Workshop on Processes of Documentation: Building Links

Venue: Chennai, India
Date: 18-22 July 2005

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
27 College Road, Chennai 600 006, India

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INTRODUCTION

Background and Rationale

As part of the effort towards supporting small-scale sustainable fisheries, several organizations across the world have been working to collect and disseminate information of relevance to small-scale fisheries and fishworkers, or plan to initiate such activities in the immediate future. A variety of documentation/information/research centres are gathering information using different modes and with differing objectives, and making them available in different forms and languages, often in a very region-specific manner.

In view of the commonality of concerns and issues facing the small-scale fisheries sector, it was felt that it would be mutually beneficial to enhance sharing among the centres, towards better collaboration and synergy. It was also felt that it would be meaningful to see how the information currently available with various centres can be integrated and disseminated more widely to external users, including small-scale fishworkers' organizations (FWOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to support them, policymakers at various levels, researchers and the media. This would be instrumental in lending greater visibility to the small-scale fisheries sector, its fishworkers and fishing communities and their concerns, thus valorizing the sector and its principal stakeholders, the small-scale and artisanal fishing communities.

Objectives

The workshop was, therefore, organized with the following objectives:

1. Provide training and other technical support, where required, to organizations initiating documentation centres on small-scale fisheries, on compatible systems of information gathering, management and dissemination.
2. Establish better co-ordination for information dissemination between documentation centres working on small-scale fisheries, towards:
   - ? making available, in an integrated way, information on small-scale fisheries in English, French and Spanish
   - ? disseminating widely news of relevance about small-scale fisheries in English, French and Spanish as well as exploring alternative ways of generating and disseminating such news

Participants and Venue

The workshop was organized in Chennai, India, at ICSF's Documentation Centre. It brought together representatives from seven resource centres based in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe. The resource centres were: (1) Masifundise Development Trust (MDT), South Africa, (2) Community Based Coastal Resources Management (CBCRM) Centre, the Philippines, (3) Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), Thailand, (4) Environnement et développement du tiers monde (ENDA), Senegal, (5) Collectif Pêche et Développement, France, (6) Centro en Defensa de la Pesca Nacional (CeDePesca), Argentina, and (7) Ecoceanos, Chile. The complete list of participants can be found in Appendix 1.

Structure of the Workshop

The five-day programme (whose detailed schedule is given in Appendix 2) was split into two components:

Component I: Methods of Documentation (18 to 20 July)

In this part, the focus was on the collection, collation and management of information relevant to small-scale fisheries as well as on methodologies and techniques available for the same.

Component II: Disseminating Information and Improving Collaboration (21 and 22 July)

The last two days of the programme focused on the various modes of information dissemination, including Web-based forms of information dissemination, keeping in mind the objectives and the target audience. Discussions also took place on ways of furthering collaboration between various centres.

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

Section I

The Relevance of Collecting and Disseminating Information on Small-scale Fisheries: Keynote Address by Dr. John Kurien

The following points were highlighted by Dr. Kurien:

- ? Small-scale fisheries is the invisible backbone of many maritime countries. Even though invisible, it is very important, and information can play a big role in bringing about better recognition and valuation of the sector, including among policymakers, and thus help ensure better policies.

- ? Equal access to information (information empowerment) is as important as political, economic and other forms of empowerment. Responsible fisheries can be made possible only when there is responsible information available on the fisheries. In this context, the role of resource centres is to collect and pass on responsible information to, and from, the small-scale sector.

- ? Three things should be kept in mind by responsible information providers:

    - o Information centres have to be **A**ccountable—giving correct information to small-scale fishers and correct information about them to others.
    - o Information collected should be **R**ational—objective documentation is essential.
    - o Information passed on should be **T**rustworthy—this increases the credibility of the centre in the eyes of small-scale fishers, policymakers, and so on.

    Running a good resource centre is, therefore, an **ART**.

- ? In the case of fisheries, it is essential to recognize and acknowledge that information on small-scale fisheries is locally specific, and that there are wide variations in the small-scale sector across countries and continents. It is important to capture such specificity and the contradictions that may come with it.

- ? It will also be important to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each centre, to avoid duplication of work, to build on each other's strengths and to complement areas where another may be weak. It will also be useful to recognize the potential for developing synergies between centres, perhaps by co-ordinating information flows on specific issues, to start with.

