

# The Need to Say ‘We’

The Latin American and Caribbean Workshop on IYAFA 2022 issued a global Call for Action for sustainable and equitable small-scale fisheries

A tourist village in Cananeia city in the south coast of the Sao Paulo state in Brazil hosted 45 fishermen, fisherwomen and supporters from 16 different countries on 2-5 November in 2022. They had gathered for a workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, titled: IYAFA 2022 – Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-Scale Fisheries. The organizing committee comprised the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), Comissao Nacional de Fortalecimento das Reservas Extrativistas (CONFREM), Instituto Linha D’Água (LDA) and Associacao de Moradores Itacuruca Pereirinha (AMOIP).

The workshop’s main objective was to deepen fishworker organizations’ knowledge and analysis of food security and tenure rights so as to strengthen their capacities to engage with these issues internationally. Another objective was to empower the local community of fishers to receive big groups and interact with them.

The participatory methodology was invoked at the workshop, with prior activities such as self-introductions with the aid of cultural artefacts and visual representations of fisheries-related activities. All the event sessions focused on active and collective participation.

The workshop was organized into six sessions. The first was a group presentation, in which countries were divided into gatherings by language. The second session discussed issues related to social security, education and health. While other sessions deliberated on the Blue Economy and gender, the fifth session featured regional leaders discussing the creation of a platform for working together, namely the Latin America Union of Artisanal Fishers or

ULAPA. The last session discussed and approved the final statement of the workshop. The meeting also organized a field trip that exposed participants to the traditional fishing methods used in the area.

In parallel to the workshop, and as an alternative model of media and information literacy (‘education’), youth communicators

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of the fisher organizations had the opportunity to join a practical course on collaborative audiovisual coverage (CAC) that generated a video about the workshop. This was shown at the end of the event to all participants. Local professional artists also employed graphic techniques to report the week’s activities.

These methods complemented the production and translation of the final report, which was prepared by Ligia M. Rocha, Sivaja K Nair and Janani Ganesan of ICSF. It was designed to make the discussions from the workshop accessible to all.

## Communications for the 21st century

The CAC training consisted of three skill development modules. The first dealt with research, script writing and planning for audio-visual production. The second elaborated on production, direction and recording, and discussed the technical knowledge required to execute the skills developed in the first module. The third focused on

*This article is by **Beatriz Mesquita Pedrosa Ferreira** (mesquitabia@hotmail.com), **Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger** (leocavaleri@gmail.com), **Vivienne Solis Rivera** (vivienne.solis.rivera@gmail.com), **Henrique Callori Kefalas** (henriquekefalas@linhadagua.org.br) and **Katia Regina Aroucha Barros** (krabarros@gmail.com)*

Table 1 - Main results discussed in the workshop groups

	Caribbean	Brazilian	Spanish
Expectations, main challenges and strategies needed for small-scale fisheries	Women in fisheries, youth in fisheries, recognition of SSF, education and training, networks and governance, and information sharing.	Political action, aquaculture and sustainable fisheries, privatization, and strengthening the SSF community through alliances, skills training and ground-up policy making.	Building solidarity, problems with MPAs, problems of industrial fishing, demanding territorial rights and using documentation to procure rights.
Social Security, Education and Health	Need to have exclusive social security schemes for artisanal fishworkers and information about it. Retirement plan assistance fund does not apply to fishers. Educational programmes need to include new methodologies and language accessible to fishers.	There is specific legislation for fishworkers, but it is still linked to agriculture. Traditional knowledge should be a part of formal education systems. Mental health of fishworkers should be prioritized. Occupational diseases in artisanal fisheries should be recognized by the national health system.	Need a social security system. Educational programmes should include information about fishing activities (new technologies) and ancestral culture. Special programmes for adult literacy and education must be created. Medical care facilities must be available for communities, the sick often have to travel two–four hours to receive treatment.
Challenges and strategies to confront the Blue Economy	Blue Economy approach is a strategy to minimize the real contribution of small-scale fisheries, their catch and their contribution to the economy	Fishers participation in meetings and debates, including in the management councils of protected areas, is restricted in Brazil. Movement of ships, dredging of the sea, big industries, such as construction of ports, not only cause environmental damage but also displace local communities.	Biodiversity and the Blue Economy are interlinked. artisanal fishers' voices are so underrepresented. Economic projects displace fisher communities and do not buy its products. Sport fishing is also a problem.
Women in Small-Scale Fisheries and Gender Equity	Before the SSF Guidelines were released, the Caribbean had never discussed gender issues in fisheries.	It is necessary to educate and make women aware of their rights; banks should provide financial schemes that cater to women; Women-specific diseases need to be recognized as work-related diseases; Government employees must be sensitized about gender issues.	Recognize the rights and work of fisherwomen across the value chain; to provide security for women in order to avoid femicide; women's achievements must be considered equal to that of men

the creation of the final product: the editing and publishing processes to get the video ready for broadcast.

In the graphic facilitation work, the ideas and information discussed in the workshop were transformed into visual imagery to help systematize content for ease of understanding. The facilitators guided the creation of two real-time narrative panels throughout

the workshop, capturing the essence of the discussions visually in real time.

The focus of the workshop on the risks and opportunities of the Blue Economy agenda in the region was based on a critical dialogue about the results of ICSF's study titled 'Baffling Shades of Blue: Addressing the Impacts of the Blue Economy on Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America'.

