

LASU-ICSF-FAO-WORLDFISH

**NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' AND AWARENESS RAISING
WORKSHOP FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR
SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES (SSF
GUIDELINES) IN NIGERIA**

Report



9 and 11 May 2022

Aderemi Makanjuola Hall, Lagos State University, Ojo,
Lagos State, Nigeria.

Report prepared by Shehu Akintola and Kafayat Fakoya, (LASU)

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BACKGROUND

A three day hybrid national multi-stakeholders' and awareness raising workshop for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) was held on 9-11 May 2022 at the Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State, Nigeria.

The workshop was organized by Lagos State University in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fish Workers (ICSF), FAO and WorldFish to promote awareness about the SSF Guidelines and to build capacity for advocacy.

The workshop was attended by a wide audience of about 300 in-person and 70 online viewers. Key participants invited to the workshop comprised of selected fishers and fish processors from marine and inland fishing communities across major geographical zones in Nigeria, but also from ministries, departments, and agencies both at the national and state levels, dealing with fisheries, health, climate change, finance, SDGs as well as representatives of CSOs/NGOs on marine environment, human rights, research institutes and institutions of higher learning, AWFISHNET, FAO, WorldFish, AAG, AU (Appendix 1: Workshop Participants).

Day 1 of the workshop was dedicated to welcoming the participants and introducing them to various aspects of the SSF Guidelines and their status of implementation in Nigeria. It also provided opportunity to indicate the relevance of the small-scale fisheries within the quest for attainment of Sustainable Development Goals and the emphases on human rights approaches in the sustainable management of the small-scale fisheries. Day 2 had a plenary session which principally aimed at exposing the participants to experience from other countries (Tanzania and Sri Lanka) which were already in the pathways aimed at implementing the SSF Guidelines. It also included panel discussions on advocacy. Technical sessions were held on Day 2. Invited participants from different stakeholder groups were grouped into two Working Groups with the objectives of (i) evaluating the level of awareness among stakeholders; (ii) identifying inherent challenges to the implementation of the SSF Guideline in Nigeria; (iii)formulating action plan towards the SSF Guidelines implementation, through identification of relevant short, medium and long-term actions to be implemented at national and regional levels; as well as (iv) taking up responsibilities and building alliances among stakeholders towards achieving national plan of actions that will lead to successful implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Capacity development on advocacy was completed on Day 3. This segment was aimed to ensure that stakeholders are adequately informed and develop requisite skills to engage in advocacy at the continental level especially with Pan-African Platform of non-state actors (NSAs) in Fisheries and Aquaculture (AFRIFISH), Africa Advisory Global Strategic Framework (AAG); the African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) and the West African Non-State Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture (WANSAFA). The Day 3 also marked the conclusion of the workshop with presentations of the outcomes of the Working Groups on recommendations, next steps and way forward as well as vote of thanks on behalf of the participants and closing remarks (Appendix 2 : Workshop Programme).

Workshop Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop was to raise awareness and sensitize state and non-state actors (fisher and fish worker organizations, the academia and research communities, non-governmental organizations [NGOs] and other civil society organizations [CSOs]) about the SSF Guidelines as a tool for sustainable fisheries development in Nigeria (Appendix 3: Workshop Concept Note)

Following are the objectives of the workshop:

1. To raise awareness and sensitize state and non-state actors (fisher and fish worker organizations, the academia and research communities, non-governmental organizations

[NGOs]and other civil society organizations [CSOs]) about the SSF Guidelines as a tool for sustainable fisheries development in Nigeria.

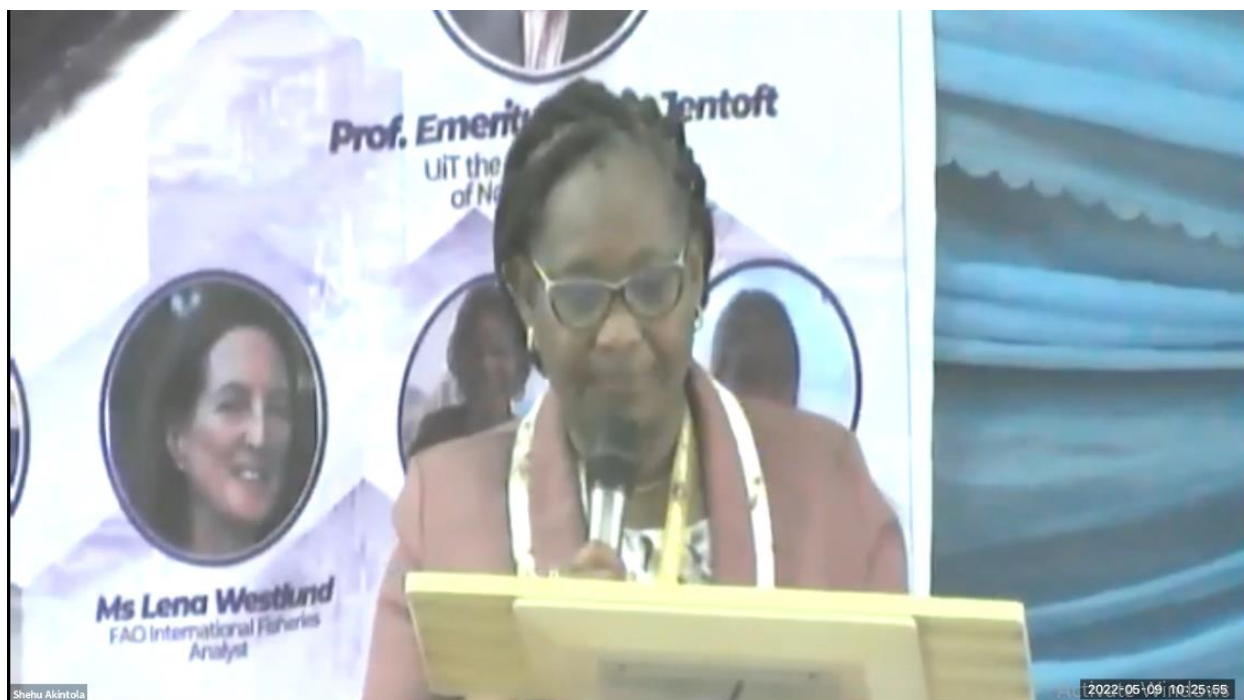
2. To highlight the pathways that will lead to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and its mainstreaming in policies and legislations for improved governance of small-scale fisheries, food security and poverty reduction of local communities, state and national economy.
3. To enhance understanding of the roles, responsibilities and capacities of state and non-state actors in small-scale fisheries by building a network alliance for the SSF Guidelines.
4. To build capacity and strengthen advocacy of non-state actors including but not limited to fishers, fish workers, fisheries-based livelihoods groups, fishing communities, youth in small-scale fisheries, the media and communication sector, NGOs, CSOs etc to contributing in policy dialogues, participate in fisheries management planning, implementation and monitoring.
5. To produce a background paper which is inclusive of the stakeholders' recommendations and a working paper that set the template for the SSF Guidelines implementation and sustainable small-scale fisheries in Nigeria.

DAY 1: PANEL PRESENTATIONS ON AWARENESS RAISING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

Workshop Opening and Introductory Remarks

The collaboration and partnership towards implementing the SSF Guidelines was shown by a video on the SSF Guidelines. After workshop participants, guests, University Management Team and university community members were seated and dignitaries introduced, the Chief Convener, Prof. Shehu L. Akintola welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He highlighted that the SSF Guidelines is the signpost to show Nigeria the way to fisheries that are sustainable and also that the health importance of fish is underscored by advice to eating more frequently. He highlighted the danger inherent in the competing uses of Nigeria's aquatic and fisheries resources by other sectors such as urbanization and coastal development in addition to policy summersaults and lack of direction which are not specific to Nigeria alone. He underscored that there has not been any deliberate efforts to implement the SSF Guidelines and reminded that the process is not meant to be a one- man show. An important requirement for SSF Guidelines implementation is that both the state and non-state actors meet, discuss and concretise how to implement the SSF Guidelines and he attributed this as the reason LASU partnered with, ICSF, FAO and WF to initiate this joint workshop on creating awareness for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Nigeria. To buttress the reasons for convening this workshop, a video presentation on the SSF Guidelines was played to demonstrate the challenges of small scale fisheries which are global and not specific to Nigeria alone, to clarify why Nigeria needs the SSF Guidelines and what needs to be done to implement the Guidelines.

The Vice-Chancellor's Welcome Address- Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, PhD., mni, Vice-Chancellor, Lagos State University (**Chief Host**). In her welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Host, LASU, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, PhD.,mni, ably represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Adenike Boyo noted that apart from fish production, small-scale fisheries are firmly rooted in local communities sustaining rich traditions and value systems in many fishing communities and villages across the country. She mentioned that the sub-sector directly provides livelihoods to about 2 million and is a secondary source of employment for up to 20 million people. The Vice- Chancellor pledged the commitment of her administration to collaborative efforts such as the workshop that would ensure the speedy implementing of the SSF Guidelines.



Ms. Lena Westlund, International Fisheries Analyst, Food and Agriculture Organisation presented the first panel presentation, “Supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines”. She described the SSF Guidelines as a negotiated international instrument entirely dedicated to small-scale fisheries. She acknowledged that the Guidelines is a voluntary instrument and at the same time a status of global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development. The document was designed to bring together not only responsible fisheries and resource management that is usually the focus of small scale fisheries but also social development and responsible fisheries reflecting the realities of small scale fisheries livelihoods. It is beyond fisheries, encompassing sustainable livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and grounded in human rights principles.

Ms. Westlund noted that the Guidelines endorsed around 2014 complements other international instruments such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Right to Food Guidelines; Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; Responsible Investment in Agriculture principles. She described the document as having a global scope but focuses on developing countries especially where there are most fishers and fish workers. Small scale fisheries occurs in in both marine and inland waters, from pre-harvesting, harvesting to postharvest bringing together its different dimensions involving poverty alleviation and social and economic development, good governance of fisheries and sustainable resource utilization.

Supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Lena Westlund, Equitable Livelihoods Team, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

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She emphasized that everyone has a role in implementation stage and also that it is very important to work with fishers, fish workers and their representatives and organisations that represent them. This, she underscored as the real spirit of the SSF Guidelines developed through a participatory process involving fishers, fish workers, representatives and organisation themselves contributing inputs. The SSF Guidelines are truly the small scale fisheries built on inputs from the organizations themselves while the FAO merely facilitated the developments. The longer term goal is to see to the mainstreaming guidelines of principles in policies, strategies and actions in everything relevant to small scale fisheries and in that way reflected properly what we do.

Ms. Westlund introduced participants to the four components of the FAO SSF Umbrella programme as comprising of (i) raising awareness of knowledge products and outreach; (ii) strengthening science – policy interphase; (iii) sharing knowledge and supporting policy reform, (iii) empowering stakeholders, capacity development and institutional strengthening, and (iv) supporting implementation-collaboration and monitoring. Also, she gave examples of FAO's global activities and outputs which include awareness raising through promotion of the participation of small-scale fishers and fish workers in meetings, workshops, and regional and global policy processes; enjoined participants to explore monthly small scale fisheries update and dedicated SSF website; SSF Guidelines available in 20 languages and developed Guidance documents to support the implementation and a number of studies published, one of which is the Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH) aimed to assess wholly the contributions of small scale fisheries in the social, environmental, economic and governance dimensions in which over 50 country case studies were carried out including Nigeria. The study was a collaboration between the FAO, WorldFish and Duke University and hundreds of in-country specialists and experts like the hosts (Prof. S.L Akintola and Dr. K.A. Fakoya) of the workshop. Although the report was in progress and to be published later in 2022, she presented some key findings previously highlighted at a workshop last year which included employment in the small scale fisheries as comprising of 90% of fishers and fish workers in the fisheries sector and also, noteworthy the roles of women which are 40%

active throughout the value chain and majorly found in the postharvest sector; supporting representation and participation of the fishers and fish workers in policy processes, through the Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF), a mechanism to give fishers and fish workers a voice and a mechanism for collaboration. This has given rise to the establishment of some regional advisory groups. In addition, she pointed out that the African Union (AU) has also set up Non – State - Actors and Pan - African platforms, an important mechanism also in the regional context to make sure that the actors of the small scale fisheries sector generally get a voice and can be consulted and represented in policy processes. Examples of FAO's regional activities in West Africa are support and collaboration with small scale fisheries organizations; conduct of studies in postharvest best practices in training sessions for dissemination through videos for training in the sector. While other studies were on fish meal and fish oil industry in addition to conducting capacity building training for government officials with regard to small scale fisheries governance and SSF Guidelines.

Ms. Westlund mentioned FAO's activities in some 15 countries in 3 regions where most countries are in Africa. Some of these countries signed up to develop a National Plans of Action (NPOA) which is a comprehensive way of making sure that the SSF Guidelines are implemented. Also in different countries, a number of other activities are implemented at different levels and scales. It is anticipated that Nigeria would receive possible support by the ICSF which is a very important partner organization. She further said that IYAFA is a good opportunity to create additional awareness on small scale fisheries and this meeting is also holding in the context of the international year to celebrate small scale fisheries and aquaculture which should be celebrated throughout the year. She re-emphasised the SSF Guidelines as a tool to move towards sustainable fisheries and sustainable development. The importance of fostering participation and empowerment of fishers, fish workers and their organizations was pointed out in the results of the IHH study and which can be used for further analysis of the sector and to support awareness of how important small scale fisheries are. She summed up by saying that it would be great to see efforts to implement SSF Guidelines at national and local levels that will impact and see the change is needed for a better future.

