

Report of Activities

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015



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
COMPA	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
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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, 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. Besides this, 2014 was a very significant for ICSF Trust, with the adoption of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF Guidelines), in June 2014. In July 2014, ICSF Trust hosted an international workshop on the implementation of these SSF Guidelines in Pondicherry, India. Besides this, in January/February 2015 six state level consultations (West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry), and one sub-national level (East Coast of India) workshop was organized as part of the three national programme supported by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) programme, in March 2015. These workshops were highly participatory in nature, and included representatives from different State and Central government Ministries and departments, civil society organizations, fishworker organizations, academicians and research institutes.

The following activities were undertaken during the year 2014-15:

I. RIGHTS TO RESOURCES

The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication was adopted at the 31st session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 31) in June 2014 at Rome. The implementation of the SSF Guidelines was one of the key major focus areas of ICSF Trust during the year.

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) Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

- ICSF Trust along with ICSF helped in hosting a workshop titled “Towards Socially Just and Sustainable Fisheries: ICSF Workshop on Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication”, at Pondicherry, India, from 21-24 July 2014. Dedicated to Chandrika Sharma, this workshop was the first initiative to analyze and discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, 71 participants from 20 countries attended - representatives of fishing communities, fishworker organizations (FWOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs). The report of the Pondicherry workshop is published online at <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1058-Report.html>, and has been distributed in paper form, notably to participants at the FAO GAP workshop in December 2014. As preparation for the workshops, a simplified and summarized version of the Guidelines has been produced in English and distributed in local languages.
- As part of the training programme, ICSF Trust organized workshop to discuss the implementation of the SSF guidelines in March 2015 (reported under Training Programme).
- ICSF Trust has also been requested to provide comments by the government of India, on the agenda papers for Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Committee on Food Security (Report of the High Level Panel of Experts on fisheries and food security), Meenakumari committee report on deep-sea fishing) and the recent technical report on uniform ban on fishing in the east and west coast of India. These comments have been widely circulated.

(ii) Disseminating information on the SSF Guidelines process

- As part of the materials prepared for training programme, ICSF Trust produced a simplified version of the SSF Guidelines in English, Bengali, Hindi, Telugu, Odiya and Tamil¹. This was widely distributed to members of fishing communities, as well as to different government institutions.

(iii) Inland Fisheries

¹ <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1064-Publication.html>

ICSF initiated a study in India focusing on documenting tenure systems in inland fisheries in two States (Bihar and West Bengal); field trips have been undertaken to both these places and the results of the study will be discussed in the upcoming workshop on implementation of the SSF guidelines to be organized for the east coast States of India in March 2015. A report of the field visit and the study will be available in April 2015

(iv) Communication, Documentation and Training

- The sub-site focusing on the SSF guidelines (igssf.icsf.net), containing information on the SSF Guidelines process, has been updated ICSF regularly updates its bibliography and documents published during the implementation workshops

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

- 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).
- In collaboration with the BOBLME project, and building on its work on marine protected areas in India, ICSF along with the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission organized a half day workshop in Chennai, India, to discuss the conflicts between conservation and livelihoods in Gulf of Mannar National Park. This was seen as one step in getting the different departments to come together and to discuss issues. This workshop was attended by representatives from the forest and fisheries department, along with fishing community representatives and researchers. The women seaweed collectors of Gulf of Mannar presented their problems in the meeting, and their demand for an identity card for themselves was accepted at the meeting, along with other recommendations for wider consultation with fishing communities. ICSF facilitated the complete process and has followed the implementation of the recommendations from this workshop both with the government representatives and fishing communities.

Studies

- ICSF completed a case study entitled “The Sundarbans Fishers: Coping in an Overly Stressed Mangrove Estuary”, which documents traditional knowledge and customary use in fishing communities. It is available online at <http://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/143-coping-in-an-ov.html?limitstart=0> . It is the first time such a study has documented the traditional knowledge and the historical use of Sundarbans natural resources from a fishing community perspective. The study has been widely circulated to a large number of research institutes, government institutions includes fisheries and forest departments, as well to fishing communities.

