

Report of Activities
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust

01 April 2015 – 31 March 2016



List of Acronyms

AT	Animation Team
BOBLME	Bay Of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project
BOBP-IGO	Bay Of Bengal Programme- Inter-governmental Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFS	Committee on Food Security
CIFE	Central Institute of Fisheries Education
CIFT	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	Documentation Centre
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FWO	Fishworkers' Organization
GB	General Body
IAMSLIC	The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centre
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NFF	National Fishworkers' Forum
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication of the FAO
UN	United Nations
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WIF	Women in Fisheries

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF) Trust
Report of Activities
01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Organization: International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust
Visiting Address: 27, College Road, Chennai 600 006, India
Web Address: www.icsf.net
Reporting Period: 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016
Date of Report: 21 June 2016

Contact Person

Email: icsf@icsf.net

Activities in Priority Areas

FISHERIES

ICSF's Trust focus in the reporting period has been towards implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), through undertaking research activities, organizing workshops, exchange programmes, and bringing out material to easily understand the Guidelines.

Small-scale fisheries guidelines (SSF Guidelines)

I. 1. Studies to document existing governance practices of tenure and resource management, highlighting what is good practice, to enhance SSF rights to resources (marine, coastal and inland fisheries) and territories in Asia (India)

I.1.a Significant changes in fishing techniques have been witnessed over the past 15 years in Kerala spurred largely by the introduction of mechanised trawlers in the 1980s. A case study done across 3 villages in different parts of Kerala, shows how the race for fish has resulted in huge investments in the sector, destructive fishing techniques and increasing inequalities in the fisheries sector. The study, completed in August 2015, is available online¹

I.1.b A study was conducted using the cases of Bihar and West Bengal in India, to document tenure rights in inland fisheries. The key objectives of the study were to review the status of conservation and management of inland fishery resources; examine how inland fisheries contribute to sustainable utilization, food security and nutrition, especially of the poor in rural areas; and, analyse factors that can contribute to the equitable development of inland fishing communities. The study is edited and made available online as occasional paper of ICSF at : <http://www.icsf.net/en/occasional-papers/article/EN/157-inland-fisherie.html?limitstart=0>

¹ [igssf.icsf.net/images/SSF India workshop/Changes in the SSF fishery.pdf](http://www.icsf.net/images/SSF%20India%20workshop/Changes%20in%20the%20SSF%20fishery.pdf)

I.1.c Two case studies were documented depicting the impact of developmental pressures on fishing communities in urban and rural areas of Maharashtra, India, and the struggle of fishers in the context of tenure rights over sea and coastal lands. The case studies show that though the issues in urban and rural areas are different, developmental activities and other pressures on land and sea, force traditional fishing communities to defend their rights over resources. Success can also be achieved though it comes with hard, protracted struggles. Just policy measures need to be implemented to protect traditional rights of fishing communities over water and land providing them livelihood and settlement security.

I.2 Study to document social development for sustainable fishing community development in Asia (India)

Though Kerala ranks high on human development indicators compared to other states in India, small-scale fishing communities continue to be disadvantaged and are considered outliers in the development scenario. Towards understanding the factors responsible for this, a case study was conducted to examine the changes in the human development conditions of the marine fisherfolk of Kerala State. One significant observation was that fishing communities were at a historical disadvantage in the initial conditions of development which resulted in them being “left behind” in the human development progress of Kerala. The report is available online²

I.3 Study to document social and environmental impacts of coastal development on small-scale fishing communities, especially as regards their tenure rights in Asia

A case study was developed in India to document the impact of seawalls, groynes and breakwaters on Kerala’s beaches and small-scale fisheries. The study confirmed that human intervention has adversely affected the natural processes of erosion and accretion over the different seasons of the year along the Kerala coast. The study suggests radical solutions to protect the coasts and the communities dependent on fishing. The study is available online³

I.4 National and provincial level studies to provide contextual analyses of social relations, especially gender relations, to facilitate effective implementation of SSF Guidelines in India, and South Africa

I.4.1. Changes in fishing technologies, masculinisation of markets and persistent discrimination against women reflected in lack of facilities and services in the post-harvest sector are some of the factors affecting women that have been highlighted in the study on the labour roles of women in small-scale fishery in Kerala. The study is available online⁴

² <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1064-Background%20Papers.html>

³ <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1064-Background%20Papers.html>

⁴ <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1064-Background%20Papers.html>

I.5. Documenting and developing case studies to learn from WIF struggles and strategies at the national and community level in Asia (India)

I.5.a. A case study focusing on traditional dry fish trade practices in one village in Raigad district, Maharashtra, India, looked at how the dry fish trade was being negatively impacted by the reduction in fish availability mainly due to pollution and the increasing influence of middlemen and agents resulting in unfair prices being given to women.

