

ICSF Trust: Report of Activities for the period 01 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

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

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES  
01 APRIL 2012 TO 31 MARCH 2013**



**ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

BoBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Inter-governmental Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
COP	Conference of Parties
CRZ	Coastal Regulation Zone
DC	Documentation Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
ILO	International Labour Organization
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MPA	marine protected area
MCPA	marine and coastal protected area
NBA	National Biodiversity Authority
NFF	National Fishworkers Forum
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
WFC	ILO's Work in Fishing Convention
WFFP	World Forum of Fisherpeoples

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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”.

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, during this reporting year. In general, the focus was on:

- Highlighting the importance and viability of sustainable small-scale fisheries, and the need for specific support to the sub-sector;
- Highlighting the need to find a balance between livelihoods and the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity;
- Providing greater visibility to women’s roles in fisheries;
- Promoting safe working conditions for fishworkers within the framework of instruments under the International Labour Organization;
- 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;
- 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 2012 to 31 March 2013 follows:

**1. COASTAL AND FISHERIES RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

This programme is taken up with the objective of improving the sustainability and effectiveness of fisheries management by promoting responsible small-scale fisheries and the rights of small-scale fishing communities to inland, coastal and marine resources. The following activities were undertaken:

- Following the decision of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) in 2011 approving the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries to complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), ICSF worked to keep fishworker groups in India informed about progress on developing the small-scale fisheries (SSF) Guidelines. Presentations about the SSF Guidelines were made at fishworker-organized meetings. Comments were also compiled on FAO’s Zero Draft of the SSF Guidelines.
- ICSF continued efforts to analyze issues around inland fisheries in general, and rights of fishing communities to inland fisheries resources in particular. A study was initiated on the rights of inland fishing communities in relation to existing policy and legislation on fisheries, forests and wildlife. The draft report of the

study has been made available for comments and for discussions on the next steps. This work has also been helpful in providing comments related to inland fisheries on the Zero Draft of the SSF Guidelines.

- ICSF added resources to the bibliographic country-wise database on community-based management and conservation initiatives undertaken by fishing and coastal communities in different parts of the world.

## 2. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA)

Several activities were undertaken under this programme, as follows:

### *Participation in activities preparatory to CBD's COP11*

- ICSF participated in several preparatory activities in India, the host country for CBD's Eleventh Conference of Parties (COP11). In co-ordination with other civil society groups in India, ICSF developed and disseminated a position paper with proposals on improving participatory governance of marine protected areas (national parks and sanctuaries).
- ICSF contributed case studies on women seaweed collectors and on the management initiatives of fishers in the state of Maharashtra for a publication released by India's National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at COP11.<sup>1</sup>
- ICSF participate in the International Day for Biodiversity organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and the NBA in Chennai on 22 May 2012, which had a specific focus on marine and coastal biodiversity.

### *Participation at CBD's COP11, Hyderabad*

ICSF participated in processes related to marine, coastal and inland biodiversity at COP11 of the CBD held in Hyderabad from 8 October -19 October, 2012. The ICSF delegation included ICSF members and representatives from fishworker organizations. The following were the key activities undertaken:

- ICSF followed discussions on the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on inland biodiversity. ICSF highlighted the need to integrate the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, consistent with Article 8(j) and 10 (c), for the description of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs).
- ICSF organized four side-events in collaboration with other organizations, as follows:
  - The side event "Solving the Puzzle: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas", was organized in collaboration with the World Forum of Fisherpeople's (WFFP) and the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) on 11 October 2012. The award-winning documentary film produced by ICSF titled "Shifting Undercurrents: Women seaweed collectors of Gulf of Mannar, India" was officially released at the side-event. This depicts the struggles of 5000-odd women who free-dive to collect seaweeds in the Gulf of Mannar National Park in India, for their livelihoods<sup>2</sup>. The 20-minute documentary film is available in English and Tamil. The side-event also had presentation of experiences from other countries.
  - The side event titled "Traditional Knowledge and Area-based Management Measures in Marine and Coastal Ecosystems" was organized by ICSF, the

