



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Report of Activities

**Reporting Period:
01/06/2021 to 31/03/2023**

ACRONYMS	
ACP	Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CoEDS	Coastal Education and Development Society
CIFE	Central Institute of Fisheries Education of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
Crocevia	<i>Centro Internazionale Crocevia</i>
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DISHA	Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action
DFYWA	District Fishermen Youth Welfare Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FishMARC	Fisheries Management Resource Centre
FWOs	Fishworkers' organizations
GAF	Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries
GIS	Geographic information system
HLPE	High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
ILO	International Labour Organization
IITC	International Indian Treaty Council
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
IYAFA	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
KILA	Kerala Institute of Local Administration
LVC	<i>La Via Campesina</i>
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation and learning
OAL	Length overall
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OEWG	Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
PMMSY	<i>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana</i>
SFZs	Small-scale Artisanal non-towed Fishing gear Zones
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SSF	Small-scale Fisheries
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
ULAPA	<i>Unión Latinoamericana de pacientes</i>
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (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 fishworker movements 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, upholding 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

General Assembly	Secretariat
Ana Paula Rainho (Brazil) Antonio García Allut (Spain) Beatriz Mesquita Pedrosa Ferreira (Brazil) M.G Bobby. (Myanmar) Brian O’Riordan (Belgium) Charles R. Menzies (Canada) Cornelie Quist (The Netherlands) Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger (Brazil) Maarten Bavinck (The Netherlands) Peter Linford Adjei (Ghana) Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, (Thailand) Rosemarie N. Mwaipopo (Tanzania) Serge Raemaekers (South Africa) V. Vivekanandan (India) Vivienne Solis Rivera (Costa Rica)	<i>Executive Director</i> Sebastian Mathew <i>Programme</i> N. Venugopalan (Programme Manager) Sivaja K Nair (Programme Executive) Nivedita Sridhar (Programme Officer) Vivek (Junior Information Officer) <i>Finance & Administration</i> S. Ganga Devi (Manager, Accounts) Manjula R. (Junior Office Secretary)

<p>ICSF Board</p> <p>Maarten Bavinck, Chairperson Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger, Secretary Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Treasurer Peter Linford Adjei, Member Vivienne Solis Rivera, Member Sebastian Mathew, Member (ex officio)</p>	<p><i>Consultants</i></p> <p>SAMUDRA Report and SAMUDRA News Alerts and South Asia News Alerts K.G. Kumar (Editor) Sopan Joshi (Copy Editor)</p> <p>Yemaya Newsletter Nilanjana Biswas (Editor)</p> <p>South Asia News Alerts S.Sangeetha Surendranath Reddy (cartoonist) Vasanth Christopher (Layout)</p>
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Governance: ICSF Board Meetings, General Assembly Meetings 2021- 2023

The Board meetings during the reporting period directed the work plan and course of work, including advocacy and networking of ICSF. The workplan for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 were discussed and approved by the Board. The emphasis was on the celebration of IYAFA 2022 and the discussions on activities and collaborations surrounding it. ICSF organized ten Board meetings and two General Assembly meetings during the reporting period.

Activity Report: 1 June 2021- 31 March 2023

ICSF has undertaken a range of activities during the reporting period. Many of the activities planned for the year 2021 was marred due to COVID-19 pandemic and have been undertaken in the year 2022. However, conscious efforts have been made by the team to continue the work, especially with regard to IYAFA 2022 celebration and information sharing so as to benefit the small-scale fishing communities. This report details the activities undertaken by ICSF during the 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 concerning, and of 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 the seven pillars of IYAFA 2022: environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, social sustainability, governance, gender equality and equity, food security and nutrition and resilience. Special efforts have been made to improve the visibility of women in SSF through the inclusion of material on women, especially produced by women. The ICSF publications, during the period, engaged with the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes, in particular. These engagements assisted 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 from across the globe, reaching out to a global audience through improved

information-sharing platforms. The information sharing was intended to assist strengthening of fishworkers' movements and implementation of the SSF Guidelines within the context of food security and poverty alleviation.

The communication strategies of ICSF are interlinked 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 furthered its social networks.

All articles of ICSF publications, including SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya are deposited in repositories such as icsfarchives.net, [Aquatic Commons](https://aquaticcommons.org), [FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform](https://www.fao.org/knowledgeplatform) and [Academia.edu](https://www.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, the triannual publication of ICSF on fisheries, communities and livelihoods, was started in March 1988. The SAMUDRA Report continues to disseminate information on important developments in fisheries from an SSF perspective to create greater awareness about issues that concern the sub-sector. During the reporting period, ICSF published three issues of SAMUDRA report and they paid special attention to IYAFSA 2022 workshops, UN Processes and challenges faced by SSF. Around 5,000 e-copies of the report were emailed to individuals and organizations linked to the SSF. There were around 100,000 views for the SAMUDRA articles and more than 150,000 downloads during the reporting period as per the website analytics. All issues of SAMUDRA Report issue No. 1- to 88 are available on the ICSF website

b. Yemaya (<https://www.icsf.net/samudra/yemaya/>)

The Yemaya Newsletter of ICSF on women in fisheries started in April 1999. Yemaya seeks to disseminate information about 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. In the reporting period, three issues of Yemaya were published. The e-copy of Yemaya was shared with more than 4,560 individuals and organizations through publications and films alerts. The views and downloads for Yemaya articles during the reporting period have crossed 50,000 and 75,000 respectively as per data analytics. All issues of Yemaya newsletter issue No. 1-66 are available on the ICSF website.

c. SAMUDRA Daily News Alerts (<https://www.icsf.net/news/>)

SAMUDRA News Alerts, launched by ICSF in January 2005, has been sending out news on fisheries and fishworkers on a daily basis, and in the form of a weekly digest on Saturdays. SAMUDRA News alerts with, 2,095 subscribers, carried news items on national fisheries policy issues, issues of fisheries management and governance, UN processes related to SSF, trade and certification, besides arrest and detention of fishers, disaster and community initiatives as currently highlighted. In the reporting period, 398 alerts with 3,061 news items were disseminated.

d. South Asia News Alerts (<https://www.icsf.net/news/>)

The South Asia News Alert, initiated in October 2011, presently has over 2,000 subscribers. It carried news items on fisheries policy issues, fisheries management and governance, press releases, petitions and other reports from fishworker and civil society organizations. In the reporting period, 414 alerts with 3,420 news items were disseminated, which were viewed by more than 100,000 viewers.

e. Social media

ICSF developed a strong social media presence during the reporting period through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Social media contents on major developments in SSF, publications and activities of ICSF and other civil society organizations and fishworker organizations are regularly being posted in the social media.

f. Digital Library (<http://icsfarchives.net/>)

ICSF's Archives/Digital library caters to the needs of stakeholders with an interest in information and knowledge pertaining to small-scale and artisanal fisheries. The archives have ICSF collection over the past 37 years. It offers more than 2,000 original documents and 12,000+ curated links and gathers various kinds of information pertinent to SSF and fishworkers and share it with all stakeholders in a user-friendly and readily available format. They include peer-reviewed journals, books, reports of conference and meetings, newspapers, websites, fisheries databases, profiles of FWOs, NGOs, and governmental and multilateral agencies. The archives have a special collection of 'grey publications'—unpublished literature relating to fishing communities, demands of FWOs, fisheries policy, and fisheries trade, etc. All ICSF publications are available in the archives, including the triannual publications like SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya. Add to this, over 2,000 resources published by other organizations, including infographics and films pertinent to fisheries issues, are available. 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 14 March, 2023, there are nearly 14,000 items in the repository.

2. ICSF Advocacy

ICSF has been engaging with international processes through advocacy, participation and liaison activities. The year 2021 limited direct engagement in the international processes due to COVID-19 pandemic, however, the year 2022 permitted engagements in international forums.

a. Implementation of the SSF Guidelines with support from FAO

The engagement of ICSF with the FAO processes is through three strategies: (i) direct engagement with COFI; (ii) implementation of collaborative projects and activities; and (iii) communication. ICSF participated in the FAOs processes, both virtually and in-person, including the 35th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, during September 2022. During this Session, ICSF made statements on issues of concern to the SSF

subsector. ICSF supported mainstreaming biodiversity into fisheries and aquaculture processes, within a human rights-based approach. The ICSF statements are available on the website (<https://www.icsf.net/useful-resources/icsf-statements/#icsf>). A detailed report on COFI and ICSF participation is published in the 88th issue of the SAMUDRA Report.

ICSF participated in the IYAFSA 2022 Summit on SSF—organized by FAO—prior to the COFI. The Summit gave an opportunity to promote dialogue between small-scale fishers and fishworkers, and key partners and decision-makers from CSOs, NGOs and governments ahead of the 35th Session of COFI. ICSF held a session during the Summit on the results and observations from the FAO-ICSF project on implementing the SSF Guidelines in nine countries drawn from Africa, Asia and Latin America. ICSF participated in several meetings organized by the FAO and other inter-governmental organizations on topics such as the FAO-ICES conference on future-proofing SSF where ICSF proposed the need to develop a common template for data collection on SSF in the Bay of Bengal region by listing, following the OECD model, all 12 m OAL and below as small-scale fishing vessels.

ICSF participated in the IYAFSA 2022 closing event for Asia and made an intervention on “Towards a new era of support for SSF and aquaculture.” ICSF has collaborated with FAO towards capacity-building initiatives to implement the SSF Guidelines in India, Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria. The details of these projects and their outputs will be described in the project section. ICSF engaged with the development and refining of the indicators of the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework, preparing a handbook on MEL and the piloting of the same in the Philippines and Ghana, through ICSF partners in these countries.

b. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

ICSF has been engaging with the CBD processes. ICSF participated in the 5th Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD and the COP15 in Montreal, Canada. ICSF raised issues related to small-scale fishers in the COP15 through its participation in the Women Caucus of the CBD and through the human rights group of the CBD. ICSF co-organized a side event “Indigenous Peoples and local communities small scale fisheries: local stewardship for the implementation of the 2030 biodiversity conservation agenda” during the COP15. A detailed analysis of the CBD process and what it meant for the SSF sub-sector is published in the 88th issue of SAMUDRA Report. ICSF played an instrumental role in the preparation of the Handbook on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for SSF Communities, describing the components of the CBD and providing an overview of its programmes, targets and commitments in relation to the aquatic, marine and coastal biodiversity. ICSF also developed a video on the handbook in collaboration with Crocevia, Rome.

ICSF took part in the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD in Geneva and submitted a statement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

c. Support to fishworkers’ organizations: Engagement through IPC

ICSF has had a long-standing role within the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) since October 2002 (IPC was established in the late-1990s). ICSF supports IPCs Working Group on Fisheries (FWG) by bringing valuable technical fisheries knowledge. In the last two years, ICSF has participated in monthly FWG meetings, in which the group’s agenda, strategy and various on-going activities are discussed. ICSF has participated in additional meetings of the FWG support organizations that has been

discussing the strategies to strengthen the support structure for WFFP, WFF, LVC and IITC. An important part of these discussions has been to develop a work plan for the coming few years, in which training and capacity-building are a central theme. ICSF has contributed directly to the development of the work plan, as well as providing feedback on draft activity documents and reports prepared by the IPC Secretariat.

In celebration of the IYAFA 2022, ICSF organized three regional workshops in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa between May 2022 and February 2023, in which IPC members were key participants. ICSF supported the FWG in preparing for and participating in the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Lisbon in July 2022, and the COFI 35th Session in Rome in September 2022, which involved numerous preparatory meetings, providing analysis on the international agendas (and key themes within) for UNOC and the COFI session, and technical support during meetings. This support work continues as the FWG prepares for several upcoming international events, including the COFI 36th session and the 10-year anniversary of the SSF Guidelines in 2024.

d. Food security (engagement through Committee on World Food Security (CFS))

ICSF has been engaging with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) processes through participating in the regular sessions and the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) meetings. ICSF has participated in the Forty-ninth Session of CFS "Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition", organized virtually in October 2021. ICSF has engaged in HLPE online consultation on their draft report 'Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition' to bring attention to fisheries since the report had minimal mention of fisheries in just one section: 'Fisheries Policy and Investment', and no mention of SSF. In this regard, ICSF compiled all the reports and documents on food security and nutrition in relation to SSF and submitted these as part of the ICSF contribution to the online CFS consultation.

3. ICSF Campaigns

a. Tenure rights of non-towed fishers

ICSF has undertaken a campaign: "Making the Small-scale Artisanal Fishing Zones Work" to enforce/create small-scale artisanal non-towed fishing gear zones (SFZs) to benefit fishing communities using these gears and practices in a sustainable manner to defend against the illegal incursions of towed fishing gear such as trawls, and to protect against inequitable purse seine operations. The campaign tried to seek coherence between equitable development of fishing communities and conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources. Three studies are planned to be conducted under this campaign in India, the Philippines and Indonesia. The India study has been completed and the results are published as a monograph titled "Making Small-scale Artisanal Fishing Zones Work!: Research study on the tenure rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized fishers in Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh" (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/icsf-campaign-andhra-pradesh-tenure-rights/>). The study documented the integral role the SFZ plays in the lives of the small-scale fishing community and reiterated the need to establish designated zones, especially for the unmotorized, vulnerable and marginalized fishers in nearshore waters, and to implement them to ensure equity and justice.

ICSF is collaborating with *Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia* (KNTI) and *Ekologi Maritim Indonesia* (EKOMARIN), Indonesia, and Tambuyog Development Center (TDC),

the Philippines, to conduct similar studies on securing tenure rights of small-scale fishers, especially against illegal fishing by bottom trawlers in areas designated for non-towed fishers.

b. The right to nutrition and food security

With regard to the right to nutrition and food security campaign, ICSF has not undertaken any particular project during the reporting period. However, many of the multimedia work and publications that ICSF has brought out during the reporting period has reflected on the issue on food security and nutrition.

c. Valorize SSF in the blue economy

ICSF publications, mainly SAMUDRA Report carried articles on blue economy in its 86th and 87th issues. In addition, ICSF commissioned case studies on the impact of blue economy agenda on the SSF in ten countries in the Latin American region and the results were published as an edited volume titled “*Baffling Shades of Blue: Addressing the impacts of the Blue Economy on small-scale fisheries in Latin America.*” It draws upon scholarship of research centres across ten Latin American countries.¹ Through extensive interviews, policy reviews, analyses of finances and online datasets it examines how “blue growth” negatively impacts artisanal fishers and their need for equity and justice.

d. Multimedia product on Decent work, Women and the fisheries value chain

ICSF produced multiple multimedia products on this theme during the reporting period. The major ones are listed below

i. The Silent Wave | A fisheries cooperative in India responds to COVID-19
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4YgGlyV62U>)

This documentary highlights an innovation introduced by the local fisheries cooperative to ensure the safety of the coastal fishing community and correcting the power imbalance between fishers and traders in Kerala during COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences.

ii. Unseen Faces Unheard Voices: Women and Aquaculture (Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EzITPhLVYM>

The documentary film *Unseen Faces, Unheard Voices* showcase the impacts of the boom in aquaculture on women in the floodplain regions of the Indian coastal state of West Bengal. The documentary has been selected for the 15th edition of the International Film Festival "Fishermen of the world" in Lorient (France) in March 2023.

iii. Shescapes: Women in Small-scale Fisheries
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I8dvsA7_R0

The 32-minute film *Shescapes: Women in Small-scale Fisheries* shows the changes that have occurred over a decade in different countries across the world in terms of women’s role in fisheries. It highlights invisible voices from the South Pacific and Caribbean SIDS as well as from Asia, Africa and Latin America. The film was screened during GAF 8 at Kochi.

¹ Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

4. ICSF Workshops

a. IYAFa 2022 Regional workshops: Asia, Latin America and the Caribbeans and Africa

ICSF has organized three regional workshops in 2022 in Asia (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/asia-workshop-iyafa-2022-celebrating-sustainable-and-equitable-small-scale-fisheries/>), Latin America (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/latin-america-workshop-iyafa-2022/>) and Africa (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>) with an objective of celebrating the SSF in the IYAFa 2022 and facilitating the implementation of SSF guidelines in the national contexts. The workshops were intended to increase the engagement of FWOs on themes like food security, social development, tenure rights, sustainable fisheries and gender equity. On an average every workshop had around 55 participants- both men and women from FWOs, community-based organizations and civil society organizations participating and contributing to the workshops. The programmes included panel discussions, group discussions, field visit and photo exhibitions. The workshops have come up with regional statements and gender equity action plans to further strengthening of movements in their national and regional contexts.

