



The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Narrative Report

Period: 1 January to 31 December, 2023

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Introduction

The contract between the Stockholm University, SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) (Ref: SU 481 6.1.1-0094-21) regarding support to the project: “Towards the Implementation of the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines Phase II dated 01/07/2021 to 31/12/2024, came into effect on 17/10/2021 and the project, under various heads, has been initiated in November 2021.

ICSF was established in 1986 in India following the International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters in Rome, Italy in 1984. ICSF has played a supporting role to fishworkers’ organizations worldwide, endorsing the rights of small-scale fisheries (SSF) actors, especially small-scale fishers and fishworkers. ICSF was re-registered in 2017 in The Netherlands (KvK number 69248761), following which the General Assembly meeting was held in Amsterdam on 7-8 December, 2017. ICSF is managed by an elected Board and the secretariat is based in India, which is hosted by the ICSF Trust, a registered entity in India. The elected Board of 2017 was re-elected in December 2020 for a new triennial term: 2021 to 2023.

After its relaunch in December 2017, ICSF work has been working sub-nationally, nationally and globally, applying a human rights-based approach, on issues related to the marine and inland SSF and fishing communities. ICSF recognizes the empowering role of information to benefit fishing communities. The *SAMUDRA* Report, *SAMUDRA* News Alerts, Yemaya Newsletter, South Asia News Alerts, and ICSF Website continue to share and disseminate information and analyses. Efforts undertaken during the reporting period, specifically in the context of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) aimed at celebrating SSF and enhancing an understanding among a wide range of stakeholders, including decision-makers, about the importance of SSF and issues of concern to fishing communities, and supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the national contexts through interventions to raise awareness and build capacity of fishing communities and other stakeholders.

ICSF Organizational Structure

<p>General Assembly</p> <p>Ana Paula Rainho (Brazil)</p> <p>Antonio García Allut (Spain)</p> <p>Beatriz Mesquita Pedrosa Ferreira (Brazil)</p> <p>Brian O’Riordan (Belgium)</p> <p>Charles R. Menzies (Canada)</p> <p>Cornelie Quist (The Netherlands)</p> <p>Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger (Brazil)</p> <p>Maarten Bavinck (The Netherlands)</p> <p>Peter Linford Adjei (Ghana)</p> <p>Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, (Thailand)</p> <p>Rosemarie N. Mwaipopo (Tanzania)</p> <p>Serge Raemaekers (South Africa)</p> <p>V. Vivekanandan (India)</p> <p>Vivienne Solis Rivera (Costa Rica)</p> <p>ICSF Board</p> <p>Maarten Bavinck, Chairperson</p> <p>Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger, Secretary</p> <p>Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Treasurer</p> <p>Peter Linford Adjei, Member</p> <p>Vivienne Solis Rivera, Member</p> <p>Sebastian Mathew, Member</p> <p>(ex officio)</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Sebastian Mathew</p> <p>Programme</p> <p>N. Venugopalan (Programme Manager)</p> <p>Sivaja K Nair (Programme Executive)</p> <p>Vivek (Junior Information Officer- Resigned on 1st December 2023)</p> <p>Finance & Administration</p> <p>S. Ganga Devi (Manager, Accounts)</p> <p>Manjula R. (Office Secretary)</p> <p>Consultants</p> <p>SAMUDRA Report and SAMUDRA News Alerts and South Asia News Alerts</p> <p>K.G. Kumar (Editor)</p> <p>Sopan Joshi (Copy Editor)</p> <p>Yemaya Newsletter</p> <p>Nilanjana Biswas (Editor)</p> <p>South Asia News Alerts</p> <p>S. Sangeetha</p> <p>Surendranath Reddy, Sourav Anil and Deepak Sivan (cartoonists)</p> <p>Vasanth Christopher (Layout)</p> <p>Nitish Kumar (Working as Consultant to Information Centre)</p>
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Governance: ICSF Board Meetings, General Assembly Meetings 2023

The in-person board meeting was held in Doetinchem, The Netherlands, on 5 to 7 July 2023. The meeting deliberated the organizational strategies and future organization of activities. The meeting reviewed three IYAFAs workshops and the key messages emerging from them. There were, in addition, three virtual board meetings (21 February, 24 April and 19 October 2023, respectively) reflecting on the Africa regional IYAFAs workshop, reviewing preparations for the European IYAFAs workshop, the preparation for the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Rome Conference, etc. ICSF also organized three General Assembly meetings in virtual mode on 12 April, 13 June and 06 November 2023, respectively.

Activity Report: 1 January to 31 December 2023

ICSF has undertaken a range of activities during the reporting period.

1. ICSF Communication

In recognition of the importance of information sharing and knowledge building, ICSF has made conscious efforts to disseminate information on issues of concern or interest to the SSF community through *SAMUDRA* Report, *Yemaya* Newsletter, *SAMUDRA* News Alerts, South Asia News Alerts, and ICSF Website and ICSF Digital library. The overarching theme of communications was to reiterate the seven pillars of IYAFAs 2022, viz., environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, social sustainability, governance, gender equality and equity, food security and nutrition, and resilience. Special effort has been made to improve the visibility of women in SSF through the inclusion of material on women that are produced by women. The ICSF publications during the period, engaged with various meetings of IYAFAs and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes. These engagements helped towards developing a discourse space for SSF in international policy arenas.

ICSF could bring in a global perspective by sharing information on the most disadvantaged communities in fisheries from across the globe, reaching out through improved information-sharing platforms. The information sharing was intended to strengthen fishworkers' organizations, and to hasten the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

The communication strategy of ICSF is to contribute to a larger goal of bringing visibility to the contribution of SSF towards poverty reduction and food security. The daily news alerts through *SAMUDRA* News Alerts and South Asia News Alerts provide updates on various facets of fisheries globally and South Asia particularly. These information products, in addition to being shared among multiple stakeholders, inform the work of ICSF and further its social networks.

All articles of ICSF publications, including *SAMUDRA* Report and *Yemaya* are deposited in repositories such as [ICSF Archives/Digital Library](#), [Aquatic Commons](#), [FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#) and [Academia.edu](#). The details of the communication strategies and their output are given below.

a. SAMUDRA Report

<https://www.icsf.net/SAMUDRA-report/>

The *SAMUDRA* Report, a triannual publication of ICSF, started in March 1988. It has continued to disseminate information on significant developments from a small-scale fisheries perspective, and to create greater awareness on issues of importance to the subsector. During the reporting period, ICSF published two issues of *SAMUDRA* Report with a special focus on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Some articles shared new developments in post-harvest fisheries with improved techniques and use of innovative technology; some brought attention to conditions at work, and some others discussed the perspectives of the Indigenous Peoples on the conservation of marine and coastal resources. Several articles highlighted the complex link between climate change and poverty, the development of fisheries policies, and the role of self-government institutions in improving sea safety and fisheries management. Other articles focused on social development, employment and decent work in the fisheries sector and drew attention to improving education, health and social protection in fishing communities.

The latest issue of *SAMUDRA* Report focused on the impact of climate change on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, drawing attention to the role of adaptive social protection and effective fisheries management in moving towards climate-resilient fisheries. Articles dealt with topics like the collapse of fish stocks in Alaska, climate change shocks to the fishing communities of Bangladesh, traditional fisheries management in Indonesia, and adaptation of small-scale aquaculture to climate change in Vietnam. Other interesting articles include: the role of selective fishing to protect marine and coastal biodiversity in Peru, Japan’s fishery co-operatives and how small-scale fishing communities are rallying against the introduction of privatisation, and South Africa’s inland fisheries policy. The issue also carried reports of ICSF-IYAFSA workshops and an interview with fishworkers’ organization leader about the situation of small-scale fishers in Ghana.

All issues of *SAMUDRA* Report issue No. 1- to 90 (in English and available issues in French and Spanish) are available on the ICSF website.

Number of issues published	Report emailed to people/organizations	Total Views - 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	Total Downloads - 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023
2	4645	263642	1176

b. Yemaya (Newsletter on gender and fisheries, Triannual)

<https://www.icsf.net/yemaya-newsletter/>

The *Yemaya* Newsletter of women in fisheries, started in April 1999, seeks to disseminate information on gender issues in fisheries, and, in particular, the perspectives and concerns of women of fishing communities and their organizations. *Yemaya* contributed to providing

greater visibility to the organizational efforts and initiatives of women from fishing communities, and to the issues facing them. Several articles have reported on grassroots organizational processes and on women leaders in different countries.

During the reporting period, ICSF published three issues of *Yemaya* with special focus on women in fisheries action plan of the IYAFSA Asia workshop and the national-level women in fisheries workshop in Chennai, India. Articles on gender and marine plastic pollution, the 8th global symposium on Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture (GAF8), the gender plan of action of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and the impact of gender division of labour and restrictive social norms in relation on accessing aquaculture schemes were included. A review of the book: “Achieving Gender Equality at Work” was carried, aiming at achieving gender equality at work in fisheries. An article also drew attention to a series of articles on the CAOPA website on African women leaders in fisheries.

All issues of *Yemaya* newsletter issue No. 1-68 are available on the ICSF website.

Number of Issues published	Newsletter emailed to people /organizations	Total Views -01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	Total Downloads 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023
3	4645	145468	439

c. *SAMUDRA* Daily News Alerts

<https://www.icsf.net/news/>

SAMUDRA News Alerts, launched in January 2005, has been sharing news on fisheries and fishworkers on a daily basis, and in the form of a weekly digest on Saturdays.

SAMUDRA News alerts carried news items focusing on national fisheries policy issues, issues of fisheries management and governance, UN/CBD/FAO/ILO/WTO processes related to SSF, trade and certification, climate change impacts, besides the ongoing focus on arrest and detention of fishers, disaster and community initiatives. ICSF statements at the above processes are often carried.

SAMUDRA News alerts provide the reader a quick update on important fisheries and related issues and processes at the global level. The alerts draw attention to IUU fishing worldwide, especially from fishing in waters of other countries or using illegal gear. Other key areas include offshore development such as wind, oil exploration/drilling that impact access rights to SSF. A number of news alerts relate to accidents at sea as well as disasters (intense storms/hurricanes/typhoons/cyclones) affecting countries around the world that impact fishing vessels as well as coastal communities. Some alerts are topical as in the case of news items regarding COP meetings of multilateral agreements (e.g. CBD, UNFCCC, etc.)

In the reporting period, 219 alerts with 1,333 news items were disseminated, which were viewed 599,812 times. There are 2,141 subscribers.

d. South Asia News Alerts

<https://www.icsf.net/news/>

The South Asia News Alert, initiated in October 2011. It carried news items focusing on fisheries policy issues, issues of fisheries management and governance, press releases, petitions and other reports from fishworkers' organizations and civil society organizations.

The South Asia News Alerts were able to enhance awareness through information on the status of tenure rights, current social development issues related to drinking water, sanitation and access to education, livelihood issues, impact of climate change on SSF, status of the implementation of various schemes in South Asia, impacts of various developments along the coast on the livelihood of fishing communities, and their implications for small-scale fishworkers. These News Alerts also focused on natural disasters, the status of fishery resources, maritime boundary disputes, changes to the coastal and marine biodiversity, implementation of fisheries management programmes, impact of aquaculture on fishing communities, threats, status of decent work in fish processing industries, etc.

In the reporting period, 237 alerts with 1,473 news items were disseminated which were viewed 638,188 times. South Asia News, presently, has 2,098 subscribers

e. Dissemination of Publications and Films Alerts

The Publications and Films Alerts of ICSF have periodically disseminated *SAMUDRA* Report, *Yemaya* Newsletter and other publications and films to its subscription base of 4,645 individuals/institutions.

f. Linking with other Networks and Dissemination of Information

All articles of ICSF publications, including *SAMUDRA* Report and *Yemaya* are deposited in repositories such as [Aquatic Commons](#), [FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#) and [Academia.edu](#).

g. ICSF Website

<https://www.icsf.net/>

During the reporting period, ICSF website had nearly two million views and 3,000 downloads.

h. Social Media

ICSF developed a social media presence during the reporting period through Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Social media contents on major developments in SSF, publications and activities of ICSF and other civil society organizations and fishworkers'

organizations are regularly being posted in the social media. The social media outreach in terms of number of followers has also increased during this period. The followers of twitter have increased from 3,482 in 2022 to 3,852 in 2023. Facebook has 1,794 followers, and LinkedIn has 992. The Instagram is slowly picking up.

i. ICSF Archives/Digital Library

The Archives/Digital library <http://icsfarchives.net/> of ICSF is a one-stop-shop for all stakeholders with an interest in information and knowledge pertaining to small-scale and artisanal fisheries. The archives have ICSF's collections since 1986. It offers more than 2,000 original documents and 12,000+ curated links. Set up in 1999 in Chennai, its mandate is two-fold: to gather various kinds of information pertinent to small-scale fisheries and fishworkers and to make it available to all stakeholders in a useful and readily available format.

The archive's resources address a range of issues from across the world, all pertinent to the activities of ICSF, viz., artisanal fisheries, fishworkers organizations and social justice movements of fishers, social protection and social development, working conditions and living conditions, women in fisheries, fisheries statistics, fishing technology, fishing communities, aquaculture, fisheries trade, fisheries management, coastal ecosystems and legal instruments.

The ICSF archives maintains regular contact—and exchange of ideas and material—with fishworkers' organizations and NGOs working on issues of relevance to small-scale and artisanal fisheries across the world. Its archives have become a valuable tool for collection and dissemination of information. Its design is geared towards making the material more dynamic and interactive. The documentation and dissemination activities under the Communications programme have markedly improved the quality of ICSF programmes, enhancing their reach and utility. The archive has responded in a timely manner to requests for information from various stakeholders, including fishworkers' organizations and NGOs. It has enhanced the capacity of organizations to respond to developments in fisheries in an informed manner.

The archives have a special collection of 'grey publications' such as unpublished or out-of-print material relating to fishing communities, demands of fishworkers organizations, fisheries policy, and fisheries trade, etc. All of these are collated from the perspective of its relevance to small-scale fisheries. The collection includes rare publications, that is to say, those not available elsewhere, such as reports of national fishworkers' organizations, much sought after by researchers, policy makers, students, leaders of fishworkers' organizations and journalists, among others. The collections are stored as virtual 'soft' copies and in 'hard' print copies.

All ICSF publications are available in the archives. Add to this, over 2,100 resources published by other organizations, including infographics and films pertinent to fisheries.

They are also available via URLs. The goal is to digitize remaining fisheries grey literature documents as soon as possible.

The resources of the archives are classified under the following categories: Aquaculture, Biodiversity, Decent Work, Disasters and Climate Change (including Covid-19), Fisheries Trade, Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture, Right to Resources (including access rights and tenure) and the SSF Guidelines. As on December 31st, 2023, ICSF has a total of over 14,000 items in its repository. During the reporting period, ICSF added over 400 books/documents/articles/films and Infographic Videos in its digital library.

2. ICSF Workshops

a. IYAFa workshops

Africa Workshop: IYAFa 2022-Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries, 15-18 February 2023

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

ICSF, in partnership with Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD), Ghana, organized an international workshop, ‘IYAFa: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries: Africa’, from 15 to 18 February 2023 in Accra, Ghana. It was the third in a series of four regional workshops planned by ICSF in connection with the UNGA proclamation of 2022 as IYAFa. The Workshop revolved around discussions on the SSF Guidelines implementation. It specifically focused on the themes of tenure rights, social development and gender and women in fisheries. The workshop had a diverse group of 50 participants from CSOs, CBOs and fishworkers’ organizations from 16 countries, viz., Tunisia, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti and Seychelles. About half the participants were women. The discussions of the four-day workshop resulted in the formulation of an African regional action plan on women and gender in fisheries, and a statement.

IYAFa Regional workshop: Getting the story straight and envisioning a fair future for small-scale fisheries in Europe, 13-16 November 2023, Galicia, Spain

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/europe-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

The IYAFa regional workshop in Europe, the fourth in a series of workshops organized by ICSF, was held on 13–16 November 2023 in Galicia, Spain. It was held in collaboration with the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and *Mulleres Salgadas* (MuS) from Spain. The workshop had participation from 12 European countries- Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Norway, Portugal, France, United Kingdom, Poland, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. It had representatives from fishworkers’ organizations, civil society organizations and academia. The workshop discussed the need for governance transitions, issues pertaining to women in SSF and pathways to strengthen capacities of SSF and support organizations in Europe. The workshop was intended to shape inspiring narratives for the future of small-scale fisheries,

emphasizing the importance of equitable outcomes. The workshop proved to be a valuable platform for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge and addressing key issues in European fisheries. The recommendations of the workshop are expected to contribute to the ongoing efforts towards sustainable practices in the region. The Workshop came out with a statement.

b. India: Subnational capacity-building workshops

Workshop on Sea Safety and Fisheries Management: Training and Capacity Development of Local Self-Governments, 01-02 March 2023, Kerala, India

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/lsg-workshop-icsf-kila-kerala-india/>

ICSF Trust and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) jointly organized a Training and Capacity Development workshop at KILA, Thrissur, Kerala, India, on March 01-02, 2023. The workshop was organized with the aim to enhance the capacity of local self-government institutions, the Department of Fisheries, Kerala, fishworkers' organizations, CSOs, and community-based organizations, with a focus on sea safety and fisheries management and to engage with the SSF Guidelines to negotiate issues of concern in regard to policy, legislation, lives and livelihoods of the SSF communities. There were fifty-six participants from various districts of Kerala.

c. State Level workshops (India) on the SSF Guidelines

In continuation with the national workshops conducted in India on enhancing capacities of women fishworkers for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines (2016), and a series of workshops in 2019 and 2022 on the SSF Guidelines. ICSF further organized national and state-level workshops in the year 2023 in partnership with local NGOs.

State-Level Capacity Development Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines, Kerala (Alappuzha), 04 January 2023 was partnership with the Coastal Education and Development Society (CoEDS)

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/tot-state-level-training-kerala/>

The state-level training workshop was conducted in Alappuzha, Kerala, India, in partnership with the Coastal Education and Development Society (CoEDS) on 4 January 2023. The workshop discussed sustainable use and management of fisheries, coastal regulation zone (CRZ) notification of the Government of India and coastal tenure rights through the lens of the SSF Guidelines.

State-Level Capacity Development Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines, Goa (Vasco), 09 February, 2023 was co-organized in collaboration with Goenchea Ramponkaracho Ekvott (GRE)

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/tot-state-level-training-go/>

The state-level training workshop, Goa, India, was co-organized with *Goenchea Ramponkaracho Ekvott* (GRE) at Velsao Panchayat Hall, Vasco, Goa, on 9 February, 2023. The workshop discussed various aspects of policy, schemes, historical timelines as well as current challenges in relation to SSF within the framework of the SSF Guidelines.

State-Level Capacity Development Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines, Karnataka (Honavar), 03 March 2023

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/tot-state-level-training-karnataka/>

The Karnataka workshop was co-organized with a local NGO called *Snehakunja* Trust, Honavar, Karnataka, on 3 March 2023. The Workshop discussed access rights along with provisions of the *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana* (PMMSY)—an umbrella scheme of the Government of India for sustainable and responsible fisheries development and management—within the framework of the SSF Guidelines.

State-Level Capacity Development Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines, Tamil Nadu (Chennai) focusing on mapping and GIS was co-organized by FishMarc, 06 March 2023

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/tot-state-level-training-tamil-nadu/>

The state-level training workshop of Tamil Nadu on mapping and GIS was co-organized by FishMarc, Chennai, a local NGO, on 06 March 2023. The exercise was to help identify potential tenure rights areas of fishing communities within the framework of the SSF Guidelines. Representatives of fishworkers' organizations and CSOs were trained to use the GPS and practical field work was conducted by mapping a local fishing hamlet, south of Marina beach, Chennai, using handheld GPS. After completing the field visit, the participants learnt to transfer the GPS coordinates to their personal computers and work on Google Earth to produce necessary maps. The training programme, with a couple of more dedicated sessions in learning the software, would facilitate the fishworkers' organizations and CSOs in understanding markets, landing centres, including beaches, settlement areas and the movement of fish from landing centres to retail markets.

