

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF) TRUST

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
01 APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018**



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIFT	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
CRZ	Coastal Regulation Zone
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GA	General Assembly
GAF	Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IFAF	Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NAFSO	National Fisheries Solidarity Organization
NAARM	National Academy for Agricultural Research Management
NBA	National Biodiversity Authority
NCPC	National Coastal Protection Campaign
NFF	National Fishworkers Forum
NGO	non-governmental organization
RIS	Research and Information System for Developing Countries
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSFG	Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
UN	United Nations
WFF	Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fishworkers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WIF	Women in Fisheries

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The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust, with its office in Chennai, was set up as an “initiative to further the welfare of coastal and fishing communities through education, research, documentation, training and philanthropic programmes, by conserving and managing fisheries resources, protecting the marine and coastal ecosystem, improving working and living conditions in fisheries, and by ensuring fair access to resources and markets”.

During the reporting period ICSF undertook programmes to support small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk in India from a perspective of decent work, equity, gender-justice, self-reliance and sustainability, through monitoring, research, and wide range of publications and information services. In general, the focus was on:

- Monitoring issues that relate to the life, livelihood and living conditions of fishworkers, mainly through the activities of the South Asia News Alerts on India(all states), Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives) and Samudra News Alerts (Globally) and through participation in national and international processes
- Disseminating information in appropriate languages to organizations of fishing communities, policy makers, researchers and the general public, through the website and through publications
- Providing greater visibility to women’s roles in fisheries
- Collaborating/ exchanging experiences with other institutions and organizations working on similar issues both in India and abroad.

A brief report of ICSF Trust programmes from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 follows:

1. PUBLICATION OF SAMUDRA REPORT

The SAMUDRA Report, brought out three times a year, carries articles, from India and elsewhere, on issues of relevance to small-scale and artisanal fisheries in the developing world. Issues covered have included fisheries management, labour issues in fisheries, fisheries trade, gender in fisheries, coastal and marine biodiversity, rights issue in fisheries, etc. SAMUDRA Report is distributed through Publications and Films Alert to nearly 3,000 individuals/organizations in India and other parts of the world. SAMUDRA Report is made available online, for wider dissemination. Publication of SAMUDRA Report, it is announced through our South Asia and SAMUDRA News Alerts to subscribers.

The following issues of SAMUDRA Report were published during the year 2017-18: No. 76, May, No.77 September and No.78 January. All the above issues of SAMUDRA Report are available on ICSF’s website.

2. PUBLICATION OF YEMAYA NEWSLETTER

Yemaya, a newsletter on gender and fisheries, carries news, views and articles from organizations and individuals working on gender issues in fisheries, from India and elsewhere. The newsletter helps in creating awareness on women in fisheries (WIF) issues, initiatives being taken to support them, and helps in the exchange of

information. *Yemaya* goes to nearly 3,000 individuals/organizations of Publications and Films Alert. *Yemaya* is also made available online, for wider dissemination. Publication of *Yemaya* is announced through our South Asia and Samudra News Alerts to subscribers.

During the year 2017-18, three issues of *Yemaya* were produced and disseminated: No.54, May, No.55, September, and No.56, January

Other Repositories:

Latest issues of ICSF Publications, including SAMUDRA Report and *Yemaya*, are updated on Aquatic Commons (www.aquaticcommons.org), Academia.edu (www.academia.edu), and selected publications on FAO's Family Farming and Knowledge Platform database (<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/en/>), etc.

3. INFORMATION SERVICES

ICSF employs various media channels to disseminate information and foster awareness about developments of relevance to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers globally, with a special focus on the developing world. The aim of these services is to enhance access of fishworkers and support organizations to information needed to protect and further their rights and livelihoods.

SAMUDRA Daily News Alerts

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra-news-alert.html?language=EN>

Reaching 2,000 subscribers, SAMUDRA News carried news focusing on national fisheries policy issues of the world over, issues related to conservation, fisheries management and governance, trade and certification and United Nations (UN) processes of relevance to small-scale fisheries, climate change and biodiversity, besides an ongoing focus on arrest and detention of fishers, natural disaster and community initiatives.

DC Daily News Alerts (South Asia)

<https://dc.icsf.net/en/component/dcnews/>

The South Asia News Alert presently has nearly 2,000 subscribers. It has carried news articles on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar as well as press releases, petitions and other reports from fishworker organizations and civil society organizations.

4. WEBSITE (<https://www.icsf.net/>)

ICSF's website and subsites are updated on a monthly/quarterly basis with information on various publications and films; searchable databases for news alerts; statements made at international workshops and meetings, including those organized by ICSF; and other publications and resources relevant to small-scale fisheries. The Google site on SSF Guidelines Implementation, in particular, was updated with new developments in this period: <https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/>

ICSF's note on SDGs, Inland fisheries and compilation of voluntary commitments for the Ocean Conference were available at following links:

Voluntary Commitments for the Ocean Conference at a Glance: 1395 total commitments As on 14 July 2017 (Compiled by ICSF Trust)

https://www.icsf.net/images/what%20is%20new%20page/Voluntary%20commitment_1393%20by%20ICSF%20Trust.doc

ICSF Note on SDGs and Small-scale Fisheries

https://www.icsf.net/images/what%20is%20new%20page/ICSF%20Note_SDGs.pdf

Governance of water and freshwater fish production systems in India: Is there need for a national policy to protect fishers and fishworkers? (ICSF draft for comments)

<https://www.icsf.net/images/what%20is%20new%20page/Inland%20Fisheries%20policy%20note%20by%20ICSF.pdf>

5. CYCLONE OCKHI STUDY

As stated in the SSF Guidelines, planning bodies require an understanding of how pre- and post-disaster interventions, i.e., preparedness and response are related in small-scale fisheries. What it describes as a “relief-development continuum” needs to be applied in order to build resilience in fishing communities. In the wake of Cyclone Ockhi in the Arabian Sea causing unprecedented deaths of small-scale fishers at sea in South India, ICSF prepared a short report with recommendations for a detailed study with the help of a Consultant, Manas Roshan. ICSF Trust with the support from FAO India office planning to undertake a detailed study to assess disaster risk management and sea safety in the Indian marine fisheries sector. The study will review national and local policies to manage disaster risks; evaluate the efficacy of cyclone warning systems for fishing communities, both on land and at sea; and highlight the need to integrate sea safety into the management of fisheries. The findings of the study will be shared with the affected communities, government and other stakeholders at a workshop later and also interested in making a documentary film based on the study. FAO India office has sent the Letter of Agreement to ICSF with detailed budget and terms of reference for signature to plan a study, workshop and film.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Participation in Other Meetings

ICSF was invited by the East Coast Fishworkers Union, India and World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fishworkers (WFF), to participate in the Regional *consultation on promotion of Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines* (SSFGuidelines) from 27-28 April 2017 at RKM Institute of Culture, Kolkata, India. N.Venugopalan, ICSF participated and made a presentation. The presentation is available at: https://www.icsf.net/download.php?option=com_paperpresentation&sel_subsite=1&language=&file=https://www.icsf.net/images/resources/papers_presentations/Progress%20of%20VGSSF%20in%20Asian%20countries_Venu%20April%202017.ppt_113.ppt

ICSF Trustee Nalini Nayak and Sebastian Mathew, ICSF participated in the *Meeting of National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (Inland)* organized by National Platform for Small-scale Fishworkers (Inland). The meeting was convened to take forward the following: To stress the adoption of a National Policy for Inland Fisheries that should include an assessment of the potentialities for inland fisheries and a road map for utilisation of the potentialities, Guidelines for the rights and

entitlements of the small fishing and fish farmer communities to protect, augment and sustainably use the fish resources in all inland water bodies, Guidelines for protection of water bodies and their catchment areas, Guidelines for recognition and incorporation of fisheries in all development planning that affect water bodies and watershed management and to develop a national platform for inland fishing communities to discuss issues of concern to the inland fishing and fish farming communities and take appropriate action. The details of the meeting is available at: <http://inlandfishworkersindia.org/>

ICSF was invited by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, India, to participate in the *3rd International Conference on South-South and Triangular Development Cooperation, 24-25 August, 2017*, taking into consideration the strong Southern belief in multilateralism as the way forward and to strengthen the dialogue process among the policymakers, practitioners and academics. The economic fortunes of the small island economies depend on the efficient utilization of select ocean resources and thus expose them to vulnerability. The rich endowment of ocean resources, which serves lifeline for their economy, can, however, be used to their advantage through emerging emphasis on strengthening the concept of “Blue Economy”.

ICSF was invited by National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC) to participate in the *Meeting on developing NCPC demands on Coastal Regulation Zone(CRZ) Notification 2011*. The meeting was attended by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and NFF representatives, FWOs, and others. The meeting prepared a draft note on demands.

ICSF Board of Trustees meeting at Trust office on 16 September 2017 to discuss about the programme(implementation (SSF Guidelines, SDGs and SSF, training of women, publications, financial status etc.). The Trust meeting discussed the relationship between ICSF Trust and ICSF Association registered in the Netherlands, need to raise funds for activities and other organizational matters like staff salary, continuation of staff, etc.

