Report of Activities

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

01April 2013 – 31 March 2014



List of Acronyms

BMC Brihat Mumbai Municipal Corporation BOBLME Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem

BOBP-IGO Bay Of Bengal Programme- Inter-governmental Organization

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity

CMFRI Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

CMPA Coastal and Marine Protected Area

COFI Committee on Fisheries
COP Conference of Parties

CSE Centre for Science and Environment

CSOs Civil Society Organizations DC Documentation Centre

DHAN Development of Humane Action

DISHA Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action

DMF Dakshin Banga Matsyajibi Forum

DOF Department of Fisheries

EAF Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

FIMSUL Fisheries Management for Sustainable Livelihoods

FWOs Fishworker Organizations

GIZ German Society for International Co-operation

HLPE High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

ICSF International Collective in Support of Fishworkers

MFF Mangroves for the Future

MoEF Ministry of Environment and Forests

MPAs Marine Protected Areas

NCPC National Coastal Protection Campaign NGOs Non governmental organisations NFF National Fishworkers Forum

PAC Public Affairs Centre

PAD People's Action for Development

RFMOs Regional Fisheries Management Organizations RFTU Ramnad District Fishworker's Trade Union SEWA Self Employed Women's Association

SSF Small-Scale Fisheries
WFC Work in Fishing Convention

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF) Trust Report of Activities 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

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, including inland fisheries;
- Highlighting the need to find a balance between livelihoods and the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity through training programmes;
- Documenting the traditional knowledge of fishing communities
- 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.

There has been an emphasis on training and capacity building during this year. Training programmes for fishing communities was organized as part of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project in India. As part of the project, training material were also prepared for fishing communities in India and distributed.

The following activities were undertaken during the year 2013-14:

I. RIGHTS TO RESOURCES

With the objective of improving the effectiveness of fisheries management by promoting responsible SSF and advocating for policies that recognize the rights of small-scale and traditional fishing communities to fisheries resources, as well as their rights to manage these resources, within a human-rights approach to fisheries, the following activities were undertaken:

1.1 COASTAL AND FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

(i) Disseminating information on the SSF Guidelines process

- As part of the materials prepared for training programme, ICSF produced a brochure on small-scale fisheries in English, Bengali, and Tamil¹ and a leaflet on the SSF guidelines (English, Bengali, Telugu and Tamil)². This was widely distributed to members of fishing communities, as well as to different government institutions.
- The Documentation Centre of ICSF helped in putting together comments on the Draft (V0) Report on the Role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition being prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

(ii) Inland Fisheries

- A draft report based on analysis of the issues around inland fisheries in general, and rights
 of fishing communities to inland fisheries resources in particular, was prepared and
 circulated to CSO groups in India for comments. Based on the comments received, a
 small workshop is planned for the second half of 2014, to discuss strategies in relation to
 inland fisheries in India.
- ICSF has also been working with fishworker organizations on the implications of the new Hilsa regulation and management in India. An analysis of the Hilsa regulations in West Bengal, is to be undertaken in June 2014.

(iii) Communication, Documentation and Training

- A new sub-site focusing on the SSF guidelines (igssf.icsf.net), containing information on the SSF Guidelines process as well as a bibliography and information on relevant legal frameworks, was launched in April 2013. The site provides updated information on the negotiations.
- ICSF regularly updates its bibliography on its subsite on community based resource management and traditional governance initiatives (community.icsf.net)
- ICSF also developed a pictorial training material on ecosystem approach to fisheries management as part of the ICSF-BOBLME initiated training activity in six languages (English, Bangla, and Tamil).³

1.2. MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

This programme seeks to draw attention to community initiatives that promote conservation, sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources, promote awareness about negative social and environmental implications of exclusionary approaches to coastal and marine conservation and management, and develop the capacity of fishworker and support organizations to ensure that conservation and management initiatives are implemented in socially-just ways. During the reporting year key activities undertaken included the following:

(i) Follow up on India case studies

• ICSF also followed-up on earlier activities in India on protected areas, including through a visit to the Malvan (marine) wildlife sanctuary to understand recent developments and their implications for fishing communities.

¹ http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1050-Small-scale%20fisheries.html

² http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1049-Guidelines.html

http://www.icsf.net/images/EAF_Booklet_27-11-13_AGA%202.pdf

- As part of the training programmes, ICSF has also been following up its activities in Gulf of Mannar and Sundarbans. ICSF has been actively engaging with the fishing communities in both these areas, to document their use of resources. These two regions, were also part of the ICSF training programmes organized under the BOBLME project (see Training Programme). These proposals are to be further discussed with the respective government representatives from these areas.
- ICSF participated in various meeting organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for implementation of its project 'Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA)' in India. As part of the programme a field visit was also organized to Germany. ICSF's presentations have called for a review of the legal and governance process, including a review of existing MPAs, before any new process is initiated in India. They also highlighted need for employing participatory mechanisms for any interventions taken up under this project. ICSF has also been following on the methodologies developed under the project for socio-economic studies initiated.

Studies

- ICSF initiated a case study in India to document the traditional knowledge and customary use of fishing communities in Sundarbans and their perspectives on resource management. The draft report of the study was submitted in February 2014, highlights the traditional use of natural resources by fishing communities in Sundarbans, especially the historical records on this, and the knowledge of communities on the habitat and species. The study was subsequently discussed with fishing communities in Sundarbans at a two-day workshop organized in Kolkota, in 24-25 March 2014. The final study will be published in June 2014.
- ICSF has also initiated translation of a study on documentation of traditional knowledge of fishing communities in Kerala, India from Malayalam to English. The study is expected to be completed by July 2014. The study documents the fishing community's knowledge on reef biodiversity, ocean currents, and navigational methods, besides others.
- As part of the training programme component under BOBLME, ICSF has also initiated a study to document traditional knowledge of fishing communities and their use of resources in Gulf of Mannar, India. This study includes detailed documentation and development of marine biodiversity registers, along with information on habitat. The study is expected to be completed by June 2014.
- ICSF organized a screening of the film *Shifting Undercurrents- Seaweed Collectors of the Gulf of Mannar* for fishing communities of Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu on 2 May 2013. There was an overwhelming response from the fishing community to the film. The film was also screened during the CMS Vatavaran International Environment and Wildlife Film Festival organized in New Delhi, India from 1-3 February 2014. Besides the screening of the film, there was also a panel discussion on participatory conservation measures in India, in which fishing communities from the Gulf of Mannar were speakers as well.
- ICSF updated the bibliography on its sub-site on marine protected areas (mpa.icsf.net)

II. WOMEN IN FISHERIES

2. WOMEN IN FISHERIES

Towards promoting organizational capacity of women of fishing communities and policy recognition of their role in fisheries, ICSF took up several activities during the reporting year:

(i) Women in Fisheries India

- ICSF published the report of the study on challenges facing the livelihoods of women fish vendors of Mumbai in English, with a summary in Marathi (to make it accessible to the local women fishworkers)⁴. The report of the workshop on women fish vendors in Mumbai was also published. Both these publications were circulated to different government departments in Maharashtra and other states in India.
- ICSF worked with the women fish vendors in Mumbai, to enhance their capacities to organize themselves into fishworker organizations. An exposure programme was organized in September 2013, to enable women to learn from other organizational experiences and a team of seven women visited the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Gujarat for this purpose⁵.
- ICSF facilitated an active dialogue between women vendors and the fisheries department in Maharashtra, India on support schemes required for women fish vendors. This was the first time that women fish vendors in Mumbai, were having a dialogue with the Government. As part of the preparation for this dialogue, ICSF compiled a draft booklet on welfare schemes for women fishworkers in different parts of India. This was also a useful resource for the fish vendors congress organized in West Bengal in May 2013.
- ICSF helped in the documentation of the mapping of fish markets in Mumbai city, along with leaders from fishworker organizations and co-operatives, and the municipal corporation of Mumbai, as part of the process of finalizing Mumbai's Development Plan for the coming period⁶. The initiative was undertaken based on a request from the fish vendors to the Brihat Mumbai Corporation to formulate a plan for fish markets in Mumbai. The BMC in turn initiated a study, along with fish vendor leaders. It is important to note that this is the first time such a study has been initiated for the whole of Mumbai.
- Besides, this ICSF has also been actively participating in meetings within India, on organizing women fish vendors especially in West Bengal, Odisha and Tamil Nadu⁷.

