

# ***Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development***

## **Concept Note for Regional Workshops**

### **Background**

There is growing international and national recognition of the critical role small-scale fisheries play in food security and poverty alleviation and the well-being of rural fishing communities. The latest estimates indicate that small-scale fisheries contribute over half of the world's marine and inland fish catch, nearly all of which is used for direct human consumption. They employ over 90% of the world's more than 35 million capture fishers and support another approximate 90 million people employed in jobs associated with fish processing, distribution and marketing. At least half of the people employed in small-scale fisheries are women. The importance of the small-scale fisheries sector is of global reach and its diversity in culture and traditions are part of humankind's heritage.

At its 26th session in March 2009, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) reviewed the outcome of the Fourth Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries - Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, 13-17 October 2008. The Conference re-enforced the claim that small-scale fisheries have yet to fully realize their potential to significantly contribute to sustainable development and the attaining of the UN millennium development goals (MDGs). In spite of their economic, social and nutritional benefits and societal and cultural values small-scale fishing communities often face precarious and vulnerable living and working conditions. There are various factors contributing to these conditions including insecure rights to land and fishery resources, inadequate or absent health and educational services and social safety nets, vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change and exclusion from wider development processes due to weak organizational structures and representation and participation in decision-making.

The 2008 Conference identified several critical ways forward in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries that integrate social, cultural and economic development, address resource access and use rights issues guided by human rights principles, and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples. The Conference also reaffirmed that human rights are critical to achieving sustainable development.

In considering the outcome of the Conference at COFI, many FAO Members expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and create a framework for monitoring and reporting. Many Members supported the need for FAO to establish a specific global programme dedicated to small-scale fisheries.

In response to this request, the FAO Secretariat will convene three regional workshops for Africa, Asia & Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean in October 2010. The workshops are a means to consult with national and regional stakeholders, to identify good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries, as well as to verify and/or expand upon, for each region, the outputs and specific needs identified both in the 2009 inception workshop of the FAO Extra-Budgetary Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security and in the 2008 Global Conference. Another aim of the Regional Workshops is to identify work that is already being done in the priority areas identified and to look for possible ways of creating partnerships and synergies with other programmes. The consultative process is intended to result in a high level of ownership of the global programme on small-scale fisheries and a possible international instrument by national and regional stakeholders, as recommended in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

## **Scope**

The Regional Workshops will focus on good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries for social and economic development and ensuring food security and poverty alleviation. As such they will follow the main thrust of the 2008 Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries, which highlighted that poverty includes aspects such as low income and consumption, vulnerability and equity issues and that human rights principles should provide an overarching framework for development (e.g. the right to education, basic health services etc.). The Global Conference also identified that devolved management responsibilities and co-management arrangements with strong involvement of local resource users would appear to be the way forward, but that this approach requires human capacity at the local level as well as legal, practical and community-based pre-requisites in support of decentralized and shared management.

Within practices of good governance, the Regional Workshops will also address the application of ecosystem approach for fisheries as well as disaster risk management to reduce vulnerability of communities to natural disasters and climate change. These are integral part of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department's overarching strategic framework for both normative and field work, which is guided by the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the fisheries-specific targets of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15.

## **Objectives and outputs**

Based on the outcomes of the inception workshop and the 2008 Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries, the three regional workshops will develop the possible contents of an international instrument and a genuinely global programme on the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries. The workshops will ensure consultations with regional and national stakeholders and development of partnerships and networking which the inception workshop participants noted were critical. The objective of the three regional workshops in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean is therefore:

To receive guidance from regional and national stakeholders on:

1. The scope and contents of a possible international instrument on sustainable small-scale fisheries development, and
2. Priorities and implementation modalities of a global assistance programme.

The outputs of the workshop will consist of:

- a) Guidance on a possible international instrument to plan, implement and report on securing sustainability in small-scale fisheries.
- b) High priority actions and potential gaps in the implementation of good governance practices in small-scale fisheries and related assistance needs.

The outcomes of the regional workshops will be presented to the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries in January/February 2011.

## **Participation**

Participation in the regional workshops will come from a cross section of fisheries sector stakeholders including government fisheries agencies and related agencies, Regional Fisheries Bodies, as well as fishworkers' organizations and other civil society organizations.

For financial and organizational reasons, there will be a maximum of 50 sponsored participants per regional workshop.

## **Dates and venues**

**Africa** : The workshop will be held for a period of 3 days during 12-14 October 2010 in Maputo, Mozambique.

**Asia and Pacific**: The workshop will be held for a period of 3 days from 6-8 October 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand

**Latin America and Caribbean**: To be determined.

## **Contact persons**

### **Africa**

Alhaji Jallow  
Senior Regional Fisheries Officer  
FAO Regional Office for Africa  
FAO Building, Game Abdul Nasser Road  
Accra, Ghana  
alhaji.jallow@fao.org  
Ph: +233 21 675000  
Fax: +233 21 668427

### **Asia and Pacific**

Simon Funge-Smith  
Senior Regional Fisheries Officer  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
39 Pra Athit Road  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
simon.fungesmith@fao.org  
Ph: +66 2 697 4149  
Fax: +66 2 697 4445

### **FAO Headquarters**

Rolf Willmann  
Senior Fisheries Planning Officer  
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00152 Rome, Italy  
rolf.willmann@fao.org  
Tel.: +39-06-570 53408  
Fax.: +39-06-570 56500

# **Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development**

## Workshop outline

### **On the first day:**

Introduction to the theme: Best practices for good governance in order to secure poverty alleviation and food security. This would include: outcomes of the Global conference and the Inception Workshop and the three priority areas, objectives of the Regional Workshop.

Specific examples of good governance practices and lessons learnt from the region, in each of the three areas:

- Increasing the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to poverty alleviation and food security
- Sustainable production for optimal societal benefits through an ecosystem approach
- Reducing vulnerability of fishing and fish farming communities to natural disasters and climate change (including a report on the outcome from the DRM pre-workshop meeting)

In the afternoon, working group sessions for each of the three areas to discuss high priority actions in promoting the implementation of good practices, as well as specific assistance needs and partnership arrangements.

### **On the second day:**

Feedback from the working groups of the previous day and discussion in plenary.

Presentations:

- (i) Applying a human rightsbased development framework for securing small-scale fisheries – lessons learned from the Right to Food work of FAO and human rights oriented work by other actors – Presentations and plenary discussion
- (ii) Existing international instruments that can inform an international instrument on small-scale fisheries - Presentations and plenary discussion

In the afternoon, working groups to formulate guidance on:

- (i) the elements that a possible international instrument on good governance should contain (based on the morning's presentations and the outcomes of 2) – 5).
- (ii) the kind of international instrument that would be of most use to plan, implement and report on good governance for securing sustainability in small-scale fisheries.

### **On the third day:**

Feedback from the working groups of the previous day: Guidance on the contents and nature of an international instrument on small-scale fisheries. Followed by discussion in plenary

Short presentations and statements by participants representing the different stakeholder groups on actions that could be taken in furthering the development and implementation of an international instrument on small-scale fisheries.

Identification of supporting mechanisms and processes & options for partnership; Prioritization of actions likely to deliver greatest impact/preferred results.

Workshop Summing Up

Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations.