

**INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS
(ICSF) TRUST**

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES:
01 NOVEMBER 2007 TO 31 MARCH 2008**



Report of Activities

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust, with its office in Chennai, was set up as an “initiative to further the welfare of coastal and fishing communities through education, research, documentation, training and philanthropic programmes, by conserving and managing fisheries resources, protecting the marine and coastal ecosystem, improving working and living conditions in fisheries, and by ensuring fair access to resources and markets”.

During the reporting period ICSF undertook programmes to support small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk in India from a perspective of decent work, equity, gender-justice, self-reliance and sustainability, through education, research, documentation and training. In general, the focus was on:

- Monitoring issues that relate to the life, livelihood and living conditions of fishworkers, mainly through the activities of the Documentation Centre and disseminating information in appropriate languages to organizations of fishing communities, policy makers, researchers and the general public, through the website and through reports, newsletters, dossiers and other publications;
- Promoting safe working conditions for fishworkers within the framework of instruments under the International Labour Organization;
- Providing greater visibility to women’s roles in fisheries
- Organizing training programmes and workshops on issues of relevance to small-scale fishing communities with the aim of promoting participation of fishing communities in decision-making and management processes;
- Collaborating/ exchanging experiences with other institutions working on similar issues both in India and abroad.

A brief report of ICSF Trust programmes from 01 November 2007 to 31 March 2008 follows:

(1) COASTAL AND FISHERIES RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

There is increasing focus world wide on rights-based approaches to fisheries, to deal with perceived limitations of existing approaches to fisheries management. In some contexts, rights-based fisheries has meant privatization of rights to fisheries resources. However, privatizing rights could have severe implications for labour-surplus tropical fisheries, as in India. The ICSF has, therefore, been engaging with issues related to rights-based fisheries management, in an effort to understand what sort of fisheries management systems would be appropriate to the context in India as well as other developing countries. In May 2007, several representatives from India participated in the “Workshop and Symposium on “Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in Asia”, in Siem Reap Cambodia. Participants at the workshop included fishworker groups, NGOs, government representatives from ten Asian countries, and multilateral agencies. Several studies were presented at the workshop, to explore perceptions of fishing communities on fisheries management, and on what they saw as their rights and responsibilities to coastal

lands, and to fisheries resources. These case studies were from six Asian countries, including India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and the Philippines.

During the reporting period ICSF published two of the studies, from Philippines and Cambodia, for wider dissemination and discussion on fisheries and coastal management approaches appropriate for small-scale fisheries. The studies captured the experience of fishing communities in other Asian countries, including on community-based fisheries management, and have been useful in stimulating debate on these issues in India.

(2) MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Several studies have examined the ecological and biological impacts of MPAs; however, few have focused on the social implications of MPAs on communities. It was to address this gap that ICSF facilitated studies in India. The objectives of the studies were mainly to document and analyze the experiences and views of local communities, particularly fishing communities, on various aspects of MPA design and implementation, and suggest ways in which livelihood concerns can be integrated into the MPA programme of work with effective participation of fishing communities.

One study covered the Gulf of Mannar National Park and Biosphere Reserve, and the Malwan marine sanctuary. This study was presented at a two-day ICSF workshop on 8-9 February 2008 in Rome, Italy, prior to the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas (WGPA2) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The case study highlighted that fishing community's participation in the MPA process was inadequate, with negative implications for their livelihoods and for the success of the conservation initiative. This study was also presented at a side-event during WGPA2, attended by government delegates, FAO staff, NGOs, researchers and others. It was also made available on the website for wider dissemination.

Studies on the Gulf of Kutch Marine Sanctuary and National Park, Gujarat, and on the National Park and Biosphere Reserve in the Sunderbans, were also initiated. The case studies are proving useful in understanding the MPA implementation process in India, from a fishing community perspective, and the problems related to community participation in governance. They are to be presented at different forums to highlight the fishing community perspectives on MPAs in India. They will also be made available on the website, and brought out as reports for dissemination.