Section II

Presentations by Resource Centres on Information Collection and Dissemination (more details available on the CD-ROM distributed to participants)

(1)   CBCRM Resource Centre, Philippines

In his presentation, Randee Comia Cabaces from the CBCRM Resource Centre, Manila, Philippines, stated that the centre has been set up with the aim of empowering civil society in the production, distribution and utilization of knowledge for social transformation. To achieve these objectives, the CBCRM Resource Centre engages with the following processes:
- action research;
- research and publications support;
- mentoring and capability-building;
- policy advocacy support; and
- knowledge management.

CBCRM Resource Centre disseminates information (embodied knowledge) through workshops, conferences, roundtable discussions, e-group discussions and e-conferencing. Sharing of information (represented knowledge) is also done through books, case studies, research reports, proceedings, newsletters and Resource Centre updates, apart from the website. The CBCRM Resource Centre has a well-developed documentation centre with a substantial quantity of documents on community initiatives in natural resource management. These include case studies from the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, and other regions. All of these have been uploaded on the Centre's website (http://www.cbcrmlearning.org/) in a searchable format. Dissemination of embedded knowledge -- the third category -- is through capacity-building, study tours, training programmes and consultations.

Apart from these initiatives, the Centre is also trying to collect and compile songs on seas, fishers, fishing communities, and so on. There is an ongoing project to put together case studies of community-based natural resource management in Indonesia, which will be published in Bahasa Indonesia, targeting the local community. This effort was started after it was felt that, at present, the information collected is largely being utilized by academicians, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the government, and does not actually reach the local community. Of late, dissemination of information through CD-ROMs and videos has also been tried out.

The CBCRM Resource Centre plans to expand ties with South Asia as well. It is also considering collaborations with organizations like ICSF to share valuable information on artisanal fisheries.

In the coming period, there are plans for:
- more effective dissemination of information to local communities;
- broadening the range of materials in terms of format;

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- more effective dissemination through the Internet;
- preparing reference materials for activities (training modules, workshop designs, documentation, etc.);
- creating a "gateway to information" on CBCRM; and
- building documentation skills as part of developing local capacities.

(2)   Ecoceanos, Chile

In his presentation, Patricio Daniel Igor Melillanca pointed out that Ecoceanos is a Chilean NGO created in 1998 with the following objectives:
- promoting the protection of aquatic life and environment;
- increasing public awareness on coastal and ocean conservation and increasing the public's co-operation and accountability for these issues;
- empowering artisanal fishers, coastal communities, indigenous people and citizens to increase their participation in debates and decision-making processes related to ocean governance; and
- empowering communities to get involved in issues relating to fishing practices in Chile and Latin America.

Ecoceanos is interested in establishing dialogue among all actors in the fisheries sector, and participates in, and promotes, networks of coastal communities, fishermen, crew, workers of the salmon industry, NGOs, indigenous peoples and scientists. Information is collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include direct testimonies, journalistic investigations, workshops as well as networks that Ecoceanos is part of. Secondary sources include media and government reports and scientific publications. While Ecoceanos has a lot of information available in the form of books, reports, articles, papers and so on, at present, it is not well-structured. Ecoceanos plans to put in place a system for this, so that retrieval of information becomes easier.

Currently, information dissemination is through a regular electronic bulletin called *Ecoceanos News.* A magazine called *Parlamento del Mar* is also produced. Besides, information is disseminated through the media, the Ecoceanos website and reports produced by Ecoceanos, and through workshops and meetings.

(3)   CeDePesca, Argentina

Ezequiel Gonzalez Rial, in his presentation, highlighted that the Centro en Defensa de la Pesca Nacional (CeDePesca, the Centre in Defence of National Fisheries), is an NGO based in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the main fishing port in the country. Its mission is to work for socially, economically and ecologically sustainable fishing activities, and it undertakes programmes related to research, education, lobbying and communication. CeDePesca is the only NGO in Argentina specifically focusing on fisheries resources, and its communication programme plays a major role in keeping fishermen as well as others interested in fisheries, abreast of developments in the sector.

CeDePesca obtains information from both primary and secondary sources. It has a network of journalists who send in reports. Information is also collected from meetings and workshops organized by CeDePesca.

CeDePesca brings out a magazine for the fishing community called *Revista COMUNIDAD PESQUERA*, a quarterly publication that deals with the most burning issues of fishery management from a viewpoint of social and ecological sustainability. It also brings out an electronic newsletter, which has 2,500 subscribers. Courses are organized for different kinds of audiences like lawyers, journalists, and so on. CeDePesca's reports and studies are available through its website (http://www.cedepesca.org.ar/). A new version of the website is currently being developed. CeDePesca has a great deal of information available, in the form of books, reports, articles, papers and so on, and has plans to put in place a documentation system to organize them.