<sup>1</sup> Perumal, Thamizoli and Balakrishna Pisupati (Eds). 2012. Biodiversity and livelihoods: Experiences from India, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. Government of India.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.icsf.net/en/cds-videos/EN/article/20-women-seaweed-c.html?limitstart=0>

- Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium and the United Nations University (UNU) on 15 October 2012. The panelists at the session brought to the table an astounding variety of indigenous knowledge and practices.
- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), along with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), PondyCAN, NFF, ICSF and several other organizations in India collaborated for the side-event “Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Coastal Area Management”, on 10 October 2012. The side-event released a report “The Challenged Coast of India” and a web-based database on coastal developments in India<sup>3</sup>.
  - A side-event on Gender and Biodiversity was co-organized with Dakshin Foundation and Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), India. The side-event highlighted the important role of women in biodiversity conservation and management.
  - ICSF organized two press conferences during COP11, one on the social dimensions of MPAs and the other on climate change. These received extensive media coverage. The links are available at: <http://mpa.icsf.net/en/page/1027-Media%20coverage%20@%20COP11.html>.
  - ICSF participated in the high-level segment discussions held from 16-19 October 2012, which had coastal and marine biodiversity as one of the four issues on the agenda. The need for participatory approaches to conservation and management was highlighted.
  - ICSF brought out a CD-ROM and a memory stick with all its publications and products related to social dimensions of MPAs, for distribution to delegates at COP11.
  - The Documentation Centre of ICSF put up a stall with various ICSF publications at the People’s Biodiversity Festival organized in Hyderabad city during COP11. The festival was open to everyone including farmers, civil society groups and the general public.

#### *Follow up of India workshop held in March 2012*

The proceedings of the India workshop: “Workshop on Fishery-dependent Livelihoods, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity: The Case of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in India”, held in March 2012, was published and widely disseminated. It is available online at: <http://www.icsf.net/en/proceedings/article/EN/126-fishery-depende.html?limitstart=0>.

To follow up on deliberations at the workshop, a one-day discussion was organized in Chennai in August 2012, to explore legal options for recognition of fishing community rights in national parks and sanctuaries in India. The discussion was attended by representative from fishworker groups and of organizations working with forest-dependent communities, as well as by those with legal expertise. The discussion highlighted, among other things, the need for documentation of customary rights of fishing communities living within and around the protected areas.

### **3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FISHERIES**

The study carried out in India, titled “Climate Change and Fisheries: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities in India on Measures to Protect Life and

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<sup>3</sup> <http://maps.tiss.edu/>

Livelihood”, was published in May 2012. It was made available during the International Day for Biodiversity celebrations organized by India’s Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), in Chennai on 22 May 2012. It was officially released during a press conference at CBD’s COP11 in Hyderabad, along with video-clips of interviews with fishing community representatives about their perceptions on climate change. The study was also presented at a side-event focusing on climate change issues in India at the COP11 as well as at other forums, including the FAO’s second Workshop on Greenhouse Gas reduction in the fisheries sector in March 2013. As one of the few studies of its kind that has explored the perspectives and proposals from small-scale fishing communities, the recommendations of the study were very useful in commenting on the climate change section of the Zero Draft of the SSF Guidelines. The study can be downloaded from <http://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/121-perspectives-fr.html?limitstart=0>.

ICSF also continued to maintain the 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.

#### **4. WOMEN IN FISHERIES**

The study on challenges facing the livelihoods of women fish vendors of Mumbai was completed. The study found that women fish vendors are increasingly getting marginalized from their livelihoods due to various factors. The rapid growth of the city has meant that marketing chains have changed. Women are unable to compete against modern shops and malls that cater to an affluent middle-class. In addition, old fish markets, located on prime real estate, are being opened up for market-redevelopment under public-private partnerships which often do not offer a fair deal to women vendors.