(3) WOMEN IN FISHERIES

The Documentation Centre developed an annotated, online bibliography on women in fisheries (www.icsf.net/SU/bib/WIF). The bibliography was developed for use by those interested in, or working on, women's issues in fisheries. Documents from India and other regions have been classified under eight themes: (1) Role of Women in Fisheries; (2) Role of Women in Aquaculture; (3) Status of Women; (4) Recognition and Policy; (5) Development Initiatives; (6) Globalization; (7) Struggles and Movements; and (8) Women and Resources Management. The main aim is to create greater awareness about issues facing women in fishing communities, in India and elsewhere. Information about the bibliography was widely disseminated, including through various publications and

listservs, such as SAMUDRA Report, *Yemaya*, SAMUDRA News Alerts, IIFET list serv, IAMSLIC listserv, Gender and Fisheries listserv, etc.

During this period a study on women's participation in coastal resources management in Asia, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia, was also taken up. The study has several lessons for promoting women's participation in resources management in India.

(4) ILO CONVENTION ON COMPREHENSIVE STANDARD ON WORK IN THE FISHING SECTOR

In June 2007 the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the Work in Fishing Convention, supported, among others, by India. The Convention will come into force 12 months after the date on which the ratifications of 10 Members, eight of which are coastal States, have been registered with the ILO. ICSF see engagement with the ILO process as an opportunity to focus greater attention on issues related to the conditions of work in the small-scale fisheries sector, including aspects such as safety at sea, social security, remuneration and recognition of women in shore-based fishing activities.

During the reporting period ICSF worked with fishworker groups, trade unions and others, to advocate for the formulation of national-level legislation, keeping in mind the realities the fishing sector, in order to ensure that protection is provided to all significant categories of fishers, including to shore-based workers, many of whom are women. ICSF also brought out a guidebook for fishworkers, trade unions, policy makers and other people interested in labour standards in fisheries to better understand the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007. The guidebook is also being translated into Telugu, Gujarati and Marathi, apart from French, Spanish and Arabic. Information about the Guidebook is being disseminated widely, including through various listservs. Through the Guidebook, and workshops conducted, ICSF has been able to draw attention to the need to ratify and implement the Convention, towards improving conditions of work and social security for those in the small-scale fisheries sector.

(5) TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FISHWORKER ORGANIZATIONS

ICSF held several training programmes in the reporting period, mainly on the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, and on coastal management issues. In December 2007 ICSF led a session on the ILO Convention during the fourth General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) in Sri Lanka. The WFFP has membership of fishworker organizations from India, and several other parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Trade union representatives from India and several other countries were also present. The WFFP agreed that they must work towards implementation of the Conventions at the national levels.

ICSF, in collaboration with other groups, also organized three workshops for fishworker organizations, trade unions, government officials and NGOs in Vishakhapatnam, Kolkata, and Bhubaneswar, Orissa. The training programmes on the ILO Convention were useful in creating greater awareness among trade unions, policy makers, fishworker organizations and NGOs about ILO's Work in Fishing Convention 2007. They were also useful in stimulating discussions on the kind of legislation needed at the national level,

taking into account the significant categories of workers within the fishing sector, including shore-based workers. Following the workshops, a campaign within India for ratification of the ILO Convention, and for a national legislation to protect the conditions of work of fishers in the sector, including shore-based fishers, was launched. ICSF also contributed articles on the ILO Convention to several journals, including Labour file, a bimonthly journal of labour and economic affairs.

The training modules on coastal issues were useful in providing information and facilitating discussions with fishworker groups, NGOs and other groups on the need to protect coastal resources as well as the rights of fishing communities to the coast.