(4) Masifundise Development Trust (MDT), South Africa

Rosalee Antoinette Telela, in her presentation, informed that Masifundise is an NGO working with fisher and coastal communities in Western Cape, South Africa. Masifundise has become increasingly aware of the enormous challenges faced by small-scale, traditional and artisanal fishers, trying to compete within the current global fisheries market.

Masifundise strives to raise awareness and facilitate access to information among fisher and coastal communities in southern Africa, to enable them to realize their right to sustainable development within the local and global context of sustainable marine and aquatic resource management and utilization.

Masifundise's specific objectives on information and documentations are as follows:
- ? facilitate the development of an information and documentation centre, focusing on small-scale and traditional fisheries;
- ? promote information dissemination and enhance sharing of information through a variety of media in order to promote and protect the rights of traditional and coastal fishing communities;
- ? develop and manage a process for networking amongst organizations working within the small-scale and traditional fisheries sector in southern Africa;
- ? facilitate global networking amongst traditional fishers and fishworkers;
- ? gather, document and share local indigenous knowledge and histories within the traditional fisheries sector, and
- ? provide information in order to empower representatives from local fisher communities and enable them to utilize such information resources as are available to them.

At present, there is no method or system within Masifundise for collecting data/information or for documentation. Information on various themes is available in the

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form of reports of workshop, documents, and so on. These have been sorted on the basis of areas of work, subject matter, type of media (audio/visual material), and so on.

MDT believes that information is power and that the majority of traditional fishers and coastal communities are, at present, not empowered to live their lives in dignity. Fishers and coastal communities in South Africa, in the rest of southern Africa and elsewhere need the power of the information tool to realize their right to sustainable livelihoods within the local and global context of sustainable marine, aquatic and coastal resource management and utilization.

Currently, the following methods are used for dissemination of information: newsletters (*Community News*); VissersNet; workshops and training material/packages; campaigns, press releases; learning groups; radio; annual reports; research and conference reports; and the website (www.masifundise.org).

Masifundise has committed to the following:
- ? training of information and documentation centre (IDC) workers in the development and management of the IDC;
- ? classification and cataloguing of IDC resources using internationally recognized systems used by key information and documentation centres working in the sector;
- ? setting up a user system and Web-based link system with appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the system; and
- ? subscription to a variety of online and offline networks, and purchases of selected periodicals and resources.

(5) Collectif Pêche et Développement, France

Fanny Brun, in her presentation, highlighted that the Collectif Pêche et Développement is a French NGO that aims to promote sustainable development and solidarity within the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It aims to encourage networks and debates by focusing on:
- ? international relations -- to facilitate relations between fishermen in the North and fishermen in the South;
- ? relations amongst stakeholders in European fisheries -- to encourage the effective participation of fishworkers in the definition and implementation processes of fishing/fisheries agreements and the Common Fisheries Policy; and
- ? women in fisheries -- to inform and develop the debate on that topic.

Members of the Collectif include individuals (fishermen, other fishworkers and social activists) and various associations.

The Centre de Reflexion, d'information et de Solidarité avec les peoples d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Amerique latine (CRISLA, www.crisla.org), a sister association of the Collectif pêche et Développement, initiated a database in 1981 as part of its contribution to the larger network of *Réseau des centres de documentation pour le développement et*

*la solidarité internationale (*RITIMO)*.* CRISLA now feeds the computerized RITIMO general database that can be accessed freely online (www.ritimo.org). It operates in the WINISIS format. Items are classified as books, articles, videos and slides, and by author, themes and countries. CRISLA and Collectif Pêche et Développement jointly produce items related to fisheries. Currently, they number more than 1,500 entries on fisheries in the RITIMO database, based on newsletters and journals received. This database (in French) is also available and regularly updated on the ICSF website. This work is usually carried out through voluntary contributions of members.

Dissemination of information is through workshops and meetings organized by the Collectif. Members of the Collectif also give talks and take courses at universities. A newsletter, *Pêche &Développement,* is also produced on a regular basis. This has a mailing list of 600, which doubled to 1,200 in the aftermath of the tsunami. The Collectif would like to share information more regularly with other French-speaking countries (like Morocco, Senegal, Madagascar and Canada), and to strengthen contacts with organizations like Asociación de Entidades Periodísticas Argentinas (ADEPA), Environnement et développement du tiers monde (ENDA) and the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements (CFFA). It is also interested in collaborating on a French version of ICSF's SAMUDRA News Alerts service, drawing on its own sources apart from the ICSF service.