As a support organization of SSF and fishing communities, it was a great opportunity for ICSF to organize the regional workshops. This was the first series of regional meetings organized by ICSF since the adoption of the SSF Guidelines in 2014. The workshops offered a platform to discuss contemporary challenges facing the SSF in the region and barriers to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The regional workshops provided an opportunity to activate ICSF's networking with FWOs and to create linkages with new organizations in the region. This has been evident in further collaborations with organizations in the Philippines and Ghana on piloting the MEL framework for the SSF Guidelines, and in collaborative projects with organizations in the Philippines and Indonesia on tenure rights and marine protected areas (MPAs) or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). In addition to advocacy, the regional workshops assisted networking between national and subnational FWOs, civil society groups and academicians sharing a common vision, thereby strengthening the alliances and movements. The workshop led to significant knowledge generation and sharing mainly through publications commissioned through SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya of ICSF. All the documents in relation to the regional workshops are available in the workshop webpage.

The regional workshop for Europe is planned to be organized by mid-2023.

b. India: National Workshops

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

(i) The National workshop on **SSF Guidelines and Women in Fisheries: 8-10 April 2022** (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/india-national-workshop-the-ssf-guidelines-and-the-platform-for-women-in-fisheries/>) focused on discussions on women as an integral part of fisheries value chain at all levels and led to the formation of 'National Platform for Women in Small Scale Fisheries', intended to work towards strengthening the position of women in fisheries.

(ii) The three-day **National Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop (Marine Fisheries): 13 to 15 October 2022** (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/tot-ssf-guidelines-india-2022/>) was organized in Chennai to discuss issues pertaining to access rights of small-scale fishers and to discuss the existing schemes and policies in the national context that benefit small-scale fishers and fishworkers. The workshop carried a special session on the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement. The workshop resulted in strengthened capacity of small-scale fishing communities at local level to engage in securing sustainable SSF.

(iii) The three-day **National Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop (inland fisheries)- 22 to 24 December 2022** (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/icsf-tot-inland-fisheries-2022/>) was organized in Kolkata to discuss access rights and challenges pertaining to inland fisheries. The session, addressing on national policies and welfare schemes, drew special interest among the participants and a request was made for similar workshops at the state level.

b.1 India: State level capacity-building Workshops

Based on the National TOT workshops, state-level training workshops were organized. The intent behind this two-stage training programmes was to reach the grassroots and provide capacity development training to the SSF community at large. A detailed presentation on how to go about the state-level training workshops was provided to the participants during the national workshops. Each of the state-workshop conducted was organized with the support of a regional CSO or FWO.

(i) Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)

The state-level training workshop on the SSF Guidelines was held in Visakhapatnam on 12 November 2022 and was jointly organised by the District Fishermen Youth Welfare Association (DFYWA). Over 40 people took part in the workshop discussing various tenets of the SSF Guidelines. ICSF's study report on tenure rights of SSF in Andhra Pradesh - *Making Small-scale Artisanal Fishing Zones Work* was released during the workshop.

(ii) Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

The Odisha state-level training workshop was held in Bhubaneswar on 29 November, 2022 and was jointly organized with FWOs and NGOs, both local and national. Forty participants from four coastal districts attended and discussed coastal rights and land rights for fishers. The Department of Fisheries made presentations on apps for secure fishing, weather warning and government schemes and financial assistance to marine fishers. A case study on *Commoning the Experience of Purnabandha Village* was shared. The group activity was on listing the roadblocks in accessing the various government schemes & benefits and identifying solutions to these challenges.

(iii) Kolkata (West Bengal)

The state-level capacity building training workshop in West Bengal was organized at Seva Kendra, Kolkata on 2 December, 2022, together with the Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA), The workshop discussed preferential access of small-scale fishers to marine fishery resources and ways to overcome climate crisis and to receive climate justice.

(iv) Alappuzha (Kerala)

The state-level capacity-building training workshop was conducted at Alappuzha 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 and coastal tenure rights through the lens of the SSF Guidelines.

(v) Vasco (Goa)

The state-level training workshop, Goa, was co-organized in collaboration 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 current challenges in relation to SSF.

(vi) Honavar (Karnataka)

The Karnataka workshop was co-organized with Snehakunja Trust, Honavar, Karnataka, on 3 March 2023. The Workshop discussed access rights and government schemes for fishers under the *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana* (PMMSY).