State-Level Capacity Development Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines, Gujarat (Bharuch), 12 March 2023

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/tot-state-level-training-gujarat/>

The state-level training workshop, Gujarat, was held in Bharuch on 12 March 2023 and co-organized with local organizations. The participants included fishers, fishworkers' organizations and representatives of the state fisheries department.

State-Level Capacity Development Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines, Maharashtra (Mumbai), 15 March 2023

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/tot-state-level-training-maharashtra/>

The state-level training workshop, Maharashtra, was co-organized with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) on 15 March 2023 at CIFE, Versova, Mumbai. The workshop focused on fisheries development programmes and schemes, and access rights of fishing communities.

3. ICSF Advocacy

ICSF has been engaging with international processes through advocacy, participation and liaison activities.

a. MARE Conference 2023

<https://marecentre.nl/mare-2023-conference/>

The 12th edition of the MARE People and the Sea Conference took place at the University of Amsterdam from 26-30 June 2023. The theme for 2023 was ‘Blue Fear: Navigating Ecological, Social and Existential Anxieties during the Anthropocene’. ICSF (Elyse Mills) was invited to be part of two panel sessions during the conference. The first was a panel session organized by FAO entitled ‘SSF Guidelines: Making a Difference for Securing Blue Livelihoods’. ICSF shared the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework for the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines, which ICSF helped to finalize in 2022 and 2023. The second panel session was organized by Anthony Charles, Saint Mary’s University, Canada, on ‘SSF Stewardship: Environmental Leadership by SSF’. ICSF spoke about why SSF stewardship is important, and provided some examples of good stewardship practices.

b. United Nations Regional Workshop on Ocean Governance and the science-policy interface (component 1) and in support of the development of the third World Ocean Assessment for the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and Gulf of Ade (component II) (30 July to 4 August 2023)

ICSF (Sebastian Mathew) was invited to participate in the above components organized by the Division of Affairs of the Law of the Sea, United Nations, to build capacity of representatives of government and non-governmental stakeholders in ocean governance in these regions. Within integrated and inclusive ocean governance frameworks, ICSF raised recognizing small-scale fisheries and fishing communities, both men and women, in the Indian Ocean region (including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal) considering their contribution along the value chain to food security, poverty eradication and sustainable fisheries. Under component II, drawing up from the implementation workshops of the SSF Guidelines and the IYAFA Workshops, ICSF got an opportunity to highlight how the cross-cutting themes of equity, gender and Indigenous Traditional owner and Local community knowledge (ITLK) ought to be part and parcel of sustainability pathways in relation to small-scale fisheries and sustainable and inclusive ocean economies.

c. WTO 2023 Public Forum, “It is Time for Action”: "Ending Harmful Fisheries Subsidies: From Treaty to Reality" 13 September 2023

ICSF (Sebastian Mathew) was invited to a panel discussion at the WTO, organized by the Pew Charitable Trust, Friends of Ocean Action, World Wide Fund For Nature and the International Institute for Sustainable Development to speak on: *How can the new subsidy rules agreed in 2022, and those to be agreed next, support the coastal communities that depend the most on healthy marine resources, particularly artisanal fishing communities?*

While making a plea to exclude social security payments from the ambit of prohibited fisheries subsidies, ICSF supported the intent of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to eliminate IUU fishing, to eliminate pressure on overfished fish stocks and on the need to arrive at an outcome in relation to disciplining subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing. When it comes to defining small-scale and artisanal fishing, ICSF argued for a narrow bandwidth for exemption from disciplines, to include only vessels less than 12 m overall length, operating non-towed fishing gear, in waters up to the limit of the territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline) and fishers associating with such vessels as eligible. ICSF is flexible in applying such an exemption to developing and developed countries.

d. FAO Workshop on Social protection for the fisheries and Aquaculture, Brasilia, Brazil, 29 November to 01 December 2023

ICSF (Sebastian Mathew) was invited by FAO to share key findings from its social protection project in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, which was supported by FAO, and to participate in a panel discussion with representatives of fishing communities from Latin America and Africa. The ICSF presentation drew attention to social protection schemes in the ACP region and how the African and the Pacific countries have been lagging far behind the Caribbean region when it comes to social protection. ICSF shared the view that universal social protection needs to be robust since sectoral social protection has limitations in SIDS. The contribution of fisheries to the GDP is modest in these countries.

e. FAO Workshop on creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable Small-scale fisheries, 14 to 16 November 2023

ICSF (Sebastian Mathew) was invited to the above FAO Workshop to share key lessons learnt, challenges and good practices from the FAO-funded project undertaken by ICSF, on implementing the SSF Guidelines in several Asian, Asian and Latin American countries, towards enhancing knowledge across the regions. ICSF also collaborated with IPC, WFFP and WFF in organizing a panel discussion at the Workshop on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

f. Implementation of the SSF Guidelines with support from FAO

The engagement of ICSF with the FAO processes is through implementation of collaborative projects and activities; and communication.

g. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

a. Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI): regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia 5 – 8 September 2023, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Representing the Women Caucus of CBD at the above capacity-building workshop in Seoul, Sivaja Nair, ICSF, encouraged incorporating gender concerns into the biodiversity conservation and sustainable use narratives in the light of Target 22 and Target 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), its monitoring indicators and the CBD Gender Plan of Action. ICSF encouraged the gender components to be integrated into other GBF targets to ensure that the rights of women, as well as their traditional knowledge, are integrated into the design and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). In addition, ICSF sought targeted capacity building, resource mobilization, social development and social protection strategies to enhance the meaningful participation of women, and in this context sought synergy with the SSF Guidelines when it comes to fishing communities.

b. Technical expert workshop to review modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas, 20–24, November 2023, Oslo, Norway

ICSF (Sivaja K. Nair) critiqued the current ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSA) process for being based only on physical sciences, and sought integrating Indigenous Knowledge into the EBSA process. The top-down approach in identifying EBSAs has hindered a more holistic and comprehensive understanding of the marine and coastal ecosystems. The Indigenous and traditional knowledge is to be integrated into the process, it was held, considering that the communities are knowledge as well as rights holders, and to recognize their right to participate in the governance systems. The latter has to be in line with applying a human rights-based approach and upholding the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No.169). Involving local communities in the identification and management of EBSAs, it was argued, will foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among local communities, leading to more effective conservation outcomes.

