress being made after 5 years of the adoption of VG-SSF and take necessary steps to guide the States to address the issues of SSF in accordance with the VG-SSF guidelines.

28. Andy Bystrom, Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED), Costa Rica

On November 27, 2013 over 60 representatives for the Costa Rican small-scale fishing sector, along with assorted researchers, NGO representatives, and government officials met during the first “National small-scale artisanal fisheries forum: Challenges and opportunities, promotion and consolidation of Responsible Fishing Areas (RFAs)” to discuss local fisher and central government needs for successful implementation of the FAO’s Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries inside designated marine areas currently being established along the country’s coasts. These areas are managed by the Costa Rican Fisheries and Aquaculture Institute (INCOPECA – Costa Rica’s national fisheries governing entity), a centralized governmental agency that does not recognize community based co-management systems, but hopes to develop these strategies through the establishment of fishing areas that encompass designated coastal areas where artisanal fishing gear types are used.

Fishers compiled a list of 10 “needs” necessary for the effective development, implementation, and management of RFAs. I hope these will add to this discussion on the development of SFF Guidelines.

1. Eliminate coastal IUU fishing and trawl net use
2. Certification (including chain of custody certification) strategies for products caught within responsibly fished areas that increase product value and traceability
3. Development of alternative employment opportunities for fishers
4. Development of strategies that promote active participation by local community members in the RFA management process (co-management strategies – something that does not currently exist in SFF in Costa Rica)
5. SFF representation within INCOPECA’s board of managers
6. Improve mechanisms for education and awareness building among RFA users and their related coastal community members

7. Integration of governmental institutions for the protection, monitoring, and control of RFAs and their successful operation within established legal frameworks
8. RFAs should be established based on studies that guarantee their scientific, legal, and social viability – including integrated mechanisms that build awareness for their successful management – that promote ecosystem health for the benefit of all stakeholders
9. Foment scientific research (ecosystem and social) with the objective of developing a fisheries management plan that promotes the sustainable use of the resource
10. Minimum size limit (for individual species) control at all post-harvest stages along the chain of custody especially at local landing sites where products are first exchanged between fishers and buyers

29. Kuperan Viswathan, University of Utara, Malaysia

Dear Lena,

Good of you to moderate this discussion. I am happy the guidelines have come this far and we are at a stage to look into how to implement the guidelines. The way to go is to build partnerships between fishing communities, non-governmental organizations and governments. The guidelines to a large extent have to be implemented by fishing communities and this can effectively be done by a proper partnership between fishing communities, local NGOs and government. Fishing communities in various countries can be selected to implement the guidelines based on their willingness to move forward to secure a better future for themselves and the resource on which they depend on. Local NGOs can take this up with local communities with the support of governments to move to develop workable local institutions for implementing the guidelines. A first step is to identify small-scale fishing communities in a number of countries and begin the process of engaging the communities with the help of local NGOs. The local NGOs can develop models on how to mobilize local communities to take up the guideline and develop mechanisms for implementing the guidelines. The government agencies in the locations can facilitate the process by helping the local NGOs by providing the level of legitimacy required to get communities on board. Since these guidelines are very much voluntary, developing dialog on many levels with communities, NGOs and government will be an important first step in realizing the implementation. Universities can play a key role in helping the process by working closely with NGOs and Government in selecting fishing communities that they are currently working with on various research issues on the fisheries. I am sure based on my work over the last 25 years in the fisheries, building these smart partnerships and developing them over the long term will be a definite requirement to implement the guidelines. The guidelines will have to be community centered and community based management approaches will be central for the guidelines to be implemented successfully.

Wishing all best on the initiative and I am sure the future of small-scale fisheries will be much better with the implementation of these guidelines by the fishing communities.

Regards,

Kuperan

30. Aliti Vunisea

1. Partnering for implementation

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will require engagement and partnerships across different institutions, organizations and actors as the SSF Guidelines implementation does not only require the involvement by fishers but takes into consideration also the role and needs of those around them. Fishing communities, CSOs, academia, NGOs, governments, regional organizations, donors and international agencies and organizations all need to work together - but different actors may have different roles to play to address issues in relation to fisheries governance, gender, post-harvest, consumer interests, wider societal interests, etc. Please share any experiences, both good or bad as well as lessons learned related to partnerships in the implementation of international instruments

- How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?

Regional organization(eg. SPC in the Pacific region) could play a key role in dissemination of information on the guidelines, communicating to counterparts working in Fisheries Departments in governments in countries and sharing experiences across countries to assist in the progress of SSF guidelines. SPC through its Human Development program work with Women NGOs, youth groups and many other non- government partners on the ground thus the organization through work in other sectors can facilitate process of introduction of SSF guidelines to communities. The work need collaboration work at all levels and these include stakeholders working in the various areas of governance, tradition and cultures, gender, socio-economics, business and marketing, & post harvesting and building youth interest. Climate change and DRR and DRM work is being extensively done in countries in the Pacific and there is the opportunity to also work with other existing programs and projects where there is overlapping interests and concerns over SSF. These sort of partnership could be with other regional organizations involved in Climate change and DRR/DRM work or could be at country level where there are major projects already being implemented.

- How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the 'voices of the marginalized?

To ensure the full and practical engagement of marginalized people, community- based associations/ groups eg women's groups, youth groups, leaders, fishers, sellers and the elderly should be specifically targeted. Most communities have institutions already in place and most of these existing institutions are based on traditional/customary linkages, faith based mechanisms that are practical and work for the people. People are familiar with them, are used to the norms expected from such mechanisms and institutions and these could include market networks, fisheries groups, provincial organisations/etc. Networks that people already use should be starting points to maximize participation of the marginalized. The main point in this- is to work within already existing institutions, networks and mechanisms and build on strengths of these groupings and modify or change what is not working.

- What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

To ensure efficient and effective partnership there is need for :

2. *Transparency at all levels of operation of the partnership- sometimes we take community people for granted and grassroots organisations, assuming they cannot contribute meaningfully to partnership arrangements- unless they become part of the partnership in planning and development of how these partnership will work then it will not work.*
3. *Specific training and awareness work on what SSF is about and what are the expectations from partners. Training to include legal and traditional rights, access and ownership issues, markets and distribution, regulations and partnerships relating to the operations of the partnerships.*
4. *There need to be a concerted effort at ensuring gender equity in all these work. Gender inclusion in all aspects of the work and partnership will ensure that men and women and all sectors of the community and fisheries sector are addressed.*
5. *At the Regional level- there is need to forge partnership with other sectors- eg climate change, forestry, business sector, private sectors at regional level At national level all Line ministries and departments should work collaboratively on SSF as this is an area of overlap in Climate change, DRM and DRR and in Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture work. Non- government organisations also operate at national and regional level and they should be partners in regional and national work.*
6. **Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration**

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences will be of utmost importance for effective implementation. Available lessons learnt, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and relevant statistics can help making information available and shared.

- What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?

At the regional level (Pacific) effective dissemination and training tools for Regional and national purposes to be developed. At the national level tools and training materials should be in different languages- the main languages in countries.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation will be very important at the local and national level and this is to include the training of women, men, youths, leaders, elders and representatives of various sectors and groups in countries and communities. Having men and women both trained for monitoring and evaluation is important as there are various areas of expertise and knowledge where women and men can work better in. This will include training of a core set of trainers for Regional training and practices, who then train national representatives who disseminate the training at national and local level. The involvement of local people in monitoring can also help highlight best practices and lessons learnt.

Lessons learnt and best practices learnt at local and national level can be used to develop a wider set of indicators for monitoring regional benchmarks and identify best practices can be built up to serve as study areas and research sites- or models to be used in other countries- and used for Regional and global models when used or replicated more widely.

- What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?

Participatory monitoring and evaluation is one of the best forms of evaluation as it allows the people to take stock of what they had done, how they had contributed, what additional value has been added to the project or resources. It also helped local monitors and evaluators to understand and know the project better, understand resources, systems and institutions and to understand the whole purpose of work being done and they become more appreciative of such work and are able to take a look inside as opposed to looking at what did not work from the outside. It helps build confidence in local communities to take ownership and responsibility of resources.

- How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?

This can be done through existing networks of practitioners already in existence in the region and in countries. This means there is investment into training of the SSF guidelines and what it is trying to achieve so the people are familiar with what they are measuring. Use existing NGOs and non-government entities already working in countries to assist in monitoring. Reports and updates to be shared between countries and regionally so that best practices are shared and lessons learnt addressed.

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

There will be implementation challenges (e.g. financial, political, institutional, cultural) to address but also opportunities to capitalize on. These may vary from one context to another and also differ between the global, regional, national and local levels. Understanding these challenges and opportunities will be important for identifying and designing support activities. The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will need a mix of different types of interventions, including – but not necessarily limited to – the strengthening of political commitment and awareness raising, changes in policies, revisions of legislation and/or regulations, development of capacity and empowerment, improving and sharing information, and strengthened research and communication.

- What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?

Finding the entry points and early engagement of possible partners before the work starts. This is for awareness raising, legislative revisions, information and communication work. (sometimes we already have people or groups in mind that we want to work with or are comfortable working with and do not work outside of the box to find out what else and who else is there? Looking outside and always taking into account smaller groups may also be useful.

For strengthening of political commitment, community awareness, capacity development/etc-challenge including finding the right partners to work with and what their interests are in the whole project. Partners should be transparent and should have similar commitments to the work on SSF.

Finding good and committed local partners who are culturally aware and at the same time inclusive in understanding of the various requirements of SSF.

Drawing the balance between subsistence and economic emphasis in the use of resources in the SSF and identifying the gaps from both viewpoints – that of the social cultural and economic and marketing viewpoint.

Understanding cultural values and norms related to SSF and working through that understanding to win people's support and to maintain long- term sustainability.

Balancing and working with resource owners, managers and marketers and investors is a challenge. In most situations these two sets of stakeholders are at opposing ends of the discussion- thus finding a middle ground where both work together is necessary. The private sector, businesses and markets have to be part of any discussion on SSF.

For capacity development – ensuring gender equity in all these type of work remain a challenge. Cultural, social and other factors complicate already existing biases against women, young people, migrant populations, etc. Thus a systematic, concerted effort at making sure gender bias is addressed from the start is important.

- What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?

Experiences in Fiji and other countries in the Pacific- is that all these takes and requires time- approaches and time frames cannot be pushed to meet the agenda of the external partners and expectations are to be that of the people – not of the development partners. People may not come out clearly with what their priorities are and how they do things but they have a wealth of knowledge that is crucial for the success of such ventures thus having their support is vital.

All approaches should be gender sensitive to ensure gender participation especially in countries where women are not necessarily part of decision making and are not expected to be vocal or seen.

Women are increasingly involved in projects and development ventures in countries, the measures of success and work have changed, women are more educated and vocal- there are more entry points now for women involvement than in the past.

- How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?
- *In the next 12 months focus should be on identifying entry points, recruiting & strengthening partners, training and awareness raising. This is to develop a pool of trainers- who can then take the work forward.*
- *The next 12 months should also have a focus on the marketing and investment market and identifying trends and patterns in distribution, post harvest and marketing.*
- *The following 12 months to focus on bringing the two together- (above bullet points)*
- *Long- term interventions can be country tailored and region specific – however keeping in mind a regional perspective and regional monitoring mechanisms.*

31. Ghazanfar Azadi, Islamic Republic of Iran

Dear Moderator,

In response to your request for comments, I would like to share the following:

Partnering for implementation

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines is very important and to implement it properly and effectively, all countries and organizations in national, regional and international levels should have cooperation with each other in a good manner. In this step paying attention to local and international relevant factors such as governments, Fishing communities, CSOs, NGOs, fishing

cooperatives and the leaderships of the fishing societies are very important because without cooperation and collaboration of these groups the implementation of the guidelines could not be successful. Making a good structure for managing and monitoring of all activities in different levels is the main duty of FAO secretariat.

In order to reach these achievements, we need to establish a standing committee related to SSF guidelines in high level and also national committees in the countries. The focal point in each country will be the secretariat of this committee and all of the related groups in national levels will manage and coordinate by the national committee. The relations between these committees and FAO secretariat are very important and FAO should support all of running activities in member countries and help them to solve their problems during the progress of this project.

Communication and Information - promoting cooperation and sharing of experiences

Countries to share experiences in implementing guidelines require different communication channels for all the members and stakeholders. This communication channels can be in special networking in cyberspace, identify focal points and contact persons in each country in order to make a two-way communications with the FAO Secretariat. In addition, the FAO should held annual and bi-annual meetings to find the progress of countries and reaching the achievements.

What kinds of interventions needs in the short, medium and long terms?

The most important interventions for implementing these guidelines in short, medium and long terms can be outlined as follows:

- Describe guidelines for member states through regional and international fisheries management organizations.
- Allocation of credit by the FAO to hold meetings and workshops organized by national and regional organization
 - preparing an assessment questionnaire by the FAO in order to evaluate the progress of states in implementing the guidelines.
- Creation of a virtual space for sharing information and exchanging experiences of countries and resolve operational problems
 - Financial and technical support from FAO for translating the guidelines in nation languages and preparing some brochures to inform the stakeholders specially in developing countries
 - Implementing annual and bi-annual related meetings by the FAO Secretariat
 - Determination of Focal Point and contact persons in each country for following the instructions

The major challenges for the implementation of the guidelines

- Inattention of the decision makers to these guidelines and Failure to cooperate in this field
- disagreement and challenge between decision-makers and stakeholders on how to implement the guidelines
- Lack or shortage of funds required to implement these guidelines in developing countries
- low literacy and illiteracy of fishing communities in developing countries and the lack of capacity in fishing cooperatives
- The existing cultural and religious beliefs and attitudes in some fishing communities
- inadequacy of national laws and regulations and lack of instruments for working in some countries and fishing communities.

-political and social problems in some of the countries which effect on implementation of the guidelines

Best regards,

32. Svein Jentoft, University of Tromso, Norway

Implementing the Voluntary International SSF Guidelines

Member of steering committee and working group leader of the “Too big to ignore” international research network small-scale fisheries <http://toobigtoignore.net/>

The following thoughts on the implementation of the Voluntary SSF guidelines are drawn from a paper that I am presenting at the “Too big to ignore” conference in Hyderabad, India, from December 9-14 this year. Here I reflect on my personal experience from having been involved in the process of developing the guidelines at various stages. I also draw on academic literature on implementation that can be found within the disciplines of political science and public administration that I believe is relevant.

Implementation challenges

Implementation is the process by which “intent is translated into action” (Rein and Rabinovitz 1987:308). When agreeing with the voluntary guidelines, states express intent, not obligation. The test of good will is not the intent but the action. The former is now, the latter is later. Intent declared is not always carried out, or at least not to the full. Sometimes they are just meant to fend off criticism.