(6)   Enda Diapol, Senegal

The presentation by Lotje Anne de Vries highlighted that Environnement et développement du tiers monde (ENDA) believes that social change and economic poverty are linked to the political dimensions of poverty. It favours the participation of all stakeholders in negotiations on policy processes affecting their lives, to arrive at a collective understanding of a common future. Towards this end, it supports participatory research, networks and coalitions of stakeholders, and capacity-building initiatives. For all these processes, information and communication is seen as a tool, but not a goal in itself.

At ENDA, information is collected on a regular basis from newspapers, books and studies, including those taken up by ENDA on access agreements, trade, and so on. Dissemination is done through studies, publications and the ENDA website (www.enda.sn), which is the most important means of dissemination of information. Short films with strong messages are also produced and widely disseminated. ENDA plans to improve the role of communication and information through improvement of its website, creation of online discussion forums, networks, newsletters, and so on.

(7)   Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand

Jonathan Terence Shott presented the work of the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) in brief. He focused in more detail on the ARKIS knowledge database for Sharing and Promotion of Awareness and Regional Knowledge (SPARK). SPARK is a regional project between Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia, set up with the objective of

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promoting a shared learning of community-based natural resource management between NGOs, community organizations and the government sector. Through the ARKIS database, organizations in the region will be able to learn about the work of other organizations, facilitating networking and knowledge sharing. SDF is part of the SPARK network.

SDF uses various methods for information dissemination and awareness building. The type of method used and material produced varies, depending on the purpose, the target audience and so on. The tools can be divided into:

Ordinary Documents: These are produced internally, for internal use, and include plans with network partners, memoranda of understanding, reports on specific projects or to donors, conference proceedings, and so on. Policy recommendations, press releases, etc. are also produced targeted at the press, policymakers and civil society actors, where the focus is more on content and not presentation.

Published Documents such as research documents, case studies, best-practice documents and campaign documents are for wide distribution and are meant for civil society actors, donors, etc.

Brochures are produced to give information about the foundation, or different projects and contact details.

Leaflets are produced to increase awareness on specific issues. More importance is placed on visual presentation for easy assimilation of information, and may be meant for communities, donors and the public.

Directories provide information on a large number of organizations to promote networking and are available as hard copy as well as online.

Consumables and Gifts (for example, posters, t-shirts, badges, notebooks, diaries, etc.) are distributed to convey strong messages in brief and to raise awareness about key issues/ campaigns. They also help to generate income, and in facilitating face-to-face contact with the public.

Photographs are used to convey the ground reality strongly and help to clarify textual explanations. They also feed into other dissemination tools like reports.

Maps of various types (PRA maps, GIS maps, etc.) are used to demonstrate community plans, clarify demarcation issues, promote discussions, and so on.

Databases put together by SDF (for collection, storage and interpretation of data) are made available to the public and policymakers (for example, tsunami database, CBNRM database).

Websites: SDF has facilitated websites for information dissemination (www.sdfthai.org, www.saveandaman.org). E‑learning centres and e-libraries are targeted at communities, field‑focused NGOs and local government units. Some of the website content, as on community rights, is directed at policymakers, academia and likeminded people.

Presentations are prepared to provide comprehensive information, based on audience and purpose.

Exhibition Boards are created to carry strong messages, simple enough to understand, and attract the attention of passers-by.

Community Radio is another dissemination method used, though the coverage is small. (One workshop participant suggested that phone‑in programmes and mobile interactive radio can be a very efficient tool for information dissemination in fishing communities as fishermen have the habit of carrying radios along with them when they go fishing.)

From the presentations of all the seven resource centres present at the workshop, it was clear that, while the objectives of each organization and the nature of work differed, all saw the importance of using information effectively to support small‑scale fishing communities and a sustainable fishery. While some (such as the CBCRM Resource Centre and Collectif Pêche et Développement) already had a documentation system in place, others such as Ecoceanos, Masifundise, SDF and CeDePesca, had plans to put in place such systems. All the organizations were already disseminating information in various forms, such as electronically (CeDePesca and Ecoceanos), through websites (CBCRM Resource Centre, ENDA, CeDePesca and Ecoceanos) and directly to communities and users, linked to the programmes of the organization (SDF, Masifundise, and all the others).