ICSF Trustee V.Vivekanadan, Sebastian Mathew and Venugopalan.N from ICSF were participated in the 7th General Assembly of World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) at New Delhi, India from 15-21 November, 2017. The fishworkers from across ten coastal states of India and 45 countries from all over the world were participated in the General Assembly. The main points of concern and debate was focused on the struggle against ocean, land and water grabbing, the advance of food sovereignty in the context of fisheries, the role of inland fisheries, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines through guarding their spirit and the human rights-based approach and the importance of women involved in fishing. One of the focus areas of WFFP General Assembly (GA)-7 was climate justice in the context of global warming, fossil fuel exploitation, fish depletion and livelihood threat to the fishing community world over. WFFP holds the view that fishing communities are the most vulnerable to the threat of climate change and hence must be included in the first layer of international climate refugees. Nadine Orchid Nembhard, General Secretary, WFFP declared that the fishworkers from across the world will unite and resist ocean grabbing and will fight for the rights of traditional small scale fishworkers, especially women. The outgoing General Secretary WFFP Naseegh Jafar addressed the

gathering and said that the fishworkers of the world declare that the people doing ocean grabbing that their time is over. Christiana Louwa, Co-coordinator, WFFP, asserted the need to resist bad policies and projects that affect the livelihood of people and fight for their rights and dignity. Moesis thanked everyone for the amazing success of the WFFP GA-7 and said that they will fight for traditional women and young fishworkers of the world. Paula Martins de Barros Gioia (La Via Campesina, Germany) wished everyone from the peasants across the world and asserted the need to globalize the struggle and hope of fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities.

ICSF was invited to organize a *Special workshop on Challenges in the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) in South Asia* at the 11th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum, Kochi, Kerala, India on 24 November, 2017 from Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT). Herman kumara from National Fisheries Solidarity Organization (NAFSO), Sri Lanka (country level presentation of issues), Ujwala Jaykisan Patil, Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti, Maharashtra, (country level presentation of issues), India and Sebastian Mathew, ICSF(overview of SSF Guidelines implementation) made their presentations and participated in the discussions followed. N.Venugopalan, ICSF too attended the special session on SSF Guidelines The Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries in India (GAF-India) was held as part of the 11th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (IFAF), organised by the Asian Fisheries Society, India Branch. The GAF-India event has engaged with the themes of the IFAF, and suggest future priorities arising from its own gender themes.

https://www.genderaquafish.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/01_herman.pdf

https://www.genderaquafish.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/02_sebastian.pdf

https://www.genderaquafish.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/03_ujwala.pdf

ICSF was invited to participate by the Centre for Biodiversity, Policy and Law of National Biodiversity Authority, India in their meeting on *Policy Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Into Inland water and Aquaculture* at the National Academy for Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Rajendra Nagar Hyderabad, India on 28 November, 2017. N.Venugopalan, ICSF participated in the discussion. NBA has distributed later the draft recommendations of the meeting. The recommendations of the meeting are expected to help in achieving the goal of enhancing fishery diversity as well as contributing to sustained biodiversity wealth of the country and also help in complying with the provisions of the Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002 and the National Biodiversity Action Plan by 2020. The meeting was requested to develop a road map for implementing National Biodiversity Targets, action plans and Sustainable Development Goals related to inland fishery resources and for Integrating biodiversity related concerns into the proposed draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2017 prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare. The meeting discussed biodiversity related activities into the existing schemes, projects, programmes, plans of the concerned ministries towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD), National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs), Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) obligations related to biodiversity and fisheries. The meeting identified the list of stakeholders for mainstreaming biodiversity into the inland fisheries sector.

ICSF was invited by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to attend the *workshop on exploring SDG 14.b and its proposed indicator 14.b.1*, Gaeta, Italy, 28-29 November 2017. FAO is custodian agency for some of the SDG indicators, including for SDG 14.b. The workshop has focused on raising awareness about SDG 14.b and the proposed indicator 14.b.1. The workshop was exploring the use of indicator methodology and related issues on data and information sources, analysis and reporting including the use of the e-learning platform specifically created for this proposed indicator. V.Vivekanadan, ICSF Trustee, participated.

ICSF was invited to attend The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) *Resource dialogue on marine resources- sustainable development through geopolitics and trade*, at Mahabalipuram, Chennai, India, February 28-2 March, 2017. Sebastian Mathew, ICSF participated as a speaker in the session on Marine resource for growth and development- Examining India's economic strategy. The dialogue focused on some key concerns and challenges that are being faced by the ocean economy, both by India and globally and discussed issues related to trade, geopolitics, development of resources and sustainable development of the marine ecology.