

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

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
01 APRIL 2010 TO 31 MARCH 2011**



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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| APRO/NIOSH | Alaska Pacific Regional Office of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health |
| ARIF | Alliance to Release Innocent Fishermen |
| BoBLME | Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem |
| BoBP-IGO | Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-governmental Organization |
| CCAs | community conserved areas |
| CCRF | Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries |
| CIFE | Central Institute of Fisheries Education |
| CIFRI | Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute |
| CMFRI | Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute |
| CMS | content management system |
| CRZ | Coastal Regulation Zone |
| CSE | Centre for Science and Environment |
| DAHDF | Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries |
| DC | Documentation Centre |
| DFID | Department for International Development |
| FIMSUL | Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods |
| IAMSLIC | International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres |
| ICSF | International Collective in Support of Fishworkers |
| ICTSD | International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development |
| IFSI | Inland Fisheries Society of India |
| IIFT | Indian Institute of Foreign Trade |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IUU | illegal, unreported and unregulated |
| MPA | marine protected areas |
| NCPC | National Coastal Protection Campaign |
| NFF | National Fishworkers Forum |
| NGO | non-governmental organization |
| PMES | Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System |
| SAWTEE | South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment |
| SIFFS | South Indian Federation for Fishermen |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| WFC | Work in Fishing Convention |
| WIF | women in fisheries |

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
APRIL 2010 TO MARCH 2011**

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;
- Highlighting the importance of small indigenous species in freshwater capture and cultures fisheries, from the perspective of food security, poverty alleviation and biodiversity.
- 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 2010 to 31 March 2011 follows:

1. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA)

The emphasis, as in previous years, was on drawing attention to the need for participatory and community-led approaches to conservation and management of marine and coastal protected areas. With this objective ICSF initiated filming for a 25-minute documentary film on the women seaweed collectors in the Gulf of Mannar National Park, in Tamil Nadu, India. The film explores the challenges facing the livelihoods of women seaweed collectors in an area declared as a national park, where extractive activities have been prohibited. The film also explores alternatives being proposed by the women, in order to ensure the sustainability of both the resources and their livelihoods. Through dialogue with different groups it attempts to portray the possible ways forward. The film is to be completed by September 2011.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FISHERIES

Given that climate change is likely to have major implications for fishing communities, particularly those living in low lying coastal and inland areas, ICSF

initiated a study on climate change and fisheries in India, to assess perceptions of fishing communities about the impact of climate variability/change on their life and livelihood; assess knowledge, institutions and practices of fishing communities of relevance to climate change preparedness; identity adaptation and mitigation measures which may need to be adopted by fishing communities and the state in relation to climate change; and propose measures to protect life and livelihood of small-scale fishing communities in the context of climate change policies and programmes at different levels. A review of literature for the study has been completed and is available online¹. The review of literature was presented at a one-day scoping workshop organized to discuss the scope and methodology of the study, on 9 February 2011, in Chennai. Participants, including scientists, policy makers, researchers, academics and people working with fishing communities, made several suggestions for the design and conduct of the study. It is expected that the study, involving extensive field work, will be completed by December 2011.

ICSF has recently set up a website on climate change and fisheries, to highlight issues affecting the fishing community due to climate change as well as proposals to protect life and livelihood of small-scale fishing communities. The site draws on in-house ICSF resources like publications, statements, presentations and audiovisual media as well as external resources.

3. WOMEN IN FISHERIES

During the reporting year ICSF continued taking forward its agenda to make visible the role of women in fisheries. Towards this, the ICSF Trust hosted the international workshop titled “Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities” from 7 to 10 July 2010 in Mahabalipuram, India

The workshop also drew on the national-level workshop that had been conducted in India in February 2010, and the background study commissioned to review relevant literature on the themes for the workshop. The Mahabalipuram workshop was organized to analyze the impact of current developments in fisheries on the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities, specifically focusing on women’s experiences, and to define an agenda and strategies for sustaining life and livelihood in fisheries into the future. Thirty-nine participants from 18 countries participated in the workshop, including fishworkers, members of fishworker organizations, fisheries researchers, academicians, policymakers and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multilateral agencies. Participants discussed and analyzed key issues facing women fishworkers and small-scale and artisanal fishing communities, as well as the strategies being adopted by them to assert their rights and defend their interests. Participants consolidated their “dreams” about fisheries that would sustain life and livelihoods in fishing communities, agreed upon a *Shared Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities* and resolved to work together to ensure that this agenda is widely disseminated, incorporated and implemented at all levels.