Section III

ICSF Documentation Centre: Methods of Documentation and Dissemination

Introduction
The first presentation on the ICSF Documentation Centre was by N. Venugopalan of ICSF's DC, focusing on its objective and main activities. The idea of the DC was first mooted in 1997 and the DC was set up in mid‑1999, with the following objectives:

? Make available relevant information to ICSF members, fishworker organizations (FWOs) and NGOs, as well as academia, media and the general public
? Provide links to other information resources on fisheries
? Function as a depository and clearing house for all information on fisheries, in general, and artisanal and small-scale fisheries, in particular

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Several examples were provided on how the information available at the DC had concretely supported fishworkers' campaigns and ICSF's programmes.

It was emphasized that the DC is an integral part of ICSF and that ICSF programmes themselves drive information collection in the DC, and they are the main users of the DC. (Specific examples include the studies on labour and subsidies done by ICSF.). Information is not, therefore, collected in a vacuum. The kind of information to be collected is identified through ICSF programmes, demands of fishworker organizations, and so on.

Information collection and collation
The introduction to the ICSF DC was followed by the presentation on "Outlining steps in information collection and documentation" made jointly by Ramya, Santhosh and Neena of ICSF's DC. The presentation highlighted the five main steps involved:
- looking out for information;
- development of thesaurus/ keyword list;
- development of classification code system;
- steps followed in indexing; and
- capturing of information into a database format.

The presentation highlighted that information is collected from fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, multilateral and research organizations, ICSF programmes, conferences and workshops, newsletters, websites etc. (print, digital and audio-visual media). The demand for information is received from fishworker organizations, NGOs, ICSF programmes, policy makers, research organizations etc. There is specific focus on collecting information about socio-economic aspects of fisheries, apart from information on aspects such as fisheries management, legal instruments, trade, statistics, labour, coastal area management etc. The presentation also explained the thesaurus developed and used by ICSF.

It was emphasized that, as a general rule, any good resource centre should spend more time on effective and efficient information dissemination rather than on information collection. If more time is being spent on information collection and collation, then that is an indicator that things are not going in the right direction

Information dissemination
Regarding dissemination of information Ramya highlighted that this was mainly through ICSF programmes, training programmes, link centres, publications (print/multimedia), online ICSF databases, SAMUDRA News Alerts, response to requests and visitors to the DC. Presentations on web-based dissemination were made by Ramya of ICSF and Archana of InApp, the information technology firm that advises ICSF. This session was divided into two subsessions, namely, "Development of the ICSF Website" and "Database Management in the ICSF Website". These provided detailed information on the development of the ICSF site, its features and the way in which the various databases available on it are managed.

The presentation on ICSF's electronic news service, the *SAMUDRA News Alerts*, made by KG Kumar, highlighted the objectives of starting the Alerts. The Alerts, initiated in end-2003, now have a subscriber base of about 470. Apart from this, the news stories from the Alerts are regularly picked up various fisheries sites, including that of FAO, OneFish, etc. The actual number of those reading the Alerts (the readership) is, therefore, likely to be much larger. It was also mentioned that the response to the Alerts has been very positive. The importance of ensuring that the news carried is from a credible source, and is relatively authentic, was stressed. The importance of disclaimers was also emphasized. The issues of copyright, fair use and use in good faith were also discussed.

The importance of sourcing news directly from fishworker organizations and NGOs supporting them was discussed. At present, not enough news is being directly sourced from the grassroots, and news stories came mainly from secondary sources. It was also pointed out that the coverage of countries in Latin America was relatively weak.

Participants were asked for suggestions on ways in which the Alerts could be improved, including through better collaborations among the organizations present. The following suggestions were put forward:

? Provisions should be provided for readers to comment on each news item or story, so that the reader gets different points of view on the subject. This could also help stimulate a debate and make the site more `live'. While the News Alerts already have an interface for sending in comments, this feature could be made more prominent and efforts could be made to ensure that others have a chance to view and respond to such feedback, to form a kind of live, online bulletin board.

? Organizations present could send in news from their countries that need wider dissemination. These could be carried in the News Alerts to lend greater visibility to local developments. Rose mentioned that Masifundise would find it useful to send news for the Alerts, as it was one way for news about small-scale fishing communities to reach policymakers.