(6) INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

During this period ICSF continued to monitor, analyze and disseminate information on developments in international and regional trade regimes, and the implications for small-scale fishworkers in India. ICSF provided information and analysis about the implications of fish trade regimes for small-scale fishers and fishing communities, in particular, on the implications of the subsidies negotiations at the WTO, to fishworker organizations, NGOs and government officials. ICSF also participated in meetings to discuss the position to be taken on issues of fisheries subsidies, such as the stakeholder consultation workshop conducted jointly by the Government of India and UNCTAD on 18 January 2008, in Chennai, India on "Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations: Current Status" to draft negotiating text on Fisheries Subsidies.

(7) PUBLICATION OF SAMUDRA REPORT IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH

The SAMUDRA Report, brought out three times a year, carries articles, from India and elsewhere, on issues of relevance to small-scale and artisanal fisheries in the developing world. Issues covered have included fisheries management, labour issues in fisheries, fisheries trade, gender in fisheries, coastal and marine biodiversity, rights issue in fisheries, etc. SAMUDRA Report is distributed to about 250 subscribers in India, apart from those in other parts of the world. It is also translated and printed in French and Spanish, and sent to subscribers in French and Spanish speaking countries, with the objective of raising awareness widely about issues facing small-scale and artisanal fishworkers, in India and elsewhere. SAMUDRA Report is also made available online, for wider dissemination.

The following issues of SAMUDRA Report were published between 01 November 2007 and 31 March 2008: English: 48 and 49; French: 48, and Spanish: 47 and 48. Feedback received from subscribers highlight that articles from SAMUDRA Report are often used by policy makers and fishworker organizations, to better understand the problems facing small-scale fisheries and implications of international developments in fisheries management for the national context.

(8) PUBLICATION OF YEMAYA NEWSLETTER

Yemaya, a newsletter on gender and fisheries, carries news, views and articles from organizations and individuals working on gender issues in fisheries, from India and elsewhere. The newsletter helps in creating awareness on women in fisheries issues,

initiatives being taken to support them, and helps in the exchange of information. *Yemaya* provides greater support and visibility to the organizational efforts of women of fishing communities, the issues facing them, and the need to protect their interests in the face of changes in the larger economic, technological and social context. Articles from *Yemaya*, have been reproduced in other journals, such as the women in fisheries journal of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). *Yemaya* goes to over 50 subscribers in India, and also to those in other parts of the world. It is also translated and printed in French and Spanish, and sent to subscribers in French and Spanish speaking countries, with the objective of raising awareness about the role and perspectives of women in the fisheries sector, from India and elsewhere. *Yemaya* is also made available online, for wider dissemination. During this period, the following issues of *Yemaya* were produced and disseminated: English: No 26 and 27, French: 26, Spanish: 25 and 26.

(9) DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The DC undertook activities in the following broad areas:

- Information identification, collection and documentation
- Information Dissemination

Information identification, collection and documentation

Collection and organization of information

- Documents: During this period, the DC actively sourced information on fisheries statistics, legislation, policy notes and reports from state and central government departments in India. The DC actively sourced information from fishworker organizations, NGOs, multilateral organizations, and other documentation centres on issues such as labour, MPAs, women in fisheries, fisheries trade and certification, fishing rights, etc., including from other parts of the world. The DC currently holds 49,113 records in its document database: 2,223 books, 6,803 documents, 23,100 articles indexed from journals, and 16,885 news clippings.
- Audio-visual material: The video gallery of the DC grew this year. The effort to upload information on interesting DVDs on fisheries on the website continued and information on several new DVDs were uploaded during the reporting period.

Linking with other documentation and resource centres

The DC has continued to link with other resource centres in fisheries, within India and outside, following up on the workshop “Processes of Documentation: Building Links” held in Chennai in July 2005. The DC, as part of its continuing efforts to link with other resource centers, has also maintained links with the FAO library, and the IAMSLIC Network of libraries. This helps in accessing and disseminating information through various networks.