Women in fisheries website

ICSF's regularly updated its women in fisheries sub-site (wif.icsf.net), in particularly the annotated bibliography on women in fisheries, seen as an important source of information.

UN processes

ICSF DC also sent its comments specifically on women in fisheries issues, on the Draft (V0) *Report on the Role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition* being prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

⁴ http://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/132-women-fish-vend.html?limitstart=0

⁵ http://www.icsf.net/yemaya/article/EN/44-2001.html?lang=en

⁶ http://www.icsf.net/yemaya/article/EN/45-2034.html?lang=en

⁷ http://www.yugabda.com/city.aspx?id=62

III. CLIMATE CHANGE

3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FISHERIES

ICSF undertook the following activities to draw attention to the experiences, perceptions and proposals of fishing communities in relation to climate change:

(i) Study on Climate Change and Fisheries in India

- ICSF disseminated and drew attention to proposals from ICSF study on *Climate change and fisheries: Perspectives from small-scale fishing communities in India*. A film, based on the study, is being produced, with a focus on two states in India (Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh). The film documents the perspectives of fishing communities on climate change, especially focusing on impacts and adaptation. The film was documented with the active cooperation of fishworker organizations in India, along with government research institutions. The film is expected to be completed by July 2014.
- An executive summary of the India study has been prepared, and is currently being translated into Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi and Bengali for further dissemination to communities.
- ICSF also presented its study in number of forums, including at a panel discussion in CMS Vatavaran in New Delhi, in January 2014.

(ii) Climate change website

ICSF has been regularly updating its sub-site on climate change (climatechange.icsf.net) with bibliographic information from various sources. Besides this, articles and news items have also been carried in ICSF publications such as Yemaya, SAMUDRA Report, DC news alerts and SAMUDRA News Alerts⁸

IV. LABOUR

4. ILO WORK IN FISHING CONVENTION

During the year, ICSF has been seeking for the wider ratification and national-level implementation of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Work in Fishing Convention (WFC), 2007 and enhancing the capacity of fishworkers and support groups to seek implementation of the Convention. One of the key areas of focus has been on forced labour and migrant labour in the fishing sector. ICSF has also carried articles on forced and migrant labour in SAMUDRA Report, especially focusing on labour conditions on-board fishing vessels in New Zealand and Thailand⁹. ICSF updated the bibliography on the labour sub-site of ICSF with interesting and relevant documents and books (http://labour.icsf.net)

V. AQUACULTURE

5. POLICY ADVOCACY AND MONITORING OF AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

⁸ http://mangroveactionproject.org/the-map-news-323rd-ed-14-september-2013

⁹ http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/65-3891-Comment.html, http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/65-3893-Forced-into-Sla.html, http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/66-3936-Decent-Work,-De.html, http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/67-3979-Comment.html, http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/67-3986-United-We-Fight.html;

 $https://www.empowerwomen.org/\sim/media/Files/UN\%20Women/Knowledge\%20Gateway/ResourceFiles/2014/01/24/19/23/FAO\%20fishery.ashx$

This programme seeks to increase understanding about developments related to aquaculture and its implications for rural communities and their food security and to enhance the capacity of fishworker and support groups to advocate for responsible aquaculture practices. ICSF has provided comments on the agenda documents for the Sub-committee on Aquaculture meeting, to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India, and also participated in the subsequent discussions in New Delhi, India. ICSF participated in meetings in India to highlight issues such as the importance of local species that can contribute to food security, and the need for local communities to have rights to common water bodies. ICSF monitored developments in aquaculture and disseminated information on relevant developments, including in relation to small-scale aquaculture, through *Yemaya*, SAMUDRA Report and SAMUDRA News Alerts. ICSF commented on aquaculture-related aspects contained in Draft (V0) *Report on the Role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition* being prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

VI. TRADE

6. TRADE AND SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

ICSF monitored developments in ecolabelling and certification, and disseminated information through SAMUDRA Report, *Yemaya* and SAMUDRA News Alerts.

7. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FWOS

With the objective of enhancing the capacity of fishworker and support organizations to engage with fisheries issues affecting their lives and livelihoods, the following activities were undertaken:

In India, seven training programmes were organized in the Sundarbans region in the eastern state of West Bengal (from 26 November 2013- 10 February 2014). The decisions/resolutions arrived at these programmes were discussed at a two-day workshop in Kolkata, India (24-25 March 2014). The training programmes helped identify these and therefore allowed DISHA, DMF, ICSF Trust and the community identify issues that could be taken forward as a collective. The two-day follow up workshop was therefore required for this purpose of clarifying common issues and ways and means to address them. The workshops in total had 491 participants -360 men and 131 women. A set of framework questions, addressing fishers experience and proposals for governance measures, were circulated to the local workshop organizers, before the local workshops for preparing the participants. Five of the workshops were held for communities living near the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, while two was organized for communities living in the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve. In the Sundarbans the focus was on ascertaining fishers' opinion on governance and management of the Sundarbans and enhancing their capacity to develop proposals for sustainable use, conservation and management of resources in the Sundarbans. The workshops in total had 491 participants –360 men and 131 women. A set of framework questions, addressing fishers experience and proposals for governance measures, were circulated to the local workshop organizers, before the local workshops for preparing the participants. The march workshop helped in consolidating the proposals from the community for sustainable use, conservation and management of resources in sundarbans, including on access rights. The final decisions were focused on: fishers role in policy making and governance; core area; Boat Licence Certificates (BLCs); fishing bans; welfare schemes¹⁰; fisher identity cards; compensation for tiger attacks; fishing practices; alternative livelihoods; relations with the forest department; honey collection and implementation of the legal provisions including forest rights act.

In the Gulf of Mannar in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, training programmes were conducted at two locations - Pamban (23-24 October 2013) and Ramanathapuram (25-26 October 2013). In the Gulf of Mannar, ICSF Trust has been working with the Ramnad District Fishworker's Union (RFTU), and with People's Action for Development (PAD) for several years and the fishing community, in spite of being scattered geographically, are politically and socially more cohesive than in the Sundarbans, hence the issues and problems were quite well known to all participants. The focus here was more on developing community-led proposals for resource management. While the community have engaged with the government agencies at different fora and at various levels, there has not been much progress in working on community-led management systems until now; it has always been a government-led process on management. The fishing community now plans to dialogue with the State, armed with the community's proposals for resource management and governance. Officials from forest and fisheries departments also attended the final session of the training programme and responded positively to the demands and management plans proposed by the community. The two workshops had 187 participants. In both meetings, participants were divided into groups; two groups in the first location and three groups in the second location according to their livelihood activities. In the first location the groups were fishers and seaweed collectors and in the second location there was a group of sea cucumber collectors too in addition to the other two groups. Each group had brainstorming sessions and discussions on various issues like access to the islands, fishing ban period, the nature of the fishing gears, how to protect endangered species, community regulations etc. The three groups came up with a set of decisions/recommendations on various topics: existing regulations, new regulations that need to addressed for sustainable use of resources, monitoring and voluntary compliance of regulations, conflict resolution and dispute settlement.

8. PUBLICATION OF SAMUDRA REPORT IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH

ICSF has sustained the timely publication of SAMUDRA Report in English, in India during this reporting period. Two issues of SAMUDRA Report have been produced (65 and 66) in English. All issues, in searchable format, are available online. SAMUDRA Report has carried articles on India, as well as important developments and processes, such as on the SSF Guidelines, migrant labour, forced labour, aquaculture, MPAs, and fisheries management. It remains an important source of information for and about small-scale fisheries. Table of Contents alerts for SAMUDRA Report was designed and developed in ICSF website, to automatically send the contents to all subscribers of SAMUDRA Report. This will be undertaken from July 2014.