A webpage on the global workshop was also put up (<http://wifworkshop.icsf.net>). This provides access various resources including the proceedings, as well as reports of

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<http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/resources/usefulDocs/docs/english/%3C1297.744872338%3EICSF%20Study%20on%20Climate%20Change.pdf>

preparatory workshops. The special issue of *Yemaya* (No. 34) brought out in preparation for the Mahabalipuram workshop is also uploaded. ICSF also continued its ongoing work related to updating the women in fisheries website and the WIF bibliography.

4. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FISHWORKER ORGANIZATIONS

Based on requests from fishworker organizations and NGOs, ICSF provided inputs on issues related to coastal zone management, fisheries management and marine protected areas. These were provided during various workshops and training programmes over the year. These inputs partially contributed to enabling local organizations to finalize their strategies and proposals, with a view to ensuring the sustainable management of resources and protection of the rights of small-scale fishing communities. Fishworkers were, in particular, able to engage substantively with processes related to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, to ensure that at least some of their proposals and priorities were reflected in the final Notification brought out in January 2011. ICSF also initiated work on a primer on the CRZ Notification 2011, being prepared with the objective of promoting awareness among fishing communities and support organizations about the contents of the 2011 Notification, the role they can play in ensuring its better implementation, as well as issues of continuing concern for fishing community organizations with respect to this Notification. The draft of the primer is being circulated for comments and suggestions, and will be finalized by June 2011.

5. MONITORING OF AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

ICSF participated in *Benaqua 2010: National Seminar on Indigenous Fish and Knowledge of Fishers* held on 01 October 2010 in Kolkata, India, and made a presentation titled "Sustaining Livelihoods and Conserving Biodiversity: Role of Indigenous Fish Species in Inland Waters, India". This presentation drew on discussions at the workshop organized by ICSF, in collaboration with the Inland Fisheries Society of India (IFSI), in February 2010. The workshop *Small Indigenous Freshwater Fish Species: Their Role in Poverty Alleviation, Food Security and Conservation of Biodiversity*, was organized at the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Kolkata, India. The report of the workshop was widely disseminated to participants, researchers, policymakers and members of civil society.

6. ILO WORK IN FISHING CONVENTION

ICSF has been campaigning for the ratification and effective implementation of the 2007 Work in Fishing Convention (WFC), to ensure better protection and conditions of work for those in the small-scale sector, and for workers on board large fishing vessels. ICSF was invited to participate in two preparatory workshops on Work in Fishing Sector Convention (C-188)", one in Kochi, Kerala, held from 31 August to 01 September 2010, and the second one in Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, from 24 to 25 January 2011. These were organized jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) and the ILO. ICSF, as a member of the Task Force for Gap Analysis of ILO Convention (C-188) set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, also participated in the First meeting of the Task Force for Gap Analysis of ILO Convention (C-188) on 18 November 2010 at Delhi, organized by Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

7. PUBLICATION OF SAMUDRA REPORT

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 2010-11: English: 56, 57 and 58; French: 55, 56 and 57; and Spanish: 55, 56 and 57. All the above issues of SAMUDRA Report are available on ICSF's website.

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* 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 (34, 35 and 36); French (33, 34 and 35); and Spanish (33, 34 and 35).

9. PARTICIPATING AT UN MEETINGS

Working with UN forums like the FAO and ILO has been with the objective of influencing them to take into consideration the interests of artisanal and small-scale fishworkers, and of disseminating information on significant discussions/ decisions in these forums to artisanal fishworkers and other interested individuals and organizations. ICSF participated in the following meetings during the year:

(i) FAO Workshop on Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture, organized in co-operation with ILO, 14-16 April 2010, Rome, Italy

ICSF participated in this workshop and presented a paper titled "Children's Work and Child Labour in Fisheries"². The paper focused on the need for adopting a framework to look at children's work and child labour in fisheries and aquaculture. It also highlighted the importance of supply-side and demand-side interventions in general, and in fisheries and aquaculture in particular, towards abolition of child labour. This workshop was particularly important in the Indian context as in India like many other developing countries there is a clear differentiation between child work (which is more related to initiation training of children from fishing communities into fishing) and child labour in fisheries.

