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# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-fifth Session

5–9 September 2022

### SUPPORTING SMALL-SCALE AND ARTISANAL FISHERIES

#### Executive Summary

This document provides additional information in relation to documents COFI/2022/4 and COFI/2022/4.1 on "Supporting Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries" and the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYafa) " respectively, and related to COFI/2022/SBD/10 on 'Illuminating Hidden Harvests' by providing more details on and examples of activities by FAO and others in the context of implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and supporting small-scale fisheries more generally since the Committee's Thirty-fourth Session in 2021. As in earlier COFI information documents (e.g., COFI/2020/Inf.12), the document is structured according to the components of the "FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines" (FAO SSF Umbrella Programme): awareness raising, strengthening the science-policy interface, empowering stakeholders, and supporting implementation.

As the small-scale fisheries subsector and the SSF Guidelines are receiving increased attention with uptake by a growing number of actors and partners, it should be noted that it is difficult to report on all developments; hence this document is not exhaustive. COFI/2022/SBD/13 provides an overview of resources produced in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation since the last session of the Committee.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The uptake of the SSF Guidelines reported on in document COFI/2022/4 is complemented with further information on relevant related FAO and partner-led activities and achievements in this document. While reporting also on activities undertaken outside the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme, the information is organized according to its four interrelated components: (i) Awareness raising: knowledge products and outreach; (ii) Strengthening the science-policy interface: sharing of knowledge and supporting policy reform; (iii) Empowering stakeholders: capacity development and institutional strengthening, and (iv) Supporting implementation: programme management, collaboration and monitoring.

2. The document does not claim to contain an exhaustive list of achievements but provides key examples. It should be seen as a continuation of the document COFI/2020/Inf.12 on "Small-scale and artisanal fisheries: Progress on implementing the SSF Guidelines since the Thirty-third Session of COFI in 2018" and earlier papers on this topic presented to the Committee. COFI/2022/SBD/13 contains relevant material published since COFI34 in 2021.

## II. AWARENESS RAISING

4. FAO continues to support awareness raising on the importance of inland and marine small-scale fisheries and of the SSF Guidelines. Unless the subsector is recognized for its significant contributions to sustainable development, political support will be faltering and the SSF Guidelines are unlikely to be used if they are not known and their contents understood. The expected results of the awareness raising efforts are hence that different stakeholders in fisheries and other sectors know about the SSF Guidelines as a tool for strategies, initiatives and policies and to generate related political will, commitments and actions.

3. Examples of related global processes as well as selected related activities and achievements include:

- SDGs indicators monitoring and reporting: FAO continues to provide support to Members for reporting on the Sustainable Development (SDG) targets for which FAO is a custodian agency, such as indicator SDG 14.b.1, the reporting of which is based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries questionnaire. In 2021, two virtual workshops were held to improve the capacity in monitoring and reporting on the four fisheries-specific SDG 14 indicators (Asia) and more specifically, on SDG 14.b and indicator 14.b.1 (Pacific). An information workshop on the four SDG 14 indicators for the Latin American and Caribbean region was also held. The new small-scale fisheries section of the FAO-LEX database (SSF-LEX) will assist countries on reporting on SDG 14.b to better understand the “degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries”. In May 2022, FAO participated in the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 14 to inform the High-Level Political Forum, the United Nations platform charged with follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in its in-depth review of SDG 14. FAO contributed to the UN Ocean Conference preparations in relation to small-scale fisheries and related side events. The importance of inland fisheries in contributing to the SDGs should be noted, and FAO provides support to both marine and inland small-scale fisheries.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): At the CBD sessions in March 2022 and in the context of preparing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the importance of small-scale fisheries and the need to consider the SSF Guidelines were mentioned in the side events discussing 'Marine Biodiversity, Fisheries and Ocean Post 2020 – Implications for the GBF' and 'Applying a human rights-based approach in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework'.
- Committee on World Food Security (CFS): The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition approved in February 2021 specifically include the SSF Guidelines and at the virtual 47th Session of the CFS in February 2021, a side event on "Exploring the application

of the CFS instruments to address gender, youth in equality and data systems in small-scale fisheries" discussed the mutually reinforcing nature of CFS normative instruments and the SSF Guidelines and introduced related policy briefs to fulfil their shared common goal of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