Against this backdrop a workshop was held on 2 and 3 December 2012 in Mumbai, with participation of relevant government departments, researchers and associations representing fish vendors, to discuss the findings of the study, as well as the steps that can be taken to protect and promote decent livelihoods for fish vendors. The workshop, the first of its kind, proved useful in drawing attention to the problems facing women vendors operating in both formal and informal market spaces, and in identifying concrete proposals to protect their vending-based livelihoods. The report of the workshop is available online on ICSF’s website<sup>4</sup>.

ICSF continued to update the women in fisheries subsite<sup>5</sup>, particularly the annotated bibliography on women in fisheries, seen as an important source of information. The bibliography has nearly 300 publications listed in it under different themes.

#### **5. TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

The following activities were undertaken:

- Based on requests from fishworker organizations and NGOs, ICSF provided inputs on issues related to coastal zone management, social security schemes for fishworkers, women in fisheries, relevant laws and legislation, fisheries management and marine protected areas. These were provided during workshops

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.icsf.net/images/proceedings/pdf/english/issue\\_130/130\\_Women\\_vendors\\_WR\\_mumbai\\_290313.pdf](http://www.icsf.net/images/proceedings/pdf/english/issue_130/130_Women_vendors_WR_mumbai_290313.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://wif.icsf.net>

and training session organized over the year. The website on Indian legal instruments relevant to fisheries was updated and information from it was disseminated during sessions.

- The primer on the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 was disseminated during the year. This aims to promote awareness among fishing communities and support organizations about provisions of the CRZ Notification relevant to fishing communities, in a simplified manner.
- A discussion of the ICSF working group on training was hosted in Chennai, from 3-5 October 2012. The meeting sought to review the training programmes organized so far, and, drawing from this, to chart the strategy for the coming period.

## **6. MONITORING OF AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

ICSF highlighted issues related to small indigenous freshwater fish species, including through presentations at workshops organized by government institutions, and to monitor developments in inland and coastal aquaculture.

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

ICSF continued to advocate for the ratification and effective implementation of the 2007 Work in Fishing Convention (WFC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), to ensure better protection and conditions of work for those in the small-scale sector, and for workers on board large fishing vessels. ICSF participated at the National Tripartite Workshop on Work in Fishing Convention (WFC) No. 188 held in Goa in February 2013 organized by Ministry of Labour and Employment and ILO. India is taking steps to ratify the Convention, a move that has met with support from trade unions. ICSF also continued its efforts to disseminate information about ILOs Work in Fishing Convention (WFC), 2007 and the ICSF guide book on the WFC was translated into several languages.

## **8. LOBBYING AND RESPONSES**

ICSF monitored and prepared for key United Nations-related processes of relevance to small-scale fisheries in India, including the Rio+20 process, as well as relevant processes of the CBD and FAO.

## **9. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES**

ICSF continued to monitor developments in trade and certification and their implications for small-scale fisheries and fishing communities, including for their market access.

## **10. 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, FAOs SSF Guidelines process, 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 about issues facing small-scale and artisanal fishworkers, in India and elsewhere. SAMUDRA Report is also made available online, for wider dissemination.

Three issues of SAMUDRA Report have been produced (62, 63 and 64). All issues, in searchable format, are available online. SAMUDRA Report has carried articles on important developments and processes, such as on the SSF Guidelines and on the Rio+20 process. It remains an important source of information for and about small-scale fisheries.

#### **11. 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 80 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. *Yemaya* is also made available online, for wider dissemination. During this period, three issues of *Yemaya* were published (40, 41 and 42 in English, 39, 40 and 41 in French and Spanish).

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

The DC continued its ongoing work related to information identification, collection, and collation; information dissemination; and extending support to ICSF programmes.

