

Implementing Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication

LOA between the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (“ICSF”) and Sri Lanka Forum for Small Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF)
For provision of..

“Service to strengthen small-scale fishery communities and produce related global information products in the context of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)”

Report of Activity 1: State Actors Sensitizing Workshop

Date: 28th September 2018
Venue: National Science Foundation, Vidya Mawatha, Maitland, Crescent,
Colombo 7

INTRODUCTION

This is the first activity concluded under the above agreement. The aim of this activity was to sensitize the state actors on DDF Guidelines and get their views on the implementation of the guidelines.

The activity commenced with a meeting held with the Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD), the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (DFARD), Director General (Technical) of the MFARD, the Director of the Fisheries Management Division of the DFARD, and other officials. The Secretary fully endorsed the importance of implementing the Guidelines and it was decided to hold the state actor sensitizing meeting on the 28th of September 2018.

It was decided to invite 45 fisheries actors from MFARD, DFARD, National Aquaculture Development Authority, Ceylon Fisheries Corporation and 15 officers from Coast Conservation Department, Agriculture Department, Ministry of Tourism, Wild life department, Coast Guard (Navy), Marine Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA), etc. who are the other actors in the coastal zone.

The agenda for the meeting, invitation letter, and the list of participants, along with a few photographs of the meeting are attached herewith. Altogether, there were about 45 participants from the MFARD and DFARD and 15 participants from other stakeholders in the coastal zone. The FAO Representative in Sri Lanka, Madam Nina Brandstrup was the Chief Guest of the event while Secretary of MFARD was the Chief Guest. However, due to the need to attend an urgent meeting with the Minister of Fisheries, the latter could not attend the meeting.

THE INVITATION



Sri Lanka Forum For Small Scale Fisheries

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Convener:

Mrs. Dilanthe Korlagama

12th September 2018

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Dear.....

Re: Implementing FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation

I am happy to inform you that the Sri Lanka Forum for Small Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF) has embarked on a process to implement the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Fisheries (herein after referred to as the 'Guidelines'), with assistance from International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), as part of FAO efforts towards Global Implementation of the Guidelines. Following decision to develop an instrument for securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries, the FAO initiated a global consultation process over a period of 3 years and established these guidelines in 2014, which is attached herewith for your perusal. The FAO has then developed a Project Results Matrix which underlines a plan for implementing these guidelines along with the tools to be used in the process. Following the FAO Project Results Matrix, the SLFSSF has developed a plan of activities, which include the following.

1. A Sensitizing workshop for State Actors
2. Development of communication tools for community stakeholders
3. Assessment of current policy to identify changes required in the context of implementing the Guidelines
4. Stakeholder meetings in various parts of the country: awareness building and capacity building.
5. Policy workshop to propose changes to National Policy and National Plan of Action.

In the above respect, we invite you to participate in the "State Actor Sensitizing Workshop on SSF Guidelines", which is scheduled to be held on the 28th of September 2018 at the Auditorium of National Science Foundation (NSF), at 47/5, Maitland Place, Colombo 7. The engagement and active participation of the state

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AGENDA

Implementing FAO Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication

State Actor Sensitizing Workshop

28 / 09 / 2018

Auditorium of National Science Foundation

AGENDA

8.30 – 9.00 AM	Registration of Participants
9.00 – 9.10 AM	Welcome and Objectives Prof. Ivan Silva (Secretary / SLFSSF)
9.10 – 9.20 AM	Address by Guest of Honour: Mr. Jayantha Wijeratne, Secretary / Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
9.20 – 9.30 AM	Address by Chief Guest. Madam Nina Brandstrup, FAO representative in Sri Lanka
9.30 – 10.15 AM	The Process of Implementing SSF Guidelines Prof. Oscar Amarasinghe (President SLFSSF) Prof. Upali Amarasinghe (Secretary SLFSSF) Presentation of Policy Brief on Bottom Trawling to Secretary MFARD
10.15– 10.20 AM	Vote of Thanks Prof. Ruchira Cumaranatunga (Treasurer / SLFSSF)
10.20 – 10.45 AM	Tea
10.45 – 12.45 PM	Group Work – Dr. M. G. Kularatne (Vice President / SLFSSF & Mr. A. Hettiarachchi (consultant / MFARD) (methodological tools: Dr. Nilantha De Silva and the team)
12.45- 01.30 PM	Group Presentations Closing Remarks: Mr. A. Hettiarachchi, Consultant, MFARD
01.30 PM	Lunch

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Institutions Represented / abbreviations

1. DFARD = Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
2. MFARD = Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
3. CCD = Coast Conservation Department
4. CFHC = Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation
5. Ceylon Fisheries Corporation
6. NAQDA = National Aquaculture Development Authority
7. NARA = National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
8. QCU = Quality Control Unit of the DFARD
9. SLFSSF = Sri Lanka Forum for Small Scale Fisheries
10. AD = Assistant Director of Fisheries
11. GM = General Manager
12. DGM = Deputy General Manager
13. WRST = Water Resources and Sustainable Technology
14. MEPA = Marine Environment Pollution Agency
15. Ceylon Coast Guard
16. Ocean University

17. University of Ruhuna
18. Ministry of Agriculture
19. Wild Life Department
20. University of Kelaniya

THE EVENT

The day's events started with Professor Ivan Silva, the Joint Secretary of the Forum delivering the Welcome Speech. This was followed by the Speech of the Chief Guest, Madam Nina Brandstrup who explained the FAO involvement in preparing the guidelines and the long process of consultation of the global community. Madam Brandstrup also mentioned the importance of incorporating the relevant guidelines into national policies and national plans of action.

Professor Oscar Amarasinghe, the President of the SLFSSF and Senior Professor Upali Amarasinghe, the Joint Secretary of the SLFSSF presented the SSF Guidelines. Speaking first, Professor Upali Amarasinghe dealt extensively with governance of tenure and gender issues, such as gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Moreover, the need to identify and respect the rights of fishers to fish resources, land (beaches) and adjacent areas were also highlighted in this presentation. Prof. Oscar Amarasinghe dealt extensively with sustainable resource management, co-management, value chains and post harvest practices including fish processing by women, social development and the need to empower fisher community organisation. The need for management to be integrated, inclusive, participatory and holistic, was highlighted.

After the technical sessions the participants were divided into the groups based on the thematic areas as given below.

1. **Group A**
 - i. Responsible Governance of Tenure
 - ii. Sustainable Resource Management
2. **Group B**
 - i. Social Development, Employment and Decent Work
 - ii. Gender Equality
3. **Group C**
 - i. Value Chains, Post Harvest and Trade
 - ii. Disaster risk and climate change
4. **Group D**
 - i. Policy Coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration
 - ii. Information, research and communication

The resource persons participating in the group discussions were the following.

- Senior professor Upali Amarasinghe
- Senior Professor Ruchira Cumaranatunga
- Professor Ivan Silva
- Professor Sunil Jayakody
- Mr. Jayantha Chandrasoma
- Dr. M. G. Kularatna
- Mr. A. Hettiarachchi
- Prof. Oscar Amarasinghe

The group discussions were conducted by Dr, Nilantha De Silva (Group Leader), with the assistance from Miss. Kaumi Piyasiri, Miss. Chamini Dinushika, Miss. Shanika Weralugolla and Miss. Shiwanthika Dharmasiri (all masters students from University of Ruhuna).

The methodology employed included semi-structured group interviews.

Outcome of Group Discussions

Group 1

The thematic areas dealt with by Group 1 included the following

- a) Responsible governance of tenure**
- b) Sustainable Resource Management**

a) Responsible Governance of Tenure

Responsible Governance of Tenure (Working group discussion : 1 hour)			
Issues/gaps that exist with tenure rights to fishery resources	Actors/stakeholders for whom these issues/gaps are most relevant	Proposed types of processes/actions or changes to address these issues/gaps	Responsible agents/ stakeholders
1. Overlapping of laws	Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Fishers, Wildlife, Forest, Environment, CCD, MEPA, Irrigation, Local authorities, Fisher community, Tourism industry.	Need of a proper policy measures to ensure, policy coherence, coordination and implementation, political commitment, establishment of national committee for all aquatic environments (inland and marine).	All relevant ministries having responsibilities in the management of the coastal zone.
2. Loss of beach access	Fisher community, Tourism, CCD, Department of Fisheries, Divisional secretary, Local authority, Forest, Wild life, Shipping industry	-Stakeholder consultation. -Focus on rights of small scale fishers when implementing new development projects.	CCD, Ministry of Fisheries, Local government, District Secretary's office, Tourism Development Authority
3. Lack of proper/ appropriate regulations	Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Fishers, Wildlife, Forest, Environment,	Identify the gaps and strengthen laws and regulations and strictly enforce law	CCD, Department of Fisheries,

and commitments	CCD, MEPA, Irrigation, Local authorities, Fisher community, Tourism industry.		Political authorities
4. Conflicts among resource users	Fishers, Farmers, other stakeholders, Religious organizations, NGOs	-Proper co-ordination among diverse stakeholders. -Community empowerment and capacity building. -Establishment of National committee to coordinate activities of all aquatic environments	All relevant ministries including provincial council and local government.