One should not assume that translating the guidelines into action will be a graceful, one-dimensional transition. Rather one should expect a cyclical, interactive, and iterative process where original intent and action is subject to repeated questioning, debate, evaluation and reformulation. Lessons learned in the implementation process will often lead to reconsideration of the original intent and to subsequent reformulation of principles and goals. The stated principles, and the values and norms underpinning them, are therefore unstable. When meeting interest group and bureaucratic demands, the initial intention is likely to be diluted. The meaning of concepts and operationalization of principles will be subject to negotiation. This has characterized the revision of the zero-draft and is not likely to stop once the guidelines have been agreed to. A somewhat cynical view on the guidelines would be that they are at most “a point of departure for bargaining among implementers” (Majone and Wildavsky 1979: 180).

Technical or political?

If needed in order to secure small-scale fisheries, the voluntary guidelines are meant to spur new legislation at the level of each nation state. That would be a clear sign that governments are willing and able “to walk the talk.” As far as legislative reform is zero-sum, it is likely to meet resistance to maintain status quo. The burden of proof rests with those who want reform, not with those who defend the current order. Machiavelli (1469–1527) observed, “it must be considered that there is nothing more difficult to carry out, nor more doubtful of success (...), than to initiate a new order of things. For the reformer has enemies in all those who profit by the old order, and only lukewarm defenders in all those who would profit by the new order...” (From “The Prince”).

Legislative change and the subsequent implementation are separate but both up-hill battles. However, once such legislation is in place, a new set of implementation guidelines for particular context that exists within a country or fishery would need to be developed. As they stand now, the voluntary guidelines contain normative principles stated in a language arrived at by consensus. They are thus meant to be globally valid.

Negotiating the guidelines is as political as it is “technical”. Similarly, the process of implementation is no less political than the process of creation. When delegates were arguing about language, they were not only considering clarity and precision, but also their own national interests. They were, in other words, thinking of the *performative* role of the guidelines

in their own country. Their argumentation was informed by a concern for what the guidelines might imply for them: Would the guidelines be implementable? Would they be able to “sell” them at home? Whose toes would they be stepping on? In some instances delegates had to consult their own government during the meeting about what they could agree on. Unavoidably, translating intent into action has consequences not just for the small-scale fisheries but also for other stakeholders inside or outside the fishing industry. I assume this was exactly their worries when some delegates had problems with the term “redistribution” (and a number of other concepts).²

The most controversial issues tend to be packaged in language that allows maximum interpretation flexibility. This makes the implementation process more political than technical. What is actually agreed on and later acted upon is likely to be in conformity of the “majority” interpretation. For the sake of conformity, it may therefore be wise to define key concepts, for instance, in an attached glossary or footnote, like governance, redistribution, tenure, co-management, gender perspective, informal sector, and rights, that all triggered controversy at the Technical Consultation meeting. These concepts proved difficult for some of the delegates who expressed poor understanding of their content or translatability to their home language. Such concepts are not just technical and neutral, they are politically charged. For instance, politically conservatives tend to have problems with the idea of redistribution. Those with a feminist agenda will oppose gender neutral language, such as fisherfolk unless it is specified that it means both men and women. Some country delegates consistently argued for less gender specific language, to the dismay of civil society representatives who forcefully spoke up to defend the proposed language on this point.

Neutralizing, or outright removing, such concepts will water down the text; make it more “voluntary” as it were, whereas an explicit and precise definition will have the opposite effect. But less ambiguity will make it more difficult to reach agreement. Therefore many delegates will be happier with a low exactitude. However, that is likely to make the implementation process more cumbersome. What is agreed on for the sake of expediency early in the process may later haunt the implementation, because implementation depends on clarity (and consensus) about what concepts really mean at a concrete level if not in abstract. The drafting process was done through expert workshops and CSO consultations, with much more time to deliberate on the terms used what they mean and why they are used. Most of the country delegates who met in Rome have not taken part of this process. The implementation may suffer, as a consequence, unless technocrats in charge of the implementation are more knowledgeable about this terminology than many of those at the negotiation.

One may, of course, argue that if there is no agreement on the language to begin with, there will be no guidelines to implement at the end of the day. There is, in other words, a dilemma for which there is no easy recommendation. Disagreement still prevails, which can be seen from the bracketing of sentences that still flourish throughout the document. The handling of these brackets further on will determine how strong the text will be in the end. For instance, from the perspective of indigenous small-scale fishing people it would matter a lot what would remain of the following sentence (brackets indicating disagreement):

“Local norms and practices, as well as customary or otherwise preferential access to fishery resources and land by small-scale fishing communities [including indigenous peoples [and ethnic minorities], should be recognized, respected and protected in ways that are

²Paragraph 5.8, which is bracketed in its entirety and in parts, and thus not agreed upon, reads: “[States may consider redistributive reforms in accordance with national legislation when these can facilitate equitable access to fishery resources for small-scale fishing communities in accordance with the provisions of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Contexts of National Food Security {as long as it is in the public interest}]”

consistent with international human rights standards.” (paragraph 5.4.). Likewise, indigenous peoples should pay attention to whether the following principle will stay or not: “[The free, prior informed {consent} {consultation} of indigenous communities on matters of fundamental importance for their rights, survival, dignity and wellbeing consistent with UN DRIP should be ensured]. (Paragraph 3.1.5.)

It remains to be seen how the many brackets will be dealt with. A compromise might mean that controversial language will be deleted, so that the final document risk having no teeth. That may be less troublesome than one may think since small-scale fisheries are already addressed by the existing guidelines on the right to food and on tenure as well as the Code of Conduct for Responsible fisheries, albeit in less detail.

Implementation as interaction

The implementation of the guidelines would need an overseer, and FAO is well positioned to play such a role. But FAO might benefit from building a partnership around that role, a “system for implementation review” (Victor et al. 1998) involving academics that are representing their discipline rather than their country and government. CSOs have an important function and should therefore be represented in the partnership, but those representing should not necessarily come with a limited mandate defined by their organization but be free to speak their own mind. If not, interactive learning by arguing and doing will be hampered, which is key to implementation.³ States are at the receiving end of the guidelines and have had their opportunity to voice their views in the negotiations. State government must also be a key implementer. They are therefore better kept outside the implementation review, or else the classical question of “who governs the governor?” applies.

One should not expect a “top-down” and orderly implementation process. This is especially the case due to the move “from government to governance”, which can now be observed in many countries (Bevir 2011). Similar developments and demands can also be witnessed in fisheries (Kooiman et al. 2005). Fisheries governance is not a sole responsibility of the state but one that involved organized stakeholder groups. Effective implementation would also hinge on stakeholder participation (Hill and Hupe 2009; Bellamy and Palumbo 2010) in a process of interactive governance in accordance with “good governance” principles such as democracy, transparency and accountability.

The move from government to governance also puts pressure of governments to become more accommodating to stakeholder concerns and interests. It transforms the role of the state from supreme governor to mediator and negotiator. Therefore the willingness to strike compromise is likely to increase. The guidelines are not written in stone. In the course of implementation they will be adjusted to stakeholder demands.

However, just because the government and stakeholder representatives agree on the guidelines, does not guarantee implementation. Rather one should assume that the implementers will be dragging their feet, especially if they meet resistance. Also, as new participants are drawn into the process that they were not involved with from the beginning, the momentum might get lost. Therefore, as Susskind (2006: 282) argues, “even though the parties to a mutual gains negotiation are almost always satisfied with the outcome (or they would not have agreed to accept it, they still need to worry about the mechanisms of implementation.” “Parties must therefore invest time in crafting the best ways of making their agreement “nearly self-enforcing.” This may require adding incentives or disincentives to the terms of the agreement.” It is clear that the guidelines are voluntary for states. The implementation depends as much on the messenger as the message. In many instances the state has a poor reputation among small-scale fishing people to begin with. Much will hinge on the

³ Freeman (2006: 367) defines implementation “as the process by which agencies learn to deliver it (i.e. a policy – my addition).”

legitimacy that both the state and the guidelines enjoy in the eyes of stakeholders. The guidelines may help the state to look better, but only in so far as they are well received by stakeholders. For this reason, the implementation process must be interactive through and through, as participation is found to increase stakeholder support and compliance (Suskind 2006; Jagers et al. 2012).

Many countries ratify conventions they never implement, for instance when they realize that they have signed up for more than they can deliver because they meet opposition at home. Signing up to conventions, declarations, or in this case guidelines have symbolic value, they show good will. But they may also be “widow-dressing” and branding in order to make a country look good from the perspective of the international community and domestic constituents. Governments implement what they have committed themselves to, not always because they want and intend to do so, but because they are pressured from within or from the outside. As far as international environmental codes are concerned, Raustiala and Victor (1989:671) conclude that “minimal implementation of international environmental commitment in these states (that they studied – my addition) mainly reflects low public pressure for environmental protection.” Civil society organizations like those who have been involved so far have a clear role in preventing from happening. They can be effective in providing internal pressure. FAO can provide similar stress from outside or the “above” by designing a mechanism where governments would be obliged to report back on some predefined performance indicators. FAO can also be instrumental in encouraging civil society organizations and the academic community to do their part. All this would make implementation into a process that is partly top-down and bottom-up, as illustrated in figure 1..

Implementation obstacles:

According to Rein and Rabinovitz (1989), implementation is subject to three hurdles -or “imperatives”; a legislative and a bureaucratic imperative and one regarding consensus building. The guidelines would have to pass all three. First, what is legally required in order to bring about change for small-scale fisheries may vary from country to country. The legal status of small-scale fisheries, be they indigenous or not, would need to be investigated in particular cases, and in some countries new legislation may be required to accommodate the change that the guidelines aim for. Legal processes in order to improve the rights of small-scale fisheries are now taking place in some countries (such as South Africa, Cambodia), and would provide insights into the conditions for successful implementation of the guidelines. As to the second imperative, the bureaucratic demands are not always conducive to implementation. There is no guarantee that legislation will pass the bureaucratic barrier. Bureaucrats will also have ideas about what is feasible from an administrative point of view, for instance because of poor data. “Who are small-scale fishers anyway, how many and where are they?” Should the implementation process pass this hurdle, it would next have to face the industry and all other stakeholders who may or may not like the notion that small-scale fisheries deserve special attention. Without consensus implementation may come to a halt or need to start all over again, maybe after it has been put to rest for a while. Rein and Rabinovitz argue: “We cannot assume that the legal imperative will always dominate.” (p. 309). In order to understand how legislation is implemented, we need to appreciate how the legal, rational and consensus principle manage trade-offs.”

There is also the risk of capture by the special interest. Certain stakeholders might attempt to bend the guideline operationalization and implementation to their benefit. Raustiala and Victor (189:669), however, find that “while regulatory capture is a risk, the capturing influence of target groups has been offset through informed participation by countervailing groups.” Thus, for the sake of equity and justice, implementation should be sensitive to power differentiation between and within stakeholders groups, also within small-scale fisheries (Jentoft 2007; Cooke and Kothary 2002). Goal displacement would be expected, especially since the guidelines are voluntary, causing disappointment and disillusionment among those who initially had high expectations to the guidelines and for whom they were primarily targeting; the poor and marginalized. This is particularly the danger when implementation is not

controlled by one single authority but is open to negotiation among multiple parties. This is obviously an eventuality implementers should be prepared for.

Thus, implementation is a process of evolution with uncertain outcomes. Raustiala and Victor (1989: 660-1) hold: "When national implementation is complex, more political and economic interests are likely to be affected, leading to political mobilization and shifting coalitions. Typically these coalitions become more complicated, with less predictable outcomes..." It is reason to think that the less binding the guidelines are, the less predictable the outcome. However, once the voluntary guidelines have been adopted, enacted and operationalized through an interactive process where agreement has been reached, predictability will go up.

Given the great diversity of small-scale fisheries, contextualization is necessary. The guidelines must therefore be universal enough to allow a considerable degree of freedom at the level of each country and community. Guidelines that are not perceived to be relevant to particular situations are not likely to be implemented. Also the broad scope of the guidelines necessitates a process that is inclusive, despite the risks mentioned above. Research on the implementation of environmental codes suggests that "participation during the negotiations of international commitments and the making of national implementing policy is high, but it has often proved difficult to expand participation at the implementation phase" (Victor et al. 1998:23). Whether countries with a tradition of stakeholder participation are more inclined than others to effectively implement the guidelines, is a research question.

Other country characteristics may also play a role here, for instance the relative importance of small-scale fisheries, and the level of development and industrialization. Implementation can be compared with how countries score on the human development index, good governance index, and Gini index. Once standards for effective implementation have been determined and compliance is investigated, this should be rather straightforward. It is also likely that certain situations and events may influence to implementation (cf. Krämer 2006). Policy change in fisheries often occurs when some crisis calls for rethinking and action. One may perhaps not expect much support for a more progressive small-scale fishery policy as a consequence of the voluntary guidelines if the state of affairs in fisheries is characterized by tranquility, development, and growth. If existing systems seems to be working, people find little reason to fix them. Developed countries can afford to ignore small-scale fisheries (which they often do) and are therefore not likely to invest much in them, whereas less well-off countries may find them more important. If small-scale fisheries are in a bad condition but still "too big to ignore", the guidelines are more prone to find fertile ground. When small-scale fisheries play a minor role, governments can afford to implement the guidelines, as the turmoil they might create will be minimal and isolated.

Methodology

The overseer (FAO and partners) would need a suitable monitoring and evaluation scheme. The study conducted by Pitcher et al. (2009) is an example of what can be done. They compared country compliance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and found substantial variation. However, what they measured is conformity, not achievement. Countries may already have been living up to the principles of the code at the time it was initiated, and their policies may have been initiated after but regardless of the code. What the overseer would want to know is whether the guidelines are leading to change of policy and whether that change of policy is making a difference in small-scale fisheries (although the latter might be more cumbersome due to other factors that may determine change). Ideally, one would need to know what small-scale fisheries would have been without the guidelines and be able to separate what other variables are have influence. Pre-post (before and after) analysis is tricky as causal chains might be spurious. "Conterfactual" research is even more difficult, as when trying to answer how small-scale fisheries would have developed without the guidelines. Small-scale fisheries are a dynamic sector, undergoing constant change brought about by internal and external drivers that are hard to control in any experiment. The guidelines may at best impact how they are developing, the direction and pace.

One would need to take into account that implementation is often time consuming and incremental. The guidelines may take years before they take full effect. For the parties involved, also those in charge of monitoring and evaluation, patience would be required. Snapshot research would therefore not be ideal. Instead, research should be longitudinal; follow implementation processes over time. People with experience from implementation research and who knows the academic literature would know how to do this. The lessons learned from the implementation of the Code of Conduct and other guidelines would be very relevant. Given the close link between the Code, the rights to food and tenure guidelines, evaluating the implementation of the small-scale fisheries guidelines will also be a partial evaluations of these instruments. To separate the impact that the small-scale fisheries guidelines have from these other instruments, would therefore also be difficult. But at the end of the day, what matters is really what positive change will take place in small-scale fisheries, and not exactly which instrument it can be attributed to.