Activities not undertaken

During this period, SAMUDRA Report No. 67 could not be published before its scheduled time of March 2014, due to unexpected circumstances; however the issue will be published in April 2014. No new SAMUDRA Dossiers were brought out. However, SAMUDRA Report articles

¹⁰ The Government of India and the Government of West Bengal offer several welfare schemes for fishers however in many places there are problems with effective implementation of the schemes.

were mapped to thematic websites such as the new sub-site on community-based resource management, and to other existing sub-sites.

9. YEMAYA

The timely publication of *Yemaya* in English, in India, was sustained in the reporting period. *Yemaya* is also available online. Several articles have reported on grassroot organizational processes and on women leaders in different countries. *Yemaya* remains the only newsletter on gender in fisheries at the international level. During this period, two issues of Yemaya were published (43 and 44) in English. Table of Contents alerts for *Yemaya* was designed and developed in ICSF website, to automatically send the contents to all subscribers of *Yemaya*. Yemaya carried number of articles, especially on women fish vendors from India.

Activities not undertaken

During this period, *Yemay*a Issue No.45 could not be published before its scheduled time of March 2014, due to unexpected circumstances; however the issue was published in May 2014.

10. DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (DC)

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

The DC undertook the following activities:

Information identification, collection and documentation

Collection and organization of information

During this period, DC sourced information from FWOs, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, and other documentation centres on issues such as property rights, commons, fisheries development, Labour, MPAs, women in fisheries, trade, fishing rights, migrant labour management in fisheries, and small-scale fisheries. DC has received on gratis/exchange/from conferences/workshops attended by ICSF staff/members 117 books and 34 documents from various organizations and downloaded more than 350 documents from emails/links sent by ICSF Members and staff. The DC currently holds 59,948 records in its document database: 3,128 books, 10,396 Documents, 230 CD-Roms, 25,564 articles indexed from journals, and 20,630 news clippings. The selected article database has 1046 articles. The audiovisual collection has 237 DVDs/VCDs/VHFs.

The DC has identified, ranked and categorized (purely ICSF ranking and categorization based on its perspectives on issues regarding small-scale fishing sector) useful books and documents. Information on such ranked and categorized papers has been uploaded on a regular basis through the ICSF website under useful books and documents list. This list is also circulated internally in ICSF, including to ICSF members.

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, WIOMSA, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO and ILO. The DC has contributed to

the aquatic commons initiative of IAMSLIC, uploading all ICSF publications in the aquatic commons repository¹¹.

Information Dissemination

The DC also responded to information requests and disseminated information actively. The DC received about 94 requests for information from various users—FWOs, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, students, researchers, individual scholars, and ICSF members—from countries that included Canada, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, India, South Africa, Malaysia, Myanmar and agencies like FAO and ILO. Requests for information for print and audio-visual resources were on various issues including on women in fisheries, fishing methods and impact of bottom trawling on seabed, fisheries legislation, MPAs, fisheries statistics, coastal area management, climate change and its impact on fisheries livelihoods and coastal fishing communities, aquaculture and its impact, trade agreements and its impact on fisheries, post-harvest trade and design of fish markets, traditional and ecological knowledge of fishing communities, best practices in labour management and living condition of migrant labourers, and SSF Guidelines.

The DC also received requests from various organizations including ILO for photographs and videos in the database. All the ICSF films were also made available on youtube ¹² and disseminated widely among ICSF members, research institutions and multilateral agencies through SAMUDRA News alert and DC News alert.

ICSF Website

The DC updated 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 DC also contributed significantly to the development of the following sub sites: DC News alerts page on Documentation centre and small-scale fisheries webpage.

The ICSF website (main website) received over 1.2 million hits. Besides this, all subsites together received over 2.6 million hits. Links to the ICSF website, the international fisheries legal instruments website and other subsites has been given by several sites, documents and articles¹³.

