

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust:

Narrative Report from 1st April, 2018 to 28th February, 2019

Introduction

ICSF recognizes the empowering effect of information to benefit fishing communities. The SAMUDRA Report, SAMUDRA News Alerts, Yemaya, South Asia News Alerts, and ICSF Website continue to share and disseminate information. Efforts undertaken during the reporting period have aimed at enhancing understanding, among a wide range of stakeholders and decision-takers, about the importance of SSF and issues of concern to fishing communities, as well as to highlight their aspirations and demands for the future. Overall, the activities undertaken by ICSF during the year have been in line with ICSF's mission. Activities in some areas (e.g. disaster risk reduction) have been effective, keeping in mind the challenges facing the sector. In particular, the need for early warning systems to mitigate local-level impacts caused by natural disasters like Cyclone Ockhi in India, and for effective risk reduction strategies that take into account the vulnerability of fishing communities, are now better recognized by both State and non-State actors.

Activities: 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019

1. Cyclone Ockhi Study, Workshop and Film (April-August 2018)

In the wake of Cyclone Ockhi in the Arabian Sea causing unprecedented deaths of small-scale fishers at sea in South India, ICSF implemented, at short notice, a project called 'Cyclone Ockhi, Disaster Risk Management and Sea Safety'. The project, in light of the SSF Guidelines, undertook a field study on the impacts of the cyclone, organized a national workshop on disaster risk management and produced a documentary film.

Study

<http://www.fao.org/3/ca2904en/CA2904EN.pdf>

In the aftermath of Cyclone Ockhi, which killed over 350 fishers in southern India late last year, ICSF Trust, supported by FAO, undertook a study to assess disaster risk management and sea safety in the Indian marine fisheries sector. The study reviewed national and local policies to manage disaster risks; evaluated the efficacy of cyclone warning systems for fishing communities, both on land and at sea; and highlighted the need to integrate sea safety into the management of fisheries. The findings of the study were shared with the affected communities, government and other stakeholders at a workshop held in the region in May 2018, and also used to script a documentary on the lessons from the cyclone.

Workshop

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA3205EN/ca3205en.pdf>

A National Workshop on “Small-Scale Fisheries, Cyclone Ockhi and Disaster Risk Management” was held on 28 and 29 May, 2018 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, organized by ICSF Trust with the support of FAO. The workshop was attended by over 60 diverse participants from government, inter-governmental organizations, academia, civil society and the disaster-affected small-scale fishing community. The workshop statement made several recommendations to build the resilience of coastal communities to cyclones, natural disasters and climate change, stressing on the need for co-ordination at all levels and open consultation with, and participation of, fishing communities, applying a human-rights-based approach within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030 and the SSF Guidelines.

Documentary Film

https://www.icsf.net/images/videos/ockhis_wake.mp4

Based on the findings of the study, the documentary film, “In Ockhi’s Wake: Disaster Preparedness at Sea,” was produced. Based on grassroots interviews and recordings, the film presents the different points of view of victims who struggled through the trauma of the storm. The film also focuses on how families have coped with loss and the lessons learnt by disaster managers and government authorities.

2. Publications and Films

SAMUDRA Report (triannual)

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra.html>

The SAMUDRA Report provides an online channel to disseminate information, views and analyses from engaged stakeholders, and snapshots of developments taking place in global small-scale fisheries. During this period, ICSF published two issues of its triannual journal. Articles in SAMUDRA Report are made available on the ICSF website in a searchable format, as well as in other academic repositories online.

SAMUDRA Report No. 79, August, 2018

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/79.html?limitstart=0>

SAMUDRA Report No. 79 brought together diverse perspectives from several countries on a range of issues. These were on: indigenous people’s tenure rights in Brazil; fisheries cooperatives in Sri Lanka; weather forecasts and disaster management for fisheries in India; and land reclamation and nutrition in Indonesia. The issue also carried overviews of recent international meetings, including the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (33rd Session) and the Fifth International Fishing Industry Safety & Health Conference (IFISH); and reviews of books and films dealing with small-scale fisheries.

SAMUDRA Report No. 80, December, 2018

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/80.html?limitstart=0>

In line with ICSF's thrust on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, this issue contained reports on ICSF- and FAO-supported workshops on the SSF Guidelines in Vietnam and Sri Lanka, and another on the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Other articles explored tenure issues in community-led resource management in Cambodia; collective action on protecting riverine ecology and livelihoods in Pakistan; and the importance of stakeholder consultation in the conservation of manta rays in Indonesia. The editorial comment in this issue discusses how the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea is a model for other regional fisheries management organizations that are interested in addressing small-scale fisheries issues. Effective fisheries governance has led to democratization and decentralization in Myanmar, according to another article. The social contexts and lives of fishing communities are analyzed in another article which describes how moving along the fishing ladder is closely choreographed with the life courses of other fishers. The article on collective action points out that only such action in SSF can overcome the problems of poverty and marginalization. The article on learning exchange helps to understand the experiences of the coastal communities in the Pacific and the Caribbean regions of Costa Rica. The interview with the coordinator of a World Bank Project—South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Program (SWIOFish)—looks at this initiative in the East African and the Indian Ocean regions towards strengthening governance without depleting fish stocks.