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33. Gilles Van de Walle, FARNET Support Unit, Belgium

Key for the successful implementation of these guidelines is to foster ownership by local stakeholders. Benefits and added value of these guidelines have to be made clear to the final beneficiaries which in turn will be able to push their respective governments into action. At the same time, there is a need to secure political will in support of the implementation of the guidelines through highlighting potential political gains. The type of implementation will of course depend very much on the resources available, which will determine the possible levels of intervention.

1 Partnering for implementation

The European network for fisheries areas (FARNET, www.farnet.eu) has been facing similar challenges for the past few years in the implementation of the local development initiative of the European Fisheries Fund (Axis 4). The main tasks of the network have been to on the one side build capacity of administrations and local stakeholders at various levels (national, regional, local) to help understanding and effective implementation of the initiative. On the other side, FARNET has been instrumental in sharing experiences across the various local development projects, in order to avoid the downfalls of localism (isolation, duplication of initiatives and reinventing the wheel) and facilitate peer learning. Networking at various levels should be considered as a key element of the implementation of SSFG as it allows for mutual learning while fostering a sense of belonging to a wider change making effort thereby increasing the legitimacy of all actors of the delivery chain.

2 information and communication

Informing and communicating effectively on the benefits and added value of the guidelines for the small scale fisheries sector will be key to its success. Effective communication has to start early in the process as reaching out to any communication target takes time, let alone SSF which present specifically acute communication challenges. Given the wide diversity of the communities targeted in terms of culture, languages, level of education, beliefs, customs,... the communication strategy will have to be carefully designed to allow for passing on a common

message despite this diversity. One option could be to give specific importance to visual communication tools (infographics, videos) backed up with limited text to avoid translation costs becoming too heavy a burden (as all texts would need to be translated in local languages) and as well allowing to reach out to parts of the communities which present lower levels of literacy. These tools can be used to raise interest in local communities in the adoption of the SSF guidelines which should be a first step in the implementation process. Videos would be made for example on small scale fisheries communities which already benefit from following the SSSFG. Different angles and added value could be particularly stressed using different examples of sustainable small scale fisheries communities around the world. Place local people at the heart of these videos, avoid government officials and donors showcase. As mentioned in Malta, one element all these communities have in common is that they have fishing at their heart and that fishermen from all over the world speak the same language. So if you want these SSFG to be understood in different fishing communities, use that language to convey the powerful message contained in these guidelines. Another tip to ensure successful SSSFG implementation is to try to brand them into an “elevator speech” which can explain what they are and their added value in a limited timeframe in different contexts. A useful tool for coining effectively a message is to select a 3 words combination to describe what you are trying to do. Example of videos are available on our website (check particularly the intro video on Axis 4).

In terms of participatory monitoring and evaluation, again any system has to be designed before the start of the implementation process, and be designed around the main objectives of the programme. Robust yet simple indicators, with associated monitoring needs and possible methods for data collection should be devised from the onset. The rureval network of DG AGRI and the WorldBank CDD programme both have extensive experience in programme evaluation. Participatory evaluation requires strong capacity building at local level to be effective.

3 Challenges and opportunities

Implementation challenges will lie at different levels. The first challenge mentioned already under point 2 is to foster ownership at local level. Information and communication needs linked with this have been discussed above. Other needs relate to capacity building and improvement of social capital at local level for which a strong outreach component has to be built into the implementation process. The people in charge of the capacity building will need to have the local knowledge both in terms of cultural and linguistic skills to adapt to the very different local context and allow for the development of trust with the community. Training the local trainers will allow for ensuring some degree of coherence in the implementation process while ensuring the adaptation of needs to the local context. Once local communities will have acquire the tools to start implementation of the SSFG they will be able to exert bottom up pressure on their different levels of administrations in accepting the SSSFG as enabling framework for the SSD of fishing communities.

Second challenge will be to generate political uptake of the SSFG. Ideally as mentioned in the preceding paragraph the political level will respond to the demands stemming from the local level. But this is likely not to be sufficient with a clear need to actively work towards convincing decision makers of the added value of the implementation of the SSFG. Some specific outreach tools could be developed as well, which would put forward the elements which are closer to decision makers interests. Possible political gains such as the capacity of the SSFG to reduce/resolve conflicts at local level, to alleviate poverty, improve livelihood and well being, should therefore be highlighted.

Capacity building should also reach the administration in charge of managing the SSF issues in the various countries to avoid these officials being squeezed between the pressure from the

political level and the demands from the local level. Basically technical assistance should be provided to all levels of the delivery chain, adapting the method and expertise for each level.

Third challenge is linked to the timeframe of the implementation of the guidelines which will require to dispose of a long term horizon perspective. Improvement in social capital at local level and generation of political support takes time and efforts and requires trust to be build along the delivery chain. There is little point in initiating the process if the initial efforts cannot be sustained as all these efforts, capital and more importantly trust risks to be lost. To ensure as well that implementation is going in the right directions periodic reviews should be carried out to allow for adjustment of the intervention.

Given the wide diversity of contexts and acute challenges faced by the implementation process of the SSSFG (reinforced by the economic crisis limiting the availability of funding sources), an option could be to start with sub regional programmes, targeting efforts on a few countries/regions which would allow to test implementation possibilities while limiting the initial risks. A certain critical mass still has to be ensured to allow for mutual exchanges and for experimenting with the implementations in a number of different contexts.

These were some initial thoughts, condensed in a few paragraphs, happy to discuss further,

All the best

Gilles

34. Adam Soliman, The Fisheries Law Centre, Canada

Reading the draft Guidelines has inspired The Fisheries Law Centre and its members. The Guidelines captured the interest of our members not only because FLC was founded specifically to fill a gap in the field of fisheries law, but also because FLC focuses on the livelihood of small-scale fisheries and coastal communities globally through ensuring they have meaningful access to justice. We believe that the success of the proposed guidelines will depend in part on whether SSFs enjoy meaningful access to the law. Historically, the legal community around the world has often helped to guarantee rights for a variety of marginalized groups. We will adopt the Guidelines in the spirit in which they were developed and incorporate their provisions which will no doubt resonate in our work for years to come. With that enthusiasm, we are delighted to participate in this consultation and look forward to playing an active role in the implementation process and beyond.

Sincerely,

Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

Partnering for Implementation

- **How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?**

The Fisheries Law Centre (FLC) is a non-profit research centre dedicated to the advocacy of small-scale fisheries around the world. The FLC is committed to the SSF guiding principles in our mandate to conduct research, build capacity for stakeholders and facilitate legal representation. The role that FLC can play in the implementation of the FAO SSF Guidelines is to

provide legal analysis and research to governments, non-governmental organizations and all other interested parties. The FLC is uniquely positioned to help in this context because of its specific expertise in the under-research area of fisheries law. We can help guide and navigate the implementation of the Guidelines through the tangled web and often complicated legal structures in countries around the world.

The legal situation surrounding fishers around the world has received painfully little attention due to the fact that much of the work by the FAO and other organizations has focused on agricultural communities. Though fish and seafood are usually considered to be relatively profitable foodstuffs, particularly compared to cereal grains, many fishing communities remain impoverished, seemingly voiceless sectors relegated to the periphery of their nations. Much of the profit on fish and seafood is actually earned by post-catch processors, which yields no benefit to the fishing communities. If the fish are exported for processing and then re-imported (as has happened in the case of grains sent to South Africa for processing followed by re-importation of the finished good) this reduces food security for the communities.

The FLC currently runs both a Global Summer Internship Program in Fisheries Law (GSIP) and a Global Fisheries Legal Education Program (GFLEP).

The GSIP will help further the FAO SSF Guidelines by training and raising awareness among law students about the complex problems facing small-scale fisheries and their livelihood. This highly specialized area of law is not taught at a majority of law schools and, as a result, there is a clear gap around education and training. Due to its strong global network, the FLC has the unique ability to provide interested law students with the opportunity to engage in community-based learning with various universities and NGOs around the world. After receiving formal legal training, students are placed at NGOs and other hosting institutions to collaborate on legal research needs identified by those local authorities. The program's aim is to develop a group who understands the challenges faced by fishing communities around the world and are familiar with the applicable laws.

The GFLEP is designed to provide continuing legal education about fisheries such as courses, workshops, and lectures to legal professionals (i.e. law professors, environmental lawyers, general practitioners, etc). To ensure that the program's content is meaningful, relevant and objective, the FLC brings in non-legal experts and speakers to combine their perspectives with formal legal knowledge. Non-legal professionals such as fishery managers, government employees and fisheries science academics, also attend these programs and thereby enhance the quality of participation and the robustness of the key outtakes. The trans-disciplinary nature of fisheries law demands this broad base of collaborative partnerships; FLC is focused on providing this collaboration in order to deliver the mandates stated in the Guidelines.

The FLC will also use the Guidelines to inform our curriculum design. The scarce programs that currently exist usually focus on environmental law, criminal law and the prosecution of violations. The Guidelines have inspired the FLC to add a strong focus on small-scale fisheries to our curriculum.

- **How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the 'voices of the marginalized'?**

Small scale fisheries, indigenous peoples and smaller coastal communities are often marginalized by existing legal and regulatory structures and a key step in helping to amplify their voices is by providing them with better access to justice. This can be done by educating and involving current and future legal advocates about the issues facing these communities and the laws that govern their actions. Helping these communities to fully understand their rights and options will enable them be heard and have these conversations with more confidence. It is

FLCs mission to help facilitate advocacy within the legal community and encourage involvement in the issues faced by coastal communities, indigenous peoples and small-scale fisheries.

Many legal avenues are inaccessible for small scale fisheries today. Not only is there a lack of lawyers and courts in close proximity to these marginalized communities, but there are also many legal issues which these communities cannot tackle effectively even if the structural aspects of the legal framework were more accessible. Enabling SSFs to access the legal system and to collaborate with other engaged stakeholders will help them to respond to their concerns over policies that affect their livelihoods; to participate actively in policy-making decisions or in consultations; to assert their rights (and in some cases their jurisdiction or even sovereignty); and to offer alternatives that are derived from their traditional concepts of governance.

The FLC supports the rights of indigenous peoples and recognizes that their voices are also often marginalized. We support the requirement for free, prior informed consent from, and consultation with, indigenous communities on matters of fundamental importance for their rights, survival, dignity and wellbeing. Consistent with UN DRIP, these requirements should be ensured under section 5 of the Guiding principles. Without such recognition, indigenous voices will more than likely remain marginalized, and partnerships involving SSFs and indigenous principles will be difficult to establish and maintain.

As mentioned earlier, the FLC places law students and research fellows in local NGOs and universities around the globe, including institutions in China, the Solomon Islands, South Africa, West Africa, and Fiji. By educating the legal community about the issues in small-scale fisheries and enabling representation and advocacy, FLC will foster active participation and collaboration and thereby strengthen the peoples' voice in local fishery matters.

- **What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?**

In order to work effectively, such partnerships require knowledge and understanding of the laws governing implementation of the Guidelines. Some countries already have legislation that is sufficient to support the implementation of the Guidelines, but many do not. In either situation, partnerships are unlikely to succeed without the ability to navigate the regulatory maze. To ensure that SSFs are included in the political systems of their nations and have the capacity to access the legal system, it is vital that lawyers and law students are educated in their needs and the laws related to it. Existing at the periphery of their societies, there is a distinct need for these communities to be fully researched and understood.

In particular, food security remains a key issue in many developing nations. Some scholars have "pointed out the 'core' role of developing-country regimes as abusers of agricultural resources and agents of hunger and famine. Furthermore, foreign activities like land acquisition or market manipulation (leading to food price hikes) can create domestic conditions of deprivation and risks of internal conflict that are not effectively accounted for by state-centric approaches." One of the best ways to address the situation is to re-examine the legal and institutional challenges which face food security in general. For example, the common inability of SSFs to access the legal system effectively drastically limits their ability to meaningfully participate in their political, legal and social systems.

On the global level, communication between countries and their respective governments - between NGOs and research institutions, between advocacy groups, Indigenous Peoples and local coastal communities - will prove to be invaluable in building effective and efficient partnerships. As noted above, effective and efficient partnerships with indigenous peoples

depend on free, prior and informed consent and consultation regarding issues which affect them and their resources. Without such communication, implementation on a global scale will likely face many hurdles.

Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

- **What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?**

The best way to communicate the SSF Guidelines to various levels of governments will be to approach them as facilitators of dialogue and information. In this role, the facilitators must ensure that decisions are subject to free, prior and informed consent from local communities and indigenous peoples, thus giving them a meaningful voice. This should include consultation during the planning stage of the implementation of the Guidelines. Consultation enables communities and indigenous peoples to be part of the solution and fully bought in to the concepts and impact, and generally promotes involvement which is necessary for any successful implementation.. With their input, the Guidelines can continue to be an evolving and global document. For the purposes of meaningful access to justice, laws must realistically reflect the reality of the situation of these communities and indigenous peoples.

The FLC's GFLEP is designed to enable communication among the various parties involved in SSFs. FLC will train local community and Indigenous members in the legal matters related to their fishery. The participants of these courses have various bases of knowledge, and this allows for a broad range of views on fishery-related issues. Fisheries law is inherently interdisciplinary in nature and, as a result, having discussions between participants from different backgrounds is invaluable in designing an implementation scheme at the local level.

- **What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?**

The FLC provides a global educational program that is designed to engage fishery-related parties in educational topics involving the broad area of fisheries law. The educational topics are specifically chosen to create a participatory dialogue within the class regarding issues facing small-scale fisheries around the world. The varied backgrounds of participants provide different views, thereby and enlightening all participants as to different perspectives about the problems faced by SSFs.

Additionally, the FLC has experience conducting local assessments. For example, we conducted an on-the-ground assessment of the Community Quota Entity (CQE) program currently implemented in the State of Alaska. The FLC met with the community of Old Harbor, Alaska and conducted interviews to learn about the effectiveness of the program from the perspective of the local aboriginal community. The CQE program is a community-based, participatory fisheries management regime for remote coastal communities. Similarly, the FLC can provide research in other locations to assist in planning and implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

- **How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?**

Implementation of the Guidelines from a legal standpoint should be measured using both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The empowerment of SSFs through access to justice should include education that enables them to design their own framework for measuring and reporting. Rather than simply imposing an external solution, providing access to legal advocates and experts provides SSFs with access to the proper tools for tackling a problem. The

knowledge and expertise of impassioned and properly trained legal professionals can drive the implementation of many of the FAO's Guidelines in a way that is truly responsive to the individuals on the ground.

Challenges and Opportunities – needs for support and interventions

- **What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?**

One of the biggest challenges to implementation will be the availability, or lack thereof, of legal knowledge in the fisheries context, due to the interdisciplinary nature of fisheries law. In order to have a complete understanding of the necessary steps to successful implementation, it will be critical to study several jurisdictions in order to research what methods are successful and what has failed to this point. After collecting this information, the resulting analysis should be able to better illuminate common problems associated with program implementation and offer solutions to these issues.