4. ICSF Projects

a. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Case Studies

ICSF has been engaging in the discourses around MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) through international processes like CBD and through case studies pertaining to the impact of MPAs on the SSF. ICSF has completed the **studies** from the Philippines, Honduras and Panama. They are under different stages of editing. The studies from Tanzania, Fiji and Colombia are in the final stages of completion.

b. Climate Change Impacts and Small-scale Fisheries: Adaptation and Resilience in The Gambia, Vietnam, Bangladesh and the Philippines: Case studies

The case studies are to explore how climate change adaptation measures at various levels and how they benefit fishing communities. The case studies are expected to highlight the perspective of small-scale fishing communities on how climate change impacts their access to fisheries resources and livelihoods, and recommendations for building resilience. The case studies will document how climate change impacts small-scale fishing communities and strategies adopted at the national and subnational levels to deal with such impacts. The case studies will provide a clear narrative on the impact of climate change and adaptation measures from the perspective of small-scale fishing communities. They will document how climate change adaptation programmes are developed and designed for community participation, especially of the most vulnerable fishing communities. They will assess the capacity of small-scale fishing communities to respond to the threat of climate change impacts and to make use of available financing mechanisms. The work has started in December 2023.

c. Effectiveness of Non-towed Fishing Gear Zones in the Philippines and Indonesia: Case Studies

The case studies will try to identify the tenure rights in a participatory manner of traditional and small-scale fishers in relation to their lives and livelihoods. The case studies will document threats facing the tenure rights of traditional and small-scale fishers in the context of fisheries, and analyse how government policies and arrangements at various levels recognize and protect tenure rights of traditional and small-scale fishers.

The studies will produce advocacy material to promote and defend tenure rights. The Indonesia study is soon to be published. The Philippines work is to be reviewed by ICSF before final acceptance.

5. ICSF Partnerships

a. Partnership with IPC, WFF and WFFP

ICSF, in partnership with IPC, WFF and WFFP, organized a panel discussion on implementing the SSF Guidelines at the FAO Workshop on creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in Rome on 14 to 16 November 2023.

b. CFFA steering committee meetings (virtual)

ICSF has been participating in the CFFA steering committee meetings to audit activities of CFFA in Africa and Europe. Specific inputs requested from ICSF related to clarifying the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies.

6. ICSF Campaigns

In the absence of proper recognition of human rights and mature and equitable inland and marine spatial planning mechanisms, especially to address conflicts between the elements of blue economy (e.g., oil and gas, mining, shipping and transport, fishing and tourism, etc.), ICSF has undertaken a campaign to draw attention to recognizing the agency of fishing communities and to protecting spaces for sustainable small-scale fisheries development, especially in developing countries.

To further follow up at the national level, ICSF has commissioned a study in Indonesia, which will continue into 2024, to undertake an assessment of policy, legislation and investment in the context of the blue economy development framework and to examine the implications for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Indonesia. The study is to review the status of blue economy projects, examine their impact on SSF and to make recommendations to protect space for sustainable and equitable SSF policy and practice (including gender equality). The study is expected to help develop advocacy strategies to address the challenges and opportunities to SSF arising from such a framework in Indonesia.

7. ICSF Publications

Report on National Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on the SSF Guidelines (Marine Fisheries) October 13-15, 2022, Asha Nivas Social Service Centre, Chennai, India

[https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/930.ICSF Marine TOT Report 2022.pdf](https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/930.ICSF_Marine_TOT_Report_2022.pdf)

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust organized a National Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on the SSF Guidelines (Marine Fisheries), India at Asha Nivas Social Service Centre, Chennai, India, on October 13-15, 2022. There were sixty-seven participants from the coastal states of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The three-day workshop was organized with an aim to enhance the capacity of fishworkers' organizations, CSOs, and community-based organizations to engage with the SSF Guidelines to negotiate issues of concern in regard to policy, legislation, lives and livelihoods of the SSF communities. The sessions had presentations by resource persons along with practical exercises and group work to help the trainers address their needs. The report of the workshop is published in 2023.

Report on National Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on the SSF Guidelines (Inland Fisheries), December 22-24, 2022, Seva Kendra, Kolkata, West Bengal

[https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/930.ICSF230 TOT Inland Report.pdf](https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/930.ICSF230_TOT_Inland_Report.pdf)

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust organized a National Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on the SSF Guidelines (Inland Fisheries), India at Seva

Kendra, Kolkata, India on December 22-24, 2022. There were forty-eight participants from the states of Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The three-day workshop was organized with an aim to enhance the capacity of fishworkers' organizations, CSOs, and community-based organizations, particularly working in the inland fisheries sector to engage with the SSF Guidelines to negotiate issues of concern to the SSF communities in regard to policy, legislation, and their lives and livelihoods. The report of the workshop is published in 2023.

Report of the State-Level Capacity Development Training Workshops on the SSF Guidelines

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/930.ICSF247_State_Level_TOT_Workshop_Consolidated.pdf

In October 2022, a National Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on the SSF Guidelines was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The next level of the programme involved conducting training programmes at the state level. Workshops were held in the different states between November 2022 and March 2023, and the consolidated report of all the state-level workshops is published in 2023.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Case Studies

ICSF conducted a series of studies called 'Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries' to examine how social development of small-scale fishing communities contributes to responsible and sustainable small-scale fisheries in: [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Ghana](#), [The Philippines](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Brazil](#), [Thailand](#) and India ([Kerala/Tamil Nadu](#) and [West Bengal](#)). The reports are published in 2023.

Although the interdependence of economic development, social development and environmental protection is recognized by the 1995 World Summit on Social Development, the emphasis in fisheries has been more on economic and environmental issues and less on social development of fishers and fishing communities.

These reports document decent work programmes, policies, legislation, institutional support (including community-based initiatives) and the protection of human rights. They provide some country-specific data, analyses and context of the social development of small-scale fishing communities and their interconnection with sustainable development.

The reports examined if economic policies at the local, subnational and national level are indeed inclusive, non-discriminatory and sound, and in the process, permitting a fair return on labour of men and women, and encouraging conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It also assessed if occupational health issues and unfair working conditions are addressed, if forced labour is still present, and if there is interest in improving working conditions and occupational safety and health of fishworkers.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Antigua and Barbuda

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/930.ICSF227_Social_Development_Antigua_Barbuda.pdf

The robust social security schemes of Antigua and Barbuda have, over the years, been a great safety net for sustainable fisheries in the country. This report analyses and reports on recent changes across the social protection system and its effect on fishers. Increased digitization and reliance on remote technology has become a barrier for those without means or the digital knowledge to access many schemes. The ever-present threat of climate change—in a country prone to natural disasters—poses significant challenges to the fisheries sector and has over the past few years caused shifts in its social protection policy. The fisheries sector desperately need an economic overhaul. Hugely reliant on tourism, and therefore vulnerable to external shocks, the sector witnessed massive downturns due to the pandemic.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Bangladesh

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/930.ICSF238_Social_Development_Bangladesh.pdf

The small-scale fisheries subsector of Bangladesh is facing multidimensional challenges. There is a lack of grassroot associations and organizations to affiliate fishers and protect their interests. The current study found that one of the root causes of all problems for sustainable and small-scale fisheries in the country stem from a lack of identification and recognition of fishers. Fishers face challenges in accessing loans and subsidies as well as in benefiting from development schemes that are intended to support their lives and livelihoods. Fishing communities are seldom consulted in the decision-making process and their participation is minimal in policy making. In addition to these issues, lack of free access to open water bodies—currently under a leasing system controlled by the Ministry of Land—is a detriment to the sector’s holistic growth.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Ghana