I.6. Studies to document the conditions of work and living conditions of migrants in the fisheries sector, and the impact of migrant labour on local fishing communities, including women.

The preliminary study to document the migration of fishers from Kanyakumari district in India to the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (CCASG), with the objective to document their living and working conditions, including their occupational safety and health on board, and social protection, has been completed. The edited version of the study with the testimonials is available as an occasional paper, on ICSF website.

I.9. Elaboration, simplification and translation of the SSF guidelines for fishing communities and policy makers

ICSF has simplified and elaborated the SSF Guidelines in English, besides other Indian languages (Bengali, Odiya, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam, and Marathi)⁵.

ICSF has also translated the complete SSF Guidelines in to Bengali, Odiya, Telugu, Tamil and Hindi, which have been printed and published in the same format as FAO's original English version (ICSF has an agreement with FAO to translate and distribute the Guidelines in these languages)⁶.

The translated version of the summaries and SSF Guidelines are online at igssf.icsf.net. Copies of these were also used for dissemination and capacity building during workshops and training programmes⁷.

I.10. Capacity building and awareness-raising workshops on the implementation of the SSF guidelines in different countries at provincial or national level (or at regional level), including on gender dimensions (gender justice and women's rights) of the guidelines, with participation of women and vulnerable and marginalized groups in Asia (India)

I.10.2. In the case of India, the Kerala (West) Coast workshop was part of an initiative that was composed of three main activities: (a) making available a summary of the VGSSF in the local language for wide-spread diffusion in the coastal areas of the state (b) conducting discussions and brief studies pertaining to some challenges being faced by the SSF in the state (c) based on the above two, conducting a series of three regional seminars to initiate a thought and discussion process about whether the SSF of the state continues to be a viable and important sector of the fisheries, and if yes, how to re-configure it in the

⁵ [http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1067-SSF%20Guidelines%20\(Summary\).html](http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1067-SSF%20Guidelines%20(Summary).html)

⁶ <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1069-SSF%20Guidelines%20Translation.html>

⁷ <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1066-Interesting%20articles%20on%20SSF%20Guidelines.html>

context of the challenges it is currently facing. The final report is available online⁸ and a summary report of the case studies and workshop was published in SAMUDRA Report 72⁹

I.10.3. Workshops were also organized at the local level in Maharashtra in three districts (Palghar, Sindhudurg and Mumbai) in January and February 2016, with active participation from local community organizations including local governance institutions. These workshops took the SSF Guidelines back to the communities and helped them discuss their concerns and priority areas in the context of these Guidelines so that strategies could be formulated and advocacy areas identified. The workshops helped the fisher community representatives dialogue with local government functionaries and develop recommendations for the future.

I.10.4. As part of the IFAD project, a national level workshop was organized in India in March 2016, with active participation of representatives from WFP, WFF and other civil society organizations, besides government representatives from a range of relevant ministries as well as other key stakeholders¹⁰. This was the first in the series of workshops to be held globally as part of the IFAD project. It served to highlight the small-scale fishery organizations' efforts at empowering the fishing communities and valorizing the subsector; and to discuss how Indian policies and legislation at various levels to protect life and livelihoods of small-scale fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities can benefit from the SSF Guidelines.

I.12. Strengthen women's groups to help them to build up their collective organizations in a sustainable manner; build capacities of women to increase their occupation of decision-making spaces in policy formulation (India)

Women's group have been strengthened in India, through the mapping study undertaken earlier during the year. This study is now completed, and is available for wider circulation on ICSF website¹¹. Besides this, efforts are now being made to organize these women fishvendors into different groups, to assert their rights. Women's group have also been active in the discussions with the Department of Fisheries in Maharashtra.