12 https://www.youtube.com/user/ICSFindia

http://lppm.widyamataram.ac.id/posts/Pengabdian-Kepada-Masyarakat/pengembangan-masyarakat-partisipasi-wanita-nelayan-dalam-pengembangan-wisata-kuliner-dan-ekonomi-kreatif

¹¹ http://aquaticcommons.org

¹³http://genderaquafish.org/category/organisations-and-people/organisations/icsf/;
http://timun.gen.tr/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GA4-Fishing-Research-Report-1.pdf;
www.fishallocation.com/papers/pdf/papers/TraceyMacDonald.pdf;
http://www.apfic.org/attachments/article/104/APFIC-14-INFO_10%20EEAFM(comp).pdf;
http://www.marecentre.nl/people_and_the_sea_7/documents/MARE_Programme_Book.pdf;
https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/2013_ead_report_final_webversion.pdf; http://fishlaw.org/tag/small-scale-fisheries/;http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/PageFIles/535195/Transforming%20Tuna%206pp%20briefing_online
150.pdf; http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3824874/; http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/project/53BA596B-2030-438C-A5A4-D770FE5A0E4A; http://lawanddevelopment.net/img/2013papers/LorenzaPaoloni-AntonioOnorati.pdf;
http://www.epossociety.org/epoc2013/Papers/Jordan_JavernickWill.pdf;

DC News Alerts

The DC disseminates news related to south Asian Indian fisheries through both daily alerts and weekly digests to ICSF India members, FWOs, NGOs, researchers, fisheries colleges, Departments of Fisheries, etc. The DC News Alerts for South Asia has over 1300 subscribers. These Alerts are also further circulated amongst various email groups such as the Andaman and Nicobar Network, Forest Rights, NCPC coastal campaign, Ecooceanos¹⁴ and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). The feedbacks received from subscribers are very positive and encouraging about the usefulness of the alert. The DC News Alerts was manually sent during the reporting period, however from March 2014 onwards, it is also available on DC sub-site (dc.icsf.net) and Indian fisheries sub-site (indianfisheries.icsf.net) of ICSF.

Documentary film

The DC was actively involved in disseminating the film on women seaweed collector of Gulf of Mannar "Shifting Undercurrents", screenings were organized for fishing communities in the villages, and their feedback was received.

An important initiative of the DC was the involvement in pre-production work of the documentary film on Climate change and its impact on fishing communities including arranging interviews with organizations like INCOIS, CMFRI in India and liaison work with fishworker organizations and other stakeholders. The film is going to be completed by the July 2014. The DC has been actively involved in distributing the film to policy makers, researchers, government officials and other NGOs.

Support to ICSF programmes

The DC provided inputs to all ICSF programmes, including on papers and presentations prepared by ICSF staff, SSF negotiation, comments on High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition's (HLPE's) study on The Role of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for food security and nutrition, women in fisheries, aquaculture and online bibliographies on different subsites.

¹⁴ http://www.ecoceanos.cl/news/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=373:noticias-de-pesca-de-india-bangladesh-pakistan-por-el-colectivo-icsf&Itemid=566

List of other Meetings Attended during 2013-14

Timeline	Meeting	Objective	Activity
9-11 May 2013	Fish vendors rights conference and fish vendors rights workshop, organized by DMF at Kontai in East Midnapore district in Kolkata, West Bengal, India		ICSF shared experiences of working with Mumbai fish vendors and stressed on the need to develop a comprehensive fish vendors policy at the national level.
13-14 May 2013	Project Planning Workshop for upcoming Indo-German project titled Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPAs)', New Delhi, India	Set the agenda for the project	Create awareness among policy makers and governments on fishing community perspectives on MPAs, and existing legal frameworks in India that recognize rights of fishing community
21 May 2013	Engendering the Development plan" organised by Akshara in Mumbai, India		ICSF spoke on access and safety of public spaces from the fisherwomen's perspective and gave suggestions on Development plan.
17-18 June 2013	Climate change and livelihoods in the Gulf of Mannar region, organized by PAC, Bangalore and BOBP- IGO, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India	To discuss the impacts of climate change on livelihoods in Gulf of Mannar	ICSF provided inputs based on its climate change study on perspectives and proposals to address climate change. Also provided feedback on the methodology, socioeconomic data, and the focus of the analysis of the study
26 June 2013	Consultation on livelihoods problems of marine fisher women in Odisha coast, Bhuvaneshwar, Odisha, India	To enhance the capacities of women fishworkers in Orissa, and to understand the livelihood problems	ICSF provided inputs on its activities in Maharashtra, India. Information was also provided on the welfare schemes for women fishworkers in other states in India.
9-13 July 2013	Agricultural Biodiversity Community working conference, organized by DHAN Foundation and OXFAM-NOVIB/HIVOS, Madurai, India	Formation of the agricultural biodiversity network community	ICSF highlighted the importance of freshwater culture especially of small-indigenous fish species that are important from nutritional aspect
30 July 2013	National Stakeholder Consultation on Preparation of Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and Updation of National Biodiversity Action Plan, New Delhi, India	To discuss the goals and objectives of India's national biodiversity action plan	ICSF highlighted the importance of integrating the national goals with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, especially on participatory conservation
30 September 2013	Fisheries and human well- being in Gulf of Mannar, organized by NCSCM,	To discuss the findings of a study on fisheries and human well-being	ICSF participated and discussed the need to include the various groups of fishworkers including