b) Sustainable Resource Management

Sustainable Resource Management (Working group discussion: 30 mins)		
Issues/barriers that exist within the sector for sustainable fisheries resources management	Proposed types of processes/actions or changes to address those issues/gaps	Responsible agents/ stakeholders
Lack of knowledge about the ecosystem approach to resource management (EAF).	Comprehensive studies to be carried out on EAF	NARA, Universities, Funding organizations and MFARD
Lack of political commitments to enforce rules and regulations.	Political support to conduct National level awareness and monitoring programmes for sustainable resource management.	MFARD
Absence of appropriate rules, regulations and policies.	Proper regulations based on properly designed studies.	MFARD and relevant policy makers (NASTEC)
Non-recognition of scientific research output and lack of facilities to conduct research.	-Translate research knowledge in to policies and allocate of sufficient	MFARD

	funds to fill the research gaps. -Establishment of National committee to coordinate research activities of all aquatic environments.	
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c) Establishing co-management Platforms

Co-Management Platforms			
Existing Co-management platforms	Issues/deficiencies associated with them	Suggestions to address those issues and upgrade/improve these platforms	Actors/fisheries stakeholders whose involvement/inclusion is most critical
Provisions to declare fisheries management areas and fisheries management committees have been made in Act No. 35 of 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of funds for implementation of co-management practices. - Inadequately functioning national advisory committees. - Inadequate community consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Separate budgetary allocation on co-management -identify the areas where co-management could be implemented. 	MFARD, Treasury. All stakeholders in the fisheries sector, District secretary

d) Community Organisations

Community Organisations			
Existing community organizational structures	Role of a community organizations within a Co-management platform	Issues/barriers towards fulfilling that role	Suggestions to address those issues and upgrade/improve them
-FCS (Fisheries Co-operative Societies).	-Assisting co-management system.	Fish. Coops. Not under the control of DFARD	Empowering stakeholders.

-RFO (Rural Fisheries Organization).	-Inland fisheries co-management.		
-FLMC (Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee) (for lagoons) -FMCC (Fisheries Management Coordination committee) (for marine)	Co-management	-Lack of state intervention. -lack of fishers' participation for the co-management. -lack of funding sources. -inadequate awareness among stakeholders.	Awareness building programme

e) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

Monitoring, Controlling and surveillance (MCS) system		
Role of a Monitoring, Controlling and surveillance (MCS) unit	Issues/gaps that exist related to it	Suggestions towards upgrading/improvement
National level monitoring (MCS) for SSF	Non- existence of National level monitoring (MCS) for SSF	Establish National level monitoring (MCS) for SSF

Group B

a) Social Development, Employment and Decent Work

b) Gender Equality

a) Social Development

Social development (Working group discussion: 30 mins)		
Gaps and issues related to social development of fishing communities	Proposed processes/actions to address those gaps and to promote social development	Responsible agents/stakeholders
Inadequate drinking water.	-Salt water purification. -Introducing RO plants.	Water board, DFARD Local government

Poor sanitation.	-Implementing sanitary projects.	DFARD, Ministry of health, Local government.
Inadequate housing	-Implementing housing development schemes. -housing loan schemes.	-DFARD, NAQDA -/National Housing Development Authority -Central Government

b) Employment and Decent Work

Employment and decent work (Working group discussion : 30 mins)	
Proposed processes/actions to promote decent work for small scale fisheries workers	Responsible agents/ Stakeholders
Introducing communication, search and rescue mechanism.	DFARD, NAQDA, Navy, Coast guard, DMC
Introducing latest weather update system.	Meteorology department, DFERD, DMC
Implementing awareness programs on labour laws.	DFARD, NAQDA, Labour department
Introducing safety gears and boats.	DFARD, NAQDA, CEYNOR
Introducing standard policy for the boats. (what a board should be equipped with. Ex. Life jackets)	DFARD
Introducing standard first aid kit.	DFARD, MOH
Introducing a health check programmes.	MOH
Introducing training institution to train fishers on technology, fishing skills and good and responsible practices.	DFARD, MFARD