BIODIVERSITY

Specific Activities

II.1. Document the traditional knowledge of men and women from small-scale fishing communities, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, and indigenous and local communities in India

⁸ <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1064-Background%20Papers.html>

⁹ <http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/72.html?limitstart=0>

¹⁰ <https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/india-programme>

¹¹ <http://wif.icsf.net/en/page/855-Reports.html>

II.1.b. ICSF has recently translated and published an online version of the study titled “Eyes On Their Fingertips: Some Aspects of the Arts, Science, Technology and Culture of the Fisherfolk of Trivandrum, India” in English¹². It deals with the traditional marine wisdom of a set of people and the rarest of rare experiences they have had at sea. Through these numerous chapters the author takes us into the seas of the fishers. It is a voyage which we cannot make in reality. But through the heroic deeds of the author’s father, the riddles of oldman, the shark story of brother Kamalappan, and the rituals of the author’s mother, we get a fascinating peep into the wisdom of the watery world of the small-scale fishers of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

II.1.c. ICSF's documentary film on women seaweed collectors “Shifting Undercurrents: The Women Seaweed Collectors of Gulf of Mannar” won the Best Indian Short Eco-documentary Award for Tinai Eco Film Festival (TEFF) 2015.

II.3. Monitor and document the impacts/ implications of:

1. Different conservation initiatives including marine spatial planning; EBSA processes undertaken in different countries; legal and institutional frameworks that recognize traditional knowledge of men and women from small-scale fishing communities (including vulnerable and marginalized groups, indigenous peoples and local communities).
2. conservation activities undertaken by World Bank, and other multilateral financial institutions
3. community conservation and management initiatives and other good governance practices initiated by communities.
 - ICSF has been regularly following up on these issues, and is in constant touch with the United Nations University on traditional knowledge, besides following up information on the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park in India. ICSF has been following up on these issues through SAMUDRA News Alerts as well as DC News Alerts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Specific activities

III. 1. Monitor

- international and national strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially those that relate to fishing communities
- impacts of technology driven solutions for climate change on fishing communities
- community perceptions and measures for disaster and climate change adaptation and mitigation
- SAMUDRA News Alerts and DC News Alerts have been regularly following up on this issue. Besides this the DC has also been active in distributing the film on climate change in India.

¹² <http://www.icsf.net/en/occasional-papers.html>

TRADE

Specific activities

Monitor and analyse negotiations at WTO and other forums on issues of relevance to fisheries, multilateral environmental agreements, biodiversity and climate change and their impacts on fishing communities

Monitor the developments in certification and ecolabelling, and their impacts on small-scale fisheries and fishing communities

ICSF has been active in participating in discussions on ecolabelling in European region, as well as in Asia. SAMUDRA News Alerts and DC News Alerts have been carrying information on this. Besides this, efforts are being made to carry this information in SAMUDRA Report as well. Recently, ICSF was also requested to provide comments on WTO documents on fisheries subsidies by government of India from a small-scale fisheries perspective. ICSF has carried a comment on the recent Nairobi round of WTO discussions in SAMUDRA Report 72, published in January 2016.

COMMUNICATION

SAMUDRA Report

Specific Activities

To publish SAMUDRA Report in English, French and Spanish¹³

To bring out web editions of SAMUDRA Report, with search functions;

- Three issues of SAMUDRA Report have been produced in English (Issue No. 70, 71 and 72), and one issue in French and Spanish (Issue No. 70). From SAMUDRA Report No. 71, only online version has been published. SAMUDRA Report has over 2000 online subscribers. SAMUDRA Report is now widely disseminated through social media (facebook and twitter), besides various group mails and networks such as Andaman Nicobar Network, Coastal Protection Network, ICCA Consortium network, IAMSLIC network and Gender Aqua Fish Network. During the year, SAMUDRA Report has received over 1 million views, and over 1,30,000 downloads

Yemaya

Specific activities

Bring out *Yemaya* three times a year, in English, Spanish and French¹

Provide online accessibility to all issues of *Yemaya*.

- Three issues of *Yemaya* have been produced in English (Issue No. 48, 49 and 50), and one issue in French and Spanish (Issue No. 48). From *Yemaya* issue No. 49, only online version has been published. The 50th issue of *Yemaya* was a special edition focusing on

¹³ SAMUDRA Report and *Yemaya*, will be printed and sent as hard copies in English; and translated into French and Spanish, subject to availability of funds in 2015 and 2016,

different aspects regionally, over the years. Yemaya has over 1250 online subscribers. Similar to SAMUDRA Report, Yemaya is also disseminated through social media and different networks. While Yemaya has received over 0.5mn views and over 70,000 downloads.