Dr. Dismas reiterated awareness raising through workshops as one of FAO's activities. Regional activities included projects to empower women in the postharvest sector in Malawi, Ghana, Senegal and Sierra Leone, Uganda and Tanzania, and to promote development of NPOA in Tanzania, Senegal, Ghana etc. He emphasized that the essence of IYAFA is to create awareness about the role of small scale fisheries, most of which are found in developing countries of Africa. He remarked that we should support the process of sustaining small scale fisheries especially as African countries are major beneficiaries of small scale fisheries. This, he highlighted is a call to ensure sustained benefits for future generations.

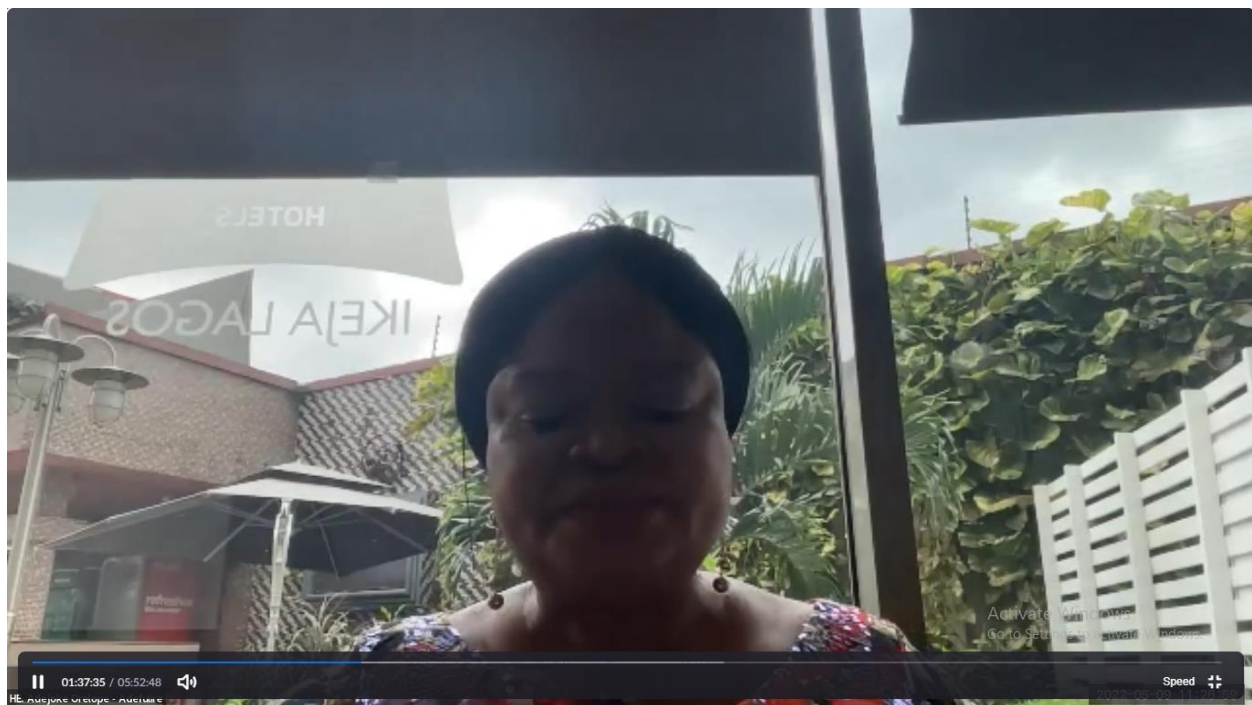


Closing on the SSF Guidelines, he remarked that the SSF Guidelines is to raise voices and ensure that small scale fisheries is given the support it deserves and for the importance of food and nutrition security such as health benefits from eating fish which includes enhancement of cognitive development in humans that is called wisdom. Finally, he concluded that it is the only document that gives fishers and fish workers the voice.

“Beyond Awareness on the SSF Guidelines: Partnership Towards Ensuring that Small-scale fisheries Deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda)” was presented by Her Excellency Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire Senior Special Assistant to the President. Her Excellency congratulated LASU for organizing the workshop in collaboration with the initiator of the Global Guidelines, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and other partners. According to her, the workshop will provide a veritable platform for partnership and collective actions on the SSF Guidelines by state and non-state actors, including the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to create awareness, drive implementation and identify key challenges, with view to improve food security, reduce poverty, curb health related challenges, including malnutrition and cardiovascular diseases and so on. She recalled the time when the President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, joined 192 other World Leaders at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York to endorse the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 25th September 2015 with the formal name “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The 2030 Agenda which translate to the 17 inter-connected goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators commits to promoting development in a balanced way – economically, socially and environmentally – in all countries of the world and paying special attention to vulnerable and most excluded populations, “leaving no one behind”. She reminisced that the 2030 Agenda, was a Universal call to action to bring about desired social and economic impacts and mitigate environmental impacts including ending poverty, safeguarding the planet and ensuring all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030, bearing in

mind that the attainment of the 2030 Agenda requires the ‘whole of government and whole of society approaches’ and solidarity with active participation of state and non-state actors in support of the SDGs at all levels.

Her Excellency was quick to emphasize that the SSF Guidelines and the partnership to drive its implementation in Nigeria fitted well within the SDGs Framework and the 2030 Agenda for promoting food security and nutrition, healthy living, productivity/households livelihood and social & environmental sustainability and minimizing detrimental effects on health, natural habitats and aquatic resources. She informed that the OSSAP-SDGs had also put in place integrated approaches, processes and activities to position Nigeria in a proper footing to domesticate, integrate and mainstream the 2030 Agenda in synergy and strategic partnerships with all relevant stakeholders - as the SDGs cannot be achieved with stand-alone policies and programmes.



She acknowledged the SSF Guidelines as one of the significant landmark instruments in fisheries governance, policy coherence and direction. She reiterated that it is aimed at all actors (at all levels) striving to secure sustainable SSF, promotes food security (SDG-2), alleviate poverty (SDG-1) and strengthens human rights in line with the 2030 Agenda. She confirmed that the global tool initiated by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has been helping the key fisheries stakeholders, particularly the women to empower themselves and their families. Fisheries and aquaculture are considered as some of the veritable tools for the attainment of virtually all the SDGs, especially 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 14, 16 and 17, hence her Office’s gracious approval of the workshop’s request, for the nomination of an Officer (as a Focal Person) to support the Fish Project.

She noted regrettably, that despite its huge potentials for vibrant and sustainable contributions in advancing the Economic, Social, and Environmental dimensions of the SDGs especially in the post-COVID-19 era and the ‘Decade of Action’ for the SDGs, the awareness of the SSF Guidelines in the Country is abysmally low hence the need for continues awareness creation among the key stakeholders

including the policy makers, Civil Society Organizations, Partners, private sectors and the media. She assured that OSSAP-SDGs would provide the required strategic guidance and coordination to ensure SSF Guidelines alignment with the SDGs landscape and in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders (particularly the FAO) support its implementation in Nigeria.

In her final statements, she was convinced that the workshop will provide another platform to reinforce her office's commitment to more effective partnership in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Nigeria and urged all participants to pay close attention to the discussions and make contributions, as these will help in identifying workable solutions that would inform national policies and coherent measures towards effective value chains in the fisheries industry and unlocking the potential of Sustainable Blue Economy broadly in Nigeria. Drawing her presentation to a close, she gave the assurance of her office's commitment to working more closely with all the relevant stakeholders to accelerate SDGs implementation in Nigeria.

Prof. Emeritus Svein Jentoft, UiT the Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø presented a paper on "Contextualising the SSF Guidelines as a Global Issue". Prof. Jentoft drew attention to the SSF Guidelines as important and rich with ideas, concepts and arguments that they are increasing not just from the political but also from an academic point of view. He described them as a landmark being the first global instrument of its kind that focuses on small scale fisheries and because of this they should change our conversations about fisheries politics and our research. This workshop is an indication that they already have done so.

The image is a screenshot of a video conference. The main content is a presentation slide with the following text and graphics:

- Logo: "Too BIG To IGNORE" with a blue snowflake icon and the subtitle "Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research".
- Image: A photograph of a busy outdoor fish market with people and boats.
- Title: "Contextualising the SSF Guidelines as a Global Issue".
- Author: "Svein Jentoft, Professor emeritus, Norwegian College of Fishery Science, UiT- The Arctic University of Norway, May, 2022".

At the bottom of the slide are navigation icons. The video conference interface includes a timeline at the bottom (01:05 to 25:08), a volume indicator (100%), and a date/time stamp (2022-05-09 11:37:17). Two video thumbnails are visible: one in the top right for "Shehu Akintola" and one in the middle right for "Svein Jentoft".

He narrated his role in laying the foundations of a global research network back in 2012 under the name of 'Too big to Ignore- TBTI' which suggests that the small scale fisheries are simply too big to ignore and an headache that should definitely not be ignored. Speaking from the insights of a TBTI

member and based on a book publication about the SSF Guidelines and their implementations around the globe, he described the small scale fisheries as a huge sector with as much as 90% in the fisheries sector and the overwhelmingly important role in providing food security and sustainable livelihoods in local communities. With the SSF Guidelines, he hinted that it would be much easier to make the case, especially with the fact that all FAO members states endorsed in empowering all small scale fisheries people. In his opinion, the society has moral obligations to make sure small scale fisheries survive and that small scale fisheries people have human rights intact which they must have in order to contribute what is expected of them. He considered it a remarkable achievement that FAO member states came together and agreed on such a progressive text. He also noted that the SSF Guidelines leave a positive image of the future and what is possible to achieve given the recognition and support. However for such a future to occur, policies and institutional reforms will often be necessary. He emphasised that the way the small scale fisheries are governed must change and the SSF Guidelines and recommendations reviewed. He stated that governments' pledge to do what they committed themselves to do should be of interest to everyone. The SSF Guidelines call for the contribution of the research community which has an obligation to deliver. He posited that the academic community should not assume that the government always will deliver on its pledge and therefore the academic community must follow or observe what government actually does to implement the Guidelines and how they are received locally by stakeholders.

Ptof. Jentoft drew attention to the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture as presenting an opportunity to make voices heard. He remarked that the SSF Guidelines are voluntary, and States are not any in strict legal sense obliged to implement them. They can implement as they see fit or choose to ignore them. However, States may since they endorsed the SSF Guidelines have second thoughts about them. The changes envisaged in the SSF Guidelines may not be in everyone's interest. States legislators and government administrators may be reluctant to back them up. The SSF Guidelines do not land on an even playing field. Some stakeholders may be powerful enough to block the reforms that the SSF Guidelines call for. Therefore, the implementation process will not be straightforward. From the perspectives of the political scientists, implementation processes are very linear. It is reasonable therefore to expect that the implementation will be uneven and that the SSF Guidelines will find fruiting ground in some countries but not in others. The realization of the SSF Guidelines was a struggle, it took years involved in contributions, consultations of thousands of stakeholders around the world to craft the serial drafts. The technical consultations in FAO among State representatives and civil societies also proved difficult. They were scheduled to last one week in 2013 but they took another week in 2014. The adoption was still up in the air when they finally arrived in COFI- the committee of Fisheries which is FAO's highest fisheries institutions. Some countries delegates had reservations with regard to certain paragraphs, in the end however they were saved by skilful diplomacy.

As a member of the Norwegian delegation, Prof. Jentoft said, he had the opportunity not only to observe but also to participate in technical consultations. He commented that every sentence in the SSF Guidelines was negotiated which led to changes in the original text of the serial draft presented to the delegates by FAO. He acknowledged the existence of some cumbersome sentences and structure that perhaps should have been stated more strongly or clearly and noted that but these were all that States could agree on even if the SSF Guidelines are as legally powerful as one might have wished if they were obligatory rather than voluntary. This wise, the SSF Guidelines are also called 'soft law.' He noted had the Guidelines been 'hard law' they would have required gratification by nation state during the negotiations and SSF Guidelines may not have seen the light of day. However, as a consensus document, it is no less significant and they are also framed within the ramifications of international hard law which gives them power.

He referred to a recent paper by Julia N. Nakamura which argued that what the SSF Guidelines missed in legal power, they have in moral power and this presents a tough case to argue why the small-scale fisheries should be ignored. He is not oblivious of the fact that there might be issues in some paragraphs which depending on the context or language may be irrelevant or inappropriate but the consequences of ignoring the guiding principles will be hard to predict. Human rights and dignity are universal principles and the SSF Guidelines preaches equality and equity including gender equity, rule of law, respect of culture, participatory democracy up to a thirteen guiding principles in total and all allude to what States have agreed to would generally constitute good governance and that gives the SSF Guidelines moral powers. He pointed out that to disagree with these principles means to argue morally not technically or opportunistically. The principles do not come with as an appropriate 'hard on' as many of the technical articles do. The moral powers were the results from the long process of consultation, extensive participation of stakeholders around the world. They emerged from at least six of collaborative thinking and deliberations among small scale fisheries stakeholders, local governments and civil societies, organizations around the world. The process started with a big conference in Bangkok, Thailand in 2008, where he also spoke about the prospect of having such Guidelines. Many of the civil society's participants and FAO then already had the SSF Guidelines in mind.