Information Dissemination

The DC was actively involved in responding to information requests and disseminating information, as follows:

Responding to requests for information: The DC received about 100 requests for information from various users—fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, researchers, individual scholars, and ICSF members—from

India, and from other parts of the world. Requests for information were on various issues, such as community-based management, Indian fisheries, legislation, MPAs, Special Economic Zones, child labour, natural disasters, gender and fisheries, fisheries statistics and census data, destructive fishing, aquaculture, and conservation and management issues.

ICSF Website: The DC was involved in updating the ICSF website on a regular basis with information on various ICSF publications, important fisheries events, online resources and documentation database updates. The Indian Legal instruments webpage of ICSF provides full texts of fisheries legislation—marine fishing regulation acts of different maritime States, and also central legislation and policies relevant to fisheries and fishworkers in India.

ICSF Information Products: The *Film: Right to Survive: Turtle Conservation and Fisheries Livelihoods*, which looks at turtle conservation efforts along the coast of the Indian State of Orissa and examines, in parallel, the situation of artisanal fishworkers in turtle conservation areas was brought out as a shorter 35-minute version. Information about this film has been disseminated widely.

Apart from all this, the DC provided information support to various programmes taken up by ICSF, including on Marine Protected Areas, the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, and on coastal and fisheries management.

(10) OTHER ACTIVITIES

Participation in Other Meetings

- (1) ICSF chaired a session at the Special Global Symposium on Gender and Fisheries held in conjunction with the 8th Asian Fisheries Forum from 20-23 November in Kochi, India. Nalini Nayak, Neena Koshy and Katia Frangoudes also participated at this meeting.
- (2) ICSF participated in the two-day national level workshop on "Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries in Developing Countries" organized by the Bay of Bengal Inter Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) in India on 3 and 4 December 2007 as apart of their wider consultation among BOBP-IGO member countries.
- (3) ICSF participated in, and made a presentation on "Enhancing Spaces for fishing community participation in coastal development" at the "National Meeting on Combating Coastal Challenges" organized by the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) on 7 and 8 December 2007, in Chennai, India.
- (4) ICSF participated in the stakeholder consultation workshop on "Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations: Current Status" to draft negotiating text on Fisheries Subsidies, conducted jointly by Government of India and UNCTAD on 18 January 2008, in Chennai, India
- (5) ICSF participated in the Tamil Nadu state-level workshop organized by the South Indian Fishermen Federations' (SIFFS) on the sea safety awareness/ training project being undertaken by them, on 29 January 2008, Chennai, India. The workshop was co-sponsored by the FAO. ICSF also participated in several meetings on participatory fisheries resource management organized by the South Indian Federation of

Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) along the coast of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, to provide inputs on co-management, and on international experiences in fisheries management issues.

- (6) ICSF participated in the “Consultation on South Asia: Politics of Trade, Investment and Development” organized by the Focus on the Global South and made a presentation on trade liberalization in fisheries, during 18 and 19 February 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- (7) ICSF participated in a “National workshop on environmental policy integration for greening the Indian economy”, organized by the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, University of Pondicherry, India, from 29 February to 2 March 2008. A presentation was made during the parallel session on “Policies for Fisheries Sustainability and Livelihood Security”.
- (8) ICSF was invited to be on the advisory group of the Povfish project on “Unravelling the vicious circle: Poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods in small-scale fisheries”. The project, managed by the MaReMa Centre of the Norwegian College of Fishery Science, University of Tromsø, had its first meeting from 12 to 14 March 2008.
- (9) ICSF participated in the FAO Workshop on Toolbox for Applying the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, from 26-29 March in Rome, Italy, to contribute to discussions on developing the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEC	Centre for Education and Communication, India
DC	Documentation Centre
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
IAMSLIC	International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres
ILC	International Labour Conference of the ILO
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUU	illegal, unreported, unregulated
MAP	Mangrove Action Project
MPAs	marine protected areas
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UN	United Nations
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WGPA2	Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas of the CBD
WIF	Women in Fisheries
WTO	World Trade Organization