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/930.ICSF239_Social_Development_Ghana.pdf

The existing policies for social development in Ghana include fishing communities and yet, fail to address them specifically. The needs of rural and geographically-isolated fishing communities are ignored. Urban fishers tend to benefit more from social development interventions and have a better quality of life compared to their rural counterparts. Despite this disparity in access to social development, the overall conditions of fishers across the country are dire—characterized by high poverty, food insecurity, unsafe working environment and poor social infrastructure. The report points out that existing legislation and policy do not protect a human rights-based approach and have a low emphasis on human development. Communities are yet to be empowered to participate in decision-making and the management of fishery resources.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Costa Rica

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/930.ICSF226_Social_Development_Costa_Rica.pdf

The commitment of Costa Rica to providing for and protecting human development of all communities, while admirable, thus far has been ineffective. Enacted policies have failed to make much headway, due to a lack of co-ordination between different government institutions. The country's rural development efforts have mostly been directed towards the agriculture sector, rendering small-scale artisanal fishers invisible, and women fishers even more so. The study reveals that the current system of land tenure and the threat of climate change are huge problems for the fisheries sector. More needs to be done to mitigate and protect fishers and to aid them in their overall development. Despite existing laws, almost no existent regulations aid and assist indigenous communities to enhance and sustainably uplift their lives. For Costa Rica, the SSF Guidelines remain an instrument yet to be put into practice.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Brazil

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/930.ICSF225_Social_Development_Brazil.pdf

Recent years have seen Brazil's social and environmental policies weakened and dismantled at a frightening scale. Rights violations, lack of access to benefits, and a complete disregard for the sector during the pandemic has led to a rise in inequality and poverty. The study confirms a lack of government initiative and desire to combat historical vulnerabilities in small-scale fishing communities. Much like other sectors, even fisheries in Brazil are fighting to protect themselves from large-scale enterprises taking away livelihoods, and indeed a way of life. The country's adoption of the SSF Guidelines has been ineffective. Much more needs to be done to aid the community, the sector and uplift them to a standard that ensures sustainability and its survival.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: The Philippines

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/930.ICSF241_Social_Development_Philippines.pdf

In the Philippines, social development policies in support of workers in basic sectors, including small-scale or artisanal fisherfolk, have strong legal foundations with institutional support at the national and local level. The report looks at rights and privileges under existing law and goes on to examine various topics such as the support of the local government to small-scale, or municipal, fisheries through delivery of basic services. The report also looks into the status of women in fisheries as well as the state's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the importance of the fisheries sector to the economy, high poverty, low social development and fragmentation in small scale fisheries remain a problem. The study recommends the integration of a human rights-based approach with existing sustainable fisheries management.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: West Bengal, India

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/930.ICSF243_Social_Development_West_Bengal_India.pdf

This study examines and explores the different aspects of fisheries and how sustainable development can improve the social development of fishing communities in West Bengal in the context of the SSF Guidelines. Despite their significant contribution to the national economy, fishing communities are socially, economically and culturally neglected. They also regularly face cyclones and existing problems are exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. In West Bengal, access to fisheries resources is heavily infringed upon by larger players. The study examines the existing policy provisions to look at their adequacy, coverage, scope and effectiveness in protecting social development.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Thailand

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/930.ICSF242_Social_Development_Thailand.pdf

Thailand has clear policies and plans to promote social development with policies based on human rights principles and that of leaving no one behind, which ensures equal opportunities to access social protection and basic services. This study looks at links between social development policies with those on fisheries and natural resources management. A lack of vertical and horizontal integration, and comprehensiveness in the implementation in the area-based approach was seen. The study also looked at the improved policies and practices concerning labour in fishing, especially with regard to migrant workers. The study came up with a number of recommendations to both small-scale fishery groups and the government.

Social Development and Sustainable Fisheries: Kerala and Tamil Nadu, India

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/930.ICSF240_Social_Development_Kerala_Tamil-Nadu.pdf

The study aims to provide an overall picture of the social development status of small-scale fisherfolk in the Indian states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, in the context of the SSF Guidelines. Various topics under social development such as health, education, housing, sanitation and drinking water as well as the impacts of climate change and natural disasters are examined, as are issues such as social inclusion, decent work and access to justice. While there are several schemes and policies in both the states that work towards the social development of small-scale fishing communities, fisherfolk, in general, are way lower compared to the general population when it comes to social indicators. The study has come up with a number of recommendations including the importance of improved access to health care and education and the need to address the digital divide.

MEL4SSF

The overriding goal of the SSF Guidelines is to promote a human rights-based approach to address the aspirations, needs and challenges of small-scale fishers and fish workers across the value chain. With a view to promote further the SSF Guidelines implementation and

sharing of experiences, the FAO has developed a monitoring, evaluation and learning Framework (MEL4SSF).

MEL4SSF Piloting Philippines: Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/930.ICSF237_Philippines_Pilot_study.pdf

As a signatory and participant to the development of the SSF Guidelines, the Philippines was selected to pilot the proposed draft MEL4SSF. The piloting process examined the framework in a real-world setting through document review, key informant interviews and surveys with relevant actors in the small-scale fisheries sector, and the findings will inform the finalization of the framework. The introduction of the MEL4SSF took into consideration the Philippines governance context, characterized by a more decentralized and devolved governance structure. The piloting process uncovered possible impacts and opportunities on the implementation of SSF Guidelines initiatives, as well as in monitoring and evaluation of initiatives under the SSF Guidelines. The process contextualized the prioritization of identified key indicators of relevance from the stakeholders' perspective and offered useful lessons and recommendations for improving the framework.

MEL4SSF Piloting Ghana: Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/930.ICSF236_Ghana_Pilot_Study.pdf

This report details a pilot of the MEL4SSF in Ghana: 42 officials and SSF leaders were interviewed, 13 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 227 participants were conducted; and over 20 major legislative and policy documents were reviewed. The pilot prioritized pre-identified key indicators of relevance; and offers useful lessons and recommendations for improving the MEL4SSF. On the whole, the pilot study was positively received by SSF stakeholders as they could relate to the principles and issues. They noted that both the MEL Handbook and Indicators cover the relevant issues that need to be addressed in the small-scale sector.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework: A handbook in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (published by FAO, 2023)

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/monitoring-evaluation-and-learning-framework-a-handbook-fao/>

The SSF Guidelines are to promote globally a human rights-based approach, covering every social and economic aspect of fisheries governance relevant to all activities undertaken by men and women, in marine and inland waters fisheries value chains towards sustainable

fisheries management for poverty eradication and food security. To support and promote the implementation of this important instrument, systematic monitoring is needed in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 13.4, calling for “participatory assessment methodologies that allow a better understanding and documentation of the true contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable resource management for food security and poverty eradication”.