The global South was much more involved in the forty consultations that took place around the world and left out the global North. The lack of consultation in the global North may have left a widespread perception and misunderstanding that the SSF Guidelines are only relevant for the south. The last sentence in the preface leaves the readers to believe that there are no fisheries in the global north in need of the small scale fisheries Guidelines as it says here; "it is emphasized that these Guidelines are voluntary, global in scope and with a focus on the needs of developing countries." From his perspectives, this needs further interpretation around the world noting that although fisheries people in the North may not be as poor in absolute term as in the global south, but they are ranked often at the bottom of the income scale relative to other people in the countries. He indicated that small scale fisheries in the North may also be as marginalized as they are in the south and they do of course are entitled to enjoy the same human rights as people all over the world as presented in a book that came out in 2011 called 'Poverty Mosaics' which alluded to the differences in small scale fisheries around the world. However, he noted that the SSF Guidelines refrained from defining small-scale fisheries because it was simply too difficult to find a language that capture all the difference and nuances of small-scale fisheries.

In addition, Prof. Jentoft indicated that the diversity of small scale fisheries makes comparison difficult and hence have different needs of the SSF Guidelines. He reported that the Norwegian delegation was very active and did not only have fisheries in my during the technical consultations just as many other countries represented by their Fisheries Departments and often argued from the perspective of domestic fisheries agenda. Therefore, delegates may have very different reasons for their support or rejecting some of the language in negotiations such as the Guidelines. State delegates do not have to explain why they argue as they do, they just say their views. They may have been driven by idealism or opportunism or a combination of both but there were also politics and ideologies involved.

In his views, small scale fisheries have family resemblance even if they are different globally and SSF Guidelines should have thought of small scale fisheries as one global family. He argued that it would be unfair if the SSF Guidelines would apply only to one sibling while disregarding the other. Amartya Sen, a Nobel Prize winner argued that the first experience of injustice is found within the small scale fisheries and he inspired a new TBTI book which has three chapters from Nigeria including contributions from the conveners – Prof. Akintola and Dr. Fakoya.

To Prof. Jentoft, small scale fisheries may be considered marginal in the big global picture but they inevitably touch bigger issues beyond them like global conflicts, regional disputes and inputs of other industries was an eye opener. The SSF Guidelines have different paradigms from the current dominant ones that are often labelled 'new liberalism' which is associated with market oriented policies, private decisions and a secluded state. New liberalism in fisheries by concept like right based fisheries or ITQs which is short for individual transferable quotas and business focus are concepts not found in the SSF Guidelines instead the Guidelines are used from a different paradigm. For an active engagement of the state, the SSF Guidelines are more concerned about the well-being and justice of small scale fisheries people and communities than increased business and profits. Although he did not discount that small scale fisheries were also about business but the SSF Guidelines posited that they are about more than that.

He noted that fisheries may be managed in ways that erode communities and violate human rights like when fisheries people are denied accesses to resources and markets but people have a right to livelihood and when the SSF Guidelines talk about tenure rights it is about communities rather than private property rights. Therefore, when some countries did not bother to show up at the technical consultations or shown to be indifferent to the SSF Guidelines, it may well be for ideological reasons that they disagreed with the basic paradigm and what follows from it. When countries in the North want to refer the Guidelines for developing countries it may be because the SSF Guidelines do not fit their own liberal agenda. Still despite the ambivalence and criticisms from delegates the main trust, concept and language survived in the end much, he acknowledged the role of civil society organizations. He highlighted that their representatives had great influence and largely saved the Guidelines arguing passionately for them and with deep knowledge about the SSF during the technical consultations because they all had the global perspectives that many state delegates did not.

Finally, he mentioned that the SSF Guidelines were dedicated to Chandrika Sharwa, the leader of the ICSF - International Collective in Support of Fish Workers which are based in India. She played a pivotal role before and during the technical consultations and had it not been for her, the texts would have been watered down. Chandrika was in the Malaysian airplane that went down somewhere in the India ocean in 2014 not long before the COFI meeting where she was expected to be. For the world of small scale fisheries and for the successful implementation of the Guidelines, her tragedy is a great loss but it adds to the moral power of the small scale fisheries Guidelines and the obligations that we have to make sure that they are implemented.

Dr. Zakariya Mohammed, Focal Person- Fish Project, The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to The President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) gave a lecture on "Overview on SDGs Implementation in Nigeria and Sustainable Fisheries pathways". He defined the concept of sustainable development and went down memory on the adoption of the 17 SDGs by the United Nation Assembly in September, 2015. He explained that the 17 SDGs, also known as the global goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, safeguard the planet and ensure that all people enjoy prosperity and peace by the year 2030 and the heart of the SDGs is a promise to leave no behind. He further added that SDGs was meant to build on the MDGs (2000 – 2015) while embracing new areas such as economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption and production, climate change and peace and justice. The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP – SDGs) was established in January 2016 in order to give focus, strategic direction and impetus to the national commitment to the SDGs.

In response to the President's commitment to the 2030 agenda, a transition strategy from MDGs to SDGs was developed in 2015. This strategy phased the SDGs implementation in Nigeria by first building

on existing foundation between 2016 and 2020, then scaling the SDG implementation between 2021 and 2025. Finally, accelerating the implementation between 2026 and 2030 to arrive at a place where no Nigeria is left behind. As part of the SDGs implementation, data mapping across the 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 230 indicators completed. The OSSAP-SDGs in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) published Nigeria's SDGs indicators baseline report in 2017 which provides the bench of statistical information required for monitoring the progress in the implementation of SDGs in Nigeria. The Federal Government has integrated the three dimensions of the SDGs: economic, social and environmental into the economic recovery and growth plan (ERGP) 2017 to 2020 with core areas such as food security, agriculture, energy, infrastructural development, industry, macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth given special attention. The integrated SDGs which is a home grown analytical framework and policy simulation model for use in aligning national development strategies with the SDGs, thus enabling line MDAs to channel resources toward SDGs areas was developed, customized and domesticated. Nigeria presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) which highlighted the key policy, institutional and regulatory mechanisms put in place to create the enabling environment for mainstreaming of the SDGs into national policies, plans and programmes to the UN High Level Political Forum in July, 2017. The second VNR which highlighted areas of progress and challenges in the achievement of the SDGs including on-going strategic initiatives and programmes aimed at fast tracking the attainment of the SDGs was presented to the UN high level political forum in July, 2020. A multi-stakeholders engagement approach for SDGs implementation was adopted and these include the presidential council on the SDGs, donor partnership on SDGs (PSAG-SDGs), civil society organizations strategy (CSOSG-SDGs), SDGs standing committee of the national assembly and also memorandum of understanding signed with NBA to provide free legal and pro-bono services.



The OSSAP-SDGs has also embarked upon some flagship programmes and interventions such as conditional grant scheme to states, supporting SDG based planning at the sub national in partnership with UNDP with eleven states presently supported with more states seeking for support, independent evaluation of SDG-3 AND SDG-4 in Nigeria with UNICEF Nigeria and design and implementation of integrated national financing framework.

As part of the advocacy and sensitization, SDGs ambassadors comprising celebrities and opinion leaders across the country were commissioned to assist with SDGs. NYSC-SDGs champions were also recruited on the on-going comprehensive SDGs advocacy programme with NYSC to assist with sensitization and advocacy at the local level. The 17 SDGs and 169 targets into the 3 major Nigeria languages of Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo and mass production and distribution of a student edition of the global goals for sustainable development to all the 36 states and FCT. Unfortunately, the outbreak break of COVID-19 global pandemic has posed a challenge to achieving the SDGs, however key responses measures undertaken include procurement and distribution of intensive care ambulances, personal protective suits and strategic health equipment and mass advocacy and sensitization on COVID-19 pandemic and safety protocol. Nigeria's Plan for the 'Decade of Action' for the SDGs includes developing a coherent National SDGs Implementation Plan (2020-2030) to provide roadmap for fast-tracking the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria, using the re-aligned National Statistical System (NSS) to effectively track and monitor the implementation of the SDGs on annual basis; consciously use the Nigeria iSDG simulation model to develop the next Medium-term National Development Plan (2021-2025) and Nigeria Agenda 2050 and support the domestication of the Planning Model across the 36 states. This would ensure scarce resources are invested into areas with potential multiplier effects on the achievement of the SDGs; designing and implement the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) for the SDGs and working closely with state and non-state actors to cascade and strengthen advocacy for the SDGs across the 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Nigeria.

The Pathways to Sustainable Fisheries is managing fisheries to ensure sustainability following these common pathways: limiting fishing efforts, limiting catches and limiting where fishing takes place. Small scale fisheries supply about half of the global catch and employ >90% of the people in the fisheries sector especially in developing countries. The pathway to sustainable fisheries has also been developed to drive sustainable fishing on a wide scale (beyond individuals). Effective management requires data, M&E, capacity building, awareness creation and appropriate legal frameworks to enforce compliance

The SDG14: ("Life below water") conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The Goal has 10 targets and an indicator for each of the targets. Target 14.1: Reduce marine pollution, Target 14.3: Reduce ocean acidification caused by the uptake of CO₂ from the atmosphere, Target 14.4: Sustainable fishing- effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and the aim is to maximum sustainable yield as determined by the biological characteristics of the fish species. Target 14.6: End subsidies contributing to overfishing, Target 14.7: Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources and Target 14.b: Support small scale fishers

In conclusions, the Nigerian government has demonstrated strong commitment towards the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the SDGs institutional frameworks have been established at the national and sub-national levels to support effective implementation of the SDGs. However, the SDGs cannot be achieved with standalone programmes and projects, it must be carefully integrated into national and sub-national policies and development plans. Hence, the need for robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting cannot be overemphasized. The dwindling financial resources; COVID-19 pandemic and persistent insecurity across the country have all combined to slowdown progress towards achievement of the SDGs in Nigeria. To leave no behind, we need the expertise and resources of all public and private sectors, UN Development System, donor community, academia and the wider civil society.

Prof. Shehu L. Akintola presented an “Overview of Workshop Objectives, Expected Outputs and Modus Operandi”. He drew attention to focus on the reasons why Nigeria needs the SSF Guidelines. In a brief introduction, he acknowledged the recognition of traditional fisheries authorities as *de facto* managers despite the existence of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at Federal, State and other contexts. The academia, policy makers, regulators only inform of the way fisheries should be managed but what really matters are the traditional authorities who in the true sense manage the fisheries - at local levels. The small scale fishers, fish workers are far away from the centers of fisheries governance either at Abuja or Ikeja and live in rural communities under very hostile conditions looking for fish whereas the policy makers and fisheries regulators make decisions for the small scale fishing people. In the true sense there is little jurisdictional or institutional integration between the fishing people and the regulators, and fisheries policies are not aligned with the realities on the field. The SSF Guidelines is not denying urbanization, coastal development etc

He indicated that the absence of formal policies for decentralization of power to traditional fisheries governance systems subjects primary stakeholders - fishers, fish workers, other fisheries-based livelihoods groups and fishing communities - to inequity in governance decision-making processes. The Guidelines stipulate a value chain approach, a governance approach and setting up a mechanism where everyone who needs to be included is involved in decision-making.



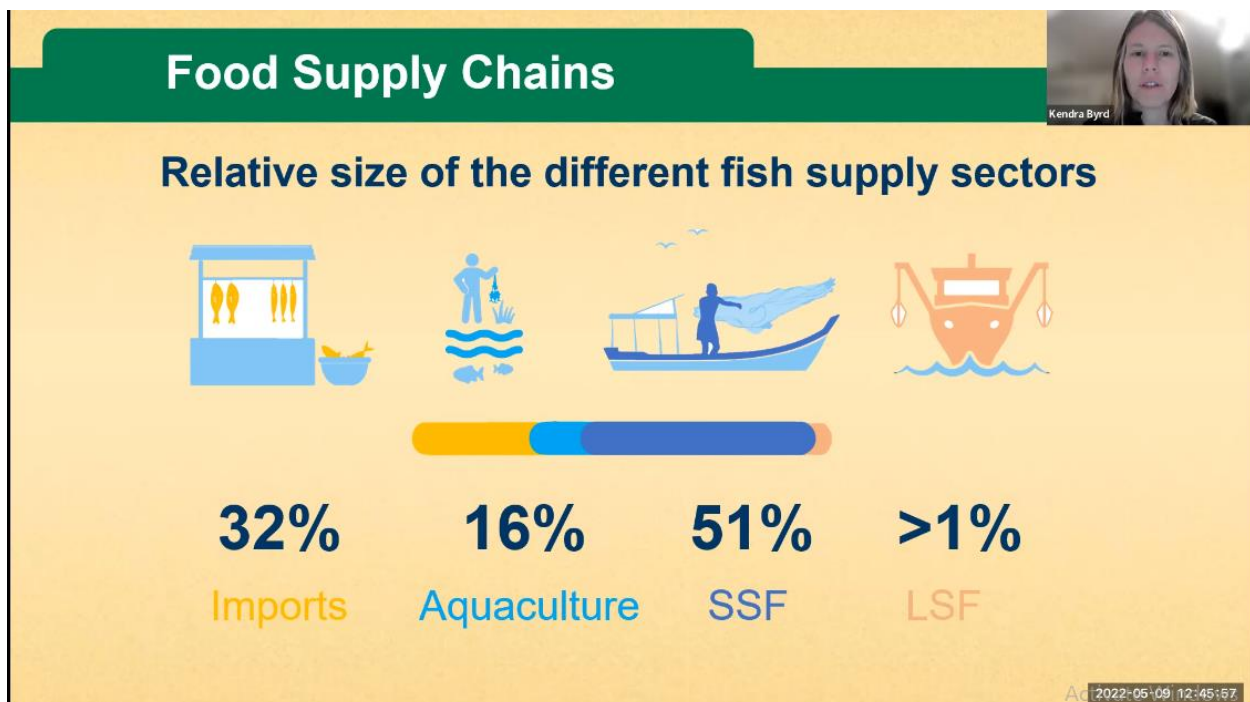
He listed the objectives of the workshop as: raise awareness and sensitize state and non-state actors (fisher and fish worker organizations, the academia and research communities, non-governmental organizations [NGOs] and other civil society organizations [CSOs]) about the SSF Guidelines as a tool for sustainable fisheries development in Nigeria; highlight the pathways that will lead to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and its mainstreaming in policies and legislations for improved governance of small-scale fisheries, food security and poverty reduction of local communities, state and national economy; enhance understanding of the roles, responsibilities and capacities of state and non-state actors in small-scale fisheries by building a network alliance for the SSF Guidelines; build capacity and strengthen advocacy of non-state actors including but not limited to fishers, fish workers, fisheries-based livelihoods groups, fishing communities, youth in small-scale fisheries, the media and communication sector, NGOs, CSOs etc to contribute in policy dialogues, participate in fisheries management planning, implementation and monitoring and in addition to produce a background paper which is inclusive of the stakeholders' recommendations and a working paper that set the template for the SSF Guidelines implementation and sustainable small-scale fisheries in Nigeria.