Another challenge is the potential lack of capacity to do the necessary research involved in implementing the Guidelines in that countries may lack the necessary research resources to perform these tasks. Fisheries law spans many disciplines, from property law to human rights and it is difficult to have experts in each of these fields in place in every country that will be implementing and utilizing the Guidelines. FLC's GFLEP is designed to overcome this by training local actors to do the necessary research on the ground, at the local level. At the local level, different actors have different needs and actor-specific training poses various challenges.

The legal hurdles involved in individual countries will pose yet another challenge to effective implementation. Different countries attribute different degrees of property rights to fishing licences to fish. This will affect what that government can and cannot do legislatively in order to support implementation. The FLC can provide guidance by analyzing the regulatory regime of any country where the Guidelines will be implemented and propose recommendation on how best to proceed in that local context.

- **What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?**

The FLC is in a unique position to address these challenges to implementation. We have staff located around the globe who are experts in various areas, from fisheries law to property law. A successful example of this interdisciplinary collaboration was an analysis of the regulatory hurdles involved in implementing community-based fisheries management regimes for the purpose of improving the livelihood of SSFs in the United States, Canada, South Africa and India. The FLC staff researched and analyzed these countries' laws and regulations in order to assess the legal feasibility of implementing these programs within the existing legal framework of each country. As noted, we also provide educational courses designed to engage professors, lawyers, fishery managers, government employees, and law students across the globe in the many different facets of fisheries law.

- **How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?**

The FLC is intent on training the next generation of localized fisheries law advocates. The number of participants to FLC's GFLEP will continue to grow as the FLC partners with more

NGOs and universities across the globe. Currently, we have partnered with institutions in countries including China, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Canada, the US, and more. As these programs grow, they will expand to locations outside these initial hubs. The FLC's goal is to provide an educational presence in every region of the world.

The FLC has much to offer fishing communities, indigenous peoples and the FAO. Advocacy is severely wanting in these regions. Without trained advocates, it is difficult for many fishing communities to represent themselves at the proverbial bargaining table. Even for those who do have advocates, it is often politically-motivated and driven "from above", not fully representing the needs of indigenous peoples or the local community.

35. Patrick McConney, Barbados

I wish to share a few more perspectives from the Caribbean.

Partnering is already in progress to prepare for implementing the SSF Guidelines. An example is between the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute at the regional/transboundary level. National level partnerships are also seen between fisheries authorities and fisherfolk organisations. There needs, however, to be more and much stronger collective action among fisherfolk groups across the region. These groups can accomplish quite a lot if they work together.

Communication to accomplish this collaboration and coordination is challenging due to language and other barriers including cost and low use of internet communication technology amongst fisherfolk. More emphasis needs to be placed on unleashing the power of communication. This includes making allies of the news media and similar organisations in order to influence public opinion and policy.

Challenges and opportunities both need to be approached strategically with well formulated plans that have stakeholder buy-in. The leaders of the fisherfolk organisations and allies need to encourage creativity. The success stories, no matter how small, need to be shared and celebrated. In order to maintain momentum there must be positive outlooks for the short, medium and long term. We must harness collective action for this.

Regards,

Patrick McConney

36. Ratana Chuenpagdee Memorial University, Canada

Implementation of the FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: The Step Zero

Submitted to the e-consultation by:

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There have been many guidelines before this one; thus there is no need to treat it any different than others. The difference, however, lies in the hope and expectation of millions of small-scale fishing people and their families, small-scale fishing communities and those whose livelihoods and way of life are closely linked with sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF), of what the guidelines, and the proper implementation, will bring. The key issue is therefore about **responsibility**. Once States agree that small-scale fisheries have important contribution to make and cannot be ignored, then it is within their mandate to evaluate current fisheries policies and align them with the guidelines. The big picture needs to be recognized, that given their number and actual and potential contributions to the society, any effort to support sustainable small-scale fisheries would likely have positive consequences to the overall national economy and the wellbeing of the nation.

The challenge is about what to implement, given the voluntary nature of the guidelines, and how to implement them in the most sensible way. Both the States and the community need to realize that progress is likely **incremental** in this case. Rectifying something that has been missing for a long time (e.g., appropriate policies, institutions and research to support SSF) is going to take time and the outcomes may be slow to happen. But there must be quite a few low-hanging fruits for the implementing group to choose from. Another advantage is the fact that the culture of stakeholder participation and multi-sector partnership has been fostered and embraced in many places around the world. New ways of thinking about how to manage the fisheries have emerged and the concept of **governance** has been employed in fisheries context. The condition is right for the implementation of the guidelines provided that the States are willing to do it, and are willing to look into making necessary policy changes in order to facilitate the implementation.

In the first instance, the implementation of the guidelines should be considered a **participatory** and **interactive** process, the way the guidelines have been developed. A multi-stakeholder body, with appropriate representation, including people knowledgeable about small-scale fisheries, should be established as a responsible entity to implement the guidelines. Similar to the Code of Conduct, some interpretation and contextualization of the guidelines may be required. Participatory process in this case implies also that those not directly responsible for the implementation should always be informed, consulted, and invited to contribute. The diversity, complexity and dynamic nature of SSF call for as much help at the local level as possible. Community members and groups interested in supporting SSF can also be drawn upon to help with the implementation. The same applies to research groups and academic institutions. An interactive process calls for the implementation to take advantage of any functioning existing local governing bodies, formal and informal, to the extent possible. The stage has to be set, at the onset, that the implementation of the SSF guidelines is an opportunity to address issues of common interests, which, once addressed, can result into the betterment of the society at large. Attempts must be made to alleviate concerns that the guidelines may threaten the wellbeing of other economic sectors, including industrial fisheries. Any possible incompatibility between the existing rules and regulations and the new ones set in accord with the guidelines needs to be recognized and addressed upfront. All involved parties need to realize that it may still be possible to create space for SSF to become viable and sustainable. It does not always mean taking away access from one sector and giving it to SSF. **Creative solutions** and opportunities for synergies need to be explored, first and foremost. This is the case even though the reality is starkly different, e.g., SSF have long been politically and economically marginalized. Support the organization of SSF people locally, nationally and regionally, is among the first steps.

In effect, the implementation needs to begin from the **'step zero'**, meaning that all involved parties need to understand where the guidelines were coming from, what they intend to do, and that they had gone through a legitimate process before implementation. As to the post-

implementation, while it is necessary that the implementation should lead eventually to achieving the long-term goals set out in the guidelines, the effectiveness of the guidelines should be measured, in the first instance, using the short-term goals set out by the States through the implementation committee. This allows for some contextualization, as well as innovation, to occur. **Self-monitoring system** may be more useful and practical than enforcement, for instance. **Depoliticizing** the implementation may be the best way forward. Opportunities to share lessons and exchange ideas among those involved directly and indirectly with the guidelines implementation should be created, through a regular process. SSF people need to know that it is not the States that will be held accountable for the implementation. They also need to take active role in it. Coordination of efforts at all levels, and with existing and new alliances and partnerships, will be required.

37. Shannon Eldredge, Cape Cod Community Supported Fisheries, USA

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

1. Partnering for implementation

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will require engagement and partnerships across different institutions, organizations and actors as the SSF Guidelines implementation does not only require the involvement by fishers but takes into consideration also the role and needs of those around them. Fishing communities, CSOs, academia, NGOs, governments, regional organizations, donors and international agencies and organizations all need to work together - but different actors may have different roles to play to address issues in relation to fisheries governance, gender, post-harvest, consumer interests, wider societal interests, etc. Please share any experiences, both good or bad as well as lessons learned related to partnerships in the implementation of international instruments

- How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?
 - **Connecting policy change to seafood justice & sovereignty. The two go hand-in-hand, and we help bring consumers to that arena by building programs and awareness campaigns that they can participate in.**
- How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the 'voices of the marginalized'?
- **The marginalized voices are strengthened by supporters from a broad range of industries around fishing. Work with those who are allies of small-scale fishers to help in awareness campaigns, policy making, programs.**
- What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences will be of utmost importance for effective implementation. Available lessons learnt, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and relevant statistics can help making information available and shared.

- What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?
 - **Bottom-up, transparent communication through all channels is essential.**
- What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?
 - **Take into consideration what kind of organizations are doing the evaluations. How do their values compare to those that are being portrayed in their reports? Are monitors and evaluators employing objective methods to their assessments.**
 - **The threat of having fishermen pay for observers and monitors on board their vessels for the purpose of evaluating stocks is potentially damaging to that day's earnings. So, monitoring of progress of these guidelines during fishing time should be completely paid for by grant-funded, objective partners who will not interfere with the wages or earnings of fishermen when they are working.**
- How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?
- **Fund organizations like Slow Fish, which have building networks of small-scale fishers internationally, to develop modes of communication that can be funneled to FAO. Measuring progress is specific to the communities being observed, because different nations, different fisheries are at different stages in their development of programs, or destruction of ecosystem, or even just definitions of status quo. From each community participating in observations, there should be folks developing methods of measuring progress, and they should be in communication with folks from other communities around the world to glean ideas about how to monitor & report.**

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

There will be implementation challenges (e.g. financial, political, institutional, cultural) to address but also opportunities to capitalize on. These may vary from one context to another and also differ between the global, regional, national and local levels. Understanding these challenges and opportunities will be important for identifying and designing support activities. The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will need a mix of different types of interventions, including – but not necessarily limited to – the strengthening of political commitment and awareness raising, changes in policies, revisions of legislation and/or regulations, development of capacity and empowerment, improving and sharing information, and strengthened research and communication.

- What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?
 - **Political commitment and revisions of legislation/regulations.**
 - **They could be overcome by transparency to the public on how policies are supported by the government, and in the process of creating those regulations. Also, small-scale fishers (individuals, not necessarily those “representing” certain NGOs who lobby for fishers) should hold office on committees and in councils to regulate and create policies that implement SSF Guidelines.**
- What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?
- **Experience has been a lot of resistance and corruption.**
- **Unsuccessful strategies are trusting organizations that represent practices that are detrimental to small-scale, community-based fishing fleets.**

- **Successful strategies are ones that have a keen ear toward independent fishers & crews whose survival incomes, daily livelihoods, could be directly impacted by major or minor policy shifts that implement SSF Guidelines.**
- **Timeframes would vary drastically, as there are so many factors differentiating one community from the next, one fishery from the next, one nation from the next.**
- How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?

38. Andrew Johnston, Artisanal Fisheries Association, South Africa

Voluntary Guidelines for a sustainable small- scale fisheries.

Our organization the Artisanal Fishers Association of South Africa is a regional community based organization which has been the attention of many a researcher/academic and media because of the manner of which without any funding or offices, operated, organized and managed. It was basically a type of beach gang operation that was born from resistance to the racial oppression of the Apartheid system that marginalized us with the introduction of the ITQ fishing system. We rejected the unjust quota system of the government and worked outside of their laws until we "supposedly " gained our freedom in 1994. Our vision was to stop the unjust fishing policy and to regain and retain our traditional fishing rights. Our banners which we carried with pride, was our objectives in our struggle - Reasserting Fishers Rights, -We Speak for the Silent Sea and You, - We Don't Want To Be Rich We just Want Access To The Sea.

We have been participants at F.A.O. over a period of ten years through being members of WFFP on fishing issues and by the invitation of FIAN, working on the guidelines on the right to food.

The question of participation and capacity building is problematic as although consultative framework exists and is carried out, participation in final policy decision- making is terribly flawed. Many of the average fishing communities especially community based organizations are feeling estranged from the international political bodies, as BINGOS (big international non-governmental organizations) and academics easily shape the results according to their agendas that sometimes are contrary to problems that behest the poorer fishing communities. The argument that we must speak on the behalf of the fishers is non- sensical hogwash as I can proudly say that the fishers inputs at our parliamentary meeting, (thanks to the work of Musifundise), the Philippines guidelines meeting, and other local meets makes a mockery of this theory. The bedrock for the guidelines should be democracy, freedom in all aspects and to improve of the quality of life of the vulnerable and marginalized fishing communities worldwide so that they can live with dignity, fulfillment and happiness. The greatest threat to achieving a democratic process is that even though the participants ignore it, bigotry, prejudice and racial and religious hatred exists. Pigeonholed by this, the views tend to focus mainly around their own agendas and objectives. As I wrote in my review of the last COFI meet the quest for equality of one group should not lead to the equality of another. Consultative and participation in the pursuit of meaningful democracy has to be within a framework of a participatory integrated policy that ensures active, free, effective and meaningful and informed participation of all small scale fishing peoples, without prejudice in all aspects of governance, taking into consideration the power imbalances, patronage of the funders and political forces that exists in the various regions and countries. The practice of religious faith are important to many worldwide in providing family righteous living and relationships therefore the acceptance of religious beliefs and traditions within the guidelines should be undertaken into consideration with a great deal of sensitivity.

What are the realities of problems facing the small- small scale fishing communities that are having a profound detrimental effect on the fishing communities; Privatization,-non-recognition, - prejudice and hate,- racism,- drug and alcoholic abuse,-health problems,-economic oppression,-anti-social behavior,- sea and land grabbing,- ecological degradation,- economic and trade enslavement,- social and economic inequalities,- non-active participation,- culture jamming,- denial of livelihoods,- marginalization,- corruption,- jailing of fishers through trans - border crossings,- habitat destruction, - bad fishing policies,- undemocratic participatory governance,- uncaring certification and labeling schemes,- bad management,- illegal fishing, - trawler encroachment,- overfishing, - high technology,-weather conditions,- bad science and scientific data,- , joint ventures with developed countries,- poverty,-food insecurity,- poor prices,- conflict,- poor living conditions, - sea safety conditions,-, access rights, - destruction of family life and values, - non development, -access to education, -.production of fish for export rather than for local food needs (globalization), - xenophobia, - disregard for critical discussion. The irresponsible beliefs that the killing of children for "muti" must be stopped, especially in the East African countries that are using the body parts of albino children to make catches fruitful and enrich the fishers, is barbaric and must be condemned. Also we are being cheated by unscrupulous merchants, elites, self instituted leaders and politicians who are disempowering the poor vulnerable small- scale fishers and fishing workers.

These are the important issues that behest the fishers and has been well articulated at most of our conferences and meetings, and the question is does the Guidelines substantially address these difficulties that the small-scale fisher face? The world is steadily deteriorating because of dismantling of human and family values and the depletion of our natural resources and promotion of materialistic profit-making consumerism. Sustainable development, sustainable living and a sustainable society require not only a human rights objective but a value system. Human values are seen to be non-existent where some leaders and politicians live a lie, but we live in hope that there is empathy in the world and that there is some in power who do really care. There is a bond between enduring human values and a sustainable society, the depletion of resources but also the depletion of human values is what seem to be lacking. Although we cannot have it in the guidelines we should not lose sight that these invisible objectives of honesty, respect, love, violence, solidarity, truthfulness and democracy are extremely important in creating a sustainable society.