(vii) Chennai (Tamil Nadu)

The state-level training workshop of Tamil Nadu on mapping and geographic information system (GIS) was co-organized by Fisheries Management Resource Centre (FishMARC), Chennai, a local NGO, on 06 March 2023. Representatives of FWOs 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 desired maps. The training programme, with a couple of more dedicated sessions in learning the software would facilitate the FWOs and CSOs in understanding markets, landing centres, including beaches, settlement areas and the movement of fish landings to retail markets. GPS can also be an effective tool in mapping tenure rights.

(viii) Bharuch (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, FWOs and representatives of the state fisheries department.

(ix) Mumbai (Maharashtra)

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

(x) *Subnational Workshop on Sea Safety and Fisheries Management: Training and Capacity Development of Local Self-Governments, Kerala, India*

ICSF and Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) jointly organized a sub-national capacity development workshop on safety at sea, fisheries management and social development. The Workshop was held at KILA, Thrissur, Kerala, India, on 01-02 March 2023. The workshop raised awareness of local self-government institutions, called panchayats, about sea safety issues and equipped fishworker organizations and panchayats to engage in sustainable fisheries management.

5. ICSF Partnerships

As a support organization, ICSF has been partnering with FWOs, civil society organizations, fishers' movements and academia in supporting the cause of small-scale fishers and fishworkers. There have been efforts made in information sharing, capacity building and valorising SSF. ICSF has been supporting the IPC all through their activities related to fisheries, particularly in preparation for the COFI of FAO and the 2022 UN Ocean Conference. ICSF has contributed to the development of capacity-building proposal as a part of the IPC WG on Fisheries' strategy for 2023. Capacity-building opportunities have been made for the members of CAOPA, WFF and WFFP by ensuring their participation in the regional workshops in Asia, Africa and Latin America. ICSF facilitated the *Unión Latinoamericana de pacientes (ULAPA)* to discuss its organizational structure and capacity during the IYAFALatin American workshop in Brazil. ICSF has received request from WFF for capacity building during the reporting period and the request has been approved by the Board and further planning is underway.

In a national context, ICSF has been continuously contributing to the strengthening of fishers' organizations like the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) and National Platform for Small-scale Fishworkers (NPSSW) in India. In addition, a wide range of capacity-building workshops has been organized on a project basis.

ICSF has co-organized side events in collaboration with FWOs and movements in international forums like COFI, CBD and the 2022 UN Ocean Conference. ICSF was also a co-organizer for the 8th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF8) that was held in Kochi, India, in 2022.

6. ICSF Projects

a. Aquaculture

ICSF has conducted a literature review on aquaculture published in the year 2021 highlighting social dimensions/human rights aspects of aquaculture. This work detailed the regulatory frameworks for aquaculture, aquaculture systems, major states involved in aquaculture, and manifold impacts of aquaculture on women in aquaculture. ICSF has produced two documentary films on aquaculture in 2022 as a follow up to this case study. The documentary film, "Unseen Faces, Unheard Voices" showcasing the impacts of the aquaculture boom on women in the floodplain regions of the Indian coastal state of West Bengal has been selected to the 15th edition of the International Film Festival "Fishermen of the world" to be held in Lorient in March 2023.

Another case study on the "profits and perils of farming fish: case studies of shrimp and carp aquaculture in West Bengal" has been undertaken illustrating the impacts of aquaculture on the environment, the lives of the people dependent on these environments, and the social fabric at the site of production.

b. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Social Protection, Fisheries

ICSF co-ordinated with FAO a project on social protection, early warning systems and anticipatory action to respond to shocks related to climate change in the fisheries sector of 37 small island developing States (SIDS) in the Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP)

region.² The study, separately undertaken for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region, by civil society organizations and academia as recommended by FWOs and ICSF contacts, have been able to provide useful insights into social protection programmes in the ACP region. Regional validation workshops (virtual) identified gaps regarding social protection coverage of fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities in the region and shared information on good practices. The study results demonstrated the need for shock resilient social protection linked to early warning system, particularly in the African and Pacific SIDS. The study made recommendations on how such social protection systems can, possibly, be financed. Some of the key findings of the study were shared in a side event (virtual) organized by FAO at the COP27, UNFCCC, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.

c. Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

ICSF has collaborated with the FAO globally and nationally on the implementation of the SSF guidelines. A three-country project to strengthen small-scale fishing communities and to produce global information product in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was commissioned in Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria. The project is successfully completed and the final products are getting ready for publication. Indigenous people from the Amazonas participated in capacity-building workshop on the SSF Guidelines in **Brazil** and created video content to spread the discussions to their communities about the SSF Guidelines.