This handbook, published by FAO, contains a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for the SSF Guidelines implementation (MEL4SSF). It provides a clear and accessible guide and a step-by-step process, using the theory of change methodology. The aim is to help all those engaged in the monitoring of the SSF Guidelines at the local or national level, including governments and stakeholder organizations, and promote participatory processes in line with paragraph 13.5 of the SSF Guidelines.

Report of the Workshop on Sea Safety and Fisheries Management: Training and Capacity Development of Local Self-Governments, 01–02 March 2023, Thrissur, Kerala, India

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/930.ICSF245_LSG_ICSF_KILA_2023.pdf

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) jointly organized a Training and Capacity Development workshop at KILA, Kerala, India, on March 01-02, 2023. There were fifty-six participants from the various districts of Kerala. The two-day workshop was organized with an aim to enhance the capacity of representatives of local self-government institutions, officers from the Department of Fisheries, Kerala, fishworkers’ organizations, CSOs, and community-based organizations, with focus on sea safety and fisheries management and to engage with the SSF Guidelines to negotiate issues of concern in regard to policy, legislation, lives and livelihoods of the SSF communities. The sessions had presentations by resource persons apart from panel and group discussions to help the participants address their concerns.

Report on Latin American and Caribbean Workshop – IYAFSA 2022: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries, 2-5 November 2022, Workshop Report

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/930.ICSF231_LAC_Report.pdf

Portuguese: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/930.ICSF232_LAC_Report_Portugues.pdf

Spanish: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CIAPA_AIPAA_America_Latina-Spanish.pdf

Spanish: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CIAPA_AIPAA_America_Latina-Spanish.pdf

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CIAPA_AIPAA_America_Latina-Spanish.pdf

The Latin America and Caribbean Workshop was held in São Paulo State, Brazil from 2-5 November, 2022 and the report is published in 2023. The overall goal of the workshop was to strengthen the recognition of small-scale fisheries’ crucial contributions to global food security and nutrition, the importance of tenure rights in the sector, and social development. The objectives of the workshop were: To increase international engagement of fishworkers’ organizations and to deepen cooperation between fishworkers and like-minded organizations regarding food security, tenure rights and social development. The workshop further

amplified the voices of women in the inclusive development of small-scale fisheries. The workshop was also an opportunity to examine how the SSF Guidelines can eradicate poverty, ensure food security and nutrition, and promote the tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Report of the Africa Regional Workshop IYAFA: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries, 15–18 February 2023, Harajuku Hall, Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/930.ICSF246_Africa_IYAFA_Report.pdf

French: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/930.ICSF248_AFRICA_IYAFA_FRENCH.pdf

ICSF in partnership with Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD), Ghana organized an International Workshop titled “IYAFA -Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries: Africa” from 15 to 18 February 2023 IN Accra, Ghana. The Africa workshop was the third in the series of four regional workshops planned by ICSF in connection with the proclamation of 2022 as IYAFA by the United Nations. The workshop revolved around discussions on the SSF Guidelines implementation and monitoring and specifically focused on the themes of tenure rights, social development and gender and women in fisheries. The workshop had a diverse group of 50 participants from CSOs, CBOs and fishworkers’ organizations from 16 countries, viz., Tunisia, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti and Seychelles. The discussions of the four-day workshop resulted in the formulation of a ‘The African regional action plan: Women and gender in fisheries’ and the ‘IYAFA Africa statement’.

Report of the IYAFA Regional Workshop: Getting the Story Straight and Envisioning a Fair Future for Small-scale Fisheries in Europe, 13-16 November 2023, Galicia, Spain

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/930.ICSF249_Europe_Report_Eng.pdf

Spanish: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/930.ICSF250_Europe_Report_Spanish.pdf

The IYAFA Europe regional workshop, the last of the series of IYAFA workshops organized by ICSF, was convened in collaboration with Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and *Mulleres Salgadas* (MuS) from 13–16 November 2023 at Galicia, Spain. The workshop had participation from 16 European countries including representatives from fishworkers organizations, civil society organizations and academia. The workshop aimed to discuss necessary governance transitions, issues pertaining to women in SSF, and pathways of strengthening capacities of SSF and support organizations in Europe. By doing so, the workshop was intended to shape inspiring narratives for the future of small-scale fisheries, emphasizing the importance of desirable and equitable futures. The workshop proved to be a valuable platform for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge and addressing key issues in

European fisheries. The outcomes and recommendations generated during the workshop contribute to the ongoing efforts towards sustainable practices in the region.

Films/Videos

Aquaculture at Crosswaters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHvTNVjoPrM>

‘Aquaculture at Crosswaters’ delves into the dynamic emergence of aquaculture in India, with a focus on the states of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. It highlights significant advancements in the sector, examining their far-reaching socio-environmental effects. It also serves a cautionary tale, emphasizing the potential dangers associated with unchecked growth in aquaculture, particularly monoculture.

A Thousand Hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6pfngBG7bc>

A Thousand Hands: Story of Aquafarm Workers tackles the often-overlooked issue of labour within the aquaculture industry, which has received limited attention in India. The documentary is to ignite a meaningful dialogue on this crucial topic. It is hoped that the implementation of an aquaculture census in the country could help appreciate the labour dynamics in this industry.

Guidelines for a better framework for small-scale fishworkers by ICSF, 2023

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/guidelines-for-a-better-framework-for-small-scale-fishworkers-by-icsf-2023/>

An overview of SSF Guidelines implementation in ten countries: Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

8. Other Activities:

First PROBLUE Global Engagement Forum event on the critical topic of Abandoned, Lost, and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), World Bank, Paris, 15 May 2023 (Plastic Pollution INC-2)

ICSF (Sebastian Mathew) was invited to participate in the above event organized by the World Bank on 15 May 2023—held back-to-back with the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally-binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (Plastic Pollution INC-2)—where ICSF made a presentation on ALDFG and small-scale fisheries. Based on recent research findings, ICSF drew attention to how ALDFG is indeed a serious problem to be dealt with in relation to gears used in small-scale fisheries (e.g. trammel nets), especially considering that these gears are otherwise less destructive compared to bottom trawling in

tropical waters. ICSF encouraged the development biodegradable fishing gear and sought gear manufacturers to adopt extended producer responsibility (EPR) regimes. ICSF sought the integration of social protection to mitigate the social effect of regulating fishing gears of high ALDFG impacts. All efforts to control and mitigate ALDFG are to be in consultation with fishing communities. ICSF also sought a role for fishing communities in the removal and recycling of marine and coastal plastic debris.

Training of ICSF Staff on ICSF Policies

ICSF organized a two-day training programme for the staff on ICSF policies in Chennai, India, on 19 and 20 of December 2023. Nine policies were discussed. The discussions were distributed over four sessions to clarify questions and challenges faced in applying the policies. The sessions helped in clarifying terms used in the policies. The trainer went through key points of all the policies and showed interlinkages between Code of conduct and HR Policy and Finance Policy. Nuances at various points were discussed and the trainer answered the various questions of the participants.