For the modus operandi of the workshops, he indicated plenary sessions consisting of different presentations by experts, globally and locally followed closely by a technical session. After this, he indicated there would be a capacity building workshop in media and advocacy.

Dr. Kendra Byrd, Senior Research Fellow - Nutrition and Food Systems University of Greenwich Natural Resources Institute presented, "Small-scale fisheries are an important part of the food system in Nigeria".

In the introduction, Dr Kendra described the framework, proximal and distal factors in the food system and determinants of food supply chains, food environment, diets, consumer behaviour, nutrition and health outcomes and the linkages with the SDGs. As a trained nutritionist, she was emphatic on the importance of small scale fisheries to the whole food system and how its impacts diet and health in Nigeria. Taking a glance of ecosystem services of marine and inland fisheries, production systems, processing and packaging, food availability and accessibility of fish and how they influence consumer behaviour and diets. Though she acknowledged that there are other factors which influence consumer behaviours and diets in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the domestic fish food chain is dominated by small scale fisheries which supplies 99% of capture fish. From an ecosystem perspective, marine and estuarine fisheries (above 50%) predominate inland fisheries. Inland fisheries are important because globally they are overlooked or overshadowed in policies and by marine fisheries. Particularly, she emphasized that inland fisheries need to be preserved because of their huge contribution in domestic fish production. Therefore based on recent estimates, small scale fisheries are really important for food and nutrition security because it predominates as the largest fish supply (51%) subsector followed by fish imports (32%), aquaculture (16%) and large scale fisheries (1%).



Fish is the most consumed animal food source. Animal source food represent dense supply of bioavailable nutrients that people need and are essential in breaking cycles of malnutrition. Compared to other animal food sources, daily fish consumption per capita of 24 g exceeds that of meat (24 g), eggs (8.2g) and milk (3.5g). Based on these estimates, she made case for increase in fish contribution and consumption in Nigeria but also noted that up to 30% of harvest is wasted or lost as a result of lack of capacity of fisherfolk to process huge quantities and seasonality particularly during high season and she commented that this might be an incentive to invest more in production capacity.

Fish smoking is an important aspect of small-scale fisheries for preservation of fish and culturally in traditional diets. Smoke / dried fish are highly nutritious food if a lot of moisture is removed but contaminants may be an issue. However, it contributes to deforestation and smoke inhalation among women and the shortcomings necessitates updated technologies with visible improvements in their operations and improving health and wellbeing. An additional environmental impacts of small scale fisheries is deforestation which decreases protection of freshwater fisheries and may lead to decline in household fish consumption. Brush parks increases fish yield but may lead to deforestation because the construction requires a lot of wood. Consequently, deforestation can also cause siltation. As a result, she recommended conservation of indigenous knowledge to build sustainable brush parks and possibly increase availability of wood without decimating the forests.

Although, she noted that the employment data is a guess estimate, the sector is an important employer of women with most being in the post-harvest sector. However, women suffer disproportionately from smoke inhalation which is hazardous to their health and are less likely than men to reap the nutritional benefits. Men get twice the servings of fish than men. Although, it is often argued that men have larger energy needs and have bigger physical bodies but women also have high nutrient needs especially pregnant and lactating women and their nutrition plays a key role in new babies and more importantly in the first 1000 days where malnourishment in the new births may be irreversible. To avert this, she recommended more equitable distribution of fish in the household even though she acknowledged that it would take longer time to correct. However, raising awareness on the issue is important.

Nutritional data from a non –representative survey skewed to higher –end consumers showed that Nigerians have good access to fish with southern households consuming more fish (87%) than northern households (72%). The latter have different cultural diets and the North produces less fish.

Small fish which consumed whole often supplies more nutrients per serving than when the fillet is consumed. Inland fisheries are often the source of the most nutritious fish consisting of small fish which when consumed whole often supplies more nutrients such as Vitamin A, calcium, iron per serving than when the fillet is consumed. Focusing on inland fisheries is another area of intervention to arrest or reduce malnutrition. However, the fish are often targeted for fish feed in aquaculture. Therefore, it is important to quantify their benefits. Arising from diet and nutrition data study which examined the proportion of each of eight food groups consumed by children (6-24 months) prior to 24h hours in a nationally representative survey, it was reported that fish, meat and poultry were fourth compared to breast milk, grains, roots and tubers, and vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables in term of consumed food groups. Also, fish was most frequently consumed constituting half of the proportion within the meat, poultry and fish group even as the diets are eating diets low in nutrients which means that majority of the children do not consume adequate diverse diets. An adequate diverse diet consists of not less than 5 food groups and in the study only 22% of the children reported eating adequate diverse diets.

Overlaying data on the children's fish consumption overlaid with production between the two regions- North and South reveals the North lags behind production and consumption. She raised certain questions on these data. One of these was if fish production should be increased in the North given that the whole landscape and ecosystem services differs from the South, and the region has higher levels of malnutrition? She asked also the role small scale fisheries plays in the North? Another challenge she posited was if fish processing and fish supply chains should be modified for the purpose of the North or if efforts should be invested to increase fish demand in the North. On state – basis, trends in consumption to production showed no particular pattern but in some states where supposedly fish was produced in some significant quantities such as Kebbi, the state surprisingly had the highest level of malnutrition which shows that fish produced domestically may not be consumed locally and may

transported to another region or place through highly informal trade networks or cross-border trade. The challenge, she asked was how fish from small scale fisheries can be retained to solve problems of malnutrition locally?

In her closing remarks, she emphasised on the contribution of nutrition from inland and marine fisheries as an important ecosystem service. She pointed out that there would be always be issues or threats particularly to inland water fisheries because of other sectors such as agriculture which utilize these resources. Therefore, she opined that it was important to quantify the costs and benefits from the inland fisheries and the marine fisheries, too. She canvassed for improvements in the food supply chains through brush parks and improves updated fish smoking technologies to increase capture fish yields and supply. Essentially because of the vital role of women in the supply chains, she recommends a closer look at the role of women as participants and beneficiaries in small scale fisheries and utilizing awareness campaign to drive improvement in the sector. Also she noted that because the majority of children consume monotonous diets and therefore they do not take enough nutrients, she believes that leveraging the fish particularly small fish caught from small scale fisheries has great potentials to address the burdens of malnutrition in the country. The mechanism could take the form of any of her propositions on how to make fish more available at context level.

Discussion/Question & Answer Session on the SSF Guidelines and small-scale fisheries in Nigeria was anchored by **Prof. Shehu L. Akintola**.

Mr. Idowu Sewanu Hunyibo posed a question to Prof. Akintola: We have had programs like this in the past and we are aware of the problems and solutions. My question is where are the implementation of past policies? I realised that in Nigeria, we are good at making policies but implementation is zero. Also is this team going by the way of the Government or have their own way for implementation?

Prof. Akintola directed the question to Mr. Abdullahi Bwala who is Mr. Idowu's superior at the FDFA.

In response to Mr. Idowu Sewanu Hunyibo's question, Mr. Abdullahi Bwala answered that they are all present to put hands together and see that the policies are effectively implemented.

Prof. S.L. Akintola - The difference now is, in the past our challenge has always been non-inclusive approach, to some of the strategies we implement by tomorrow we hope to come out with a body that will see to the implementation of this policy. The essence of this workshop is to get everyone involved. Developed countries, too have their challenges with managing their small-scale fisheries.

Mr. Obinna Anozie: He applauded the conveners of the workshop and advised for the inclusion of other national stakeholders institutions strategic in the implementation process. He advised there is 100 percent funding available particularly for the establishment of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders' Network as an implementation strategy particularly that the SSF Guidelines was explicit on promotion of postharvest fish trade and recognizes women as comprising 50% in workforce of the small scale fisheries. According to him, it requires an Expression of Interest to be submitted to the AU-IBAR. Also he highlighted that the AU –IBAR has a 10 Year Action Plan for Small Scale Fisheries with some technical assistance from the FAO in incorporating the principles of the SSF Guidelines. He stressed that this instrument would also be helpful to drive Nigeria's implementation plan.

Mr. Freeman Oluowo advised for the adoption of a bottom up approach to create awareness and for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Nigeria. He asked the SDGs Office if they have the right stakeholders - the fishers when implementing or taking decisions. He noted particularly disconnect between the Federal and sub-national levels. States are often slow too or lack political capacity to adopt

or implement policies. He asked what the Federal Government is doing to make sure that at sub-national levels, the policies are adopted and implemented in like manner.

Prof. S.L. Akintola acknowledged the challenge has always been a top –bottom approach of Government to doing things inclusive of policy implementation. For the purpose of creating awareness, he mentioned efforts to have introduction of the Guidelines translated into three major languages-Yoruba, Pidgin English and Hausa in the face of a highly multicultural and multi-lingual country such as Nigeria. He assured that the workshop was a wake - up call to all involved in small scale fisheries.

Mr. Emmanuel Audu (Director, Department of Fisheries, Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture) commented on the implementation at sub-national levels. He informed the gathering that Directors of Fisheries across the 36 States meet on a common platform to which Prof. Akintola and those deeply involved in small scale fisheries Guidelines project would be invited. In Lagos State, the capture fisheries sector produces 84% of total fish production and has over 150,000 value chain actors. This, he stressed makes the sector very important to the State and the desire to keep up with the tempo in fish production. He recommended research on impacts of sand dredging on the livelihoods of artisanal fisher folks as the dredging activity competes directly with artisanal fishing and silting is cutting off fishing communities. The challenge of sand dredging is nationwide and the results of the research would help considerably to proffer solutions to the preservation of the fisheries and dependent livelihoods.

Dr. Justina Obienu (Nigeria Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research, Lagos): My area of concentration is conservation. I research on dolphins and whales found can in the Niger Delta. Getting data from this region especially the states of Bayelsa and Rivers is challenging due to security issues. Important species are caught by small-scale fishers but there is barely information available because of lack of monitoring on data collection of these species from the small-scale fishers. My question is how do we make fishing grounds accessible to people to do research without fear of security issues?

Mrs. Blessing Okonji (The Federal Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Abuja): My question is directed to the SDG Representative. I want to find out specific activities the SDG office has carried out in the artisanal fisheries in Nigeria.

Dr Zakariya Mohammed to Mrs Okonji: The Office of the Special Adviser to the President on SDGs does not directly implement policy. It provides stewardship, support, coordination, strategic guidance to the ministry, NGOs etc to implement policy. The office collaborates at national and subnational levels, to support the organization and other relevant stakeholders to provide marching grounds. At subnational levels, there is a Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs with whom they collaborate with them to drive implementation of policies.

Response from Prof. S.L. Akintola: Conservation is key to sustainable small scale fisheries and is part of the sustainable development goals. We are working with the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on SDGs. If we agree to start implementing the Guidelines, at the end of the day, conservation definitely will be part of the deliverables. Collection of samples has always been a challenge to any researcher, continuous collaboration with fisher folks will make the work much easier.

Contribution from Dr. Nwabueze Godfrey: I want to congratulate Prof Akintola for putting up this meeting. It is timely and I admire his passion for seeing that small - scale fisheries are better. I want to appeal to all participants to have the right mind-set. We need to have the mind that this will work even after leaving here. I also want to thank Prof for bringing all persons relevant to this project together. I want to correct a notion that there are postharvest losses. I stand to be corrected, fish is not enough for the population, if there are any fish available that cannot be consumed, the fishermen sells to fish farmers for fishmeal production. He also emphasized that we must include and not undermine the

traditional institutions. On data collection; fishers are very receptive to people who want to bring development to them. Approach is the challenge. We must use the right approach to get result. Thank you.

Dr. Stephen Ajagbe: Multiple use of aquatic resources – Lagos States and a few other states are using these resources as waterways which impacts the fisheries resources. How can the conflicts and challenges be resolved?