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

During this period DC sourced information from fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, research institutes, multilateral organizations, and other documentation centres on issues such as fisheries management, marine protected areas and its impact on fishing communities, fisheries trade and ecolabelling, women in fisheries, post harvest fisheries, coastal area management, coastal management laws, labour laws, social security measures available to fishworkers and Government support schemes for fish vendors, fishworkers' co-operatives, fishworkers struggle, labour issues in aquaculture, including labour dimensions of industrial and small-scale fisheries, technology adaptation in marine fisheries, etc.

The DC received 134 books and 516 documents that were indexed and entered into the WinISIS database. The DC also indexed 413 journal articles and 1,353 news items from different sources. The total number of records in the database as on 31 March 2013 was 2,961 books; 9,991 documents including 205 CD-Roms; 25,179 articles indexed from journals, and 20,418 news clippings with index. The total number of records in WinISIS as on 31 March 2013 was 58,754.

In terms of audio-visual resources, the DC procured 22 general CD-ROMs and 20 documentary films. The DC has in total 206 VCDs/DVDs/VHFs. The DC's online video database with over 120 records was updated.

##### **(ii) Information dissemination**

###### *DC News Alerts*

The South Asia DC News Alerts, initiated in October 2011, presently has 1032 subscribers (in March 2012 there were 237 subscribers). The weekly News Alerts carry news articles on India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and



Afghanistan as well as press releases, petitions and other reports from fishworker organizations. The Alerts have been very well received by users.

#### *Responding to requests for information*

The DC received about 65 specific requests for information from users that included fishworker organizations, fishworkers co-operatives, NGOs, governments, intergovernmental organizations, multilateral organizations, students, researchers, individual scholars, and ICSF members. The requests came from countries that, apart from India included Bangladesh, Thailand, United Kingdom, France and USA.

Requests for information were on various issues such as census data for geo-mapping of fishing villages, impact of marine protected area on fishing communities, fisheries management and stock assessment methodology, climate change and fisheries, labour dimension in marine fisheries and aquaculture, natural disasters and its impact on land use pattern among fishing communities, trade and post-harvest fisheries including fish market designs, women in fisheries, profile of fishworker co-operatives and fishworker organizations, technological change and its impact on marine fisheries, traditional knowledge and practices related to water resources management in inland and marine fisheries, genetically modified fish and its potential impact, public land use policy etc.

#### *Information stall during CBD's COP11*

The DC put up an information stall with publications, posters and bookmarks at the People's Biodiversity Fair organized by civil society organizations in India as part of the CBDs COP11 events. This was well received by the general public that visited the fair and by COP11 delegates.

#### *Updating websites*

The DC updated the ICSF website and subsites on a regular basis with information on various ICSF publications, statements made by ICSF, statements from ICSF-organized workshops, papers and presentations made by ICSF, important fisheries events, online resources and documentation database updates. The DC also put together important judgments from court-cases in India on fisheries and fishing communities, for uploading on the Indian legal instruments website.

#### **(iii) Support to ICSF programmes**

The DC provided direct inputs to ICSF papers and presentations made during the year including on marine protected areas, forced labour, small-scale fishing community rights, labour issues, and women fish vendors. The DC also provided regular inputs to SAMUDRA Report and *Yemaya*. An important initiative of the DC was the production of the documentary film titled *Shifting Undercurrents: Women Seaweeds Collectors of Gulf of Mannar, India*. The film was shown to fishing communities in the Gulf of Mannar at a special screening, and comments and feedback received were incorporated. The DC has been involved in distributing the film to policy makers, researchers, government officials and other NGOs.

### **13. WEB DEVELOPMENT**

The re-designed of the ICSF website was completed and this was launched in April 2012. The backend maintenance is now both easier and cost-effective, allowing for instant updates on ICSF's activities.