The acceptance that each country can establish their own interpretation of small –scale fisheries, is controversial and can create ineffectiveness of the guidelines, it is not an all embracing international version but will become merely a willy-nilly local paperback. We are identified in the various countries under the term of as artisanal, traditional, indigenous, native, and small-scale or subsistence fishers. We should take note of the defining characteristics of small-scale fishing that makes particular importance to their way of life; They are dispersed along coastlines and because they depend mainly on marine eco-systems that are situated close to their homes near their harvesting activities and have small scale capital commitments, levels of production and produce supply mainly to the sub-sector economy chain. The size of the vessel, power and technology depends on the sea and weather conditions in the various countries, but the question should rather be “what we are not”.

We do not harvest huge quantities of fish through use of large scale operations of mechanized gear and trawl nets, use high- tech technology, chase fish with large sophisticated ships far into the deep sea, not involved in processing plants, the scale of operations are not capital intensive, target fish that produces by-catches, harvested specie for the globalized or export market and employ many personal on a formal basis. We function as home based micro-enterprise operators , normally near-shore , use passive gear to harvest provide food directly mostly daily to the communities for local consumption to nearby villages or towns, have traditional and customary management arrangements with each other and make a valuable positive economic

and social benefit to their communities. It is a labour intensive thus helping in the fight against unemployment and food insecurity.

These voluntary guideline is of crucial importance to have and we should strive to get it to be accepted internationally by all. These guidelines are not the end because in the future things will change and some will tend to ignore it and thus our struggle will continue.

Andrew Johnston.

We are impressed with Odusina Olawaseum of Nigeria input and congratulate him on his work.

39. St Vincent and the Grenadines

Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)

Issues and Questions – St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) response

1. Partnering for implementation
 - Role of SVG Fisheries:
 - Ensure that fishers and relevant stakeholders understand what the SSF guidelines are and how it may affect them (there are both rights and responsibilities)
 - Offer support, maybe through capacity development, for fishers so that all parties play a role in sustainable fisheries (co-management structure)
 - Ensure that Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems are in place and functioning
 - Provide representation for the interests of fishers in management and decision making workshops and forums.
 - It is the duty of SVG Fisheries as well as the wider population to ensure sustainable fisheries by:
 - Good governance practices
 - Maintaining the habitats and ecosystems supporting the fishery sector so that the marine environment are in good condition
 - Ensuring sustenance through laws, regulations and policies which allows us to have fish for future generations while allowing us to provide still for present population
 - Applying the EcoSystem Approach
 - Partnerships may be fostered through stakeholder consultations in all fishing communities and other relevant communities if necessary
 - Requirements: fisherfolk consultations, legislation reform/strengthening, project funding
 - Partnerships can be developing through communication such as media, public awareness, use of social media (Facebook, Twitter), radio and television. Also community consultations and developing a main driver for example entertainer, musical D.J etc

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration
 - By engaging the attention of the youths which can be done by website tools.
 - Best practices: Website (blogs, e-newsletters), local media (newspaper articles, radio interviews, television interviews, video specials)
 - Progress measured: Enlist project officers throughout the different regions. These persons can also liaise and work along with organizations who are responsible for fishers. For example CRFM for CARICOM and Associate members of CARICOM
 - Use of television, radio, Facebook, Twitter, house to house consultations, one on one conversations with stakeholders & entrepreneurs and exhibitions in strategic points both urban and rural.
3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions
 - Lack of support by stakeholders, government etc
 - Ensuring the guidelines are applicable to SVG and not just something handed down to us
 - Public awareness – changing the mindset of our people
 - Varying intervention in the long term:
 - Education of public, including youth , on important areas of sustainable fisheries
 - Training
 - Marine Protected Areas
 - Complete governance of the sea by the government
 - Regulations and polices
 - Awareness campaigns

40. Shameem Sheik Dastagir ActionAid International, India

Feed back on VG on fisheries to FAO

1. Partnering for implementation – roles of different actors and stakeholders

5. Consultation and participation This is an excellent suggestion but the challenge is to translate these words in to action. The power dynamics, patriarchal values drive the society and administrative functions at all levels and might lead to tokenistic consultation and participation. It is essential that the guidelines are translated in to local language, manuals in visual forms and simple interactive language developed to be taken to the field. We can also develop cadres of women and youth at the village and district level to facilitate sensitisation and ownership of the process. This process will be sustained by development of critical mass of the deprived, build their capacities to be represented at the decision making forums.

5.8 Normally the processes in such initiatives are opaque and come to light only when things are finalised in many instances, so much so that the communities do not even have fishing rights in their own river. In addition to cadre building, interactive platforms should be promoted at local, national, sub regional and regional level involving all stakeholders for updated knowledge,

to generate informed agreements and to improve their bargaining power in interest of the marginalised. The existing platforms should be made functional and expanded to include more people who are directly and adversely hit by these initiatives.

5.13 A bottom up and participatory planning process should be part of all tiers of governance while making annual plans and five year plans. We have rich experience in detailed community processes which have generated excellent partnership with state in many countries.

6.3 The value chain should also be gender sensitive, giving space for women, recognising their contribution in form of unpaid care work, giving scope in reduction and redistribution of their work. This will give way for womens' active representation and contribution in terms of social, economic and political empowerment. We can give the framework to be practised in the field adapting to different contexts. This is mentioned in section 7.2 but should be reflected here too.

6.9 It is crucial that we need to strategies for engagement of the states despite the voluntary nature of guidelines. Many precious lives are being lost in the war of waters even when they go for their livelihood and survival. The percolation of top level agreements should be passed on at the bottom most rung of officials, as the problems generally occur at the front line due to lack of understanding and right interpretation of agreements.

7.7 For a person involved in small scale fisheries, immediate applicable is the national legislation and agreements with their local state bodies. This should reflected in addition to WTO agreements.

5.9 What is the scope the VG gives in case the national legislations are absent in favour of the marginalised, or lack the needed clause favouring the poor and tokenistic? There is a need for the civil society to develop an approach to influence these legislations positively.

2. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

Preface - Where poverty exists in small-scale fishing communities, it is of a multidimensional nature [.]

The multi dimensional is very broad and leads to confusion in reader's mind. Small scale fishing communities do experience poverty and it is women who are more vulnerable as they are forced to take over and manage the resources for their as well as their families' survival. We might have to be specific for effective implementation

1.2 [in a rights based environment,] and placing emphasis on the needs of developing countries [and

for the benefit of vulnerable and marginalized groups].

Are we also emphasising on the accountability of the state and their role in various tiers of governance?

[2.5 These guidelines should be interpreted and applied in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions.]

When the guidelines are voluntary, it is most difficult to pursue the state in the application as they could site end number of reasons. Is it possible that the VGs have a link or tie up with a local element to ensure accountability for vulnerable and marginalised, which the document stresses. Else, the very word voluntary will become a tool of convenience.

4.0 *[These [voluntary] Guidelines are to be interpreted and applied in conformity with the relevant rules of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (1982 UN Convention). Nothing in these Guidelines prejudices the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the international law of the sea as reflected in the 1982 UN Convention, noting that reference to UNCLOS does not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to this instrument and its further role. ([These guidelines also make reference to the UN Fish Stock Agreement. References to that agreement do not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to this instrument and its further role.][References to the 1995 UN Fish Stock agreement in these Guidelines do not imply that this agreement may apply to States that had not expressed their consent to be bound by it.]]*

This clause makes the implementation more difficult. If states have absolute freedom, they might completely ignore the existence of the VG and continue to do what they think is right. In countries with considerable percentage of rule controlled by military (like Myanmar which has 25% seats in government for military reign), it gives very little scope for intervention.

5.4 All parties, in accordance with their legislation, should recognize, respect and protect all forms of legitimate tenure rights, taking into account, where appropriate, customary rights, to aquatic resources and land and small-scale fishing areas enjoyed by small-scale fishing communities. When necessary, in order to protect various forms of legitimate tenure rights, legislation to this effect should be provided.

States should take appropriate measures to identify record and respect legitimate tenure right holders and their rights,[whether formally recorded or not.6]Local norms and practices, as well as customary or otherwise preferential access to fishery resources and land by small-scale fishing communities [including indigenous peoples [and ethnic minorities]],

The VG text is very clear here but the importance is subdued by the elements mentioned earlier in the VG as pointed above.

41. Arthur Bull Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre, Canada

Dear Lena Westlund,

The Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre (MRC) is a community-based institution based in Nova Scotia, Canada. Although the MRC not a national small-scale fishers (SSF) organization, it has been involved in facilitating Canadian participation in international fisheries policy since 1998, including the FAO Guidelines process. The MRC is also active in linking SSF organizations internationally through the Small-Scale Fisheries Learning Circles Project, with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The MRC respectfully submits the following points to the discussion on [implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries](#). These points are based on the premise that implementation of the Guidelines is not only matter for state governments, but also must include the participation of grassroots SSF organizations.

1) Full support for all the points made in the joint submission from civil society groups, made up of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the World Forum of Fisher Harvester and Fishworkers (WFF) and the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP).

2) A recommendation that the implementation include innovative use of the learning network model, as a way for SSF organizations to share approaches and strategies for implementation of the Guidelines. To this end, the MRC's SSF Learning Circles Project is developing a model for the creation of SSF learning network that consists of Skype workshops that are recorded, transcribed and posted on a website along with resources. This project, which will run into 2015, will also be available to create a web-based learning circle aimed at sharing implementation strategies.

3) A recommendation that, in order to enable the participation of local, regional and national SSF organizations, there may be a need for some capacity-building support to develop communications materials. Ideally, this would include funding for translation and the creation of plainly written popular education versions of the guidelines.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the development of the implementation strategy for the Guidelines

Sincerely,

Arthur Bull

Executive Director

Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre

42. Héctor Bacigalupo, Chile

Estimados,

En primer lugar agradezco la oportunidad de participar en la discusión y análisis de las Directrices de la pesca de pequeña escala. Le envió algunos breves comentarios que espero sean de alguna utilidad y quedo a su disposición para cualquier otra cosa que Ud estime le pueda contribuir.

Solo lamento no haber tenido más tiempo para desarrollar más conceptos.

Cordiales saludos

Héctor Bacigalupo

Chile

Implementación de las Directrices Voluntarias para lograr la sostenibilidad de la pesca en pequeña escala

Un comentario general sobre las directrices. Estimo que el primer lugar y la mayor preocupación de las Directrices lo debe tener la sustentabilidad de los recursos. Esto resulta esencial por cuanto tiende a minimizar la capacidad extractiva de los pescadores, que son unidades de pesca muy eficaces. Y el peor elemento para su desarrollo social y económico lo representa la sobre explotación de los recursos. Todos los demás apoyos deben ser

complementarios a la sustentabilidad de las pesquerías. Sin sustentabilidad no hay pesquería. Esto debe ser especialmente relevante en un foro como FAO, que vela por la sustentabilidad de los recursos y la disponibilidad alimentaria. Es un tema difícil de abordar porque existen países donde los medios tecnológicos y el potencial de pesca es limitado y las capturas bajas o nulas, pero existen otros donde las capacidades de pesca son elevadas, existe un sobre esfuerzo de pesca y ya existen muchas pesquerías sobre explotadas. Incluso en estos últimos casos los pescadores igual necesitan apoyo para lograr su desarrollo socio económico, pero la mirada sobre el estado de los recursos y un adecuada administración pesquera debe estar presente siempre.

1. Asociaciones para la implementación

- ¿Cómo ve el papel de su organización y de otros en la implementación de las Directrices PPE?
- ¿Cómo pueden fomentarse y reforzarse las asociaciones para incluir las “voces de los marginados”?
- ¿Qué se requiere a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial para asegurar asociaciones eficaces y eficientes?

Estimo que para lograr el desarrollo de la pesca de pequeña escala es esencial que existan organizaciones de primer nivel en cada caleta o comunidad, que actúen con unidad, fuerza y liderazgo. Algunas de estas cosas no son fáciles de conseguir y menos en todos los casos. Sin embargo es algo esencial.

Muchas veces los pescadores aprenden más con un ejemplo horizontal que vertical, es decir que en aquellos lugares donde no haya organización o liderazgos, se puede recurrir al ejemplo de los liderazgos de otros pescadores y/u organizaciones de pescadores cercanas.

También ayuda mucho la posición del gobierno y su compromiso real con el desarrollo. Algunos gobiernos podrían no querer tener organizaciones fuertes, elemento que debe ser considerando. Si este problema no existe, el gobierno debiera promover la organización estableciendo beneficios que serán canalizados a través de las organizaciones locales de pescadores u otorgados solo a las organizaciones. En Chile se hace esto con la administración de la infraestructura y equipamiento de las caletas y con las áreas de manejo y explotación de recursos bentónicos y fue un efectivo incentivo para que los pescadores se organizaran si deseaban alcanzar estos beneficios.

En cuanto a las ONG's, que podrían tener un rol importante en este proceso, es un tema complejo por la alta heterogeneidad que tienen, tanto de objetivos como de conformación (infraestructura, personal, institucionalidad, etc). Es muy usual que algunas ONG's terminen imponiendo SUS objetivos y no los que realmente los pescadores necesitan o sienten, o bien pueden quedarse con una buena parte de los recursos financieros del programa de apoyo, que siempre deberían llegar mayoritaria y directamente a los pescadores. Una buena ONG debería mostrar los comportamientos identificados (participación real y efectiva de los pescadores, respeto a las ideas de los pescadores, confianza en la capacidad de los pescadores, promover y potenciar las capacidades de éstos, etc).

2. Información y comunicación - promover el intercambio de experiencias y la colaboración

- ¿Qué mejores prácticas en materia de comunicación recomendaría para la implementación de Directrices PPE a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial?
- ¿Cuáles son sus experiencias de seguimiento y evaluación participativos?

- ¿Cómo se puede medir e informar del progreso en la implementación de las Directrices PPE de manera útil?

Estimo indispensable que, para que sea efectiva, la participación sea “real”. Muchas veces, la mayoría o casi siempre, los gobiernos consultan por obligación y no por convicción. Las consultas se hacen al final del proceso, o al menos cuando ya existe un primer borrador. Esto es equivocado, porque se parte con prejuicios de los “expertos” (gobierno, academia, etc) y luego se consulta a los pescadores. La mayoría de las veces se trata de convencerlos que lo que se ha decidido es bueno, porque es difícil aceptar enmiendas en los informes ya realizados.

