

Setting up a regional platform to promote the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Background paper – Thematic session V
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GFCM First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - 27–30 November 2013, St. Julian's, Malta

This presentation

- * *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)*
: process and contents
- * *Session V today: objectives and discussion points*

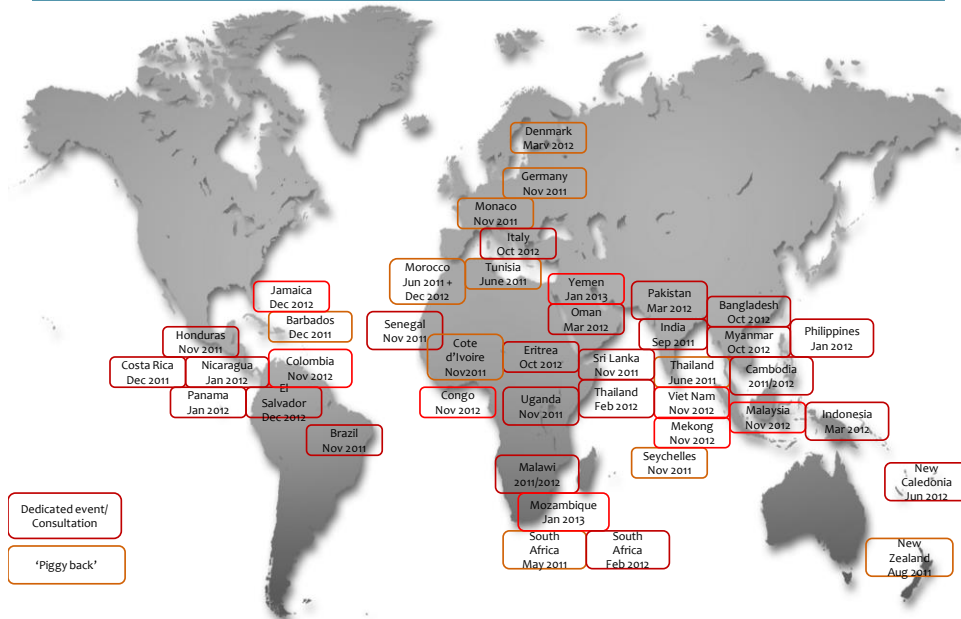
Increased recognition that SSF are important

FAO COFI 2011 recommended the development of an international instrument:

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)



SSF Guidelines consultations 2011/12/13



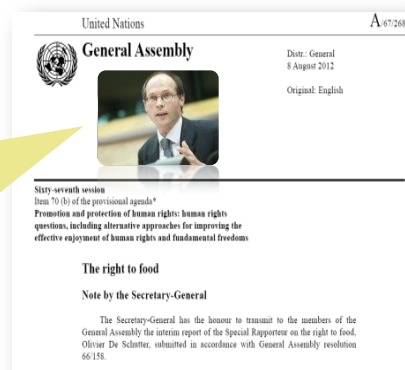
The SSF Guidelines seek to promote a human rights approach to development

- * Bring together social development and responsible fisheries.
- * Develop capabilities for those concerned to actively and meaningfully participate in decision-making
- * Complement important international instruments
 - * *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*
 - * *Right to Food Guidelines*
 - * *Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests*



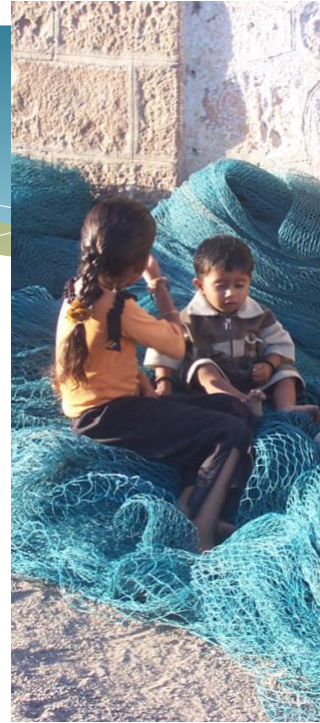
2012: UN Special Rapporteur of the Right to Food stressed the importance of SSF in a report presented to the UN GA

Linking the contents of the guidelines to the norms and standards of international human rights law, including the right to food, is essential.