c) Gender Issues

Gender Equality (Working group discussion: 1 hour)		
Issues related to gender equality	Proposed processes/actions to address those issues and to promote gender equality	Responsible agents/ stakeholders
Cultural barriers	Awareness and educational programmes	DFARD, CBO, NAGDA
Personal influences (individual behaviour)	Awareness and educational programmes	DFARD, CBO, NAGDA

Lack of safety and security	Awareness programme	DFARD, Navy, coast guard, police
Lack of gender mainstreaming	Introducing a policy for 25% representation of women in all decision making bodies	Ministry of Women and Child affairs, MFARD, Ministry of Policy Planning
Discrepancy of wage for Men and women	Imposing rules and regulations	Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Women Affairs
Lack of implementation of labour laws	Conducting awareness programs	Department of Labour, DFARD
Drug addiction	Conducting awareness programs	DFARD, NAQDA, Police, NGOs

GROUP C

a) Value Chains, Post Harvest and Trade

b) Disaster risk and climate change

a) Value Chains, Post-Harvest & Trade

Value chains, post-harvest and trade (Working group discussion: 1 hour)		
Issues/gaps among SSF value chain, post-harvest subsector and trade	Proposed processes/actions to address those issues	Responsible agents/ stakeholders
<u>At fishing</u> i. Lack of awareness on post harvest handling and the use of certain fishing nets ¹ ii. Dislike to change attitudes iii. Use of illegal fishing gears (dynamite for example)	i. Provision of infrastructural facilities (ice storage, anchorage facilities, etc.) ii. Design boats to suit the needs iii. Promote fishing activities as a family business (engage in diverse links in the value chain, adopt new technology, etc.) ⁴	i. Rural Fisheries Organizations NARA/ DFARD/ MFARD ii. DFARD iii. DFARD, Coast Guard iv. Ministry of Health

¹ For example, keeping bottom set gill nets too long in the sea, leading to fish quality deterioration

⁴ This will also keep the young within the sector

<p>ICE –lack of quality ice & timely availability²</p> <p>iv. Lack of anchorage facility for boat</p> <p>v. Lack of standard Boat design³</p> <p>vi. Low supply of labour (especially for beachseine fisheries)</p>	<p>iv. Strengthen MCS activities</p> <p>v. Strengthen Community organisations</p>	
<p><u>Landing site</u></p> <p>i. Lack of infrastructure facilities (ice, water, toilet)</p> <p>ii. Fish handling problems (careless handling, lack of clean water, etc.)</p> <p>iii. Lack of appropriate fish grading system and market (auctioning)</p> <p>iv. Lack of auctioning & Middlemen exploitation</p> <p>v. Inadequate involvement of women at landing ⁵</p> <p>vi. Weakness of extension service</p>	<p>i. Easy access to credit facilities</p> <p>ii. Strengthening extension services</p>	<p>CFHC/ private sector Ceynor foundation NARA Boat owners CHFC Community organizations DFARD/CFC</p>
<p><u>Training and value addition</u></p> <p>i. Lack of market access and information</p> <p>ii. Dependence on informal credit</p> <p>iii. Lack of technology,</p>	<p>i. Establish proper marketing and information systems</p> <p>ii. Introduce micro finance system</p> <p>iii. Introduce technology and awareness</p>	<p>i. Community organization</p> <p>ii. CFC/DFARD</p> <p>iii. Private sector</p> <p>iv. Financial institutes</p> <p>v. NARA/DFARD/private sector</p>

² Leading to exploitation by merchants, who provide ice

³ A good boat design that has facilities for ice storage

⁵ Fishers say that a change of attitude is required. Women should be allowed to help them on the beach!

infrastructure and knowledge	building programmes	
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b) Disaster Risk and Climate Change