Conclusion

The programme of ICSF in the year 2023 continued its sustained focus on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines with Indigenous Peoples, fishing communities, fishworkers' organizations at various levels, women, youth, fisheries administrations, etc. It was also a testimony to multilateral bodies like FAO working for a common cause such as the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in tandem with NGOs/CSOs and the donor community. In the process, ICSF has also taken elements of the SSF Guidelines into engaging meaningfully with other multilateral bodies like the WTO, the World Bank, the Division of Affairs of the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and multilateral treaties like the CBD. These engagements of ICSF would complement the work of IPC and its constituents with the UN Human Rights Council within the framework of the right of food.

As in the year 2022, the IYAFSA Africa and Europe Workshops in Ghana and Spain in 2023 contextualized the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the regional level. In addition, the monitoring, evaluation and learning handbook; the completion of the FAO project on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in several countries at national and local levels; and the FAO social protection survey in the context of small-scale fisheries in small island developing States in the ACP region, have deepened the collaborative engagement with the implementation of the SSF Guidelines from the global to the local levels, and from developing to developed countries. ICSF publications and its communication programme have certainly provided visibility and support to this process. The insights gained from this process have been instrumental in engaging with the fisheries subsidies negotiations in WTO and in engaging with the development of the plastic pollution prevention instrument from the perspective of small-scale fisheries and ALDFG.

9. ICSF Advocacy: List of meetings attended from January 2023 to December 2023

S.No.	Date	Details	Country/Virtual	Attended by
1.	16 January 2023	CFFA steering committee meeting	Virtual	Elyse Mills, Sebastian Mathew
2.	1-2 February 2023	Online dialogue Series on Human Rights Actors and Fisheries	Virtual	Sebastian Mathew
3.	6 February 2023	Meeting with UNCBD Women Caucus National Co-ordinator to discuss further actions in engaging with the NBSAPs	Virtual	Sivaja K Nair
4.	15–18 February 2023	Africa Workshop, IYAFA: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries, Accra, Ghana	Ghana	Elyse Mills, Peter Adjei, Sivaja K Nair, N Venugopalan
5.	27 Feb 2023	Drones-assisted approaches for safety of coastal communities-IITM RuTAG-ICSF	Virtual	Sebastian Mathew, Sivaja K Nair
6.	9 February 2023	IPC Fisheries Working Group meeting	Virtual	Elyse Mills
7.	28 February 2023	CAOPA meeting – launching the Code of Conduct for the Call 2 Action	Virtual	Elyse Mills, Leopoldo Gerhardinger
8.	13 March 2023	Blue Commons book launch webinar and discussion	Virtual	Elyse Mills
9.	16 March 2023	FAO ‘Illuminating Hidden Harvests’ Launch Event	Virtual	Elyse Mills
10.	22 March 2023	Report Launch on Monitoring the realisation of the human rights of small-scale fishers in South Africa	Virtual	Elyse Mills

11.	27 March 2023	Safeguarding the seas: Ending overfishing on the high seas webinar	Virtual	Elyse Mills
12.	28 March 2023	IPC Fisheries Working Group support organizations meeting	Virtual	Elyse Mills
13.	28 March 2023	IIED ‘Fish Night’ Webinar on keeping up momentum for artisanal fisheries and aquaculture	Virtual	Elyse Mills
14.	31 March 2023	FAO IYAFSA closing event	Virtual	Elyse Mills
15.	15 May 2023	First PROBLUE Global Engagement Forum event on the critical topic of Abandoned, Lost, and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), INC-2, Paris	Virtual	Sebastian Mathew
16.	6 June 2023	World Oceans Week: next steps from our 2022 event “Exploring challenges, opportunities and alliances for the protection of small-scale fishers’ human rights”	Virtual	Sebastian Mathew
17.	17 June 2023	Meeting to discuss Draft Guidelines for Regulation of Fishing by Indian Flagged Vessels in the High Seas	Virtual	Sebastian Mathew
18.	12 June 2023	Meeting to discuss IPC Regional Advisory Groups Asia Report on SSF Guidelines implementation	Virtual	Elyse Mills, Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk
19.	15 June 2023	Meeting with Mele Tauati (FAO) (MARE conference preparations)	Virtual	Elyse Mills
20.	15 June 2023	CFS Food Security Report launch	Virtual	Elyse Mills
21.	26 – 30 June 2023	MARE People and the Seas Conference Elyse was an invited panellist in two sessions: 1) SSF Guidelines panel (organized by FAO); 2) Marine stewardship panel (organized	The Netherlands	Elyse Mills, Maarten Bavinck, Leopoldo Gerhardinger

		by Tony Charles, St. Mary's University). She was also a reviewer for the Best Conference Paper Award.		
22.	14 July 2023	IPC Fisheries Working Group meeting of the support groups (Crocevia, ICSF, TNI, FIAN)	Virtual	Elyse Mills
23.	June and July	The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Regional Capacity Building Workshop for East, South and South-East Asia	Virtual	Sivaja K Nair
24.	30 July to 5 August 2023	UN-DOALOS Regional Workshop on ocean governance and science-policy interface. Mahe, Seychelles	Seychelles	Sebastian Mathew
25.	03 August 2023	Meeting to discuss the proposed scheme to provide Deep Sea Fishing Vessels (DSFVs) to fishermen through a SPV model	Virtual	Sebastian Mathew
26.	4 August 2023	IPC Fisheries Working Group meeting	Virtual	Elyse Mills, Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk
27.	5 – 8 September 2023	Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia	Korea	Sivaja K Nair
28.	11 - 15 September 2023	19th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Bergen, Norway	Norway	Sebastian Mathew
29.	14 September 2023	Consultation meeting to discuss the Illegal exploitation of marine biodiversity using harmful gears in Sundarbans Region, scheduled to be held under the chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries), Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India on 14th September, 2023	Virtual	N Venugopalan
30.	12 and 13 September 2023	Session on fisheries subsidies at the WTO Public Forum, Geneva	Geneva	Sebastian Mathew

31.	29 November to 1 December 2023	The Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector workshop, Brasilia, Brazil	Brazil	Sebastian Mathew
32.	19 to 21 November 2023	CAOPA/Celebration of World Fisheries Day 2023	Benin	Sebastian Mathew
33.	6-7 November 2023	The National Council Meeting 6-7 November, 2023 at Kolkata, West Bengal, India	India	N Venugopalan
34.	14-16 November 2023	Creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, Rome	Rome	Sebastian Mathew
35.	20 – 24 November 2023	Technical Expert Workshop to Review Modalities for Modifying the Descriptions of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas and Describing New Areas, Oslo, Norway	Norway	Sivaja K Nair
36.	06 December 2023	Workshop on Enhancing Equity in Commodity Supply Chains and Seafood-dependent Communities	Virtual	Sebastian Mathew