La verdadera participación, real y eficaz, es cuando se hace desde el inicio del proceso, con una hoja en blanco, en conjunto con los pescadores. Esto requiere confiar en los pescadores, confiar en sus capacidades, en que tienen capacidades, botar el asistencialismo que todos los expertos tienen. Los pescadores siempre tienen algo que decir desde su experiencia, que puede resultar valioso. Y cuando no es valioso, el experto deberá tener las capacidades para convencerlo porque su idea es mejor. En cualquier caso, el resultado es producto de un trabajo realmente participativo, conjunto, desde cero, y el pesador hace suyo el documento, las ideas, y habrá más compromiso y esfuerzo para su puesta en marcha.

De nuevo debería ocuparse el método de transferencia horizontal, aprovechando los conocimientos y experiencia de los liderazgos de pescadores más aventajados.

Debe haber un “acompañamiento” de las actividades. Muchas veces, los programas contemplan la primera actividad y no las siguientes... perdiéndose mucho esfuerzo y financiamiento, por no diseñar desde el inicio las necesarias actividades de seguimiento, periódicas, evaluables, desde el inicio y hasta la medición de objetivos y evaluación del proyecto/programa.

3. Retos y oportunidades - necesidades de apoyo e intervenciones

- ¿Cuales cree que son los principales problemas para la implementación, de forma general, así como en el contexto específico de cada país, y cómo pueden superarse?
- ¿Cuáles son sus experiencias al abordar este tipo de problemas y qué estrategias y enfoques han tenido éxito o no?
- ¿Cómo deberían variar las intervenciones, en función del período de tiempo (por ej. qué se puede hacer durante los próximos 12 meses, en los próximos 5 años, a largo plazo) y en función de los recursos existentes (por ej. inversiones en pequeña/mediana escala o inversiones a gran escala/transformadoras)?

Desafortunadamente creo que no es sencillo. Se requieren liderazgos firmes tanto a nivel nacional como local a nivel gubernamental, además de la decisión política de apoyar y eficacia en el actuar de las entidades gubernamentales.

Una coordinación total con las organizaciones nacionales, regionales y locales de pescadores de pequeña escala es indispensable. Idealmente sería contar con cuadros técnicos propios de las organizaciones locales o al menos regionales de pescadores. En caso de no existir, sería bueno que los gobiernos consideraran su financiamiento, aunque su dependencia debe ser total y exclusivamente de las organizaciones de pescadores. Deben ser técnicos en pesca, que trabajen directamente en la caleta, bajo el mando de la organización y sean un canal de coordinación con los técnicos del gobierno. Deberían generar nuevos proyectos o negocios para la caleta o comunidad de pescadores.

Se debe confiar en las capacidades de los pescadores y en su propio rol sobre su desarrollo. No les puede ser impuesto desde arriba, en un estilo académico. Debe haber convicción desde las

bases. Los pescadores tienen altas capacidades, que ponen a prueba todos los días tomando decisiones para alcanzar sus capturas y manejar sus medios económicos. Se debe confiar en ellos, promover y potenciar sus capacidades, hacerlos partícipes de su proceso de desarrollo. Esto es un gran desafío para los gobiernos y las ONG's normalmente con una mirada mucho más asistencialista.

43. Jessica Landman Senior Project Director, United States of America

Dear Ms. Westlund,

Attached please find the comments of the Environmental Defense Fund on "Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries." We appreciate the opportunity to share our views.

Thanks very much,

Jessica Landman
Senior Project Director

See link below:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/resources/EDF%20comments%20on%20%27Implementing%20the%20Voluntary%20Guidelines%20for%20Securing%20Sustainable%20Small-Scale%20Fisheries%27.pdf>

44. Rosie Cooney IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (CEESP/SSC)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on implementing the SSF Guidelines. I am attaching the comments of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)'s Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) and Fisheries Expert Group (FEG). Our input and suggestions focus particularly on 1. Partnering for Implementation, but are also highly relevant to 3. Challenges and Opportunities, as they highlight three key areas that we think would benefit from focused analysis and information-sharing.

Best regards,
Rosie Cooney

PROPOSAL FROM IUCN SULi and FEG to FAO: INPUT SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

Follow-up Document Provided to FAO: December 2013

Prepared by Vivienne Solis, Jeppe Kolding, Despina Symons, Rosie Cooney and Tony Charles

BACKGROUND

On the request of COFI, FAO, with the support of all its members and partners, has been leading a process to develop guidelines for the small-scale fisheries sector, within the framework of the Responsible Fishing Code. The final document text of the “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries” (the SSF Guidelines) will be negotiated by an FAO intergovernmental Technical Consultation in February 2014, and the final draft presented for approval at the next COFI in June 2014. The main objective is to strengthen the importance of SSF in sustaining wellbeing of millions of people around the world, and be a potentially productive agent for eradicating poverty and securing food security. COFI has requested that the Guidelines should be voluntary in nature, focus on the needs of developing countries and be relevant to small-scale fisheries in marine and inland waters, covering fishing as well as related pre-harvest and post-harvest activities.

Recognizing the urgency of the implementation of some of the issues addressed in the SSF Guidelines, in advance of official adoption of the document FAO has been discussing with various interested sectors some of the main implementation streams, in order to start as soon as possible and in an innovative way the actual practice of some of the suggestions presented in the guidelines.

Recognizing that the SSF Guidelines only will be effective if they are widely accepted by stakeholders and systematically applied in accordance with the guiding principles established therein, COFI at its 30th Session agreed on the need to develop implementation strategies for the SSF Guidelines at various levels, including related policy reforms. COFI also recalled that at its 29th Session it had recommended the establishment of a global assistance programme to support this process.

The specific need is recognized for detailed guidance on implementation strategies at local, national, regional and global levels, as well as on implementation mechanisms, partnership arrangements and assistance. Being stakeholders in this process, IUCN SULi and FEG, along with ICSF representatives, have met with FAO to discuss possible SULi/FEG work with FAO on implementation of the Guidelines, focused on particular issues (see below). FAO requested SULi and FEG to develop an outline for an approach to make progress on these issues.

THE ISSUES

Marine conservation is now a top priority of most governments, but it is frequently considered in isolation, with little attention to the social and economic consequences for the marine and coastal communities that depend on the resources of the sea and have a traditional, integrated relationship with them. As has been highlighted during the negotiation of the SSF Guidelines, these considerations are of extreme importance in achieving sustainable use and conservation of the marine resources and ecosystem services that sustain the wellbeing and livelihood of thousands of communities. Insufficient attention has been paid to the importance of SSF in relation to ecosystem management, food sovereignty, sustainable use, gender, and indigenous and local knowledge (among other issues), reducing the possibility of reaching either conservation or socio-economic goals.

One of the central issues in fisheries management and governance is to combine, reconcile and integrate utilisation and conservation — this is where we think SULi and FEG, as specialist groups under IUCN, have an important and unique contribution to make.

SULi and FEG have proposed they work with FAO on three specific focal issues in SSF:

1. The **integration of scientific and traditional knowledge** in the assessment and management of small scale fisheries. The need for this integration is well recognized in the draft SSF Guidelines, but currently there is virtually no guidance or technical resources available to assist fisheries managers and policymakers in achieving this.
2. The **sustainable use of marine resources** in the small scale fisheries sector. Here again the need for sustainable use is recognised in the draft SSF Guidelines, but there is a critical need for synthesis of experience and knowledge in how to achieve this in practice, in order to promote a responsible balance between conservation and livelihoods.
3. The **effective and equitable governance of small-scale fisheries**, essential to the successful implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This will build on aspects of the recent tenure guidelines and good governance initiatives of FAO, as well as the range of expertise available within SULi and FEG on these themes.

These subjects appear to be common fields of consideration for all stakeholders, especially in the framework of relevant agreements already approved by governments around the world such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio +20, and other agreements related to marine conservation, sustainable use and livelihoods.

THE GUIDELINES AND THE FOCAL ISSUES:

Sustainable Use, Knowledge and Governance considerations in the SSF Guidelines

The draft Guidelines (using here the Chair's Text from the May Technical Consultation) recognize in their **Preface** the importance of sustainable use in the future attention of SSF (all *italics* added):

Paragraph 3: "Small-scale and artisanal fisheries, encompassing all activities along the value chain – pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest – undertaken by men and women, play an important role in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and *sustainable resource utilization*. Small-scale fisheries provide nutritious food for local, national and international markets, generate income to support local and national economies."

Paragraph 6: "Despite their importance, many small-scale fishing communities continue to be marginalized and their contribution to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and *sustainable resource utilization* – which benefits both them and others – is not fully realized."

Sustainable use, the importance of knowledge building and traditional/local knowledge, and fisheries governance are all fundamental to the SSF Guidelines' **Objectives**, which include:

- c) *to achieve the *sustainable utilization*, prudent and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources consistent with the CCRF and related instruments*
- d) *to promote the contribution of small-scale fisheries to an economically, socially

- and *environmentally sustainable future* for our planet and its people*
- e) to [provide guidance] [propose principles and criteria] that could be considered by States and stakeholders 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 [management] [governance] and development*.
 - f) *to enhance the public awareness and promote the advancement of knowledge on *the culture, role, contribution and potential of small-scale fisheries, considering ancestral and traditional knowledge, and their related constraints and opportunities*.*

Likewise, most of the **Guiding Principles** relate to sustainable use and fisheries governance, but two of them are of particular importance for the global discussion:

- 9. ***Economic, social and environmental sustainability**: applying the precautionary approach and risk management to guard against undesirable outcomes, including overexploitation of fishery resources and negative environmental, social and economic impacts.*
- 10. ***Holistic and integrated approaches**: recognizing the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as an important guiding principle, embracing the notions of comprehensiveness and sustainability of all parts of ecosystems as well as the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities, and ensuring cross-sectoral coordination since small-scale fisheries are closely linked to and dependent on many other sectors.*

The Guidelines refer explicitly to the CCRF and support sustainable resource utilization in accordance with this instrument.

Further, throughout sections on ***Governance of Tenure and Resource Management; Social Development, Employment and Decent Work; Value Chains, Post-Harvest and Trade; and Capacity Development***, issues and concerns related to sustainable use of resources, to recognition of local/traditional knowledge and its integration with scientific knowledge, and to fisheries governance are repeatedly highlighted.

However, there is very little guidance in the Guidelines as to how these issues can be addressed in the implementation process, and it is here where we seek to contribute.

HOW SULI AND FEG CAN CONTRIBUTE ON THESE ISSUES

The IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) is jointly constituted under IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) and its Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP). It thus unites biological/ecological expertise related to human use of living natural resources with expertise on the socio-economic dimensions of use. Its mission is to promote effective and equitable conservation through the sustainable use of wild resources. It is a global network of over 250 specialists across many dimensions of use, from monitoring to indigenous knowledge to international policy, and unites researchers, practitioners, and those involved in policy- and decision-making at a number of levels.

CEESP and SSC launched SULi in late 2011 to build on the work of the former Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG), with a new emphasis on the linkage of use to indigenous and local community livelihoods. One of the most notable achievements of the SUSG was the development of the IUCN *Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources*. This

Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition
www.fao.org/fsnforum

statement represents the broad consensus of the IUCN community, and, among other things, recognizes that “both consumptive and non-consumptive use of biological diversity are fundamental to the economies, cultures, and well-being of all nations and peoples”; that “use, if sustainable, can serve human needs on an ongoing basis while contributing to the conservation of biological diversity”; and that “use of wild living resources, if sustainable, is an important conservation tool because the social and economic benefits derived from such use provide incentives for people to conserve them”. The broad aim of SULi is to help relevant stakeholders throughout the world put this policy into practice. Small-scale fisheries is one of its five current focal areas of work.

The IUCN Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) was established at the 2008 IUCN World Congress in Barcelona under the Commission of Ecosystem Management (CEM). FEG consists of a limited number of senior fisheries experts from around the world with substantial knowledge of the operational, socio-economic and ecosystem approach issues affecting fisheries. Its mission is to foster the sustainable development of fisheries and to promote the conservation of the related marine ecosystems, to inform fisheries policy and related conservation strategies, to propose management methods and tools and to seek to provide a link between the fishery and biodiversity expert communities of IUCN.

Despite its relatively short existence, FEG has already established itself as an important think-tank and provider of practical ideas and solutions to the implementation of EAF, such as for example the Balanced Harvest concept, which aims to sustain high yielding fisheries without causing deep disturbances to the exploited ecosystem. This concept was partly developed from studying small-scale fisheries, and may be particularly relevant for the SSF Guidelines.

As stated above, in SULi and FEG we have discussed three issues in particular that are central to our Missions and to the Guidelines: sustainable use, integration of scientific and traditional knowledge, and effective governance.

In relation to these issues, we believe that two key directions of work would potentially be valuable to assist future implementation:

1. Developing technical summaries / analyses of available information on each of the three issues of sustainable use, integration of scientific and traditional knowledge, and effective governance, including identification of knowledge gaps and research priorities;
2. Developing an analysis of best practices and ‘lessons learned’ with respect to sustainable use, integration of scientific and traditional knowledge, and effective governance, based on a combination of a global synthesis of existing knowledge, and a set of targeted case studies illustrating specific issues, challenges, opportunities or approaches. This may include, for example, case studies that address how the three key implementation issues can be dealt with (1) in multi-species, multi-gear SSF, through fishing strategies which can be looked upon from different angles than the conventional selective harvest patterns that characterize fisheries theory, (2) in SSF providing practical local examples of the integration of local and scientific knowledge in management and monitoring, and (3) in SSF that involve interactions of sustainable use and human rights.

Drawing on these activities will provide guidance to support Guidelines implementation. We propose that work on these major activities lead into, and continue subsequent to, a major workshop on guidelines implementation, described below.

OBJECTIVES AND THEMES FOR A WORKSHOP ON GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION

General objective

Support FAO, members and partners on implementation actions within the framework of the SSF Guidelines.

Specific objectives

At the planned workshop, SULi and FEG would assemble experts, including its members, to present and discuss small-scale fisheries approaches, particularly in relation to the three focal areas of sustainable use, integration of scientific and traditional knowledge, and effective governance. This would include, for example, discussion of the potential of SSF for (self)-governance, their vulnerability, and their fragile relationship with conventional management tools and calls for management reforms. The workshop would also highlight knowledge needs concerning SSF, which both SULi and FEG think we need to address. The main theme of the workshop would be the importance of the focal issues, issues and challenges arising in practice on the implementation of the Guidelines, including broad implications for governance and management. We envisage this as including case studies of good practice in the focal areas, drawn from our or partners networks.

Provided resources are available or can be found for travel and DSA, we could provide at least four major presentations, on topics such as integration of local and scientific knowledge and its implications for sustainable use; and relations between conservation and fisheries in SSFs, including role and impact of MPAs on SSFs and of large scale environmental NGOs, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These presentations could be explicitly framed to contribute to the debate on the guidelines implementation.

We suggest the following key organisations be involved in work on these and related issues: ICCA Consortium (Indigenous peoples and Community Conserved territories and Areas Consortium) LMMA network (Locally Managed Marine Areas network) ICSF (International Collective in Support of Fishworkers) WFF (World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers) Sub---regional Fishery Commission (Dakar).