- A report entitled “A Participatory Study of the Traditional Knowledge of Fishing Communities in the Gulf of Mannar, India has been published, which documents traditional knowledge of fishing communities in Gulf of Mannar. The fishing communities were actively involved in mapping their fishing grounds around two of the islands that come under a protected area. The report, undertaken in collaboration with the BOBLME project ” is available online at <http://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/141-a-participatory.html?limitstart=0>.
- The study highlights the richness and importance of the traditional knowledge of local communities on the biological and geo-morphological aspects of the ecosystem for managing their fisheries. The study also highlights how the knowledge is used as a central part of participatory decision-making processes in these communities. It is through such local processes that the traditional knowledge of local communities can be used in the governance and management of marine and coastal resources, thereby contributing towards the sustainable use and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. The challenge is to get the fisheries authorities to recognize this.

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**

India

- ICSF engaged actively with women fish vendors and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to map fish markets in Mumbai, India. The mapping survey found that while Mumbai city has formal markets, suburban areas are covered largely by informal markets. There are 30 formal markets in Mumbai city while there are 22 in western suburbs and only twelve in eastern suburbs. For the first time, the study documented the formal and informal fish markets in Mumbai city. Though the formal fish markets have been initially documented, this study extended it further to include all formal fish markets and informal fish markets as well. The recommendations of the study will be represented to the MCGM to help in developing a plan for fish markets in Mumbai.
- ICSF facilitated a series of exchange programmes on organizing women fishworkers between two organizations in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ICSF’s work in Maharashtra State with women fish vendors was presented at the GAF5 in Lucknow, India.
- Gender issues and the role of women were a central part of the the six state level consultations, organized in the east coast of India on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

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.

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) Video documentation on Climate Change and Fisheries in India

ICSF completed the video documentation of the study *Climate change and fisheries: Perspectives from small-scale fishing communities in India*. The video documentation focuses on two states in India (Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh). The film took slightly longer to complete due to the extensive work required, including interviews with researchers, government representatives, and fishing communities. It is anticipated that this video will contribute to increasing understanding of the impact of climate change and related processes on fisheries and fishing communities, and in drawing attention to proposals from communities on climate change adaptation. The video documentary was released in end March, and is available on youtube.

(ii) Summary of India study on climate change

ICSF Trust has also translated the summary of the study on Climate Change and fisheries: Perspectives from small-scale fishing communities in India, into different languages – Malayalam, Marathi, Bengali and Telugu². These are available online, and have also been distributed widely to fishing communities as well.

(iii) 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 Alerts³

IV. LABOUR

4. ILO WORK IN FISHING CONVENTION

ICSF Trust has been focusing on migration of workers in fishing during the year:

- ICSF initiated a case study on the issues facing migrant workers from Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu State, India, in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC), to understand their circumstances and the reasons for their migration, and to document their living and working conditions. The study was initiated in October 2014, and is expected to be completed by March 2015.
- ICSF with the help of two interns from the Azim Premji University (India), has also documented the factors responsible for inter-state movement of fishers from Andhra Pradesh. The studies document the impact of the inter-state movement on fishers' families, and the reasons behind such inter-state movements.

V. AQUACULTURE

5. POLICY ADVOCACY AND MONITORING OF AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

² <http://www.icsf.net/en/monographs.html>

³ <http://mangroveactionproject.org/the-map-news-323rd-ed-14-september-2013>

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 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 initiated a study to document the village-level pond based small-scale farms, with a specific focus on socio-economic issues facing women fishworkers in West Bengal, India. The study covered a total of 27 villages across three topographical zones namely coastal-estuarine, gangetic plains and western highlands. The study report highlights the different tenure systems that exist in these small-scale farms, and women's roles in their productive uses.