Multiple consultative meetings were set up in **Ghana** to draft a national policy on SSF, based on a human rights-based approach, ensuring sustainable and responsible fisheries. The summary of the discussions has been documented to support the drafting of the national policy. Multiple communication materials were also generated on the SSF guidelines.

Nigeria conducted a series of capacity-building workshops on the SSF Guidelines with a wide range of state and non-state actors. Background (synthesis) paper with information on the country case study under Illuminating Hidden Harvests towards incorporating relevant elements of the SSF Guidelines to enhance fisheries governance, food security and poverty reduction in local communities was prepared and submitted. The project supported the establishment of Nigeria SSF Guidelines Alliance Network.

d. Case study on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

ICSF has been engaging in the discourses around MPAs through international processes like CBD and through developing case studies pertaining to the impact of MPAs on the SSF. ICSF is in discussion with organizations from the Philippines, Tanzania and Mexico, in this regard, to undertake case studies.

ICSF has conducted an interview with marine biologist and fisheries scientist Ray Hilborn, University of Washington, on how area-based conservation measures can be made more inclusive of sustainable fisheries and the transcript of the interview is published in SAMUDRA Report (<https://www.icsf.net/samudra/conservation-in-context/>).

² **Africa:** Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Saõ Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles. **The Caribbean:** Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. **The Pacific** Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

7. Conclusion

By now, the contribution of SSF to poverty alleviation and food security has already been well recognized. In this backdrop, as a support organization, ICSF has been engaging to strengthen small-scale fishing communities in marine and inland fisheries and to influence decision-making processes at various levels in a spirit of dialogue and partnership. Enhancing social development and securing sustainable and responsible fisheries were immediate priorities. ICSF took up these priorities during the reporting period through communication, advocacy, networking and projects, and engaged with mechanisms and processes from local to global. ICSF has undertaken an array of activities stressing particularly the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at global, national and subnational levels with special attention to the Asian, African, and Latin American regions. The communication strategies adopted by ICSF paid attention to the contribution of SSF to economic and social development, environmental and resource sustainability, and food security in the context of secure tenure, gender equity and participatory governance to benefit vulnerable and marginalized groups, in particular.

Towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, there was an emphasis on capacity building to benefit SSF communities, in addition to raising their awareness. ICSF engaged with tenure rights as an instrument to defend non-towed fishing gear zones, which could also be an effective tool in defending the interests of small-scale fishing communities in coastal and marine spatial planning projects. Multiple stakeholder engagement involving communities, FWOs and government representatives were a salient aspect.

Engaging with international instruments to influence decision-making processes that percolate down to SSF communities at various levels has been followed up. Recognizing the interlinkages of the SSF Guidelines with other global processes and institutions, ICSF has thus engaged with the UN, CBD and FAO mechanisms through advocacy, dissemination of information and networking with CSO/NGO groups. ICSF, for example, partnered with FWOs in preparing joint statements, making interventions, organizing side events at COFI, UNOC and CBD to promote and protect the interests of small-scale fishers and fishing communities within the framework of sustainable fisheries. ICSF has been supporting and strengthening the capacity of fishworker organizations and movements in different parts of the world to engage with national and subnational policy-making processes.

The linkages between social development, gender equity and sustainable fisheries were highlighted in various events organized by ICSF. Some of the ICSF regional workshops dedicated time to discuss women in fisheries and have formulated gender equity action plans. Activities of ICSF during the reporting period have also leveraged on the celebration of IYAFA 2022 and supported the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at various levels, especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Securing the tenure rights of SSF communities to land, water and fishery resources, ensuring their social development, strengthening engagement in governance and sustainable use and management of fisheries resources remain as major challenges facing the SSF sub-sector. There are new challenges that act as threats to the SSF sub-sector, viz., negative externalities from the blue economy sectors, marine and riverine pollution, marine and coastal biodiversity degradation, and inadequate social protection to address climate change shocks. To address these challenges, ICSF continues to play a crucial role as a knowledge partner and supporter of sustainable and equitable small-scale fisheries to further strengthen the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, applying a human rights-based approach and principles of good governance.