Yemaya_ (Triannual Newsletter on Gender and Fisheries)

<https://www.icsf.net/en/yemaya.html>

Yemaya seeks to disseminate information about gender issues in fisheries and, in particular, the perspectives and concerns of women from fishing communities and their organizations. Yemaya contributes to providing greater visibility to the organizational efforts and initiatives of women fishers and fishworkers. The newsletter has consistently reported on grassroots organizations and women leaders in various countries. The articles in Yemaya are made available on the ICSF website in a searchable format, as well as in other academic repositories online.

Yemaya No. 57, July, 2018

<https://www.icsf.net/en/yemaya/article/EN/57.html?limitstart=0>

This mid-year issue of Yemaya covered the lack of recognition of women in Sri Lanka's fisheries; boat clinics bringing health and hope on the Brahmaputra River in India; a profile of a fisherwomen's organizer in Madhubani, India; gaps in data on women fishworkers in the FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018; an update on SSF Guidelines implementation in Costa Rica; and reviews of publications and films on women in fisheries.

Yemaya No. 58, December, 2018

<https://www.icsf.net/en/yemaya/article/EN/58.html?limitstart=0>

The year-end issue of *Yemaya* features articles from Kenya, Mexico, India, and an analytical article on gender inequalities in the seafood industry. The editorial comment calls for gender mainstreaming throughout the fisheries sector. The article on Kenya by Irene Ojuok and Philemon Bwanaway throws light on the new initiatives developing in the context of declining resources in Kenya. Women are entering in new roles along the value chain and they no longer have to engage in *jaboya*, thanks to new income-generating projects. Carmen Pedroza Gutierrez in her article narrates the experience of Alejandra and Maria Elena from Mexico's Lake Chapala and examines how women fishers are excluded from the support net of social security measures or benefits and how vulnerable their life is without any legal recognition. The article from India by Holly Hapke looks at how mechanization in fishing and retrieving catch using mechanical propulsion have led to greater centralization of fish landings and adverse impacts on women fish traders. Marie Christine Monfort in her article on a survey among male and female seafood professionals presents their views about the situation of women in the fishing industry arguing that situations of inequality have been reported from all parts of the world with the exception of Scandinavia. The seafood professionals from this region rank Denmark, Iceland and Norway as countries closest to gender equality. In her review of the Cambodian film, *Give Woman a Fish*, Kyoko Kusakabe describes the challenges women fishers face in Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake. The lake supports 60% of Cambodia's annual fish catch and livelihood for 1.5 m people. The film describes how a successful project supported by a women's group, to upgrade their fish processing techniques, introduced savings and helped to diversify livelihoods.

ICSF Publications and Films Alert

ICSF's Publications and Films Alert has periodically disseminated SAMUDRA Report, *Yemaya* and other ICSF's publications and films to its subscription base of individuals/institutions. Presently have 3864 subscribers.

3. Information services

ICSF employs various media channels to disseminate information and foster awareness about developments of relevance to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers globally, with a special focus on the developing world. The aim of these services is to enhance access of fishworkers and support organizations to information needed to protect and further their rights and livelihoods.

SAMUDRA Daily News Alerts

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra-news-alert.html?language=EN>

Reaching 2000 subscribers, SAMUDRA News carried a total of 1,091 news items (in 124 alerts) focusing on national fisheries policy issues of the world over, issues related to conservation, fisheries management and governance, trade and certification and UN processes of relevance to

small-scale fisheries, climate change and biodiversity, besides an ongoing focus on arrest and detention of fishers, natural disaster and community initiatives.

DC Daily News Alerts (South Asia)

<https://dc.icsf.net/en/component/dcnews/>

The South Asia News Alert, initiated in October, 2011, presently has 1910 subscribers. total of 1810 news items (173 daily alerts), it carried news articles on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Afghanistan as well as press releases, petitions and other reports from fishworker organizations and civil society organizations.

Other Networks:

Including the latest issues of SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya, are updated on Aquatic Commons (aquaticcommons.org), Academia.edu (www.academia.edu), and selected publications on FAO's Family Farming and Knowledge Platform database(<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/en/>), etc.