- UN Food System Summit: A side event on 'Small in size, big in numbers: aquatic small-scale producer contributions to the SDGs' took place at the pre-summit in June 2021 and the SSF Guidelines have been taken up by the emerging Aquatic Foods Coalition.
- Trade: Small-scale fisheries and their role in international trade were discussed at the 18th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in 2022. Fish trade has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions on production and supply chains and small-scale fisheries have been particularly badly impacted.
- Indigenous Peoples: Two side events at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April/May 2022 referred to the SSF Guidelines, one led by the Danish Institute for Human Rights focussing on human rights in fisheries and aquaculture, and one led by FAO on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

4. Collaboration on awareness raising with academia and research included:

- “Unpacking the SSF Guidelines” webinar series during the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI)-organized “Small-scale fisheries open house” on World Oceans Week 2021. Collaboration also takes place with the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WUR) by the inclusion of a session on the SSF Guidelines in the “Resilient Fisheries Governance” course.
- Virtual training with One Ocean Hub for Ghana, Namibia and South Africa on the FAO small-scale fisheries legislative guide and policy and legal diagnostic tool.

5. FAO and partners continue to develop guidance materials and information products. The SSF Guidelines webpage is updated with news and resources and the monthly newsletter SSF Update reaches some 1 000 subscribers. In addition to the resources referred to in document COFI/2022/4 examples include<sup>1</sup>:

- SSF Guidelines in 25 languages, with many translations provided by partners.
- E-learning on 'Small-scale fisheries governance and the implementation of the SSF Guidelines' at the FAO e-learning academy, developed with International Oceans Institute African Region (IOI-SA), which also delivered two regional virtual training courses on the same topic for Africa and Asia) and for Malawi.
- A methodological guide for mapping women's small-scale fishery organizations to assess their capacities and needs and related reports for Malawi, Ghana and Uganda.

### III. STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

5. FAO works with partners to generate and communicate knowledge on small-scale fisheries, generally and on specific issues, to inform fisheries, food systems and development policies. According to requests, selected Members are also receiving support to engage in participatory SSF Guidelines implementation processes.

6. Based on the study 'Illuminating Hidden Harvests: The contributions of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development'<sup>2</sup> (IHH), some country briefs have been published in connection with other national level SSF Guidelines activities. These could be expanded to other countries, to inform policy and develop capacity in relation to data collection and analysis. IHH findings have also been presented in a number of events, including a webinar in November 2023, the FAO regional conference for

<sup>1</sup> For the full list see COFI/2022/SBD/13

<sup>2</sup> See 2022/COFI/SBD/10

Asia-Pacific, an event of the Organization of African, Pacific and Caribbean countries Secretariat, etc., as well as in articles of magazines like INFOFISH.

7. In addition to the IHH and products mentioned in the document COFI/2022/4, other key developments and achievements with regard to knowledge generation and sharing at the global level include:

- Online FAO's Fishing Vessel Design Database (FVDD) containing over 200 vessel designs prepared by FAO and partners, including small-scale fishing vessels. This can give naval architects and boat builders examples for replication and modification for increasing safety at sea. In 2022, additional designs and building manuals will be included.
- FAO manual on Safety at sea for small-scale fishers, developed with the Bay of Bengal Programme –Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) published in 16 languages giving free access to a comic style manual with simple and clear guidance on fishing safety.
- Survey among financial services providers (FSPs) in Africa about services to small-scale fishers and aquaculture producers to improve access to financial services. A similar survey was carried out in the Philippines leading to policy brief.
- Review of governance and tenure in inland capture fisheries and aquaculture systems of India has been carried out, forming the basis for a discussion on potential outcomes of institutional change and emerging policies for ecological sustainability, economic equity and social justice. Reviews of inland fisheries in the Amazon, Mali, Senegal and Mauritania have also been published.

