

ICSF Trust: Report of Activities: 01 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

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

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES  
APRIL 2008 TO MARCH 2009**



#### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Inter-governmental Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COFI	Committee on Fisheries of the FAO
COP9	Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
DC	Documentation Centre
ESA	Eastern and Southern African
FAO 4SSF	FAO Global Conference on "Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development"
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FSF	Federation of Southern Fisherfolk
IAMSLIC	International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
ILO	International Labour Organization
MPA	marine protected area
NFF	National Fishworkers' Forum
NGOs	non governmental organizations
SIFFS	South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies
UN	United Nations
UNTRS	United Nations Team for Tsunami Recovery Support

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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 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 follows:

**1. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

Activities undertaken have built upon, and taken forward, efforts in previous years on the issue of marine protected areas. Recognizing the need for effective management and conservation, the emphasis has been on drawing attention to the need for participatory and community-led approaches to conservation and management of marine and coastal protected areas.

ICSF organized a two-day workshop titled “Social Dimensions of Marine Protected Area Implementation in India: Do Fishing Communities Benefit?”, from 21-22 January 2009 in Chennai, to discuss the findings of case studies and of experiences of MPA implementation in India, from a fishing communities’ perspective. In preparation for the workshop detailed case studies of all major MPAs in mainland India were undertaken, and posters prepared. The 76 participants at the workshop included fishworkers, support NGOs, environmental groups, scientists and government officials. The workshop statement was endorsed by fishworkers, NGOs and environmental groups as well as scientists present at the workshop. The proceedings have been published and are available online at: <http://www.icsf.net/SU/Pro/EN/101/ALL.pdf>;

The following are the other activities that were also undertaken during the year:

- Five of the six studies undertaken on marine protected areas (MPAs) and fishing communities in 2007-08, were published and disseminated during the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and subsequently through the ICSF website. These were from Brazil, South Africa, Tanzania, India and Mexico. All studies are available on [mpa.icsf.net](http://mpa.icsf.net);
- A dossier titled "Reserved Parking: Marine Reserves and Small-scale Fishing Communities", compiling articles related to MPAs from previous issues of SAMUDRA Report, was printed and distributed during COP9;
- Information about CBD and related processes, as well as on fishworker perspectives on MPAs, was disseminated through the ICSF webpage on MPAs ([mpa.icsf.net](http://mpa.icsf.net)), through SAMUDRA Report, *Yemaya* and SAMUDRA News Alerts.

The dossier, as well as the studies on MPAs published have been useful in documenting fishing community perspectives on how marine protected areas are being implemented, highlighting problem areas as well as positive examples of community-led implementation;

The MPA workshop in India helped draw attention to the often critical livelihood and other problems facing fishing communities in marine and coastal protected areas, and to facilitate discussions on these among a broad range of participants, including policy makers. It also helped draw attention to management initiatives and governance institutions of fishworkers themselves. That a consensus statement could be adopted by groups with diverse perspectives was notable. The MPA workshop in India, including the process of preparing case studies beforehand, helped enhance the awareness of fishworker about legal and other issues in MPA implementation, and of their rights.

## **2. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FISHWORKER ORGANIZATIONS**

Based on requests from fishworker organizations, ICSF provided inputs on issues related to coastal area management, marine protected areas, and the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007. These were provided during various workshops and training programmes over the year, including workshops held specifically on the ILO Convention in four states of India. ICSF also provided inputs towards documenting the efforts of fishworkers, among other things, to demand greater protection of the coastal zone, and the recognition of the traditional rights of fishing communities to coastal resources. Inputs given during training sessions were useful in providing information on key issues, enabling fishworkers to determine their strategies and positions on issues that included coastal zone management, marine and coastal protected areas, and the ILO Convention, and to gain support for their positions.

## **3. ILO WORK IN FISHING CONVENTION**

Engaging with the ILO process related to the recently-adopted Work in Fishing Convention has been an important part of ICSF's work from 1998. ICSF saw 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. Following the adoption of the ILO Work in Fishing

Convention, ICSF brought out a "Guidebook on Understanding the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007" in English and three other foreign languages. In response to requests from fishworker organizations in India, the Guidebook has also been translated into four Indian regional languages that is, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu and Malayalam. These are all available in print and web versions, except the Malayalam version, which is available only on the web. ICSF has also provided information on the Convention during training programmes in India in response to requests from fishworker organizations.

Through the Guidebook, and through 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 sector, including the small-scale sector and shore-based fishers. Fishworkers in India and elsewhere are demanding the ratification of the Convention, as a way to ensure decent conditions of work, including social security, for those engaged in fishing.

#### **4. 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 during the year 2008-09: English: 50, 51 and 52; French: 49, 50 and 51; and Spanish: 49, 50 and 51. All the above issues of SAMUDRA Report are available on ICSF's website. The 50<sup>th</sup> issue of SAMUDRA Report carried feedback from readers (including fishworkers, leaders of fishworker organizations, supporters of fishworkers, multilateral agencies etc.) on what SAMUDRA means to them. Their comments reflect the unique niche that SAMUDRA Report has come to occupy. During this period one SAMUDRA dossier, titled "Reserved Parking: Marine Reserves and Small-scale Fishing Communities", was published, compiling articles on MPAs from earlier issues of SAMUDRA Report.

#### **5. 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. *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 (28, 29, and 30); French (27, 28, and 29); and Spanish (27, 28, and 29).