4. Website

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

ICSF's website (www.icsf.net) and subsites are updated on a monthly/quarterly basis with information on various publications and films; searchable databases for news alerts; statements made at international workshops and meetings, including those organized by ICSF; and other publications and resources relevant to small-scale fisheries.

5. Social Media

ICSF is active on Facebook and Twitter. Its posts generally cover ICSF's work/ publications (13%); FAO, ILO, etc., fisheries-related publications /meetings (40%); news on India /South Asia fisheries (16%); international fisheries news (20%); global fisheries research/conferences (10%).

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/International-Collective-in-Support-of-Fishworkers-207693975914236/>

Followers: 1,258. Post frequency: Flexible. 2-5 per day; 40 per month on average. Usually 11am - 4pm IST.

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/icsf1?lang=en>

Followers: 737. Post frequency: Flexible. 2-5 per day; 60 per month on average. Usually between 11am - 4pm IST.

6. Digitization

ICSF Documentation Centre has a special collection of grey publications related to fishing communities, fishworkers organizations, fisheries policy, fisheries trade, etc., of relevance to small-scale fisheries. The collection at the ICSF Documentation Centre consists of rare publications, many not available in print or elsewhere and they are useful to researchers, policy makers, students, activists and journalists. The collection is variously stored as soft copies and in print. It actively disseminates information available in soft copies to users. But the print copies of documents are vulnerable to damage and needs digitization.

The Centre has added 2,819 soft copies of journal articles (available only in print copy in-house) to the collection, which currently houses approximately 6,000 documents in soft copies. The goal is to digitize the remaining 4,500 documents during 2019-2022 and eventually to make these accessible online through cloud-server platforms. As of December, 2018, the Centre has digitized 252 rare documents totaling 10,076 pages currently unavailable in repositories online. During 2019-2022, the Centre is planning to make available online non-copyrighted documents, books and journal articles using open access repositories like E-prints or Dspace.

7. Advocacy at the National Level: Selected meetings

During this period, ICSF Trustees and Staff participated in various national level meetings.

National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) General Body meeting at Veraval, Gir Somnath district, Gujarat, India, 29-30, January, 2019

After a gap of three years ICSF was invited to participate in the General Body meeting of NFF at Veraval and provide inputs for the session on National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017. The invitation was timely and in alignment with our planned workshops on SSFG in India. ICSF had accepted the invitation and participated in the General Body meeting. Keeping in mind the need for future association and collaborative work of developing a framework for the implementation of fisheries management measures through policy or legislation in Indian EEZ we have started translating NPMF 2017 in coastal state languages. We have distributed the translation of Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi and Gujarati among members of NFF. ICSF has prepared a questionnaire based on NPMF in English and Hindi languages and started taking feedback from FWOs, community organizations and CSOs to understand how far the Social development measures are reaching vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society and what are the fisheries management measures required in territorial waters, EEZ and Coastal area. Based on

our interaction with NFF General Body participants we could reasonably say that there is a proportionate disorder in outreach of social development work at state level. Apart from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the thrust of DOF work is not related to social development measures. The support is more for the sub sector which contributes fish catch or earnings or for the development of culture based fisheries. This is very evident from our analysis of Schemes two years ago and based on interaction with participants from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. Their voices are either submerged in the sloganeering of development or there is no mechanism to examine the delivery process and make it effective. The communication channels of state level federations are not very effective. The communication channels of national level deliberations does not reach them. One would meet more organized section of fishworkers. The representation of fishworkers is not representative enough to look at diverse issues which the sector is facing. One example is that the workers of multiday boats are not represented at all. There is no state representation from Andhra Pradesh at all. The national level meeting needs to have better representation of fishing community's participation in fisheries related activities. The structure of the organization require further improvement to represent all sections.

