



National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF)

What is a NPOA-SSF?

- » A systematic approach to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) at the national level.
- » A participatory, multi-partner mechanism designed to identify challenges faced by the small-scale fisheries sector and agree on strategic interventions to address them.
- » A framework that enhances the contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development.
- » A collaboration by all relevant stakeholders to secure fair incomes, food security and nutrition for the small-scale fisheries sector.

Who plays a key role in the NPOA-SSF?

- » **Small-scale fishers and fishworkers**
They are the key players and should provide first-hand knowledge and experience to inform the process.
- » **Government**
The government is the ultimate responsible for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. For that reason, representatives of authorities from the local, provincial, and national level should work directly or indirectly with the small-scale fisheries sector during the process.
- » **Non-governmental organizations (NGO) and civil society organizations (CSO)**
They may support the empowerment and capacity development of small-scale fishers and fish workers, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to better participate in the process, and even actively participate in the implementation of the plan.
- » **Academia**
Together with small-scale fisheries stakeholders, their engagement through research should help inform policy and decision-making.

Relevant areas addressed by an NPOA-SSF

The discussion and consultations on the contents of the NPOA-SSF are guided by the thematic areas of the SSF Guidelines:

-  Responsible governance of tenure
-  Sustainable resource management
-  Social development, employment and decent work
-  Value-chains, post-harvest and trade
-  Gender equality
-  Disaster risk and climate change

What are the stages of an NPOA-SSF?

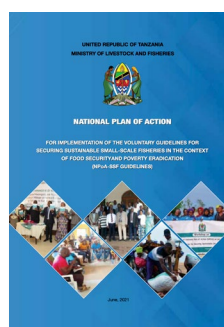
The process for developing and implementing an NPOA-SSF usually consist of the following three consecutive stages:

Initiation	Development	Implementation
The first stage covers activities from the initial agreement to embark on an NPOA-SSF to the establishment of a National Platform comprised of a wide range of stakeholders that will oversee the process.	The second stage serves to ensure an inclusive and participatory process through consultations with key small-scale fisheries stakeholders, to gather the necessary feedback to draft and validate the NPOA-SSF. Also, this stage ends with the endorsement of the NPOA-SSF by the government.	Once the NPOA-SSF is finalized, endorsed and published, implementation and monitoring activities go hand in hand to ensure that activities are properly carried out to ensure that the objectives of the NPOA-SSF are achieved. This also requires funding of the activities under the NPOA-SSF.

FAO's role in relation to NPOA-SSF

Upon request, FAO provides technical expertise and support to countries who seek to embark on an NPOA-SSF development process. FAO's support can be in the form of:

- » Trainings for government officials and other national stakeholders on the NPOA-SSF development process.
- » Support during stakeholder consultations.
- » Technical review of materials produced during the development process.
- » Promotion and dissemination of information about the NPOA-SSF at the regional and global level.



FAO has supported the creation of NPOA-SSFs in the United Republic of Tanzania and Namibia, and is currently supporting similar processes in Madagascar, Malawi, Uganda, the Philippines and Indonesia.

NPOA-SSF Toolkit

In order to maximize the support provided, FAO is finalizing a free user-friendly toolkit that guides through the three stages of the NPOA-SSF. The toolkit also offers:

- » Templates and support tools for each of the stages and steps within.
- » Self-paced training materials and guides on how to use them.



Scan the QR code to read the SSF Guidelines

Learn more: <https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en>

Contact us: ssf-guidelines@fao.org



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