? An arrangement with Ecoceanos and CeDePesca could be set up, whereby key news items from their bulletins could be translated in English for better dissemination, while key items from the SAMUDRA News Alerts could be translated into Spanish. This would also help improve the Latin American coverage in the Alerts.

? At the moment, there is no dissemination of news in French. Lotje mentioned that ENDA was already collecting news items from French newspapers on a daily basis. It was suggested that perhaps ENDA and Collectif pêche et Développement could discuss the possibility of initiating bulletins in French, perhaps on a weekly basis for a start. Important news items could be translated into English and Spanish.

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It was agreed that the above suggestions could be discussed and vetted at the level of each organization present, and discussions could be continued subsequently over e-mail.

Section IV

WINISIS

The session on WINISIS, the free information storage and retrieval software originally developed by UNESCO, was for one-and-a-half days (19 and 20 July 2005). Ramya led the introductory session. This was a hands-on session, providing information on the installation, use and features of WINISIS.

Professor Neelameghan, an expert on WINISIS from Bangalore, India, was invited to lead the session the following day. Prof. A. Neelameghan went through the key features of WINISIS in great detail, answering all the questions raised by participants.

During the sessions on WINISIS, several of its positive features were highlighted, namely:

- ? It is free software, and updates are easily downloadable free of cost.
- ? There is a large community of WINISIS users, who not only keep updating the software but are also eager to assist users who are facing problems.
- ? It is a widely used software (most UN agencies, for example, use WINISIS) and this ensures compatibility between the various databases maintained.
- ? The software is suitable even for large libraries, and is capable of handling up to 13 million records.
- ? Additional features have been added in the newer versions of WINISIS, including a Web-compatible photo database.

Section V

Suggestions for Follow-up and Need for Collaboration Among Resource Centres

This was the last session of the workshop. The following suggestions for follow-up were made by the different participating organizations:

ENDA, Diapol, Senegal

- ? Given that it has relatively better-developed documentation systems, ICSF should act as a central point in facilitating co-ordination between the various centres. It should try and go beyond the language barriers by setting up better collaboration with French- and Spanish-speaking centres, and facilitate, for a start,

collaboration on specific themes/issues of common interest, for example, on individual transferable quotas (ITQs).

? At the same time, relations between centres working in the same language, such as between Pêche et Développement and ENDA, should be developed.

? ENDA, on its part, would actively try to collect, collate and disseminate information in Senegal and would make sure its website gets updated on a regular basis.

Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand

? SDF works with all communities (fishers, farmers) in Thailand, and the main working language is Thai, which makes it difficult to share information easily. However, it should be possible to collaborate on specific themes, and to translate information available from ICSF into Thai (and from Thai into English, when seen as important), for example, women-in-fisheries issues.

? There were also possibilities of technical assistance and exchange of information. For example the Federation of Southern Fisherfolk (FSF) is now developing its own website, and this could be useful for regular sharing of information between FSF and other organizations in the form of newsletters.

? Organizations could also draw on others' expertise in database development, for example in the development of the CBNRM database of SDF.

Masifundise Development Trust (MDT), South Africa
? MDT is currently working in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, and is also engaging with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) processes.

? MDT would require technical help for setting up systems on database management. There would be need for exchange and support from ICSF for the same either directly or indirectly by referring MDT to some other centres/resource persons that could help/advise in setting up systems.

? MDT would also try and feed into SAMUDRA News Alerts and also get in touch with other organizations that could feed into SAMUDRA News alerts. This could include organizations from countries like Mozambique, Seychelles and Mauritius. MDT could also try and collate news from the region and send it to ICSF, as Southern African News.

? MDT could send information on specific issues such as gender and ITQs in South Africa.

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? MDT is currently trying to support communities to strengthen their own organizations (through Coastal Links). Information exchange makes a huge contribution to capacity building. MDT now has rich experience in organizing people. This can be shared with other organizations working along the same lines. At the same time, lessons from elsewhere on community-based organizations and networks—how do organizations evolve and work, how do community organizations structure themselves, new forms of organizing, and so on, would be very useful for MDT.

? Exchanging information between countries or communities on issues like community radio can be useful in adopting a technology that can prove to be crucial even in disaster management, for instance.

? While ICSF could act as a main link between all the centres, other centres will also be contacted for support for various details. The network could take the form of a loose network, with no hierarchy in its functioning.

? While these were initial ideas, the details of the collaboration and its content would need to be discussed and finalized at the next meeting of MDT. MDT would also continue with the ongoing training on information technology for its staff.