Disaster risks and Climate change (Working group discussion: 1 hour)			
Implications of natural and human-induced disasters and climate change for small scale fisheries	Issues or gaps in the existing policies, plans, risk management and monitoring systems	Proposed processes/actions to address those issues and to strengthen resilience of SSF communities	Responsible agents/stakeholders
i. Uncertainty of weather forecast and negative attitudes towards them	Inaccuracy of weather information.	Strengthening the weather information systems. Awareness building	Meteorological department, disaster management centre, DFAR, community organizations
ii. No proper communication systems to disseminate weather information	Lack of modern technology	Improve coordination among all stakeholders	-DO-
iii. Lack of comprehensive fisheries insurance scheme	Lack of coordination.	Introduce appropriate insurance scheme / awareness building. Introduce and strengthen insurance schemes through community organizations	Private sector
iv. Disaster Insurance is not made through community consultation	Human errors/irresponsibility	Introduce disaster control plan with the involvement of all stakeholders.	DMC and other stakeholders
v. No proper disaster contingency plan			NARA Finance ministry, Universities

			CCD, DFARD
vi.	Lack of research on fishery resources affected by Climate Change		Allocation of more funds for research
vii.	Impact of beach erosion on SSF; Ex: landing sites beach seine etc	No legal framework for establishing rights of fishers	Establish / implement proper legal framework

GROUP D

a) Policy Coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration

b) Information, research and communication

a) Policy Coherence, Institutional Coordination and Collaboration

Policy Coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration (Working group discussion: 1 hour)			
Concerns that need to be taken in to account for work towards policy coherence	Issues or gaps related to existing institutional structures and linkages	Proposed processes/actions to establish and promote institutional structures and linkages	Responsible agents/ stakeholders
Development of rules, regulations and policies after discussing with relevant institutes (ex. about fishing in wildlife reserves)	Government officers working beyond the regulations of the act	Develop attitudes of government officers/ make communities aware about rules/ empower the community	All relevant government and non-government institutes including department of fisheries, wildlife conservation department, NAQDA, NARA, CEA, CCD, Irrigation Department, defence forces, DS offices and Ministry of Tourism
Construction of a common responsible structure/platform or institute covering all institutes related to small scale fishing industry	Wrong usage of the law by government officers	change and develop attitudes of government officers	
Give the authority to wildlife department to	Inefficiency of corporate	Develop a common/corporate	

take action under Wild Life law when fishing activities violate such law wildlife reserves	communication system among organizations	management plan between all organizations and the community	
Make new laws (about the right to use irrigation water for agriculture and fishing)	Not having a good corporation and coordination between organizations (fisheries, tourism and agriculture)	Update laws to improve corporation and coordination among organizations	
Change or relax existing laws and regulations	Competition between institutions for the authority	Update laws ⁶	
Not implementing existing laws as it is	Influence of political authority	Empower the community	

b) Information, research and communication

Information, research and communication (Working group discussion: 1 hour)		
Issues/gaps in the existing information, research and communication mechanisms	Proposed processes/actions towards establishing proper information, research and communication mechanisms within the SSF sector	Responsible agents/ stakeholders
Lack of sufficient information related to small scale fisheries	Make a special unit to collect information related to small scale fishing field (including traditional knowledge) with continued updating of information	MFARD and all institutes under the ministry Universities and technical institutes Non-government organizations
Modes of Information collection not working properly and are not being updated	Establish a system to develop communication among institutes and the community	

⁶ It was suggested to update the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act of 1996, so that responsibilities of different institutes are clearly specified

Legal barriers for getting information	Reduce the barriers for accessing information		
Not having a demonstration 'farm' related to small scale fishing industry (including aquaculture)	Develop a demonstration farm for small scale fishing industry (including aquaculture) ⁷		
Hiding information to a chive personal ends of individuals	Appoint officers to collect information and develop their facilities, knowledge and abilities		
There is no system to collect traditional knowledge related to small scale fisheries			
Inadequate number of data collecting officers		Use new technology to collect and store data	
Scarcity of facilities for officers to collect data			
Distance between information collector and information provider			
Lack of communication and collaboration among institutes	Implement programs to develop the collaboration and communication among institutes		
Lack of proper system to disseminate information	Make a technical unit to disseminate information		
Lack of a mechanism to identify research problems related to small scale fisheries	Develop a mechanism with universities and all institutes to identify research issues of small scale fisheries		
Lack of sufficient funds for research	Allocate sufficient funds for research		
Distance between information collector and information provider			

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⁷ To disseminate new knowledge and to train people