8. At the regional level, regional fishery bodies (RFBs) continue supporting small-scale fisheries and the SSF Guidelines implementation, e.g.:

- The Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) at its 19th session in 2021 agreed to continue to support SSF Guidelines implementation among its members.
- A study on the "Socio-economic and biological impacts of the fish-based feed industry for sub-Saharan Africa" was carried out in collaboration with WorldFish and the Greenwich University following a recommendation of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) Artisanal Fisheries Working Group (AFWG), also with support from the project "Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in Western Africa" (CECAF-PESCAO).
- The International Pole & Line Foundation (INPLF) supported African Coastal States (ACS) in 2021 in various meetings of the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and related communications.
- The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held a webinar series in 2021 including on topics of high relevance to small-scale fisheries.
- The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) continued its work on applying the "Practical guide for gender analysis in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture" in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines.
- The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) advanced implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and held a session of the Working Group on small-scale fisheries in 2022.

9. Examples of other regional activities include the development of participatory territorial investment plans in Tunisia and Algeria under the "Blue Hope Initiative in the Mediterranean Sea", and a pilot activity in Barbados and Suriname investigating fish waste value-adding for generating indirect human consumption products through fertilizers and livestock feeds, which other countries in the Caribbean region have also shown interest in taking up.

10. In addition to the development of National Plan of Action for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines (NPOAs-SSF) reported in document COFI/2022/4, FAO supports activities in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation, e.g. in Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal with the Coastal

Fisheries Initiative (CFI) West Africa project, in Myanmar supporting civil society and communities, in Oman working with women associations, in the Philippines on local level capacity, food and nutrition security and social protection, and in Costa Rica for developing a new decree in relation to responsible marine fishing areas.

11. The FMM sub-programme "Implementing the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines for gender-equitable and climate-resilient food systems and livelihoods" has activities in seven countries in Sub-Saharan African (Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda) and in two countries in Asia (the Philippines and Indonesia), as well as at the global scale.

38. In addition, there have also been activities in a number of other countries, in particular with regard to applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries, including small-scale fisheries, for example:

- In selected fisheries in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo and United Republic of Tanzania, the EAF-Nansen Programme is supporting the establishment of participatory fisheries management cycles (FMC).
- In Malawi, the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring (FiRMS) project assists in strengthening the governance and regulatory frameworks as well as improved management guided by EAF.
- For selected small-scale fisheries in Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey, EAF management plans have been developed through a process of capacity development and stakeholder engagement.
- The United Republic of Tanzania has developed a Fisheries Master Plan (mainland) using EAF.

12. Other relevant national-level projects and activities include:

- The "Fisher Communities Resilience Enhancement Project" in South Sudan to increase resilience of fisherfolk and improve the availability of fish. FAO also supports an innovative approach to provide people facing malnutrition and famine in remote areas in South Sudan with fish products, as an alternative or addition to providing food rations.
- The FMM sub-programme "Leveraging global instruments and knowledge products" supports Tunisia in identifying entry points to promote coherent implementation of the SSF Guidelines and Right to Food Guidelines,
- Social protection is supported, *inter alia*, by the "Responsible use of fishery and aquaculture resources for sustainable development" project. In El Salvador, a pilot SSF Guidelines implementation pilot project executed in collaboration with fisherfolk organizations and the national fisheries authority resulted in the inclusion of social protection schemes for small-scale fisheries in the national legal framework. The results will be disseminated and scaled up throughout the Central American region.
- In Mauritania, small-scale fisheries communities facing the effects of COVID-19 are supported by strengthening the technical capacities of cooperatives, a hatchery for fish farming and market infrastructures.
- The "Cambodia Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in the Fisheries Sector" (CAPFISH) improves fisheries conservation, management and compliance with fisheries laws and regulations as well as improving resilience of the fishing communities.
- In Indonesia, an initiative in collaboration with the Papua Christian University promotes co-management for anchovy fishery and improvement of local livelihoods in West Papua Province.

#### **IV. EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS**

13. A key premise of the SSF Guidelines is to ensure the effective participation of small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities in all development processes that concern their livelihoods. For this, capable and representative small-scale fisheries organizations are needed as well as inclusive institutional structures and processes. Accordingly, FAO supports improved technical and organizational capacities of stakeholders and governments at the local, national and regional levels.