CBCRM Resource Centre, Philippines

? Collaboration could be for dissemination of information on community-based management, technology and information management, as well as exchange and sharing of experiences on all aspects of coastal resource management, developing databases and information systems, and documenting the learning experience and understanding tools available for knowledge capture and transfer. Collaboration could also be instrumental in transferring lessons of experience to other groups within regions and countries.

? It is necessary to develop local resource centres (regional resource centres, as in the case of the CBCRM regional resource centre in the Philippines) and further de-centralizing resource centres to local resource centres.

Ecoceanos, Chile

? Collaboration could be on specific themes, particularly, for instance, on free trade agreements.

? Resources centres could work together to develop a database of addresses and contact details of key players (policymakers, parliamentarians, consumer organizations, producer/fishworker organizations, companies, NGOs) in different countries/regions. The mailing list generated can be used for lobbying and

campaigning UN, OECD etc. on small-scale fisheries issues. Regional databases can be initiated for Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. It was suggested that this could be best developed if a common questionnaire format is available. Patricio agreed to circulate a common format to all participants, and that, once the format was received, information could be collected within a three-month time frame.

CeDePesca, Argentina

? CeDePesca has focused mainly on national and regional issues within Argentina and Latin America.

? Collaboration could be to share existing information and experience with other centres.

? CeDePesca could arrange to translate parts of its newsletters into English, so that other users can get an idea of the issues in the region.

ICSF

The following were some suggestions for areas where collaboration could be useful:

? There are certain processes taking place at the international level, such as the International Labour Organization's Work in Fishing Convention, the upcoming meeting to review the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, etc. that take place only once in several years. Opportunities for engaging with these processes, from a small-scale fisheries perspective, should not be lost. It would be useful for resource centres to collaborate to identify key issues from their countries/regions that need to be highlighted at these forums. For example, collecting information on social security systems for fishworkers in different countries could be a collaborative exercise, which can be used to highlight labour-related issues.

? Resource centres can also collaborate to respond to requests from fishworker organizations for information on specific themes/capacity-building sessions, as for example, on CBCRM, trade issues in fisheries, marine protected areas, and so on.

It was agreed that all these ideas for follow-up would be discussed within the respective organizations, before concrete plans are finalized.

Section VI

Concluding Comments

The workshop brought together a geographically and linguistically diverse group of organizations, from countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. All the organizations that came together have been collecting and disseminating information on small-sale fisheries, to varying degrees, with the objective of supporting small-scale fisheries and fishing communities.

There was basic agreement on the following:

? Information is power, but, as things stand, there is an imbalance in access to information. There is thus a need to provide information to small-scale fishing communities and those supporting them. It is as important to provide information *about* small-scale fisheries, fishworkers and fishing communities, in order to make visible their issues/areas of concern/perspectives.

? Information collection and dissemination is but a tool—the basic objective is valorizing and supporting the small-scale fisheries sector.

? Co-ordination between resource centres can help in reducing duplication and developing synergy, particularly in a 'globalized' sector such as fisheries, where what happens in one region often has far-reaching impacts on another, usually in rather direct ways (as with access and trade agreements, for instance).

Several suggestions to take forward this co-ordination in mutually beneficial ways were put forward, ranging from helping one another with technical support (on database management, for example), to collaborating on common issues (free trade agreements, ITQs, for example). These suggestions have to be crystallized after further discussions. There can be little doubt that such collaboration, if taken forward in meaningful ways, can help to support the small-scale sector and sustainable management of fisheries.

Section VII

Feedback from Participants

Feedback was sought on the different sessions of the workshop. The feedback on the session "Outlining Steps in Information Collection and Documentation", was generally positive: Participants were satisfied with the content, method, style of presentation and relevance of this session. One participant had problems as the presentations were in English. A couple of participants said that this presentation helped form the framework within which their resource centres could function.

Feedback on the session on "WINISIS" indicated that while about half the participants found the session to be useful, others felt that the time available to understand the

software was not enough. One of the participants suggested that a comparison of different documentation management systems would have been helpful.

The feedback on the session on "Information Dissemination" was generally positive, particularly on the module on Web-based dissemination techniques. Almost all participants found the discussion on Web-based techniques—e-newsletters, websites, Flash movies, etc.—to be useful, considering these to be very powerful tools of information dissemination. For a few participants, however, understanding technical details and technical terminology proved difficult.