Timeline	Meeting	Objective	Activity
	Chennai, India		women seaweed collectors in the study, and the various impacts of the protected areas. ICSF also screened the film "Shifting undercurrents"
3 October 2013	National Task Force meeting of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME), Chennai, India	To discuss the activities of BOBLME in India	ICSF highlighted the various activities it has initiated under the BOBLME projects, and also the draft SSF guidelines
27 October – 1 November 2013	Exposure visit to Germany organized by GIZ, on behalf of BMU, Hamburg., Kiel, Brenann, Germany	To observe the various initiatives taken by the German government for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity	ICSF's intervention called for the involvement of community and other stakeholders in decision-making processes (on MPAs etc.).
28-30 October 2013	Exploring Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management and the Management of Bycatch, organized by MFF-IUCN- MOEF, Cochin, India	To discuss measures for fisheries management and bycatch management in the region	ICSF made a presentation on Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity: What role can traditional knowledge of coastal communities play?
21 November 2013	CMFRI Training programme for fisheries officials, Cochin, India	To train fisheries officials in India on various aspects of fisheries management	ICSF participated as a resource organization and made a presentation on the regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in the Indian Ocean region, their role and functions
10 December 2013	Consultative meeting on structure and implementation of baseline surveys for the CSM-CMPA Project of the GIZ, Chennai, India	To discuss the structure and format for baseline surveys	ICSF highlighted the need to have community participation in the baseline survey and the need to broaden the social aspects
15 December 2013	International Training Programme on Fisheries Management, organized by Indian Ocean Rim Association, Cochin, India	Enhance capacity of policy makers, researchers	ICSF participated as resource person and made presentation on "An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management". Attention was drawn to ICSF's illustrated handbook on the EAF approach
20-21 January 2014	Coastal zone management in South Asia, organized by CSE, Pondicherry, India	To look at the coastal zone issues and management in South Asian countries	Workshop provided an overview of legal frameworks on coastal management in the region and the threats faced by the ecosystem and communities
29-31 January 2014	Inception Workshop of the Technical Co-operation Programme on Support to the Implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management for Sustainable	Introduction to the FIMSUL project	Workshop facilitated discussion on how the project should be implemented

ICSF Trust Report of Activities: 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

Timeline	Meeting	Objective	Activity
	Livelihoods (FIMSUL), Chennai, India		
1-2 February 2014	Coastal and Marine Lawn's session(s) at 7th Competitive CMS VATAVARAN film festival, 2014, New Delhi, India	Educational programme to reach out to citizens on conservation and importance of ecosystems	ICSF participated as 'knowledge partner' in two of the sessions on coastal and marine biodiversity, and highlighted the need to include communities in decision making. ICSF film on women seaweed collectors was screened during the festival, and won an award as well.
8 March 2014	Expert Consultation on Possible Livelihood Interventions for empowering Women in Fisheries at Nagapattinam.		ICSF shared strategies used by women vendors in Mumbai for strengthening livelihood of fisherwomen