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http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/resources/presentations/pdf/english/1271409982261***Sebastian Mathew ICSF Child Labour Fisher.pdf

(ii) Twenty-Ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, 31 January- 4 February 2011, Rome, Italy

ICSF works to seek recognition of the rights of small-scale fishing communities to fisheries and other coastal resources, and their right to participate in decision-making processes. The small-scale fishworkers worldwide demanded for a rights-based approach in fisheries and adoption of an international instrument on small-scale fisheries during the 28th session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). It was also timely to take forward this work demanding an international agreement on small-scale fisheries, complementing the CCRF (Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries) during the 29th Session of the COFI as it had small-scale fisheries as its Agenda Item 10 *Good Practices in the Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries: Sharing of Experiences and Lessons Learned in Responsible Fisheries for Social and Economic Development*.

Prior to COFI, ICSF engaged in various consultations with the Indian delegation to COFI and met with officials at DAHDF, Ministry of Agriculture to advocate for greater attention to small-scale fisheries and for the need to support an international instrument on small-scale fisheries during discussions on Agenda Item 10 on *Good Practices in the Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries: Sharing of Experiences and Lessons Learned in Responsible Fisheries for Social and Economic Development*.

COFI approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries to complement the CCRF. This was welcomed by fishworker and support groups as an important step towards better recognition of, and support to, small-scale fisheries.

10. DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (DC)

The ICSF Documentation Centre has, as in previous years, been able to identify important sources of information on specific themes of interest in fisheries; establish links with other resource centres and sources of information; and source information in a timely manner, as and when needed in the required user-friendly formats.

The DC undertook activities in the following broad areas:

- (i) Information identification, collection, and collation
- (ii) Information dissemination
- (iii) Support to ICSF programmes

(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 marine protected areas (MPAs), women in fisheries, trade, fishing rights, labour and small-scale fisheries. The DC currently holds 54,891 (53,166) records in its document database: 2,759 books, 9,155 Documents, 24,426 articles indexed from journals, and 18,371 news clippings with index. The selected article database has 752 articles. The audiovisual collection has 163 DVDs/VCDs/VHFs. The DC's collection of 765 digital images was also captioned, key worded and uploaded on the ICSF website. The ICSF website and its various sub-sites were updated with selected records which were ranked and categorized.

Linking with other documentation and resource centres

The DC, as part of its continuing efforts to link with other resource centres, has maintained links with the FAO library and the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSILIC) Network of libraries. The ICSF Documentation Centre has contributed to the aquatic commons initiative of IAMSILIC, 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 55 requests for information from various users—fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, students, researchers, individual scholars, and ICSF members—from countries that included Belgium, Bangladesh, European Commission, France, India, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and United Kingdom. Requests for information for print and audiovisual resources were on various issues such as post-harvest fisheries and gender issues, fish trade and its impact on women fish traders, fish marketing, community-based management, coastal area management, working conditions on board fishing vessels, policy and legislation, coastal commons, ecolabelling, demographic and socio-economic information on fishing communities, traditional aquaculture, invasive species, fishworkers struggles, inland fisheries, maritime boundary crossing and conflicts, climate change and its impact on fisheries, fisheries management, and audiovisual materials.

ICSF Website

The DC was involved in updating the ICSF website on a regular basis with information on various ICSF publications and activities. The DC also contributed significantly to the development of the following subsites during the year: Climate Change and Fisheries; and Recasting the Net: Women in Fisheries Workshop. The DC also initiated work on putting together a bibliography on community-based management and conservation initiatives undertaken by fishing and coastal communities in different parts of the world. This database will be a useful resource, including for the various training programmes conducted by ICSF. The database will shortly be made available online for wider dissemination.

Redesign of ICSF website

ICSF initiated the process of redesigning its website to move into a content management system (CMS) framework. This is to enable ICSF to develop, design and deploy sub-sites on its own. The beta version of the new website is to be launched by November 2011.

(iii) Support to programmes of ICSF

The DC provided inputs to all ICSF programmes, including on papers and presentations prepared by ICSF staff, such as on child labour in fisheries, marine protected areas, fisheries management, labour, trade, women in fisheries, small-scale fisheries for straddling and highly migratory stocks, aquaculture and social issues in small-scale fisheries.

11. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Participation in Other Meetings

- ICSF was invited by the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) to participate in an Expert Consultation held from 13-17 April 2010 at Mumbai, India, for revision of the syllabi of its Masters and Doctoral programmes to incorporate the latest developments in the fisheries sector. ICSF suggested including a core course on issues related to social-cultural aspects of fisheries and fishing communities.
- ICSF participated in, and made a presentation during the 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 27-29 April 2010, Goa, India, organized, among others, by the International Sea Turtle Society. A screening of the ICSF film "Right to Survive" was also organized. ICSF also made a presentation at the Fisheries Day even organized prior to the Symposium.
- ICSF participated in the consultation meeting on the new Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) pre-draft notification that was organized by the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) and the National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC) on 13-14 May 2010.
- ICSF participated in the *International Dialogue on Trade, Climate Change and Poverty*, organized by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) on 20-21 May 2010 at Kathmandu, Nepal. The main objective of the dialogue was to advance the understanding of the linkages between trade, climate change and poverty. ICSF participated in the panel discussion on *Fisheries and Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities for Poor People* and also made a presentation that is available at <http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/05/venugopalan.pdf>.
- ICSF was invited to participate in the Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods (FIMSUL) Project-Inception Workshop on 20 May 2010 at Chennai, India. This project is to assist the development of a Marine Fisheries Policy framework through a stakeholder-based process that is intended to ensure sustainable management of fisheries and to enhance livelihoods for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (India). The FAO is implementing the FIMSUL project with the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (India) supported by the World Bank trust fund for tsunami recovery.
- ICSF was invited to participate in the *Indian Aqua-Invest Congress and Expo 2010 Symposia* organized by Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) in collaboration with Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), from 26-28 May 2010 at Mumbai, India. The objective of the meeting was to finalize recommendations for a fishery and aquaculture policy for India/ States, based on the regional consultations conducted earlier.
- ICSF made a presentation during the *Second Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* organized from 21 June 2010 – 4 July 2010 in Chennai, India, by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-governmental Organization (BoBP-IGO), in association with the CIFE, Mumbai and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BoBLME) Project of the FAO. The presentation was on the "Role of stakeholders in implementation of the CCRF".
- ICSF participated in the *National Consultation Workshop for Identification of Research Gaps in Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation in India*, organized by Wildlife Institute of India on 24-25 June 2010 in Chennai. ICSF also

- made a presentation titled “Research gaps in socio-economic and policy level research in India”.
- ICSF participated in the two-day Strategic Planning workshop on 22-23 July 2010 in Delhi organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF), Government of India. This workshop discussed various aspects of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) and sought the views and suggestions of all stakeholders on the effectiveness of the Central Schemes.
 - ICSF participated in the *Regional Media Briefing Workshop on Coasts, Coastal Populations and their Concerns*, held on 13-14 August 2010 at Panaji, Goa (India), organized by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and the Goa Union of Journalists. ICSF made a presentation on “Current status of coastal regulations in India: Fishing community concerns”.
 - ICSF participated in the workshop on *Fishing together in the Palk Bay: India-Sri Lanka Fishermen Dialogue* held from 20 – 22 August 2010 at Chennai, India. The three-day workshop was jointly organized by the Alliance to Release Innocent Fishermen (ARIF) and the South Indian Federation for Fishermen (SIFFS).
 - ICSF was invited to participate in FIMSUL Project *Overview, orientation and methodology development workshop - Fisheries Policy Review*, held on 28 September 2010, in Chennai, India.
 - ICSF participated in *Benaqua 2010: National Seminar on Indigenous Fish and Knowledge of Fishers* held on 01 October 2010 in Kolkata, India, and made a presentation titled “Sustaining Livelihoods and Conserving Biodiversity: Role of Indigenous Fish Species in Inland Waters, India”
 - ICSF participated in the *Conference on Progress and Protection through Geographical Indication* held on 16-17 November 2010 at Delhi, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Department for International Development (DFID), UK.
 - ICSF participated in the FIMSUL project *Overview, orientation and methodology development workshop - Fisheries Management systems*, held on 9-10 December 2010, at Chennai. The objectives of this workshop was to consider how future fisheries management options in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry can be investigated, evaluated and developed, with reference to existing knowledge, practices, systems and other international experiences.
 - ICSF was invited to participate in the *International workshop on Improving Safety and Health of Fishing Communities* held on 13-14 December 2010 in Chennai. This workshop was organized by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-governmental Organization (BoBP-IGO) in association with FAO and the Alaska Pacific Regional Office of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (APRO/NIOSH).