45. Rita Gomes Correia Funny , Brazil

Please refer to the link below:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/resources/Consulta%20virtual%20sobre%20ssf%20Rita%20Gomes%20Correia%20Funny.docx>

46. Gaoussou Gueye, Confédération africaine des Organisations professionnelles de pêche artisanale durable

Mise en œuvre des lignes directrices de la FAO pour une pêche artisanale durable

[translation in English attached, Ed.]

Point de vue de Gaoussou Gueye, Secrétaire général de la Confédération africaine des Organisations professionnelles de pêche artisanale – CAOPA

Du point de vue des organisations professionnelles de pêche artisanale représentées par la CAOPA, la mise en œuvre des lignes directrices doit se faire **en concertation** avec les acteurs de la pêche artisanale, et de façon **cohérente** tant au niveau de la future stratégie de l'Union africaine pour la pêche et l'aquaculture (qui sera présentée en février prochain lors de la deuxième Conférence des Ministres africains de la Pêche), qu'au niveau des politiques nationales et régionales menées par nos états.

Nous pensons qu'il y a une opportunité à saisir aujourd'hui pour l'Union africaine et les pays d'Afrique afin de, à travers la mise en œuvre des lignes directrices, renforcer l'application du code de conduite de la FAO pour une pêche responsable.

De notre point de vue, les enjeux suivants sont les principaux éléments qui devront être pris en compte dans la mise en œuvre des lignes directrices dans les politiques panafricaines, régionales et nationales:

1. **Le maintien des communautés côtières, la sécurité alimentaire des populations** et la contribution que peut y apporter la pêche artisanale, en particulier les femmes actives dans le secteur, est un enjeu stratégique pour l'Afrique.

Il y a deux aspects importants à examiner dans ce contexte:

Le premier est la question de **l'accès aux ressources** qui sont à la base de la sécurité alimentaire (comme les petits pélagiques), les interactions/conflits entre les différentes flottes (artisanales et industrielles, locales et étrangères) et le développement de politiques d'allocation de l'accès qui protègent et garantissent des droits d'accès de la pêche artisanale aux ressources, en particulier **contre le processus d'accaparement des ressources marines par la privatisation des droits d'accès**.

Le deuxième aspect à considérer concerne **les enjeux de la contribution de la pêche à la sécurité alimentaire**, avec des réformes nécessaires au niveau des politiques commerciales (obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires au commerce régional des produits de la pêche artisanale); pour une reconnaissance du rôle des femmes de la pêche artisanale pour l'approvisionnement des différents marchés. L'objectif de ces politiques doit être la complémentarité entre commerce local/régional et commerce international. Il faut aussi promouvoir utilisation d'(éco) labels pour promouvoir les produits de la pêche artisanale.

2. **L'aménagement concerté de la zone côtière et la co-gestion des pêcheries**

Même s'il y a de nombreuses déclarations de nos états pour mettre en place une pêche durable, nos états n'ont souvent pas développé de plans de gestion concrets pour nos ressources, élaborés et mis en place de façon participative (co-gestion), qui puissent permettre de pérenniser une activité de pêche artisanale durable et des moyens de vie pour nos communautés. Le rôle des Aires Marines Protégées est à examiner dans ce cadre.

Il faut aussi développer une stratégie et des politiques pour que la pêche artisanale, qui actuellement cible surtout les ressources côtières, souvent surexploitées, puisse à terme développer ses activités plus loin des côtes. Cela signifie par exemple revoir la législation pour augmenter la taille de la zone réservée à la pêche artisanale et mieux la protéger contre, par exemple, les incursions des chalutiers. D'autre part, la zone côtière de nos pays est de plus en plus occupée par d'autres activités que la pêche (tourisme, développements industriels, exploitation pétrolière et gazière, etc), qui poussent hors des plages pêcheurs et femmes transformatrices.

Il faut que la protection de la zone réservée à la pêche artisanale intègre ces aspects, et qu'une gestion de la zone côtière concertée se mette en place, où la pêche artisanale joue un rôle central.

Il faut aussi prévoir qu'à terme, la pêche artisanale puisse se développer sur des pêcheries plus au large, pour les thonidés par exemple, afin que nos pays et nos communautés puissent en retirer plus de bénéfices.

3. La transparence dans les politiques d'accès aux ressources et les programmes d'aide au développement

Le manque de transparence dans les politiques de pêche africaine, notamment dans l'allocation des licences et autorisations de pêche, entraîne la surexploitation des ressources, préjudiciable aux communautés côtières. La transparence à cet égard doit devenir la règle, et doit favoriser une participation informée des acteurs, en particulier des communautés de pêche artisanale. Une plus grande transparence est également un outil important de lutte contre la pêche INN, qui est florissante lorsque l'opacité et la corruption sont la règle.

D'autre part, il y a de nombreux projets d'appui au secteur, y compris de la pêche artisanale (ONG, Banque mondiale, UE, etc). Jusqu'à présent, il n'y a pas beaucoup de résultats tangibles pour nos communautés. La transparence là aussi doit être améliorée dans les futures politiques, comme base de la participation des bénéficiaires de ces projets, les communautés côtières, à la définition, la mise en oeuvre et l'évaluation de ces projets.

4. L'aquaculture

Des politiques doivent être mises en place pour développer une aquaculture à petite échelle, basée sur la culture d'espèces non carnivores (c'est-à-dire qui ne dépendent pas des stocks de poissons sauvages pour la farine de poisson), et avec l'objectif principal de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire des populations africaines.

Obstacles à la mise en œuvre des lignes directrices

Un gros problème est le manque de capacités au niveau des états, qui est du en partie au manque de synergie entre les différentes institutions, qui souvent, font leur travail dans leur coin, répétant ce que d'autres font. Il faut une meilleure coordination entre ces institutions, ce qui devrait améliorer les capacités.

Il y a aussi parfois des problèmes dans le mandat donné aux institutions.

Pour la gestion des stocks partagés, comme les sardinelles en Afrique de l'Ouest, aucune institution régionale n'a aujourd'hui de mandat pour avoir les compétences de gestion régionale de ces stocks, alors que c'est une priorité. Ce serait aussi important de réfléchir à partir des grands écosystèmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, car la gestion régionale devrait se faire à partir de ces écosystèmes.

Beaucoup de pêcheries artisanales sont transfrontalières, et parfois, cela provoque des conflits. Des outils sont à mettre en place pour mieux gérer ces pêcheries transfrontalières et prévenir/gérer les conflits. La CAOPA propose par exemple la mise en place de commissions mixtes de professionnels artisans des pays considérés, sur l'exemple de la commission mixte des professionnels artisans de Mauritanie et du Sénégal

Il y a un manque réel de capacité au niveau de la recherche (manque de personnel, statut peu valorisé, mais aussi pas de collaboration pêcheurs/chercheurs). Une recherche participative pourrait améliorer la qualité des données et des avis scientifiques. De la même manière, une surveillance participative est à encourager, pour permettre de mieux lutter contre la pêche INN (incursion de chalutiers notamment) dans la zone côtière.

4. Quel rôle peut jouer la pêche artisanale africaine dans la mise en œuvre des lignes directrices

Actuellement, dans la plupart des pays africains, la pêche artisanale reste un secteur marginalisé dans la prise de décision, du au manque de reconnaissance de son potentiel comme moteur de développement durable.

La CAOPA, qui est constituée uniquement d'organisations professionnelles de la pêche artisanale, veut donner une réponse à cet enjeu, en faisant entendre la voix des professionnels, hommes et femmes de la pêche artisanale, pour une meilleure prise en compte de la pêche artisanale au niveau des politiques de nos états. L'existence même des lignes directrices peut nous aider à le faire.

Mais pour nous permettre de jouer ce rôle, les professionnels de la pêche artisanale, hommes et femmes, doivent être reconnus comme interlocuteurs directs des décideurs.

Des mécanismes doivent être mis en place pour qu'il y ait une réelle participation de tous et toutes les professionnels.

La société civile est aussi un interlocuteur essentiel pour la gestion des pêches. Mais il faut toujours bien prendre en compte qu'il y a une différence entre ceux qui vivent de la pêche (les pêcheurs, les femmes transformatrices, etc) et ceux qui n'en vivent pas (ONG, etc). A ce point de vue, il faudrait donner une attention plus grande aux consommateurs de poisson dans nos pays, car eux aussi, ont besoin du poisson pour vivre.

Les médias, comme le REJOPRAO (Réseau des Journalistes pour une Pêche responsable en Afrique de l'Ouest), ont également un rôle important à jouer pour permettre qu'il y ait un vrai débat public sur la mise en œuvre des lignes directrices, sur les choix de modèles de développement de nos pêcheries, et sur la place à donner à la pêche artisanale durable.

47. Marc Millette Regroupement des Écoles de Pêche Francophones, Canada

L'application des Directives Internationales sur les Pêches Artisanales Durables démontre l'importance primordiale qu'il est nécessaire d'accorder à la formation dans le secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture. Qu'il s'agisse d'utiliser des techniques orientées vers une pêche plus responsable, d'habiliter les pêcheurs à participer à la gestion de la ressource ou de favoriser l'insertion économique des femmes dans l'industrie, la formation constitue l'une des stratégies à privilégier pour une mise en œuvre réussie des Directives.

Tous les acteurs du secteur sont ici concernés : pêcheurs artisans, femmes transformatrices et commerçantes, décideurs politiques, formateurs et directions d'établissements d'enseignement, ONG, institutions d'épargne et de crédit, fabricants d'embarcations, fournisseurs d'équipement, donateurs, organismes de conservation, etc. C'est en investissant dans la formation que le secteur pourra pleinement contribuer à l'économie nationale et qu'une exploitation durable des ressources halieutiques sera possible.

La formation en pêches n'est pas seulement affaire d'institution d'enseignement, mais aussi d'industrie et de collectivité. Elle requiert par exemple le soutien de l'industrie pour que la formation recrée ce qui est demandé sur le marché du travail et que les diplômés y réalisent leur plein potentiel, en assumant des tâches plus mobilisatrices et plus

significatives. La formation en pêches nécessite aussi le support des autorités nationales afin qu'elles encadrent et soutiennent les écoles de pêche et qu'elles en facilitent l'accès.

Valoriser la formation est nécessaire pour une application efficace et durable des Directives Internationale sur les PAD.

48. Michèle Mesmain Slow Food, Italy

Through the development of Slow Fish, an international network and campaign dedicated to responsible fisheries, Slow Food aims to:

- Develop local messages to address the complexity of the issue, and help citizens become active and informed consumers (defined by Slow Food as “co-producers”).
- Give value back to small-scale fisheries; a living heritage and asset of our societies, which retains the local knowledge and economic structures that can help to restore and maintain jobs in our coastal communities.
- Recreate a direct link between fishers and consumers (which has been severed by recent distribution practices and the flow of cheap imports), and thus put fishers higher up in a responsible value chain.
- Spread knowledge about the variety of existing species and the seasonality of seafood.
- Highlight that oceans, lakes and waterways are a common resource that belong to us all, and are therefore a shared responsibility.

In order to do this we:

- Facilitate the creation and development of local alliances - between fishers, chefs, researchers, consumers, farmers, local NGOs and CSOs - to find collective local responses to the challenges facing food production and environmental management, as well as the safeguarding of our cultures and identities.
- Develop fun, tasty, participative and engaging activities, in ports, farmers' markets, fishmonger shops, etc., as well as during national and international events, centred on dialogue, sharing of experiences and knowledge exchange, designed for children and adults alike.
- Support diversification measures of commercial fisheries to protect fishers from the dependency on too few stocks or on a single uncertain activity.

Through our work, we have come to understand the absolute necessity of a constant dialogue between as many different stakeholders as possible, including local market drivers such as restaurants, or institutional markets such as hospitals, so that new creative value chains are built into the process from the start.

Stakeholders, even when they share a common interest, have different perspectives and use a different language to voice their knowledge and concerns. Slow Food hosted a workshop on the small-scale guidelines at the 2012 edition of our international event, Terra Madre, during which one strong point made by the participants was the necessity to change the language of the guidelines, currently suited for official administrations but not for the small-scale fishers it proposes to engage and protect. This might also foster a very much needed and lacking trust in international instruments.

Another point that our network's fishers have highlighted, is that small-scale fishers do not want to be subsidized to be kept alive artificially; they want policies that restore and secure fair conditions for them to develop. Their vulnerable position was largely brought upon them by incentives and pressures that come with industrialization: to get more fish, to specialize in fewer species and to buy larger boats. The distinction between benevolent charity and fair conditions is important to them and needs to be reflected in the guidelines themselves, and during the implementation process in order to be successful in the long term.

The Slow Fish network also fully supports the points made by the CSO conformed by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the World Forum of Fisher Harvester and Fishworkers (WFF) and the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP).

Slow Fish also strongly believes that no instrument will ever succeed if it does not promote total transparency at all levels from the start, including the funding of all actors involved, transparent feed back processes, and banning all closed door negotiations. Implementation of the guidelines must also take into account that intimidation and corruption practices are rampant on most continents when it comes to fisheries, a situation where transparency might help but may not be enough.

Ultimately, we believe that virtuous processes can be promoted by focusing on values, more than on the design of technical measures.

49. Katosi Women Development Trust , Uganda

1. Partnering for implementation

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will require engagement and partnerships across different institutions, organizations and actors as the SSF Guidelines implementation does not only require the involvement by fishers but takes into consideration also the role and needs of those around them. Fishing communities, CSOs, academia, NGOs, governments, regional organizations, donors and international agencies and organizations all need to work together - but different actors may have different roles to play to address issues in relation to fisheries governance, gender, post-harvest, consumer interests, wider societal interests, etc. Please share any experiences, both good or bad as well as lessons learned related to partnerships in the implementation of international instruments

- **How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?**

On partnering for implementation, KWDT and other civil society organizations can create partnerships at the country level with the relevant ministries, CBOs and other actors in the fishing sector, to brainstorm, in form of workshops, on how the guidelines can be aligned with our local laws, policies and sector guidelines.

Most important is that KWDT and other similar organization are already working with rural communities and thus reach the most marginalized fisher communities, enabling integrating of the SSF implementation in the ongoing cso programs and enabling involvement of those at the risk of being marginalized out of the process.

CSO organization like KWDT can engage in the design of the SSF Guidelines implementation manual

- **How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the ‘voices of the marginalized’?**

Measures need to be put in place that will facilitate inclusion of all to participate in decision making especially women. Holding consultation meeting in localities and in local languages, special consultation for women only, consultation on the processes of strengthening and including the marginalized so that they have a decision on how to make their voices heard.

Support, facilitation and strengthen civil society networks and their member organizations.