Prof. S.L. Akintola: Intersectoral approach to governance of the aquatic resources can solve the conflicts from multiple uses. This involves an inclusive and bottom up approach involving states, fishers, other users of the aquatic space, legislators etc. This will lead to some changes in our fisheries policy and working with others to advance discussions.

Ms. Foluke Areola : I want to congratulate Prof. and the team for this meeting. I want to bring to our notice that we need to create a forum where the artisanal and industrial sector can sit together and resolve issues that affect both sectors. Presently most fishers are not aware that we have a unit under the Federal Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (monitoring, control and surveillance) that mediates between fishers and the industrial sector. The challenge is how to bring their nets and evidences all the way from the rural areas where they are based to the urban areas where those offices are located. Advocacy, enlightenments and campaigns of the fishers is important to inform and create awareness of their rights. Data starts with community and trickle up to the state and federal. Asides, there is coastal aquaculture which affects the fisheries. The Blue Economy is led by the Ministry of transportation only whereas there are other stakeholders. The fisheries sector should be at the head of the Blue Economy strategy because the coastal waters is the only space occupied or used by the fishermen.

Contributions from Mr. Moses Y. Ashade: Fishers from Epe to Badagry always reach out to me with pictures (evidence) of issues with industrial sector and I go to Victoria Island to report the issue and the company responsible to pay for damages. A lot of people have been coming to the fishing communities with promises to help the communities but at the end of the day, there's nothing forthcoming. This is the reason why communities are often not cooperative to engage on data collection. Efforts must be beyond researches which have not yielded gains.

Mr Segun Zebulon: In Lagos State, we do not have issues with data collection. One of the challenges we are facing is the distance of the offices where we go to resolve issues with industrial sector. The FDFA needs to create offices in the five divisions in Lagos so that we can easily access them. There should be focus on inland fisheries which also have their challenges. There used to be channels on the Lagos Lagoon in the eighties and the nineties which helped to demarcate fishing routes for the fishers and were well known to the loggers but now there there's no common ground or understanding and fishers lose their fishing gears to the damages caused by the loggers. Unfortunately, nothing is being done at the State level and a lot of the people committing these atrocities are highly placed in the society.

Mr. Freeman Oluowo: Oil pollution, hunger are issues in the Niger Delta. SSF Guidelines must follow a bottom up approach, participatory and contextual – location specific for states. Community engagement, sensitization and awareness raising in the Niger Delta especially

Prof. Martins Anetekhai: A lot of fishers have been driven out of the fishery profession and are in other livelihoods. We need to preserve fisheries resources and more so the fisherman needs to begin to think

like a social entrepreneur. He berated the Directorate system operating in Nigeria whereas countries like Kenya, Ghana have Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Dr. Zakariya Mohammed: Emphasised the health benefits of fish in advocacy and underscore the importance in children. It leads to 15% reduction in heart diseases. It is rich in iron, iodine, zinc, magnesium, calcium, phosphorous, vitamin B and vitamin D₂.

Mr Idowu Sewanu Hunyibo to Mr. Lucas Koyejo: Are you able to give justice to any of the displaced communities? Is there any solution for the displaced?

Mr. Lucas Koyejo: Self –regulation and informal system of fisheries governance works better in communities and has solved some internal problems.

Ms. Foluke Areola: Wetlands and major water channels are sand filled with people not taking into consideration the life-cycle of fish. The issue of flooding is getting worse in Lagos State and the wetlands are still being filled. Everyone is affected by floods but more so the coastal fishing communities who are often neglected. The Human Rights Approach which allows individuals to do as they wish adds to this problems particularly when they acquire land and sand fill it. The development of the Free Trade Zone did not take into consideration of the fishing communities and the fisheries.

Director of Fisheries, Rivers State: If an individual is doing his own thing and this is affecting the fishing communities, how do we claim our rights?

Mr Lucas: We can use the law and mechanism of mediation and arbitration. Fishing rights are human rights which have to be protected and are different from acquired rights which are acquired. Similarly, the rights of the indigenous people have to be protected. Right to development has to be balanced with other impacts. Rights of the people have to be protected while carrying out development. Issues such as eviction, compensation, and resettlement must be discussed and noted during the course of development. Challenge of facing the State with instrumentality of power has not yielded much fruit except to stem the tide of eviction. The promises of resettlement have not yielded.

Mr. Ojikutu AbdulQudus (A student in the Department of History and International Relations, Lagos State University) : I see developing the fisheries sector as a significant contributor to contribute to GDP. Is there a way to influence government policy?

Dr. Stephen Ajagbe: How are the rights of fishermen protected in some states which do not have fisheries laws or policies?

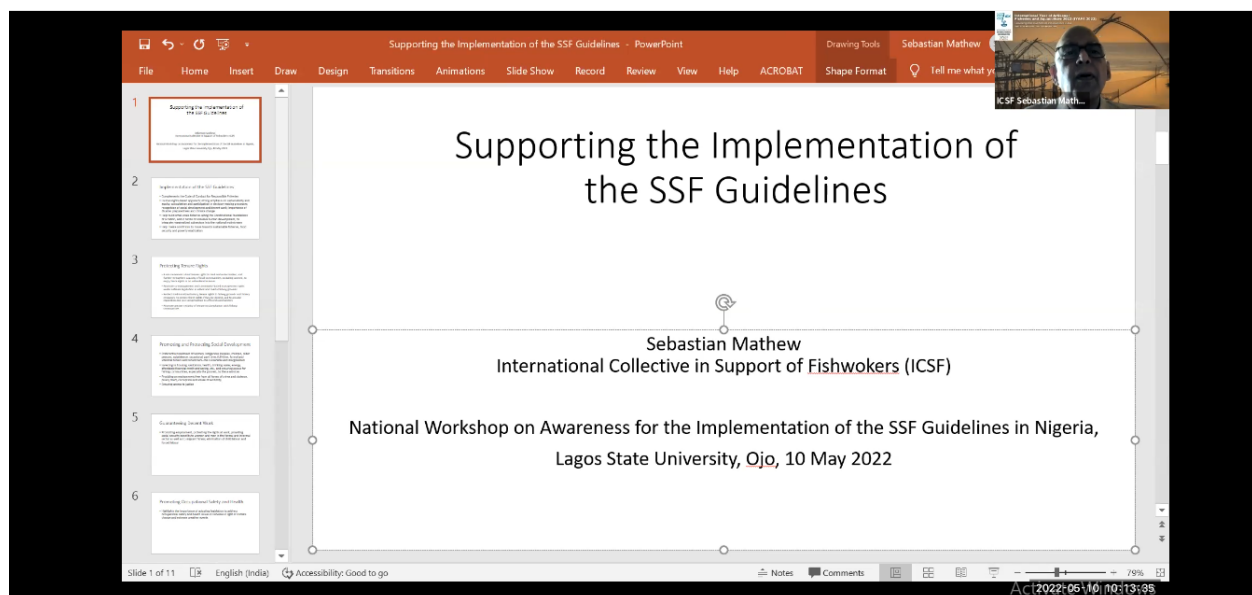
Mr. Lucas Koyejo: The workshop is part of the way to influence government policy. We must emphasize the ability of the sector to show impacts on health, employment and earnings to Government. In a country like Nigeria, where might is right, advocacy is needed by the CSOs, lawyers that are into *pro bono* or see merit in litigation of such cases, academics but how far depends on respect for the rule of law. Is the judgement of courts respected?

A closing remark was given by Prof Stella Williams:

DAY 2, May 10, 2022

In his presentation, “Supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines”, **Mr. Sebastian Mathew**, Executive Director (ICSF) acknowledged Nigeria perhaps has the largest small-scale fisheries in Africa.

The number of fishers dependent on small-scale fisheries would be one of the largest in the world. He gave insights into the background of the Guidelines and highlighted some of the key points. First, the guidelines complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and basically this means that the SSF Guidelines add certain elements which are missing in the Code of Conduct. For example by comparing the SSF Guidelines and the Code of Conduct, the Guidelines highlights human rights-based approach and is emphatic not only on sustainability, but also on equity issues. And much more than the Code, it highlights the importance of consultation and participation in decision - making processes. According to him, it is the first time a UN instrument recognizes the importance of social development and decent work in fisheries, very specifically focusing on small scale fisheries and social development. Also, more than any other instrument of the UN, it talks about the importance of disaster preparedness considering climate change.



The Code of Conduct basically adopts an ecosystem approach to fisheries, whereas the smart scale fisheries guidelines are essentially adopting a human rights-based approach to fisheries. Most countries have their own written constitutions which guarantee the rights of citizens, rights of people living in the territory of the nation and these human rights based the constitutions of each country is very much designed within a human rights-based approach. Even in the 1999 Nigerian constitution, there is a strong emphasis on fundamental human rights.

For a focus on human development issues, the constitutional foundations really provide a much better framework to look at fisheries, not just a narrow technical focus only on resource management. Therefore it's very important that the SSF Guidelines help to look at what kind of a constitutional framework a country has and then to build up the fisheries based on larger shared values. The guidelines also help create conditions to move towards not only sustainable fisheries, but also food security and poverty eradication. In fact, one of the fundamental assumptions of the Guidelines is that if there is sufficient emphasis on poverty eradication that can help people to move towards resource management in course of time. Therefore, attention on intergenerational equity means that poverty

eradication would help to move towards intergenerational equity and poverty eradication also helps to deal with resource management issues in a far fairer kind of perspective.

Another key element of the guidelines is protection of tenure rights which refers to who can fish for how long, under what conditions, in what area. So human rights, tenure rights are a very important element of the new SSF Guidelines. Raising awareness about tenure rights is not only in relation to fish and fishing grounds, but also in relation to access to land, for housing, access to land, for postharvest activities, for women to set up a place to sell their fish, so on and so forth. Therefore, aspects of life and livelihood are brought into tenure framework. This again is a very interesting, unique contribution of the guidelines in that it is not taking a very narrow fishery perspective, but it takes a livelihood perspective and it looks at people having to live somewhere adjusting to their water bodies.

People need some adjacency principle in tenure rights to be recognized whether they live close to fresh water, brackish water or marine, and tenure rights certainly help people to also take responsibility for resource management if it is about institutions like co-management or community-based management. Therefore, co-management and community-based management rights under national legislation in Indian waters, in coastal fishing grounds, in land areas can be also promoted by adopting the rights approach. Also in many countries of the developing world and in the developed world like Norway, Canada or New Zealand or the US, there are customary rights, traditional tenure rights, and these rights sometimes are formally recognized in law and sometimes not recognized in law. And there are cases where some of those rights are not able to articulate themselves and are denied. There may be a situation where providing a reparation to the communities or to compensate them when they are being displaced from one area to another area. For example, when building a coastal highway or building a power plant. There are so many users of the coastal and the riparian areas and if situations arise where these rights are taken away from the people, there should be fair compensation mechanism to the people who are affected. Similarly, security of tenure, how people should participate and what rules should apply to their tenure ideally should be developed in consultation with the fishing community. Consultation and participation are important principles for many of the decisions of consequence to the fishing communities and with other stakeholders relevant in the context.

Another important element of the guidelines is the emphasis it gives to social development. In chapter six of the guidelines which is the longest chapter, there are about 18 paragraphs dealing with social development, employment and decent work. It is also an important recognition that giving an attention resource management without recognizing social development may lead to a situation a country is unable to move forward. But if the focus is placed first on social development it can create conditions for sustainable fisheries in response to the fisheries. So therefore, it's very important to recognize the importance of social development at the outset and in the context. The SSF Guidelines mention about many of the categories of vulnerable and marginalized people who are fishers such as subsistence fishers, occasional fishers, part time fishers, full time fishers, fish workers, the indigenous of the tribal communities, children, older persons, in the formal sector and the informal sector who probably are vulnerable and marginalized and the guidelines mentions about some preferential treatment to all these categories, and also about investing in resource management as well as invest in housing, sanitation, health, drinking water, energy and economic instruments like financial support. What kind of credit is available, what kind of savings program is extended to the fishing communities, what kind of beneficial subsidies are given to the fishery sector? All these programmes can help meet the poorest of the poor in fishing communities and providing the services also can reduce people forced to fall upon fisheries resources as the last resource. Basic support even by the state or by non-state activists to the needs of the community can also help in the pursuit of resource management because in many countries people

who do not have access to all these types of services and facilities try to use their natural resources as the last resort and sometimes leading to over exploitation which can again harm the long-term interest.

To achieve sustainable development, it's also important that an environment is free from all forms of crime and violence, piracy, theft, corruption and abuse of authority. So again, what kind of justice environment are you creating in your fishing community? This can make a huge difference to the people's engagement with institutions and fearlessly expressing their views and opinions so that there is progressive work towards a very constructive inclusive position on sustainable development for everyone and the resources combined. The discourse about sustainable development is about ensuring access to justice. Justice basically means equitable treatment of all the people concerned. Access to justice can be enabled by providing an environment free of crime, violence; investing in all kinds of social services, and being able to adopt an inclusive approach to social development.

Around the world there is a lot of formalization happening in fisheries formalization of work. Formalization means that increasingly we are dependent on distinct employer- employee categories and fisheries, and which means that there is a labor dimension coming into even small-scale fisheries. In tuna fishery or some of the highly migratory fish stocks, there are often very distinct categories of employers and workers. In beach seine operations, large investment is required and there are powerful or rich owners and lots of poor workers.