Documentation Centre

Specific activities planned during the period

Monitor information on issues relating to the five priority areas identified by ICSF (Fisheries, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Aquaculture and Trade)

Disseminate information through news alerts – SAMUDRA News Alerts (focusing on international issues) and DC News Alerts (focusing on issues in South Asia).

Update, maintain and add information to ICSF website, with a view to improving its content, design and usability, as an important vehicle for dissemination of information on small-scale fisheries.

Regularly update, and maintain the ICSF website, and its sub-sites, including on bibliographies, and other useful information.

- DC has contributed extensively to the programmes of ICSF, as well as to presentations made by ICSF staff in different meetings. There have been over 100 users for the DC during this period, including ICSF members.
- SAMUDRA News Alerts and DC News Alerts sent out regularly. The SAMUDRA News Alerts has over 900 subscribers from different parts of the world, while DC News Alerts has over 1450 subscribers. The News Alerts have received feedback from subscribers on its usefulness as well as extent of coverage. These News Alerts also feed into ICSF programmes such as the workshops on implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Feedback from subscribers also reflect the use of information on various aspects including guidelines, illegal fishing.
- DC has been active in disseminating the documentary film on climate change, as well as the simplification and elaboration of SSF Guidelines material.
- Besides the news alerts, the DC also brings out Publication Alerts once in two months, with the latest publications of ICSF. This has over 3300 subscribers, and has received feedback from subscribers on its usefulness.
- Besides this, the documentation centre has been regularly involved in updating and maintaining the google sites on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines (<https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/home>), besides updating the ICSF webpages (igssf.icsf.net, wif.icsf.net and www.icsf.net). The ICSF website received over 4.5 mn views, and nearly one million downloads.
- ICSF has been active in the social media as well, including facebook and twitter accounts.

Annex :

List of Other Meetings Attended 2015-16

Date	Meeting	Output
07 April 2015	SPC-APP Workshop on "Sustainable Fisheries Development in Tamil Nadu - Policy Perspectives", organized by State Planning Commission - Chennai	ICSF participated in the workshop and made a presentation on the initiatives taken by ICSF draft policy and its implication on State and fishing communities
17 April 2015	CIFE, Versova Stakeholders meeting in Mumbai	ICSF participated in the meeting
23 April 2015	Small informal meeting to correct suggestion objection in development plan (DP) regarding fish markets in Mumbai, Organized by YUVA	ICSF participated in the meeting
22-29 April 2015	ICSF exposure trip between Myanmar- India	ICSF took the initiative of organizing an exposure visit of representatives of fishing communities and civil society organizations from Myanmar and India.
28-29 April 2015	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Second Regional Meeting on the Protection of Migrant Fishers - Jakarta, Indonesia	ICSF participated in the meeting
13 May 2015	A meeting to discuss fish markets and women vendors issues with newly elected chairperson of Market committee, organized by MMKS women's wing, Market committee - Mumbai	ICSF participated in the meeting
28 May 2015	Meeting to seek guidance on women fisheries cooperatives and law of Balu Meher, organized by MMKS women's wing, Vadarai - Mumbai	ICSF participated in the meeting
09 June 2015	Protsahan-ICSF meeting on SSF Guidelines at Trivandrum, Kerala, India	ICSF participated in the Panel discussion
30 June 2015	FAO-BOBLME Project Report Finalization Workshop at Tuticorin, organized by CMFRI in Tuticorin	ICSF participated in the workshop and expressed its views on FAO-BOBLME project Report
14-15 July 2015	"Improving food security and livelihoods in small-scale fishing communities" organised by NFF & WFFP" - Pondicherry	ICSF participated in the meeting and presented a session of the proposed Social Protection Study
18 July 2015	"Changing coastal ecology and climate change -- issues of vulnerabilities, adaptation and sustainable marine resource management in Maharashtra", organised by ICOR, Seva Kendra, Portugues church, Dadar, Mumbai	ICSF participated in the meeting and presented on "Impact of climate change and implications for Fisheries, livelihood and technology use."