## **6. DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (DC)**

With the primary objectives of increasing awareness about developments of relevance to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers, identifying and establishing relations with other resource centres and information sources, meeting information needs of fishworker organizations and other users, raising the visibility of the small-scale sector, and providing support to ICSF programmes and membership, the DC undertook activities in the following broad areas:

- Information identification, collection and documentation
- Information dissemination

### **(i) Information identification, collection and documentation**

#### ***Collection and organization of information***

During this period, DC sourced information from fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, and other documentation centres on issues such as MPAs, women in fisheries, trade, fishing rights, small-scale fisheries etc. The DC currently holds 51,935 records in its document database: 2,472 books, 8,158 documents, 23,636 articles indexed from journals, and 17,574 news clippings. During this period the process of ranking documents was continued, to help categorize documents according to their relevance, and the document database on ICSF's website was updated with selected records.

#### ***Linking with other documentation and resource centres***

The DC, as part of its continuing efforts to link with other resource centres, has also maintained links with the FAO library, and IAMSLIC Network of libraries. ICSF Documentation Centre has contributed to the aquatic commons initiative of IAMSLIC, uploading all recently published ICSF documents in the aquatic commons repository.

### **(ii) Information Dissemination**

The DC also responded to information requests and disseminated information actively, as follows:

#### ***Responding to requests for information***

The DC received about 60 requests for information from various users—fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, researchers, individual scholars, and ICSF members. Requests for information were on various issues, such as community-based management, ecosystem-based management, statistics of fish production and trade in fish and fish production, Indian fisheries, legislation, MPAs, women in fisheries, safety at sea issues, migration issues of fishers, aquaculture, etc.

#### ***ICSF Website***

The DC was involved in updating the ICSF website on a regular basis with information on various ICSF publications, statements made by ICSF at UN meetings, statements from ICSF-organized workshops, papers and presentations made by ICSF, important fisheries events, online resources and documentation database updates. The

changes made on MPA website, Women in Fisheries website, ESA and Latin American Conference websites, etc. were anchored by the DC.

### ***ICSF information products***

The proceeding of the Workshop on “Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in Eastern and Southern Africa” were brought out and widely disseminated at the FAO 4SSF meeting. A summary of the workshop report was carried in SAMUDRA Report No. 51. ICSF put up a small poster exhibition during 4SSF conference to highlight some of the key issues facing small-scale fisheries. ICSF publications on the themes of the conference were also displayed.

Overall, the DC has been able to collect and organize information on key themes of relevance to fishworkers and fisheries, making it available on the ICSF website, especially through its thematic websites (MPAs, WIF, Arrest and Detention), and through SAMUDRA News Alerts. SAMUDRA News Alerts have increased the visibility of recent developments related to small-scale fisheries particularly in the developing world;

## **7. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### ***Participation in Other Meetings***

- ICSF participated in a workshop organized to discuss the design and development of the India Environmental Portal—a portal for Research, Education, Sustainable Use and Conservation of Environment—held in New Delhi on 10 April 2008.
- ICSF participated in training programmes of the National Fishworkers' Forum on the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, held in Gujarat, India, on 6 May and Mumbai, India, on 12 May 2008. The purpose of participation was to explain facets of the Convention as well as areas that are not protected under the Convention, and to invite fishworkers to reflect on how provisions of the Convention could be of benefit to Indian fishers, particularly to those employed in small-scale fishing operations.
- ICSF provided inputs on ILO's Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 at a workshop organized in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, on 10 June 2008.
- ICSF participated in the Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RTC-CCRF) organized by the Bay of Bengal Inter-governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, from 16 - 27 June 2008. They made a presentation titled ‘The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries: The Gender Dimension’. The meeting was held with the objective of building the capacities of fisheries officials at the middle and junior levels in the BOBP-IGO member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka), particularly to familiarize them with the objectives and principles of the CCRF, its Technical Guidelines) and IPOAs.
- ICSF participated in the Second National Meeting on “Combating Coastal Challenges” held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, from 24 – 25 June 2008.
- ICSF attended co-management cluster-level meetings held in Pondicherry, India in August 2008, facilitated by the Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL), Pondicherry. The information from these meetings was documented in a report on co-management and community-based management initiatives
- ICSF participated in the National Consultation on the World Bank Study of Indian

Fisheries Sector held in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, from 6 - 7 November 2008. The objective of this meeting was to present summary findings and recommendations to sample representative groups from Indian coastal communities, as well as State officials, academics and civil society actors (NGOs).

- ICSF participated in the “National Workshop on Extension Strategies for Fisheries Development: Reorienting the Services Delivery and Support System” from 7 - 8 November 2008, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. This meeting discussed the changing role of fisheries extension programmes for State and Central Government Institutes in India. ICSF made a presentation titled “Development to Management: New Role of Extension from Field to Lab”
- ICSF participated in a Workshop on Fisheries Co-management organized by SIFFS/ UNTRS held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, on 10 November 2008.
- ICSF participated in the southern regional consultation on "Civil Society Perspective on India's Migration Policy" held in Chennai on November 30th 2008. The regional consultation sought to identify key areas of concern regarding international labour migration that need to be reflected in the new national migration policy.
- ICSF participated in a National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), organized by the Bay of Bengal Inter-governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India from 1-2 December 2008. The meeting reviewed the status of MCS in India, assessed the gaps and drew an action plan to meet the MCS requirements of the marine fisheries sector. A presentation titled “Rights-based Management: Role of Fisher Communities in MCS in India” was made during the workshop. The importance of devolving power to fishing communities was raised in the context of co-management. Circumstances under which co-management, decentralization and centralized management could co-exist were also highlighted in the presentation.
- ICSF participated in the session on fisheries and fishing communities in Kutch at the Setu Convention of the Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan held in Kutch, Gujarat, on 30 and 31 January 2009.
- ICSF participated in the Consultation Workshop for Development of Marine Species Recovery Plans and Marine Protected Areas in India held at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun from 6 - 7 March 2009.