Asides from promoting promote employment on the one hand, how are sure the employed and their rights at work well protected? How is child labour avoided, how are some of International Labor Organization instruments applied to small-scale fisheries and how are Social Security benefits provided ? In a formalization framework, it can be assumed that the State can provide Social Security benefits to women and men both in the formal and informal sector. In some cases, this can also be extended to migrant fishers. For example in Asia, the labor supplying state and the labor receiving state will enter into an agreement whereby some of the Social Security benefits of the migrant workers are guaranteed in their country origin through this kind of bilateral arrangements.

These are some of the models and it's important to see how the migrant fishers would also benefit from some of the social protection measures. There are situations where fishers, against their own will are made to work on a fishing vessel or in a fishing camp or in a post harvesting facility. Issues of child labour and forced labour are all not only in large scale fisheries but also in small scale fisheries in many developing.

Occupational safety and health is a very important issue highlighted in the SSF Guideline. Climate change impacts or extreme weather events, changes in fish distribution patterns, fishing vessels are sometimes going deeper or stay longer systems which can lead to occupational safety and health issues. The SSF Guidelines also provide some food for thought in relation to adopting the types of measures to improve occupational safety and health. The Guidelines also has also very, very good focus on how to deal with migrant fishers. How can migrant fishers be integrated into small scale fisheries? How can coordinated migration into fisheries be promoted in consultation with fish worker organizations? Migration must not be perceived as a failure of institutions. Rather it should happening through a proper due process approach to attain coordinated migration.

The Guidelines also talk about importance of promoting gender equality. So, it talks about how women's labor must be made more visible. In this context, we also need to talk about equitable outcomes.. Therefore, there are several ways to make sure that there is an equitable outcome because of adopting gender equality in our fisheries. Therefore, the focus should not only be on gender equality but also focus on equitable outcome. Another important dimension of the Guideline is that it mentions

strengthening various types of linkages. There are vertical linkages, for example, between fisheries administration, environmental administration of the coastal area, freshwater areas of maritime transport, administration of sea safety administration which must be strengthened meaning that there should be some coherence in the vertical plane. At the same time, horizontal linkages of governance are also important. For example, there is health, education, safety issues, migration etc. Because there are so many issues along the horizontal axis, therefore, there is need to creatively look at how to promote greater coordination, cooperation, collaboration and coherence across different types of linkages, both vertically and horizontally for proper resource conservation and management and for the community's benefits. Therefore, it is important to integrate the social development and sustainable development and ecological wellbeing of the fisheries which is possible only through this kind of linkages.

Finally, ICSF has an excellent collaboration with Lagos State University on the project basically to raise awareness of the SSF Guidelines especially among both the state and non-state actors. This project is also looking at building up capacity of media and advocacy groups to develop communication tools and a lot of communication tools have already come out of this project. The ultimate is that the awareness raising can lead to improved legislative frameworks, that will give much stronger and much more meaningful legislation to strengthen the traditional management systems in freshwater, brackish water resources, marine fisheries etc. Other outcomes would include improved data collection on small scale fisheries, building organizational capacity of fishing communities such as cooperatives, trade unions, associations, fisheries owners' associations, workers associations and then, above all, participation of different groups in decision- making processes. Greater consultation and participation is for the larger public good of everybody and not only for the benefit of the fishing communities. This approach can also, within a constitutional framework, leading to the entire country benefiting from the implementation of the guidelines because some of the good practices in fisheries can be emulated by other sectors and vice versa for the larger public.

Dr. Sunil Siriwardena, WorldFish Nigeria presented “**Harnessing Potential of Inland Fisheries: Closing the Demand and Supply Gap**”. Dr Sunil stated that fish contributes about 47 per cent to the intake of animal protein worldwide and in Nigeria, it contributes more than 30%. According to him, citing the Food and Agriculture Organization, "As its population increases from 196 million in 2018 to 263 million in 2030, WorldFish Feed the Future research indicates that Nigeria would need 752 thousand tonnes more fish to maintain 11.2 kg of current national per capita fish consumption and would need 3.14 million tonnes more fish to reach 20.3 kg current global per capita fish consumption, by 2030.

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Competitors in freshwater use

- ❖ Agriculture (44 percent),
- ❖ municipal/domestic (40 percent), and
- ❖ industry (16 percent)
- ❖ Approximately 41 percent of all freshwater abstractions are from surface water.

Water demand outlook by 2030 16585 MCM (National Water Resources Master Plan, 2013)

- ❖ Aquaculture is a very low water consumer but a significant user

Slide 11 of 16

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This emerging situation provides significant new opportunities for aquaculture growth, creating opportunities for smallholders, jobs along the value chain, women’s empowerment and nutritional improvement. Furthermore, he noted that one species of fish will not feed Nigeria in the next 20 years. Unfortunately, there is a huge competition for freshwater use and this might challenge the attempt to increase drastically, through aquaculture, the production of fish. Among the competitors in freshwater uses are agriculture (44%), municipal/domestic (40%), and industry (16%) among others. Although Aquaculture is a very low water consumer, it is a significant user. To close the demand and supply gap without experiencing water shortage, he noted, needed the optimization of reservoir fisheries and this would involve determining the reservoir fishery potential; strengthening fisheries management; embracing culture-based fisheries, and promoting a sense of ownership through community-based management.

To achieve these, he concluded, the government should support small-scale fisheries to take responsibility for resource management; involve the communities in the design, planning and implementation of management measures and ensure equitable participation of women and other vulnerable groups.

Mr. Salihu Abdullahi Bwala, Assistant Director, Federal Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Abuja delivered an address on **“Implementing the SSF Guidelines in Nigeria”** on behalf of the Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mr Umoh Imeh as Guest Speaker. Mr. Abdullahi Bwala presented a summary of measures developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture through the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to support and improve the small scale fisheries to achieve the desired goals. Such policy measures stock assessment and restocking of some selected water bodies across the country with indigenous culturable juvenile fish species to increase fisher folk catches, restore ecosystem and create public awareness on the need to avoid over exploitation of fisheries resources in an unsustainable

manner; post-harvest management through the establishment of preservation facilities and distribution of smoking kilns for processing and value addition in coastal and inland states with high fishing activities; inputs distribution to fisher folks with fishing gears and crafts; canoe registration to check illegal movement of canoes and curb bad operators that disguise themselves to commit crime such as human trafficking, smuggling, illicit drugs, piracy, robbery and transshipment at sea and establishment of Federal Department of Fisheries Boatyard purposely built to assist the Artisanal fishermen for boat building, repair and maintenance. In addition, the Department has a Monitoring, Surveillance and Control unit and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to protect the right of artisanal fishermen and to prevent encroachment into the non-trawling zone by fishing vessels; the Department also serves as an appellate court to entertain dispute settlement between the artisanal fishermen and the vessels operators within the non-trawling zone.

Mr. Abdullahi Bwala asserted that Government is not unaware of the numerous challenges that are hindering the smooth operation of the value - chains along the small scale fisheries and assured that while the government is working assiduously to provide the enabling policies, it also needs collaborative support and cooperation from the stakeholders for successful implementation. He commended the management and staff of Lagos State University, WorldFish, International Collective in Support of Fish Workers (ICSF) and Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for organizing this very important workshop aimed at enlightening the general public on the need to implement the SSF Guidelines on the benefits of its implementation.

In view of the importance of Nigeria's small scale fisheries, contributing significantly in the fight against hunger, malnutrition, poverty and unemployment, the huge potential could be greatly improved with proper policies as well as public and private investment targeted to substantially increase the contribution of the sector to the national economy. These, he said will trickle down to foster the eradication of poverty and hunger by increasing earnings from fish and providing high quality fish protein, promote gender equality and empower women by supporting their engagements in fish processing and trade and also improving livelihoods and socio economic activities of fisher folks. Therefore, he underscored the urgent need to develop SSF Guidelines and policies that will create favourable climates for sustainable development of the sector and at the same time safeguard against unemployment and social risk. To this end, he encouraged the participants to discuss and exchange knowledge, experience and agree on good practices in addressing the challenges faced by the small scale fisheries and come out with policy recommendations and intervention strategies highlighting foreseen future development and potential areas of improvement.

Questions and Answers/ Discussions on Plenary Session (Presentations by Sebastian Mathew, WorldFish & FDFA)

Mr. Idowu Sewanu Hunyibo directed a question to Dr. Sunnil: You said that by 2030, aquaculture production will exceed capture fisheries, how do you address aquaculture's dependence on capture fisheries for fish meal to feed culture fish? We have suggested that aquaculture should be taken to the wild because of wastewater or effluent from the culturing facilities which when released is capable of polluting waterways and the aquatic environment. Lagos State is practising aquaculture in cages installed in lagoons. Do you envisage the pollution that results from aquaculture? Thirdly, your assertion that aquaculture will close the gap between fish demand and supply does not take into cognisance the fact that Nigeria's aquaculture is driven by catfish and tilapia, and this points to a narrow culture -base. Consumption of catfish faces certain barriers that may be religious whereas the fish import sector offers variety of fish to choose from.

Dr. Sunil to Mr. Idowu Sewanu Hunyibo: Fish meal can be sourced from by-catch but this is ethical if the by-catch is truly not is also dependent on what is considered as by-catch The response to bridge the fish supply-demand gap is to diversify the fish culture spectrum such as introducing the African carps and therefore not lose focus on inland fisheries while reducing risks of impacts from effluent by treating it before discharge.

Dr. Sunil to Mr. Alieu Sowe: Bringing youth into community participatory process and improve inclusivity of women in the value-chains..

Prof. Adejuwon Adeneye (Director, Lagos State University Directorate of Research Management and Innovation) supported Dr. Sunil's submission: Awareness raising of youth right from childhood and inclusion of subjects into curricular from elementary levels would help inclusivity and participation of youth in fisheries and aquaculture.

Mr. Abdullahi Bwala to Mr. Idowu Sewanu Hunyibo: We are all here to help government to implement the SSF Guidelines in Nigeria. All those highlights in the Director's speech are steps already taken by the government. There are fish farm clusters in remote areas all over the country to improve women and youth engagement in fisheries and aquaculture. Smoking kilns have also been distributed to women for increased participation in the value chains.

Mrs. Elizabeth Olubodun highlighted AWFISHNET's efforts to bring to the fore the challenges of women in fishing communities. Emphasised that women or youth should come together and join AWFISHNET to access smoking kilns.

Prof. S.L. Akintola recapped Dr. Sunil's points: Small - scale fisheries are superior to aquaculture in terms of diversity of species they offer. Given our situation in Nigeria, in the next 50 years, aquaculture will play a supplementary role to small –scale fisheries. There are so many factors which will define the pace at which aquaculture progresses and not to forget that aquaculture would be competing for resources with other sectors. Chapter 3 of the SSF Guidelines addresses the issues or factors which determines the participation of youth in small scale fisheries.

Ms. Foluke Areola (Director(Rtd),Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria): Escape of cultured fish to the wild is capable of disrupting the ecosystem and affecting catch of fisherfolks.

Mr. Alieu Sowe to Mr. Abdullah Bwala: What is the role of government in supporting the women and youth in small scale fisheries of Nigeria ?

Mr. Alieu Sowe to Dr. Sunil: What is the role of women and youth in harnessing inland fisheries resources in Nigeria particularly with the challenges of the youth in face of rural –urban migration and others and what examples can you give?

Mr. Alieu Sowe to Mr. Sebastian Mathews: You have given a lot of examples of countries implementing the SSF Guidelines but as ICSF what is the stake and government mechanism in accepting and supporting the SSF Guidelines? Give examples of some success stories of people actively supporting the implementation processes.

Prof. Kareem Olatoye emphasised the organization of fishing communities to make substantial progress on the SSF Guidelines and improving small scale fisheries sector.

Mr. Sebastian Mathews to Mr. Alieu Sowe: ICSF has been organizing several events, especially in Asia. In fact, I just came back from a workshop we organized in Bangkok with eleven countries mainly trying to

look at how to take stock of the implementation of the guidelines. I'm happy to notice that many elements, aspects of the guidelines are taken up in countries that have fairly strong fisheries legislation. So, two examples that I'm happy to share are Philippines and Indonesia, and then maybe to some extent the Indian experience is also welcome because there is a National Fisheries Policy that India is in the process of developing and we had the opportunity to discuss with state, Provincial Governments and Federal Governments about the importance of the guidelines. Some elements they are comfortable with, but some elements which are outside the mandate of the Fisheries Department. They are not very sure how to take up those issues under the Fisheries Administration. So, this is still being negotiated, discussed, and we are also talking to some of the Human Rights Commission in the region, Philippines, India for example, we had involved the Human Rights Commission also to listen to the guidelines implementation and how the Commission can also play a role in looking at issues, human rights issues and small-scale fish. So therefore, my advice to you is not to see the guidelines only as the responsibility of the Fisheries Administration, but to see which are the relevant ministries and departments when it comes to the life and livelihood issues of fishing communities. So therefore, I think you need to have a bottom-up approach. You have to talk to your fishing communities to realize which are the relevant wind streets and departments and then try to identify them, list them and then try to maybe involve them in a workshop or in a dialogue process. So, because these guidelines, as you might have noticed, is fairly complex in structure, so it takes time to internalize its logic. The two axis I mentioned, the vertical axis and horizontal axis, so therefore it is a long-term process, but you can start with the community to identify what are they so that you can list, where do you start from, based on which are the most urgent priorities. And then you have to see which are the issues relevant for the federal government, which are the issues relevant for the local government, which are the issues that the community associations can take up. So, I think therefore then you need to have some kind of a matching of the guidelines to the institutional framework in Nigeria and then decide how you want to take it forward. So therefore, the implementation is basically working out a much broad range strategy to involve different institutions, different departments and governments at various levels. And the community organization, that is my suggestion. Based on the experience we have had, maybe we have organized many workshops now in Africa, Asia and Latin America. And so, we see that this is the way to take it forward. The community should lead the process and the departments officially should function as a midwife because they are the ones closest to the fishing community, so they can actually draw attention of other relevant ministries and provide a platform for all different ministries to sit together and reach the community. Therefore, whatever fisheries administration can do, they must. Whatever they are not able to, they should provide, facilitate, consultative, participatory, forum, and then see that in a time bound manner, maybe ten years, 20 years' time to try to cover all the elements of the Guidelines. Thank you. I hope I answered your question.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS MEETING

Dr. AbdulWakil Saba introduced the Working Groups 1 and 2, respectively (Appendix 4: Working Groups Participants). Each Working Group was composed of a mix of different stakeholders and further divided into subgroups. Each subgroup further discussed specific topics or themes as found in the SSF Guidelines. Working Group 1 was moderated by Dr AbdulWakil Saba while Mr. Ayorinde Kappo facilitated Working Group 2.