Put in place measures that will increase the contribution of civil society

organizations to the design of implementing the guidelines

- **What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?**

At all levels measures have to be put in place to ensure effective and efficient partnerships that include

- Access to financial resources that will support interaction and communication between partners.
- Create an conducive environment for partnerships through – collaboration in the implementation of a capacity building programme for rural leaders (Social movements, cso, ngos) with focus on women.
- Support the establishment of the stakeholder’s platforms at various levels that are of mutual and complementary benefits.

2. Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences will be of utmost importance for effective implementation. Available lessons learnt, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and relevant statistics can help making information available and shared.

- **What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?**

Use of the drama, community dialogues, will enhance communication and create awareness on the IG SSF. KWDT carries out community dialogues on WASH that empower community members to demand for improved service delivery from their leaders.

On information and communication, KWDT can work hand in hand with FAO country offices and the line ministry to disseminate the guidelines through sensitization meetings at the country and community level.

At the global level, the utilization of the global platform for fisher folk organizations; World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish workers, World forum of Fisher People, International Collective in support of fisher) will enable flow and sharing information.

- **What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?**

Participatory monitoring and evaluation creates ownership of results to the communities.

Establish measures of developing monitoring and evaluation approaches that are inclusive.

- **How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?**

Measure of the progress of the implementation of the SSF guidelines should not only consider quantitative data but also qualitative data should be given due consideration.

Civil society organizations, like KWDT should have the opportunity to report back on the progress of implementing on the SSF Guidelines.

3. Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions

There will be implementation challenges (e.g. financial, political, institutional, cultural) to address but also opportunities to capitalize on. These may vary from one context to another and also differ between the global, regional, national and local levels. Understanding these challenges and opportunities will be important for identifying and designing support activities. The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will need a mix of different types of interventions, including – but not necessarily limited to – the strengthening of political commitment and awareness raising, changes in policies, revisions of legislation and/or regulations, development of capacity and empowerment, improving and sharing information, and strengthened research and communication.

- **What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?**
- Political influence and lack of political will at national level.
- Illiteracy levels of each country will determine capacity of rural communities to understand, and generate interest in the implementation of the guidelines.
- **What are your experiences of addressing these types of challenges and what have been successful or unsuccessful strategies and approaches?**

Strengthen civil society organizations at all levels to support and empower fisher communities.

- **How would interventions vary, depending on the time frame (e.g. what can be done within the next 12 months, in the next 5 years, in the long term) and depending on the existing resources (e.g. small/medium investments or large/transformational investments)?**
- The first intervention is to create awareness on the SSG
- Translation and popularizing of the simplified manuals
- Training leaders of social movements to enhance their capacity to mobilize fisher communities.

50. Abbas Khaled INRA Algérie, Algeria

Madame, Monsieur

voici une courte contribution sur le cas algérien

salutations

Khaled ABBAS

Docteur d'état
Directeur de Recherche

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/resources/La%20p%C3%A8che%20et%20l%27aqua%201.docx>

51. Sergio Palma Servicio Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura, Chile

Estimados, primero que todo muy buenos dias y mis disculpas por la fecha de los comentarios...Con respecto a ellos, puedo mencionar:

- Mejorar las leyes para que se limiten las **intervenciones sobre la explotación**, sustentando el otorgamiento de cuotas y permitiendo las capturas, solamente según el comportamiento, la biología y los patrones de las especies en PPE, y por supuesto, respetando estrictamente los estudios científicos y las conclusiones que de estos resultan.
- Invertir en educación y difusión, en cuanto a la biología y comportamientos de las especies de la PPE, y capacitar para que los pescadores puedan lograr mayor valor agregado en las especies que capturan.
- Aumentar impuestos, según corresponda, a sectores que más afecten a las especies que estén dentro de las pesquerías de PPE.
- Identificar a los usuarios en una base de registros, los cuales dispongan de la habilitación de derechos pesqueros.
- Establecer medidas de administración con vía a la sustentabilidad de los recursos.
- Establecer medidas de control y fiscalización pertinente, para el resguardo de los derechos de aquellos autorizados v/s los no autorizados a la actividad extractiva.
- Fortalecer la asociatividad de los pescadores artesanales de pequeña escala sin la intervención de agentes intermediarios.
- Establecer las medidas sanitarias necesarias desde que se origina la pesca hasta la entrada a una planta transformadora, de igual forma los centros de cultivo, en especial en épocas de cosecha.
- Establecer medidas sancionatorias que minimicen las malas conductas.
- Establecer medidas de difusión a una pesca responsable al sector pesquero
- Establecer capacitación a los usuarios con relación a sus derechos y deberes.
- Exigir posicionador satelital a aquellas embarcaciones que operen sobre recursos altamente migratorios.

- Exigir a toda nave industrial o artesanal el posicionador satelital que transgreda a aguas internacionales de modo que todos los países asociados sean capaz de identificarlos y que existan sanciones internacionales a las malas conductas
- Implementar las caletas pesqueras con mejoras de infraestructura de modo motivar la participación de aquellos pescadores o personas que trabajen en ella no sean pescadores sin embargo operan para una embarcación artesanal ej. Encarnadoras.
- Fomentar el desarrollo de pequeñas plantas de transformación o de mantenimiento de la pesca para el congelado de modo que el recurso conserve de mejor forma su consistencias organolépticas hasta la venta.
- Para todo lo anterior, se debe contar con una ley que establezca los derechos, fiscalización y sanciones, con una base jurídica que sea acorde y capacitada en los temas de pesca.

Saludos desde Chile.

52. Katrien Holvoet Belgium / Benin

- Organise forum theatre to promote and spread the word about the Guidelines rather than to translate them
- Film the theatre and spread the film with subtitling in a number of languages
- Use local fishing community theatre skills to mount a local performance based on a scenario that would be written by the professionals for use and support with some funding national fisheries organisations to play the theatre piece in national events and in the communities at certain festivities

53. Harold Guiste, Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources Physical Planning and Fisheries, Dominica

How do you see the role of your organization and others in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?

The Fisheries Division (FD) of the Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries in Dominica is the government agency responsible for policy, management and development regarding fisheries. The Fisheries Division is the lead agency for spear heading the implementation of the SSF. It is the agency which will gather and disseminate information to other stakeholders and institutions. The FD is designed for such tasks and has some level of technical capacity but lacks financial resources for effective implementation. There already exists some channels of communications and information dissemination mechanisms which could facilitate the process. Relationships and partnerships has already been established with other agencies, organizations and local institutions which can play a critical role in the implementation of the SSF.

- The FD's role is also for education and awareness of the SSF guidelines to the local fishing communities who are likely to be the most directly affected by this initiative. The FD is also responsible to taking this information to the Cabinet level and other government agencies such as Ministries of Legal Affairs, Finance, Physical planning , Private sector and NGO's
- The FD is responsible for integrating the SSF into local fisheries policy structures, directions and adoption of same.

- S likely to be responsible for promoting, initiating the legislative action, and enforcement of fisheries laws and policies and must be a critical partner in the implementation of the SSF guidelines.

How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to include the ‘voices of the marginalized’?

- One of the most effective ways of fostering partnerships to include the marginalized is through engaging Fisherfolk Organizations, Village Councils, fisheries cooperatives and community groups in the discussions and decision making process and to ensure the functionality of such groups.
- In Dominica there is the National Association of Fisher folk Cooperatives (NAFCOOP), which is an umbrella organization representing other local fisheries cooperatives. It also performs the role of an advocacy group for the fishermen and fishing communities. These groups can ensure that the voices of those most affected or impacted by the SSF guidelines will be involved. The lead agency is in the best position to ensure their involvement and participation in the discussions and implementation of the SSF guidelines.
- The individual national fisherfolk organizations need to be strengthened and empowered through education and training and the provision of means for gainful interaction.

What will be required at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure effective and efficient partnerships?

- At the local level cooperation and collaboration among government agencies which can impact or influence the implementation of the SSF guidelines is necessary.
- Various community groups need to be involved and informed about the guidelines. They need to know how their lives may be affected by those guidelines and what adjustments they may need to make to comply with the said guidelines. This is also necessary for voluntary compliance with the SSF.
- At the national level the legislative framework will be required to be put in place. Lawyers /consultants need to be employed to review existing legislation to ensure compatibility with the guidelines. The Division of cooperatives, legal affairs department, physical planning department and other relevant government agencies will need come together for effective partnerships.
- Private sector and NGOs and the general public need to be involved in the discussions regarding the SSF to ensure broad participation and involvement.
- The use of the internet and electronic media now allows the public to interact and make comments on issues of national interest and such should also be used at the national level.
- At the regional level existing regional organizations such as the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations(CNFO) are absolutely necessary for implementation. The mechanisms for dissemination of information is already established and they feed into the national structures which will allow for a smooth flow of information and quick response to issues as they arise. The regional perspective on this matter is also very desirable in terms of financial resources mobilizations for the SSF.

Information and communication – promoting experience sharing and collaboration

What best practices with regard to communication would you recommend for SSF Guidelines implementation at local, national, regional and global level?

- **Communication Strategy at local level.:** Town Hall meetings, public village meetings, skits, electronic presentations and videos to promote voluntary compliance to some of these guidelines. Use of existing locally established communication channels at the community level is of paramount importance.

- **National level:** Seminars, focus group discussions and education and awareness sessions using radio, television and internet.
- **Regional Level.** Radio and television programmes, websites and use of social media sites, Face book and twitter etc. Meetings and conferences.
- Global. Website promotion and other electronic media.

What are your experiences from participatory monitoring and evaluation?

Monitoring should involve some level of collection of data on change of behavior over time, so that before and after changes could be scientifically recorded and be directly attributed to the intervention being made.

My experience is that this method of M&E allows for stakeholders and resource users to be integrally involved in the implementation process and to point out short comings, identify unforeseen problems, use traditional knowledge to the benefit of the project and to suggest corrective action themselves. There is transparency, greater buy in to the project and yields greater community benefit and satisfaction.

How can progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines be measured and reported in a useful way?

Set target values e.g. time frames, rates of expenditure of funds, level of awareness of persons, i.e determine what is to be measured so as to give an indication of progress.

1. The extent to which Small- scale fishers and fishing communities are aware of these guidelines.
2. The extent to which collaborating agencies or partnering institutions who can directly or indirectly influence implementation are aware of the SSF.
3. Determine how many workshops, seminars, focus group discussions, radio programmes, website hits etc have been held.
4. How many participants were involved in the seminars locally, nationally and regionally .
5. To what extent are the guidelines adopted into national and regional fisheries policy ie. How many countries actually has the SSF or components of it in their policy structures.
6. The degree to which the SSF has been approved and adopted by national governments. (very important). Or enacted into law.
7. Rate of expenditure of funds allocated.

Challenges and opportunities – needs for support and interventions . What do you think the main implementation challenges are, generally as well as in a specific country context, and how could they be overcome?

In the case of Dominica specific implementations challenges are ;

1. Endorsement of the guidelines in its entirety by the government will be a challenge although some aspects of it could be acceptable
2. Enactment of supporting legislation to give effect to the guidelines will be a great challenge based on past experiences. This is mainly due to the heavy work load of the Legal Affairs

department of the Government. To solve this problem a consultancy to draft the legislation and to ensure broad participation in the drafting process is critical.

3. Institutional capacity to implement the SSF in a reasonable time frame is limited. Poor organizational set up and lack of institutional preparedness and involvement is one of the most critical areas of poor project implementation in Dominica. Therefore an implementation strategy should seek to build capacity and institutional strength through enhancement of community groups, understanding the social dynamics of fishing communities , strengthen linkages, partnerships and foster collaboration with government agencies and NGOs as necessary.

In addition to involving existing institutions, it is necessary to improve their functioning, and enhance their organizational structures where necessary, to achieve desired implementation goals and objectives. This aspect of capacity building and institutional development is critical for Dominica will also auger well for sustainability of the interventions to be made through the SSF.

4. Limited financial resources is a definite challenge. This is particularly so since in the first instance Government authorities may not be immediately convinced to commit budgetary allocations to this activity. Therefore sources of funding for implementation needs to be mobilized. Community groups, NGO's and fisher folk organizations will be severely challenged financially.

54. Lena Westlund and the FAO SSF Guidelines team

Dear e-consultation contributors,

Our e-consultation is now concluded and I would like to thank all contributors for taking their time to post their thoughts and comments and to share their experiences. All these inputs are truly useful to us and will be considered in the FAO Secretariat's work on developing a global assistance programme and related strategies for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. We also hope that you have enjoyed reading the contributions from others and in this way deepened your own knowledge on small-scale fisheries – and perhaps made some new contacts for your continued work.

The full proceedings will be posted shortly on this webpage (see right-hand column). You are of course welcome to contact us again directly (VG-SSF@fao.org) and do keep a close watch for news on the SSF Guidelines at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en!>

With many thanks and best wishes,

Lena Westlund and the FAO SSF Guidelines team

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Chers participants à la consultation virtuelle,

Notre consultation virtuelle est close et je voudrais remercier tous ceux qui y ont contribué et qui ont pris le temps de nous communiquer leurs avis et commentaires et de nous faire part de leur expérience. Toutes ces contributions nous sont extrêmement utiles et seront prises en compte dans le travail mené par le Secrétariat de la FAO pour élaborer un programme d'assistance et les stratégies pertinentes à l'échelle mondiale visant à faciliter la mise en œuvre des Directives PAD. Nous espérons également que vous avez apprécié la lecture des contributions envoyées par les autres participants et que vous avez pu approfondir votre connaissance des pêches artisanales, et peut-être établi des contacts qui vous seront utiles dans votre action.

Le compte-rendu intégral sera bientôt publié sur cette page web (voir menu droit). Vous pouvez bien sûr nous recontacter directement à l'adresse VG-SSF@fao.org. Restez attentifs aux actualités relatives aux directives PAD sur le site <http://www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en>!

Avec tous nos remerciements et salutations cordiales,

Lena Westlund et l'équipe des Directives PAD de la FAO

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Estimados colaboradores de nuestra consulta electrónica:

Nuestra consulta electrónica ya ha concluido, y me gustaría dar las gracias a todos los que han colaborado por dedicar su tiempo a hacer públicas sus ideas y comentarios y compartir sus experiencias. Todas estas contribuciones son verdaderamente útiles para nosotros y serán tomadas en cuenta en el trabajo de la Secretaría de la FAO para desarrollar un programa de ayuda global y las estrategias asociadas para la aplicación de las Directrices para la pesca en pequeña escala (Directrices PPE). Esperamos igualmente que hayan disfrutado de la lectura de las contribuciones de los demás y de esta manera profundizado sus conocimientos sobre la pesca en pequeña escala, y tal vez, hecho nuevos contactos para continuar su trabajo.

Las actas completas se publicarán en breve en esta página web (véase la columna de la derecha). Le invitamos a ponerse en contacto con nosotros de nuevo directamente (VG-SSF@fao.org) y a seguir de cerca las noticias sobre las Directrices PPE en <http://www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en>

Con mi sincero agradecimiento y mejores deseos,

Lena Westlund y el equipo de las Directrices PPE de la FAO