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 collaboration with the BOBLME project, and building on its work on marine protected areas in India, ICSF along with the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission organized a half day workshop in Chennai, India, to discuss the conflicts between conservation and livelihoods in Gulf of Mannar National Park. This was seen as one step in getting the different departments to come together and to discuss issues. This workshop was attended by representatives from the forest and fisheries department, along with fishing community representatives and researchers. The women seaweed collectors of Gulf of Mannar presented their problems in the meeting, and their demand for an identity card for themselves was accepted at the meeting, along with other recommendations for wider consultation with fishing communities. ICSF facilitated the complete process and has followed the implementation of the recommendations from this workshop both with the government representatives and fishing communities.
- ICSF Trust along with ICSF, as part of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem organized six state level consultations (West Bengal, Orissa, with fishworker organizations, civil society organizations, and representatives from fisheries departments). The recommendations and discussions from these consultations were presented at the sub-national consultation on 6-7 March 2015, "Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)". The workshop aimed to disseminate information about the SSF Guidelines and examine their relevance in varying local contexts; assess

serious issues facing marine and inland small-scale fishing communities along the eastern seaboard of India; examine how implementing the SSF Guidelines can contribute to improving life and livelihoods, especially of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and women in small-scale fishing communities; explore the need for a multi-stakeholder mechanism to facilitate; and a co-ordinated, inter-sectoral approach to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Participants at the workshop came from various backgrounds, and included central and state government officials, fishworker organization leaders and representatives, community leaders (men and women), researchers from various disciplines, and representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs). Ms. Santha Sheela Nair, Vice-Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, in her opening address, sought more active participation from fishing communities as well as representatives from government institutions, and elected representatives. The valedictory remarks at the workshop were made by Raja Sekhar Vundru, Joint Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. He commended the inclusion of a human-rights-based approach in the SSF Guidelines and highlighted the various ways in which the government had already put in place a number of programmes and interventions that addressed the issues brought up by the SSF Guidelines. He invited the workshop participants to deliberate upon the existing gaps in policy and action, and bring them to the notice of the Ministry.

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. Three issues of SAMUDRA Report have been produced (67, 68, and 69) 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.

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 grassroots 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, three issues of *Yemaya* were published (45,46 and 47) 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.

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 58 books and 22 documents from various organizations and downloaded more than 404 documents from emails/links sent by ICSF Members and staff. The DC currently holds 60,732 records in its document database: 3,176 books, 10,795 Documents, 237 CD-ROMs, 25,897 articles indexed from journals, and 20,630 news clippings. The selected article database has 1062 articles. The audiovisual collection has 298 VDs/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.

Information Dissemination

The DC received about 120 requests for information from various users and 105 requests from ICSF staff—FWOs, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, students, researchers, individual scholars, and ICSF members—from countries that included Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Denmark, Fiji, Honduras, Myanmar, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Italy, Peru, South Africa, Tanzania, USA and agencies like FAO.. Requests for information for print and audio-visual resources were on various issues including on women in fisheries, fisheries statistics, aquaculture and its impact on livelihoods, fisheries legislation and policy, , marine fisheries management systems, UNCLOs, VGSSF articles, migration, fisheries cooperatives, alternative energy, tsunami rehabilitation impacts, international legislation relevant to fisheries, MPAs, coastal area management legislation, coastal pollution, inland fisheries, forestry, artisal fisheries, traditional knowledge, access and benefit sharing, hydrographic charts of EEZ, Global warming, Social issues in small-scale fisheries, value chain and post harvest fisheries, code of conduct for responsible fisheries, Climate change and maritime conflict etc. DC has compiled FAO country profile of 22 countries and distributed widely among the participants of Pondicherry workshop. DC has disseminated information on new publications and VGSSF collated texts among members from 16 countries.

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 youtube⁴ 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

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/user/ICSFindia>

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 2.3 million hits. Besides this, all subsites together received over 2.5 million hits. Links to the ICSF website, the international fisheries legal instruments website and other subsites has been given by several sites, documents and articles. The Documentation centre subsite (dc.icsf.net) along received 4.2 lakh hits during the year.

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 1530 subscribers. These Alerts are also further circulated amongst various email groups such as the Andaman and Nicobar Network, Forest Rights, NCPC coastal campaign, and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). The feedbacks received from subscribers are very positive and encouraging about the usefulness of the alert.