WORKSHOP RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations by the Stakeholders

Stakeholders observed some challenges limiting small-scale fisheries (SSF) and the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Nigeria as follows:

1. Small-scale fisheries are facing declining catch, inconsistent policies and poor policy implementation.
2. In spite of Nigeria being a signatory to the SDGs, small-scale fisheries have not been developed as an integral part for attaining the SDGs.
3. Traditional fisheries authorities though recognized as de facto managers with some reciprocity but in the real sense, little jurisdiction or institutional integration exists between the traditional fishers and the state.
4. Fishing communities that are indigenous communities are to be protected under human rights laws and their right to fishing as a livelihood is regarded as their inalienable rights, often in many contexts their rights are violated.
5. The current fisheries governance system does not adequately take into account small scale fisheries and promote participatory approach to small-scale fisheries governance.
6. Lack of finance to enhance small-scale fishers' investment in relevant and state of the art vessels and gears that will enhance their fishing activities.
7. Lack of enabling law that can adequately protects the rights of small-scale fisheries.
8. Eviction of small-scale fisheries fishing communities from their areas without an adequate plan for their economic livelihood and in many cases poor and inadequate compensation from water body pollution from extractive economic activities such as crude oil, farming especially rice farming etc.
9. Poor advocacy, communication and sensitization of fisherfolks and other stakeholders on the need for and the importance of the SSF guidelines.
10. Lack of adequate social services and security network to protect vulnerable small-scale fishers in coastal fishing communities from sea pirates and international boundary waters such as Lake Chad.
11. Lack of fisheries data in terms of quality and quantity needed to provide a wide range of scientific, social and economic information required for management of SSF.
12. Poor capacity development as a result of poor funding for research and development.
13. Small-scale fisheries are impacted on by cross cutting issues of climate change, invasive sea weeds, mangrove loss etc.
14. Poor synergy among stakeholders.

Benefits to be gained from Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

The stakeholders also identified the benefits that can accrue from the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines as follows:

1. Increase employment opportunities along the small-scale fisheries value chain thus facilitating the attainments of SDG 1 (No Poverty).
2. Increase in domestic fish production, thereby increasing protein intake, reducing malnutrition and increasing fish food security thus facilitating SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).
3. Increase the standard of living of fishers and well-being of fishing communities thus facilitating SDG 3 (Healthy lives).
4. Reduce insecurity in fishing communities.
5. Promote collaboration, participatory management, and sustainable utilization hence facilitating attainment of SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production).
6. Promote ownership and development of the small-scale fisheries industry.
7. Reduce conflicts in the governance of fisheries.
8. Protect indigenous community's tradition, religion, traditional, and customary norms.
9. Promote efficiency along the fisheries value chain.
10. Create employment opportunities particularly for young people and women.
11. Contribute to robust and resilient coastal communities.
12. Reduce fish importation and in turn, increase national GDP.
13. Promote the development of social amenities in fishing communities in Nigeria.
14. Attract investment in the small-scale fisheries sector. 15. Promote gender equity and equality including tenure rights for women.

Pathways and Actions

The stakeholders also identified the pathways and actions for successful implementation of the SSF Guidelines thus:

1. Stakeholder identification.
2. Establishment of a multi-stakeholder implementation committee with Terms of Reference (ToR).
3. Review and strengthen of the legal framework, including policies, laws and regulations that promotes their vulnerability and limit the protection of the rights of small-scale fishers and fish workers.
4. Inclusive governance and collaboration amongst all stakeholders during decision making.
5. Advocacy and awareness creation on the SSF Guidelines (development of Communication strategy).
6. Resources mobilization (human, technical and financial).
7. Government collaboration with fishing communities to provide needed facilities across the small-scale fisheries value chain to enhance their livelihoods.
8. Improvement of fisheries data collection to promote Nigeria Fisheries Data Collection Framework.
9. Incorporation of women in decision making and governance.
10. Capacity building and empowerment.
11. Provision of incentives that promote sustainable postharvest management.
12. Encouraged cooperation and flexibility among fishing communities to reduce conflicts.
13. Development of appropriate results-based monitoring and an evaluation system with detailed key performance indicators to enhance implementation of the SSF Guidelines and tracking of progress.
14. Regular meetings and consultations.

Recommendations

Governments in collaboration with stakeholders should:

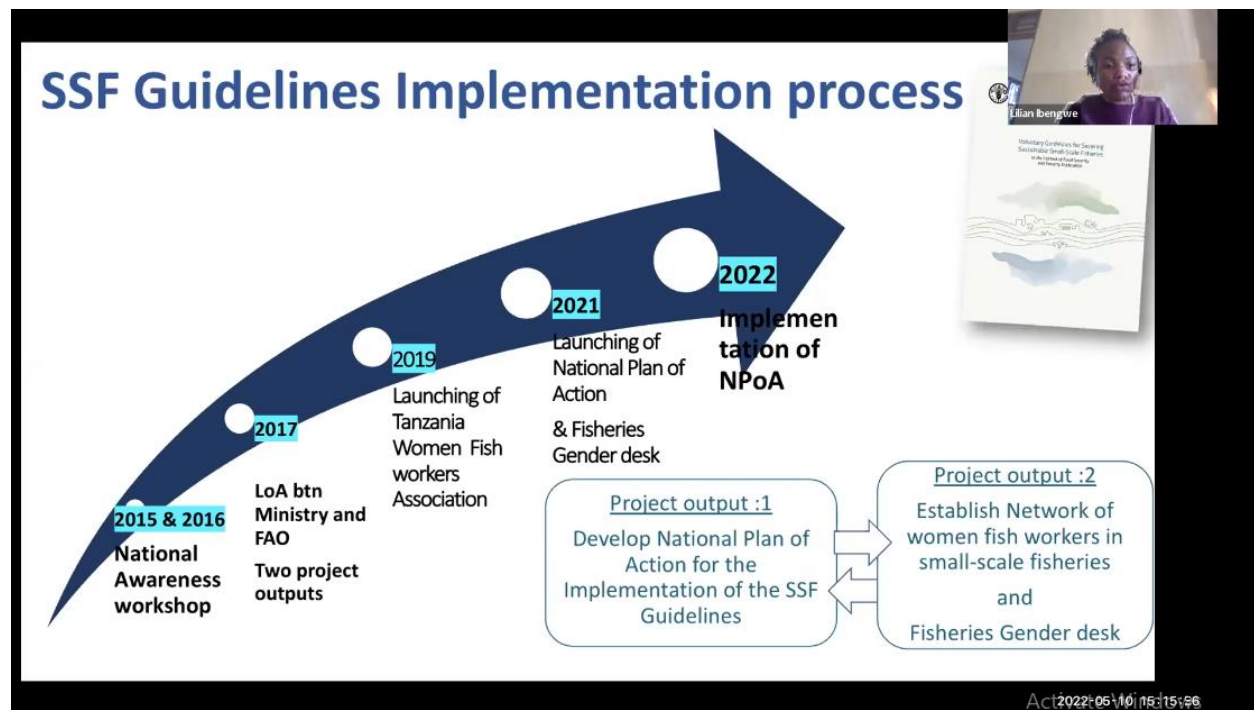
1. Implement the SSF Guidelines in driving policies in small-scale fisheries as its activities impact and are impacted by different actions across different ministries and agencies. The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) should partner with stakeholders in ensuring implementation.

2. Seek the support of international organizations including FAO, African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), WorldFish and others development agencies committed to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
3. Set up a multi-stakeholder committee and review and strengthen policies, laws and regulations, improve fisheries data collection in line with the spirit of the SSF Guidelines.
4. Empower small-scale fishers and fish workers and encourage their participation to promote the national and local level implementation of the SSF guidelines.
5. Ask the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to The President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) to support policy development and implementation of the SSF in Nigeria towards attaining the sustainable development goals. OSSAP-SDGs and FAO should support the conduct of SDG2 and SDG 14 evaluation.
6. Balance interests of neo-liberalism thus promoting community centred tenureship approach.
7. Reform and decentralize the small-scale fisheries governance system and make provisions for co-management and community-based management of inland and coastal fishing grounds.
8. Promote occupational safety, health and wellbeing of fishers as well as coordination, cooperation, and collaboration and strengthening vertical and horizontal linkages with state and non-state actors such as the collaboration with FAO and the Lagos State University.
9. Set up a National Steering Committee that will develop and implement a national action plan for the SSF Guidelines. The Lagos State University should drive the formation of the National Steering Committee.
10. Provide incentives for fisherfolks to improve their welfare.
11. Encourage and maximize the use of modern technology that promotes sustainable small scale fisheries, especially in fisheries data collection, harvest and post-harvest operations.
12. Fund fisheries data collection and use of scientific, economic and social data in policy formulation and management of small-scale fisheries as outlined in the SSF Guidelines.
13. Mobilize and sensitize fishing communities toward implementing the SSF Guidelines as short- and medium-term actions.
14. Ensure that fisheries policies are stable and consistent for short-, medium- and long-term action

PLENARY SESSION

Ms. Lilian Ibengwe, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, IYafa ISC member representing Africa SSF Guidelines Focal Point presented a paper on “The SSF Implementation in Tanzania: National Task Team (NTT)”. In the introduction of her presentation, Ms. Lilian Ibengwe described Tanzania as bordering the South West Indian Ocean and lying in the African Great Lakes region. The country Tanzania is blessed with an extensive coastline of 1424 km and an EEZ of 223000 km²; rich diversity of coastal ecosystem consisting of wetlands, mangrove forests, corals reefs, seagrass beds, estuaries and sandy beaches and extensive river systems including Rufiji, Wami, Ruvu. The fisheries are predominantly dominated by over 98% Small-scale fishers who land 470,000 tons of fish annually. According to FAO (2020), Tanzania ranked 9th in top 25 inland fisheries capture producers. The SSF Guidelines aligns with the Tanzania Fisheries Policy of 2015 which aims to attain food security, poverty reduction, increased national income and increased contribution of fisheries to national GDP\$ food security. It also shares similar vision with Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Compared to many other African countries, Tanzania started the process of the SSF Guideline implementation with national awareness workshops held between 2015 and 2016. The Tanzanian Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the FAO signed a Letter of Agreement with the mandate to

produce two project outputs in 2017: (i) Develop National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines and (ii) Establish Network of women fish workers in small-scale fisheries and Fisheries Gender desk. The Tanzania Women Fish Workers Association (TAWFA) was launched in 2019 while National Plan of Action and Fisheries Gender desk were launched two years later in 2021. The year 2022 was designated as implementation of NPOA. in accordance to section 13.5 of the SSF guidelines, an institutional context is required to drive the implementation process and this culminated in a constituted National Task Team (NTT) which is a national-level platform with cross-sectoral representation from academia and research institutions, private sector, NGOs (EMEDO and Mwambao Network), central government, local government, local communities, TAWFA members.



The NTT is to oversee development and implementation of **NPOA-SSF**. The implementation process kicked off with an inception workshop. The objectives were to create awareness of the project objectives and outcomes, take ownership of the project and take appropriate responsibilities, provide input and advice on priorities activities.

The inception workshop output was to provide roadmap to guide NPOA development process which resulted in the production of communication materials, translations of SSF Guidelines into Swahili Language and establishment of women network establishment process. Through a participatory process, the workshop output identified 4 hotspot regions for implementation: Kagera – Lake Victoria -Muleba district, Rukwa –Lake Tanganyika –Kigoma ujiji district, Lindi – Marine water -Kilwa district and Ruvuma-Lake Nyasa/Malawi – Mbamba bay. Stakeholders’ identification was at various levels and involved policy and decision markers, central government, local Governments, village leaders, small scale fisheries actors within the value chain, NGOs, researchers and academia. For the awareness raising , the NTT aimed to reach out to stakeholders through different approaches including holding stakeholders workshops and attending events hosted by the stakeholders such as research agenda workshop, tuna

annual dialogues and Inception workshop Fisheries Master plan. The outcomes from these activities improved awareness and constituency building on application of the SSF Guidelines in the four pilot regions and beyond. However, strong political support, efficient coordination and collaboration were identified as important to achieving the outcomes. In all 6 consultative workshops involving 6729 stakeholders were drawn from the 4 hotspots regions. The consultation methodology of the workshop was preceded with a NTT Planning meeting, then a courtesy call on the DED, meeting with the Council Head of Departments and then the district stakeholders.