Appendix 1: List of Participants

International Participants
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Appendix 2: Programme Schedule

Monday, 18 July 2005	

Chair	**Chandrika Sharma**
14.00 p.m – 14.10 p.m	**Welcome** *Neena Koshy*
14:10 p.m - 14:30 p.m	**The relevance of collecting and disseminating information on small-scale fisheries: What can be achieved?**
	Keynote address
	John Kurien, Fellow, Centre for Development Studies
14:30 p.m - 16:00 p.m	**Introduction by Participants and Presentations**
	CBCRM Resource centre, Philippines *Randee Cabaces*
	Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand *Jonathan Shott*
	Masifundise, South Africa *Rosalee Telela*
	Pêche et Développement, France *Fanny Brun*
	CeDePesca, Argentina *Ezequiel Gonzalez Rial*
	Discussion
16:00p.m -16:30 p.m	**Tea Break**
16:30p.m-18:00 p.m	**Introduction by Participants and Presentations (contd.,)**
	Ecoceanos, Chile *Patricio Igor Melillanca*

Tuesday, 19 July 2005	

Chair	**Venugopalan, N.**
9:00a.m-10:00a.m	Presentation on ICSF Documentation Centre, *Venugopalan, N.*

10:00 am – 11:00 am **Outlining steps of information collection and documentation**

      a. Looking out for information
       Ramya, R.

      b. Development of thesaurus/ keyword list
       Neena Koshy

      c. Development of a classification code system
       Neena Koshy

      d. Steps followed in indexing
       Santhosh Kumar, P.

      e. Capturing of information into a database format
       Ramya, R.

      Discussion

11:00a.m – 11:15 am	**Tea Break**
11:15a.m-13:00p.m	**WinISIS**
	Applications and features of WinISIS
	Ramya, R.
	Discussion
13:00p.m-14:00p.m	**Lunch**
14:00p.m-16:00p.m	**WinISIS (contd.,)**
	Hands-on training in WinISIS
16:00p.m-16: 30 p.m	**Tea Break**
16:30p.m-18:00p.m	Hands-on training in WinISIS (contd.,)
	Discussion

Wednesday, 20 July 2005

Chair	**Chandrika Sharma**
9:00a.m-11:00a.m	**WinISIS**
	Advanced features of WinISIS
	Prof. A. Neelameghan
11:00a.m-11:30a.m	**Tea Break**
11:30a.m-13:00p.m	**WinISIS (contd.,)**
	Advanced features of WinISIS (contd.,)
	Prof A. Neelameghan.
	Discussion
13:00p.m-14:00p.m	**Lunch**
14:00p.m-16:00p.m	**Existing digital documentation systems**
	Prof A Neelameghan.
16:00p. m-16:30p.m	**Tea Break**
16:30p.m-18:00p.m	**Existing digital documentation systems**

Prof Neelameghan, A.

Discussion

Thursday, 21 July 2005

Chair	**Satish Babu, InApp**
9:00a.m-11:00.am	**Information Dissemination**

Presentation on information dissemination techniques

CBCRM Resource Centre, Philippines
Randee Cabaces

Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand
Jonathan Shott

Masifundise, South Africa
Rosalee Telela

ENDA Diapol, Senegal
Lotje de Vries

Pêche et Développement, France
Fanny Brun

CeDePesca, Argentina
Ezequiel Gonzalez Rial

Ecoceanos, Chile
Patricio Igor Melillanca

Discussion

11:00a.m-11: 30a.m	**Tea Break**
11:30a.m-12:00p.m	**Information Dissemination by ICSF Documentation Centre**
	Neena Koshy
12:00p.m-13:00p.m	**Discussion on other dissemination methods**
13:00p.m-14:00p.m	**Lunch**
14:00p.m-16:00 p.m	**Web based dissemination**

a. Development of ICSF Website
Ramya. R

b. Database management in ICSF website
Archana Devi, InApp

16:00p.m-16:30p.m	**Tea Break**
16:30p.m-18:00p.m	Discussion on web-based mode of dissemination

Friday, 22 July 2005

Chair	**Chandrika Sharma**

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9:00a.m –11:00a.m **Web-based dissemination**
   Electronic newsletters: SAMUDRA News Alerts
   K.G.Kumar
 Discussions on electronic newsletters
11:00a.m-11:30a.m **Tea Break**
11:30a.m-13:00p.m **Strategies for collaboration: Plans for the Future**
   Identifying specific areas for collaboration
   Specifying role of ICSF and other centres in follow-up

13:00p.m-14:00p.m **Lunch**