The feedbacks received from subscribers are very positive and encouraging about the usefulness of the alert. The DC News Alerts was automatically sent during the reporting period from ICSF website, it is also available on DC sub-site (dc.icsf.net) and Indian fisheries sub-site (indianfisheries.icsf.net) of ICSF.

Documentary film

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. The film, The Sea of Change: Traditional Fishworkers' Perception of Climate Change is made available on youtube(https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=b10PKkmCGUo) and disseminated widely to Government departments, Research institutions, NGOs and Multilateral agencies.

Support to ICSF programmes

The DC provided inputs to all ICSF programmes, including on papers and presentations prepared by ICSF staff, BOBLME reports, other ICSF publications, VGSSF workshop at Pondicherry and at Chennai, women in fisheries, Indian legal Instruments, Video gallery, aquaculture and online bibliographies on different sub-sites. DC has actively participated in the fisheries management meetings organized by FIMSUL- BOBP (IGO), Planning Commission, CIFT and CMFRI .

List of other Meetings Attended during 2013-14

Timeline	Meeting	Objective	Activity
9 June 2014	Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission Workshop on 'Enhancing Capacities of Fishing Communities for Resource Management'	The objectives of this workshop was to: -Provide a forum for representatives of fishing communities to present their proposals for conservation and sustainable use of resources in the Gulf of Mannar -Promote dialogue and convergence between fishing communities and other local stakeholders and government departments, in particular the Forest Department and the Fisheries Department, to improve management of resources in the Gulf of Mannar, with a particular focus on seaweed.	ICSF was a co-organizer and co-ordinated the workshop, and made a presentation on the outcomes of the training programmes organized in Gulf of Mannar in 2013-14.
30 October 2014/10 November 2014	Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai organized a CAFT programme on "Gender Mainstreaming and Development" at Mumbai.	The training programme was organized for researchers and academics focusing on gender mainstreaming	ICSF along with fish vendor representatives made a presentation on the issues faced by fish vendors of Mumbai
7-8 November 2014	Training-cum-Dissemination Workshop on the Findings and Outcomes of FIMSUL-1 & Workshop on Development of Strategies for Enhancement of Knowledge Management, Chennai	The workshop discussed the outcomes of the FIMSUL I project in Tamil Nadu, India	ICSF participated in the meeting, and shared its experiences with FIMSUL I
30 October 2014	Indo-Norwegian Joint Workshop on Aquaculture in Mumbai organised by Govt. of India	The meeting was organized by the Government of India and Government of Norway, to discuss opportunities for exchange and training on aquaculture	ICSF suggested that mariculture activities along Indian coast can be undertaken only if there are clear tenure rights, and also based on discussion with fishing communities, to avoid impacts on fishing.
2-5 December 2014	Marine Ecosystems Challenges and Opportunities (MECOS2), Kochi, Kerala, India	To discuss the latest advances in marine biology, oceanography and fisheries, and provide guidance for researchers and policy makers	ICSF made a presentation on the SSF Guidelines, and helped create awareness amongst the research community in India.
22-23 December 2014	Regional Project on Living Resources of the Gulf of Mannar: Assessment of key species and habitats for enhancing awareness and for conservation of	To discuss the outcomes of research and policy activities in the Indian and Sri Lankan side of Gulf of Mannar	ICSF's interventions called for participatory research and decision-making process, and on traditional knowledge of fishing communities to be integrated into these

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	marine resources; New Delhi, India		
29-30 December 2014	Workshop on 'Fisheries Policy Framework for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry' at Puducherry, India	To discuss the existing policies relating to fisheries and new directions for fisheries management	ICSF made a presentation on the SSF Guidelines for local communities, and government officials to have an understanding of the different sections of the guidelines
03-4 February 2015	Consolidating CEBPOL - Sharing of Experiences on ABS" - organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) alongwith CEBPOL, Chennai	To discuss the access and benefit sharing experiences and the legal frameworks in Norway and India	ICSF's interventions focused on the need for local level decision-making process in access and benefit sharing including on transfer of technologies
10-11 February 2015	FIMSUL Thematic Workshop on Development of Fisheries Co-Management for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	To discuss the various fisheries co-management options	ICSF participated in the workshop and contributed to the discussions