ICSF Trust Report of Activities: 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

19 August 2015	A meeting In connection with Fisheries State level meeting of the Fisheries Department officials with other line stakeholders biannually for discussing the follow up actions of the SPC meeting held on 07.04.2015	ICSF participated in the meeting
24-25 August 2015	Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Women's Economic Empowerment Event: Mobilizing Markets and Commitments to Gender Equality in the Indian Ocean Rim 24- 25 August 2015, Savoy Spa and Resort, Mahe Island, Republic of Seychelles	ICSF shared effective strategies for supporting women's economic empowerment on the continuum of informal to formal work in the meeting and made a presentation on "Implementing the VG SSF as a critical strategy in the economic empowerment of women."
30 Aug – 03 September 2015	World general meeting of International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty in the state of Gujarat	ICSF participated in the meeting as "observer"
07 – 15 September 2015	41st Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquative and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSLIC), 07-11 Sep'15 and to participate at further events on 14-15 Sep'15 in Rome, Italy	ICSF participated and presented its 25 Years of Work experience - Connecting with Fishing Communities for a Sustainable Future
28 – 29 September 2015	Department of Rural development and IFAD assisted post tsunami sustainable livelihoods programme at Chennai, India	ICSF participated and made its presentation about Tamil Nadu's challenges for responsible fishing.
06 – 09 October 2015	"Strategic Planning Process for the years 2017 – 2019" organized by SSNC, Sweden during 06 – 09 October 2015	ICSF participated in the Strategic Planning Process and discussed about the future co-operation between SSNC and its global partner organizations' and presented on "ICSF's gender perspective and strategies" and at an open forum on "Towards Sustainable Fisheries – a gender perspective"
27 November 2015	Inter-Ministerial consultative meeting for the stand to be taken by India for the Ministerial Declaration on Fisheries Subsidies discipline at the Ministerial Meeting under WTO in Nairobi, Kenya - regarding - organized by DAHDF - Delhi	ICSF participated in the meeting
18 December 2015	Workshop on Fisheries and Aquaculture Response in Emergencies - Mumbai	Participated in the workshop and presented on Role of International Collective In Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) in disaster Management
28 – 29 December 2015	Conference on Initiatives to Combat Climate Change - Mumbai	ICSF participated in conference and showed the documentary "Sea of Change"
04 January 2016	Capacity building of small scale fishing communities about FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in Thane and	ICSF organised the workshop, presented on the SSF Guidelines and facilitated discussions.

ICSF Trust Report of Activities: 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Palghar district of Maharashtra - Palghar

21 January 2016	Capacity building of small scale fishing communities about FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in Sindhudurga and Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra - Malvan	ICSF organised the workshop, presented on the SSF Guidelines and facilitated discussions.
25 January 2016	Stakeholders meet on Central Marine fisheries Policy 2016 - Mumbai	ICSF participated in the Stakeholders meet on Central Marine Fisheries Policy 2016
28 – 29 January 2016	State level Workshop on Role of NGOs in Development of Fisheries in Coastal Andhra Pradesh between 28-29 January 2016 at Hyderabad	ICSF participated in the workshop
20 February 2016	Capacity building of small scale fishing communities about FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in Mumbai and Raigad district of Maharashtra - Mumbai	ICSF organised the workshop, presented on the SSF Guidelines and facilitated discussions.
31 January – 06 February 2016	“Outcome and Impact Monitoring and Financial Management / New Standards of Bread for the World and discussion on cooperation” in Berlin / Germany during 31 st January – 06 th February 2016 – Organized by Bread for the World, Germany	ICSF participated in the discussion on the Outcome and Impact Monitoring (OIO) and Financial Management / New standards of the BFW and contributed a case study towards the OIO sessions.
9 February 2016	Stakeholder meet to discuss the Draft National Marine Fisheries Policy 2016 – Chennai	ICSF participated in the meeting
18-19 February 2016	Meet to bring together multiple actors working on ocean sustainability, organised by Centre for Ocean Solutions at Monterey, California	ICSF participated and shared the perspective of human rights in small-scale fisheries
21-22 March 2016	National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), New Delhi	ICSF organised the workshop in collaboration with WFFP and WFF involving multiple stakeholders
30-31 March 2016	Workshop on Women in Fisheries organized jointly by the Women Studies Centre, the Ambedkar Centre, Dakshin Bangla Matsyajibi Forum and DISHA, Kolkata, India	ICSF delivered the keynote address, facilitated the discussions and participated in the general body meeting of the East Midnapur Fishers union