#### 14. OTHER ACTIVITIES

##### Participation in Other Meetings

Timeline	Meeting	Activity
12-13 April 2012	National Consultation Workshop on "Coastal & Marine Biodiversity: Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities " - Gandhinagar, Gujarat, jointly organized by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and German Society for International Co-operation (GIZ).	ICSF participated and presented a paper focusing on the existing provisions in legal frameworks for community participation in conservation.
23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2012	National Fishworkers' Forum organized meeting to discuss the traditional coastal fisher people's rights to protect the environment, ecology, biodiversity and sustainable fishing in Gahirmatha (marine) wildlife sanctuary and Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary, held in Kendrapara district, Orissa, India	ICSF participated in the meeting and shared information on legal provisions relevant to marine protected areas in India.
18-20 June 2012	Second Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf Mannar Ecosystem and its resources, organized by Bay of Bengal Inter-governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.	ICSF highlighted fishing community perspectives on the Gulf of Mannar conservation aspects, in both Sri Lanka and India.
24-26 July 2012	Transboundary Policy Dialogue on Hilsa Fisheries Management organized by IUCN, in Kolkata, India	ICSF highlighted the need for fishing community involvement in research, policy decision-making and fisheries management of hilsa.
6-8 August 2012	National Workshop on Deep Sea Fisheries – Assessing the potentialities and Needs, organized by BOBP-IGO, Chennai, India	ICSF participated and a presentation was made on the 'Social support for small-scale fishers—Reassessing the needs for old age pension, savings scheme and insurance of fishers and their assets.'
11-12 September 2012	NGO Consultation on COP11 Agenda Items, organized by WWF India, in New Delhi.	ICSF made a presentation on the agenda item "Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity", highlighting the need to include indigenous peoples and local communities, traditional knowledge in the programme of work of the CBD. ICSF provided inputs to country position of Government of India, on this agenda item.
21-23 October	General Assembly of the Indigenous People's and Community Conserved	ICSF participated as a member of ICCA Consortium, and also to

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Timeline	Meeting	Activity
2012	Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium, Medak district, Andhra Pradesh, India	exchange information on community conservation initiatives in marine and coastal areas.
21 December 2012	National Task Force meeting of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project, at Pondicherry, India	ICSF participated and highlighted the need to support small-scale fisheries, particularly women from the community in the BOBLME project.
10-11 January 2013	National Strategic Workshop on Small-Scale Fisheries, Chennai, India, organized by BOBP-IGO	ICSF highlighted key proposals related to small-scale fisheries in India, and its relevance to the upcoming SSF guidelines negotiated in the FAO.
8-9 February 2013	National tripartite workshop on Work in Fishing Convention (WFC) No. 188, India, organized by Ministry of Labour and Employment and ILO, in Goa, India	ICSF highlighted the need for government of India, to ratify the WFC, and explained the various proposals in the WFC
9-11 February 2013	Public-Private partnership in aquaculture and culture-based fisheries congress, West Bengal, India, organized by Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, India.	During discussions, ICSF explained the importance of local species in inland fisheries, including in culture-based capture fisheries, and the need to promote such aquaculture practices.
18-20 February 2013	Second Meeting of the Asia Regional Initiative on Biocultural Community Protocols (ARI-BCP) in Bangalore, India, organized by Natural Justice	The meeting discussed the need to develop biocultural community protocols so as to have communities assert their rights. The meeting provided inputs as to how to prepare biocultural protocols with community participation that could also be tried with fishing communities in India.
01-02 March 2013	NRLM-UNDP National Consultation on Livelihoods in Marine Fisheries, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India	The meeting discussed the need to draw attention to livelihood support in marine fisheries. ICSF mad a presentation on a rights-based approach to fisheries livelihood.
16-17 March 2013	Invitation for national consultation on community forest rights under forest act, New Delhi, India, organized by Vasundhara and Kalpavriksh in consultation with Oxfam	ICSF participated to get a better understanding on the implementation issues in the forest rights act, and how it can be used in the context of fishing communities and access rights.