14. At the global level, the IPC Working Group on Fisheries, regrouping the two global small-scale fisheries actor networks, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters (WFF), and support CSOs, continue to play a role for coordination with FAO activities and partners. The IPC Working Group on Fisheries is also associated with the Advisory Group of the SSF Global Strategic Framework (see below).
15. A Handbook on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for small-scale fishing communities has been published by ICSF and Centro Internazionale Crocevia (CIC) with the support of SwedBio. ICSF is also developing a practical implementation guide on social development, employment and decent work (Chapter 6 of the SSF Guidelines).
16. The African Union's subregional platforms for non-state actors (NSA) in fisheries and aquaculture have been expanded to include a pan-African NSA platform consisting of representatives of the subregional platforms as well as of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFishNET). FAO is assisting Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in relaunching and strengthening the NSA for the Maghreb region.
17. The African Confederation Professional Organisations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) has organised workshops for awareness-raising on SSF Guidelines, released regular communications and statements has participated in meetings in which small-scale fisheries have been discussed. For example, for the meeting of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Ghana in April 2022, CAOPA joined forces with the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network International and prepared key messages. CAOPA collaborates and receives support from others, including the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Bread for the World, and the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA), in addition to FAO.
18. At the national level, FAO provides support to capacity development of small-scale fisheries organizations mainly in connection with country specific activities under the SSF Umbrella Programme and the FMM SSF subprogramme, reported on above. In addition, there are other efforts such as the FAO project "Strengthening the role of professional organizations of artisanal fisheries in the governance of small-scale fisheries in Morocco". Through the NGO Beyond the Surface International a Positive Youth Development approach is being piloted in secondary schools in Peru for students to explore the SSF Guidelines.

## V. SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

19. With regard to the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme component on supporting implementation of the SSF Guidelines, there are two main streams of work: the SSF Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) as a partnership mechanism, and monitoring of progress toward securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, including the design of a monitoring system.
20. The Friends of the SSF Guidelines under the SSF-GSF brings governments together and has currently five members: Canada, Indonesia, Norway, Peru and the United Republic of Tanzania, but operational engagement in the context of the SSF-GSF has remained rather limited so far.
21. With the improvements of the pandemic situation, the SSF-GSF Advisory Group (AG) that primarily includes representatives of global small-scale fisheries organizations (WFF, WFFP, IITC and LVC) has established Regional AGs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen the contribution of social movements in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, also including other relevant community-based organizations that are not part of the IPC. In this way, regional and local processes will be systematically synthesised by the AG at the global level, thus ensuring a higher quality of content and advice to be provided to governments, FAO and members of the future SSF-GSF Knowledge Sharing Platform (KSP).

22. The AG is engaging in the celebrations of IYAFa 2022 by producing and disseminating communication materials and supporting an assessment of the level of SSF Guidelines implementation in selected countries, using a toolkit developed for this purpose. The assessment will be conducted mainly by the Regional AGs and will lay the basis for engaging directly with governments and relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

23. In collaboration with SwedBio and WorldFish, the AG has organized five webinars inviting environmental NGOs with an interest and activities in small-scale fisheries. These webinars have created a dialogue that could form the basis for the SSF-GSF KSP, which is a part of the SSF-GSF that still needs to be further developed and should also include entities that focus on human rights.

24. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has set up a network for collaboration: the Small-Scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub. It is an online, interactive, multilingual platform providing access to free tools and resources to strengthen small-scale fisheries governance and community development. While not part of the SSF-GSF, it can provide important learning for the set-up and operation the KSP.

25. FAO and WorldFish collaborated with ICARDA to develop a draft Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning framework for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This framework is now being operationalized with the help of ICSF and it will be made available before the end of the year.

## VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

26. With only eight years to go to achieve the SDGs, it is urgent to accelerate actions at all levels and across all sectors. As evidenced by the IHH study findings and show-cased by policy uptake around world, small-scale fisheries contribute to the Agenda 2030 - and can do so even more if provided the necessary support and attention. The SSF Guidelines should be used as a tool to guide the actions needed to move towards food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods. National level implementation including strengthening of small-scale fisheries organizations as well as of government institutions and processes coupled with improved knowledge through multidisciplinary data collection and analysis, are key ingredients of a pathway to a sustainable future for small-scale fisheries, benefitting their communities and society at large.

27. FAO plays a key catalytic role in supporting its Members on this path to sustainability, collaborating and engaging with partners. It will be critical that the extrabudgetary funding currently provided by development partner countries is increased to allow for this important work to continue.