The members felt that increase in number of craft is not a good sign for the future, would prefer 120 days of ban period, a separate ministry is required at centre to attend the fishing community's needs better, better support for the loss of craft during fishing, would like to be treated at par with agriculture, more diesel subsidy without road tax charged by the central Government(approx. Rs 6.80 paise per litre), effective banning of purse seine net in Maharashtra- Gujarat coast, displacement of fishing community in many parts of Gujarat, ineffective joint judicial committee without Indian judges to sort out the situation of India-Pakistan border crossing of fishermen issue, lack of freshwater drains in bays, compensation for seismic survey impact on fishers livelihoods, ban on LED fishing, the removal of BPL tag for accessing welfare schemes like lean season support(SCR) in Maharashtra, first priority for fisherwomen at landing site for first sale of fish, housing support should not have BPL tag, subsidy for purchase of engines in Gujarat upto Rs 25000/-is available but not in Maharashtra, rationalization of schemes across states required, the attempt to call fishing villages as slums to be stopped, no effective support measures for fishers who are affected by the declaration of national parks and sanctuaries, better insurance coverage for fishermen in east coast, mechanism to check the implementation of social development schemes in a transparent manner, total trawl ban, better benefits for women involved in fishing or collection, marine hospitals in landing centres, better market linkages, pensionable age to be reduced to 50, 50% women representation is compulsory from next annual general body meeting of NFF, to develop common platforms with CSOs to fight against CRZ notification, better beach nourishment programmes for erosion prone areas, taking away of coastal land for military purpose, identification of erosion hot spots, better rescue system for fishermen who are in distress at sea, banning of juvenile fishing, polluting industries not allowed on the coast, better quota of subsidy for kerosene, sudden disappearance of support measures like bus service for fisherwomen, ban of trawl boats for 90 days, NO to Sagarmala type of coastal development, regulated mariculture, protection of livelihood for the uncertain future, protection of wetlands, transparency in implementation of schemes, coastal land rights for small beach landing centres, policy for post harvest fisheries and

vending, limits to ownership of number of boats, development of commercial harbours has to be regulated, removal of CRZ notification, shipping corridor on the west coast only after due consultation, and stopping of interlinking of rivers etc. The next General body meeting of NFF will be held in Kerala, India on December, 2019.

Issues specific to East Coast: The need to address livelihood issues due to various factors affecting Sundarban fishers, lack of mechanism for getting social development schemes, impact of conservation policies on their livelihoods, uncontrolled tourism, missing last mile connectivity of implementation of schemes, victims of frontline defense like erosion prone coastline, inaccessible villages, poor road connectivity and lack of literacy, lack of awareness about their entitlements and lack of organizations among fishworkers etc

Issues specific to West Coast: In west coast the issues are more on fishing related like use of DFTs, uncontrolled and powerful groups of purse seining and usage of LED lights, changes in fishing area due to developments like shipping corridor, violation of tourism related developments on the coast, loss of coastal land, lack of any cohesive policy for fish marketing, impact of pollution on marine environment, no participation of vulnerable and marginalized communities in decision making process and exclusion of them by the powerful within the community, impact of lack of resource management etc. .

The meeting requested ICSF to compile all the state level fisheries policies. We are thankful to NFF for providing a space for interaction and chance to meet participants from most of the coastal states. ICSF Trustee V.Vivekanandan, Manas Roshan and N.Venugopalan attended the General Body meeting.

9. List of meetings attended (April, 2018 - February , 2019)

<https://www.icsf.net/en/paper-presentation.html>

S. No.	Timeline	Meeting	Country	Attendance
1	26-27 April 2018	A National level Consultation to discuss and finalize the draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, Mumbai. India	India	Sebastian Mathew
2	28 - 29 June 2018	The Workshop on ‘Fisheries and Law Enforcement Issues,’ Indian Coast Guard, Chennai, India	India	Sebastian Mathew Presentation
3	10 July 2018	Consultative Meeting on Livelihood Issues of Inland Small-Scale Fish Workers, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, India organized by National	India	N. Venugopalan <u>Inaugural address</u>

		Platform for Small-scale Fishworkers (Inland), India		
4	10 August 2018	2nd Techsurge Technologies and Innovation for Sustainable Fisheries, Chennai, India by National Institute of Ocean Technology	India	N. Venugopalan and Manas Roshan
5	18 August 2018	Skill Development Training Programs for fishermen/fisherwomen, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu	India	N. Venugopalan
6	27 August 2018	International Workshop on Exploring the Social, Economic, Ecological, and Political Dimensions of the Blue Economy, Kolkata	India	Sebastian Mathew <u>Presentation</u>
7	3 – 4 October 2018	Second Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in the Bay of Bengal Region, Chennai, India,	India	N. Venugopalan
8	10 to 11 October 2018	National Workshop on Fish Marketing Chains and the Urban Poor, Chennai, India	India	N. Venugopalan and Manas Roshan
9	12 October 2018	Workshop on Knowledge Management in Marine Fisheries in India, Chennai	India	Manas Roshan
10	15 October 2018	Fisheries Subsidies meeting, New Delhi by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India	India	Sebastian Mathew
11	3 December 2018	Stakeholders meeting to discuss about the Draft National Mariculture Policy, Kovalam, organized by Central Marine fisheries Research Institute, Government of India	India	N. Venugopalan

12	29-30 January, 2019	The General Body meeting of the National Fishworkers Forum, 29 to 30 January 2019, Veraval, Gujarat, India	India	Attended by N Venugopalan and Manas Roshan. ICSF Presentation
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