The mapping study of women organisations in small scale fisheries was conducted using a Focus Group Discussions with 201 women organization groups and 6050 people surveyed. The study objectives were to identify women fish workers' organizations; assess organization status, strengths, weaknesses, gaps and needs to inform intervention strategies; awareness creation on the SSF Guidelines; gathering views for the NPoA development, and eliciting perceptions and opinions regarding development of the national SSF women network. Key highlights from the mapping study showed that the majority members were in savings and credit groups, unions and community based organizations. The major value and function of the Tanzania women network was perceived primarily to provide voice to engagement and exchange ideas. Another workshop output included desk review studies for the review of policies and regulatory framework governing fisheries sector in relation to the SSF Guidelines.

Enhanced awareness and promoting the importance of SSF through celebration of IYAFA 2022 is one of the planned activities identified in the NPoA. Following the international launch of IYAFA November 2021, Tanzania established IYAFA National Steering Committee to organise, plan and coordinate the celebration of IYAFA 2022. The function of the committee is provide inputs and advice for the IYAFA 2022 country roadmap, Identify opportunities and help promote IYAFA 2022 in relevant events, provide feedback from and stimulate dialogue among the groups that each member of the IYAFA-ISC represents, sharing of information on relevant IYAFA 2022 national/regional/global programs, activities and initiatives and provide guidance and actively collaborate in mobilization of financial support for the preparation and celebration of IYAFA 2022.

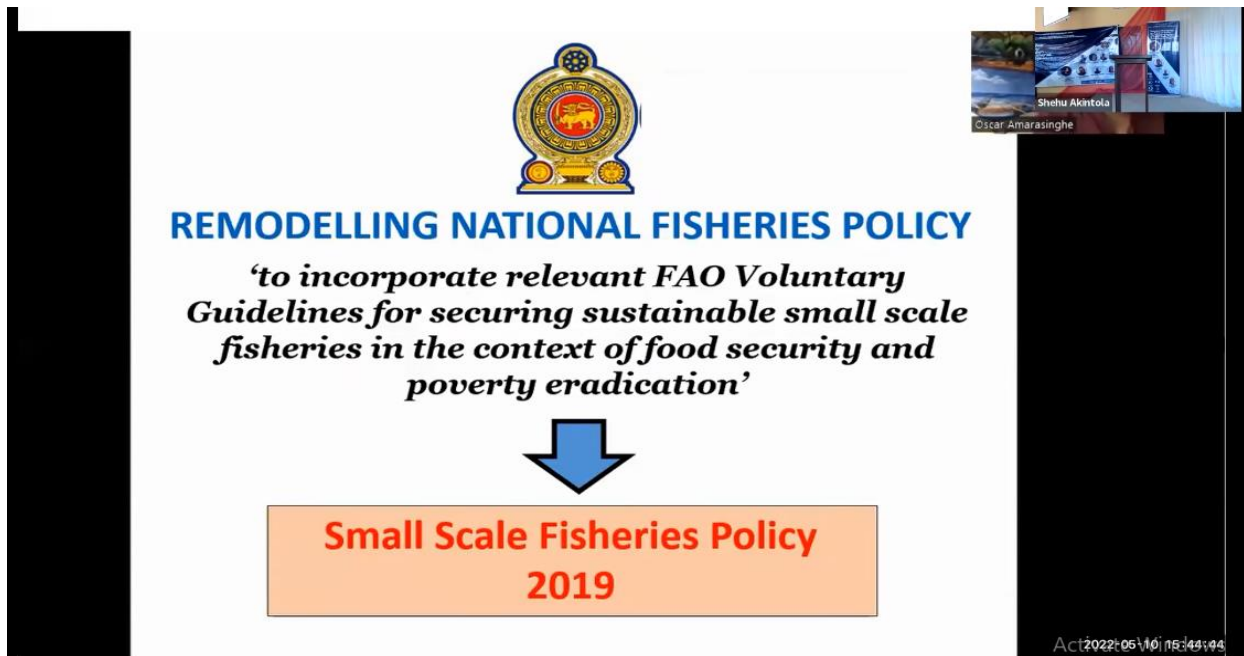
The national launch of IYAFA was witnessed on March 7th 2022. The launching was online with the commemoration of the International Women's Day (IWD) and was performed by the Hon. Deputy Minister-Fisheries. The main objective was to provide an opportunity to inform national level actors about the goals and objectives of IYAFA 2022 and to inspire action-oriented celebrations throughout the year. As part of the event, women show cased their activities and products, primary school children recited poems on the importance of fisheries and traditional dance were featured.

The SSF Implementation in Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Forum for Small-scale Fisheries (SLFSSF) was delivered by **Prof. Oscar Amarasinghe**, President, Sri Lanka Forum for Small Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF) and Chancellor, Ocean University of Sri Lanka.

Professor Oscar Amarasinghe gave a summary of activities embarked upon in Sri-Lanka to introduce the SSF Guidelines. These activities include workshop to sensitize and raise awareness of government officials about the guidelines, next was development of communication tools like brochures, pamphlets, posters, booklets on the SSF Guidelines in English and local languages. This was followed up with island wide stakeholder awareness-raising workshops on the SSF Guidelines to identify capacity building and training needs required for application of the SSF Guidelines at various levels. Fourth activity was the current policy assessment and proposing of policy changes by incorporating the relevant guidelines based on island wide consultative workshop held earlier. Finally a national workshop was held to present the proposed changes to National Fisheries Policy and Legislation in light of the SSF Guidelines.

Based on stakeholders' observations, several thematic issues were raised for discussion and they included tenure rights, sustainable resources management, conflict among stakeholders groups, institutional collaboration (cross-sectoral collaboration), gender equality and gender mainstreaming, post-harvest sector, marketing and trade, social development, occupational health, safety and decent work, fisheries insurance, disaster risk and climate change, capacity development and empowering community organisations.

In aspect of communication tools, the SSF Guidelines books were translated into three languages: English, Sinhala and Tamil. The simplified version of the SSF Guidelines' technical terms, fact sheets and posters containing the key messages were also translated into the three languages while stakeholders' consultation was conducted in the two local languages using translators. This was followed by state actors' consultative workshop in 2018, comprising of all state institutions operating the coastal zone to sensitize them on the SSF Guidelines. Then a stakeholder group discussion with fishermen and women, on the SSF Guidelines was held all over the country. All this culminated into remodelling of the national fisheries to incorporate the relevant FAO Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication and producing the small scale fisheries in 2019.



Some of the major implications of the policy are tenure rights: resolving conflicts among coastal zone actors and zonal plans; cross sectoral collaboration and institutional coordination in coastal management; development of integrated, inclusive, participatory and holistic resource management process; establishment of co-management platforms at the district rising to provincial and national level with strong community participation; regulation of international trade and fish products to eliminate threat of national food and nutritional security; promotion of social development especially the need to provide fishers with affordable access to basic education, , health, housing and household amenities; combating gender issues: rights to employment, 25% representation, post-harvest processing facilities,

minimizing wage discrepancies and empowering community organizations and recognition of their central role in fisheries management.

A final policy workshop on small scale fisheries was held with the Ministry of Fisheries in June, 2019, which was chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries. The Secretary delivered a key note address and made very important statement saying “All effort made towards sustaining small scale fisheries, would be futile unless it is incorporated into policy making and planning process. Implementation of the SSF Guidelines is an important step towards improving sustainable use of fisheries resources and the wellbeing of thousands of small scale fishers and their families in this country”. Subsequently, the Inland Fisheries policy change was initiated by the National Fisheries Solidarity Sri Lanka Forum on Small Scale Fisheries in 2021. A workshop was organized with policy experts from all sectors in country such as academia, researchers, planners, gender studies, fisheries and other who brainstormed on all the different fisheries policy like the National Fisheries Policy (2018), small scale fisheries policies (2019) and inland fisheries policies (2021) policy to form a comprehensive document. This document had three columns representing each of the policies and their recommendations on the guidelines to both the small scale coastal and inland fisheries. Finally a presentation was made to the ministry of fisheries in February, 2021 on the compilation of the national fisheries policy (2018), small scale fisheries policies (2019) and inland fisheries policies (2021) to formulate a comprehensive national fisheries policy which the secretary accepted to implement within three months.

Professor Stella Williams, Vice-President, Mundus Maris ASBL delivered a lecture on the “**Establishment of the National Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines Alliance Network (Steering committee)**”. Prof. Stella Williams, Vice-President, Mundus Maris asbl, spoke on the role and need for establishing a National SSF Guidelines Alliance Network (Steering Committee) in Nigeria. She stated the committee will comprise of civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, government, academia, youths and women. She suggested picking seven members out of the all participants to the represent the steering committee to create awareness about the small scale fisheries guidelines in the local communities. She proposed that all the participants serve as voluntary members for national task force on the small scale fisheries guidelines implementation. She expressed delight at the passion shown by the presenters and participants at workshop and further solicited for assistance from the private sector and the media for aid and publicity of the committee’s activities.



Professor Stella Williams emphasized the need for the proposed committee to engage relevant and advocated for a bottom – top approach. She gave a historical background of the three years bottom-up process supported by the FAO that brought together representatives of small-scale fishing (SSF) communities, supportive researchers and civil society organizations from around the world to discuss ways and means to ensure sustainable and prosperous SSF. This process led to the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in 2014 by the FAO's Committee of Fisheries (COFI) after lengthy negotiations. The SSF Guidelines are based on human rights, including gender equity, and put many demands for policy change to governments while their voluntary nature allows for flexibility. She explained that the SSF Guidelines are related to the SDGs 1,2,4,5 and 14 which aims at ending poverty, ending hunger, promoting healthy living, right to education, gender equity and equitability life and below the water respectively as being related to small scale fisheries. She explained that the SDG 14.b target guaranty access of the small scale fisheries to the resources while SDG 14.c targets to end harmful subsidies to fisheries by 2030. The first UN Ocean Conference in 2017 on sustainability goal for the ocean, promoted greater awareness and implementation for SDG 14. Based on this conference, *Mundus maris* made two commitments, the first one **#OceanAction28293** to support implementation of SDG 14 and particularly the SSF Guidelines through a Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Academy starting in Senegal. The second commitment was the **#OceanAction21244** to support ocean literacy and awareness raising among youths with emphasis on World Oceans Day held 8th, June every year. In recognition of the importance of fisheries, the United Nations' general assembly at the 72nd Session of UNGA proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Mundus Maris with the aid of teachers in Gambia and Senegal developed and deployed teaching kits on the ecosystem approach to fisheries with and for **FAO-Nansen Project** between 2011 and 2013. These kits consisted of teachers' guides, pupils' workbooks, fish rulers and other support materials. Furthermore, we conducted educational and cultural work and promoted uptake and use in both countries also by making all materials freely available on our website since then.

The SSF Academy in Senegal was also launched in 2018 and provided social empowerment and leadership training for men and women from all parts of the country and all parts of the value chains, ages which helped shape the priorities for 2019. She stated that consultation was carried out with fishers and fish mongers (men & women) about - the ecosystem approach to fisheries, minimum size at landing to protect the integrity and productivity of resources, field work in communities confronting selective impoverishment of women as a result of declining stocks from industrial overfishing. The SSF Academy identifies with SSF (fishers men and women) their current situation and where would they like to be, identifies together strengths and weaknesses, rebuild resources, improve governance, sustainable SSF; response to frequent demand for access to research results relevant to their livelihoods and recognize local knowledge – blending science and practice using and testing co-learning methods accounting for their living and working conditions (visual, local language driving social change for the better.

Professor Stella Williams provided insight to other activities of *Mundus Maris* in SSF such as co-sponsorship of the prize-winning documentary “Poisson d'or, poisson africain” (Golden fish, African fish) by Thomas Grand and Moussa Diop depicting the different professions of the value chain in artisanal fisheries in Casamance, before the establishment of Chinese fishmeal factories destroyed part of this regional economy. Also, they interviewed leaders in SSF in different countries to share their views and perspectives more widely for better understanding of which changes in technologies and social organization can help adapt to climate change, avoid more deforestation ...?

She suggested the establishment of the SSF Academy to support the implementing the small scale fisheries guidelines alliance network committee. The training curriculum should be developed to include: capacity and leadership training for better governance; innovation for improved productivity & participation; improvement and learning for better incomes at individual, family and community levels; support expression and development of maritime cultures; promote emergence of champions of healthy coasts and ocean; and diversification of income earning opportunities and civic participation. She concluded by listing the following steps required for the framework success of the SSF which are pushing policies for phasing out subsidies to industrial fishing in the world trade organization to overcome the structural disadvantages (economic, social, environmental), particularly for African countries; using public resources for promoting healthy marine ecosystems that can generate high levels of nutritious food and welfare; participatory marine protected areas; helping to make IUU fishing unprofitable and promote blue, commons and blue justice; implementing gender equity and equality policies and education and health care for all and connect global and local markets. She further stressed on ways to scale up small scale fisheries for success and they include keeping pressure up to reform national and global framework conditions, such as subsidies and unhelpful national laws; strengthening local capacities to enable seizing any opportunities from such reforms for small scale fisheries and innovation; enlarging the academy to an international platform for expanded mutual learning from a wider pool of experiences; ensuring that methods are scalable, while remaining with “feet on the ground” for local ownership and benefits and providing solutions through collective action.