

# SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

*BRINGING TOGETHER RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:*

## Prospectus for a strategic meeting

### **Reducing vulnerability of fishing & fish farming communities to natural disasters and climate change**

**Doubletree Cariari by Hilton, San José, Costa Rica, 19 October 2010**

#### **Background**

The world is witnessing an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters with events of hydro-meteorological origin constituting the large majority. There is high confidence that climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of extreme events, with the most severe consequences on the food security and livelihoods of agriculture-dependent populations in vulnerable countries.

Small scale fishing and fish farming communities in coastal or riparian areas are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. This relates to a variety of factors including their location, the characteristics of the type of livelihood activities associated with fishing and fish farming and their limited capacity to cope with risks/hazards impacts. Many of these communities have a precarious existence because of poverty and lack of employment, social services and essential infrastructure. Their existence is further undermined if the fisheries resources and ecosystem they depend on are overexploited and degraded..

Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation are key instruments to reduce fishing and fish farming communities' vulnerabilities to disasters and climate change impacts. They are closely linked as both are ultimately about limiting adverse impacts of hazards/risks to the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable people and therefore are key tools for protection of food security and livelihoods.

#### **Purpose**

The overall purpose of the strategic meeting is to promote consultation between the fisheries/aquaculture sector, the disaster risk management community and the climate change adaptation community in the region and contribute inputs to the regional consultation workshop on "Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development", to be convened 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010 (prospectus attached for information).

Discussions will help identify gaps and priority actions as well as potential synergies with other institutions and will support the development of a regional programme for reducing the vulnerability of fish and fish farming communities to natural disasters and climate change in the region.

## **Objectives and expected outcomes**

- Consult with partners active in the region on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation initiatives in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- Present/review current initiatives in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- Discuss challenges, area for collaboration and identify gaps.
- Identify priority actions/areas of intervention.
- Report outcomes and recommendations to the workshop on “Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development”.

## **Participants**

Participation in the strategic meeting will come from a cross section of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, civil society and the disaster risk management and climate change communities from different countries in the region. The number of supported participants will be limited due to budgetary constraints.

## **Process**

The meeting will be a combination of short presentations and discussions, details of which will be communicated shortly.

## **Contact persons**

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