Objectives of the SSF Guidelines

- * Comprehensive framework for SSF governance and development
- * Principles and criteria SSF policies
- * Promotion of research and the advancement of knowledge
- * Reference tool in the area of SSF governance and development including institutional structures and processes, and capacity development



Structure of SSF Guidelines

The DRAFT SSF Guidelines consist of three parts:

- * Introductory chapters
- * Thematic issues
- * Aspects related to implementation

Part 1

- * Purpose and objectives
- * Characterization of SSF
- * General principles
- * Links to other relevant international instruments



Part 2

- * Secure rights to fishery resources and land and the ability to benefit from them
- * The social development dimension of SSF livelihoods
- * The post-harvest sector and trade
- * Gender and the need to promote equality and equity
- * Vulnerabilities: disaster risks and climate change



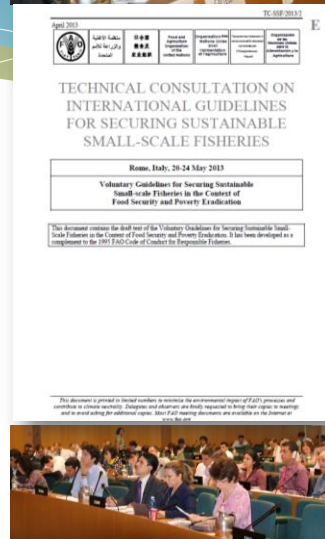
Part 3

- * Policy coherence and cross-sectoral collaboration
- * Information, research and communication
- * Capacity development
- * Implementation support and monitoring and evaluation



Process and current status

- * Technical consultation in May 2013: Text negotiated until para 7.8. of the draft document
- * Negotiations to resume in February 2014
- * Negotiated text to be presented to 31st session of COFI in June 2014 for approval



Implementation

Some recent and ongoing FAO initiatives discussing implementation include:

- * International workshop in February 2012
- * Workshop on strengthening organization and collective action in March 2013
- * Meeting on strengthening small-scale fisheries organizations in North African countries in September 2013
- * **Ongoing e-consultation on implementation (until 3 December)**

The SSF Guidelines will only become effective if implemented!

Thematic Session V

OBJECTIVES:

- * To discuss how the SSF Guidelines implementation in the region: processes, institutional and roles of different actors
- * To promote collaboration and communication among partners and stakeholders
- * To provide inputs into the development of implementation strategies and a global assistance programme (requested by FAO COFI)

Discussion points

1. **Challenges and opportunities** for the small-scale fisheries sector in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
2. **Human-rights based approach:** Current situation and needs in terms of access to basic economic, social and cultural rights
3. **Social and economic development** of fishers, fish workers and fishing communities to enhance the sustainability of small-scale fisheries, including the post-harvest sector, and their contribution to food security and poverty alleviation
4. Review of national experiences in terms of **collective action and organizations** (e.g. fishers cooperatives and associations) and to strengthen them, including through capacity development and the creation of regional and sub-regional associations

1. Challenges and opportunities

- * What are the key challenges for small-scale fisheries in the region? Are there national and local differences that would need to be considered in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?
- * What key opportunities and strengths exist? What best practices are available in the region that should be shared and that could be replicated – regionally and globally?

2. Human-rights based approach

- * What examples of successful application of a HRBA are there in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region?
- * Are there regional specific challenges for applying HBRA?
- * What good practices exist with regard to the promotion of gender equality

3. Social and economic development

- * What are the key social and economic development issues for small-scale fisheries in the region?
- * What examples of good practices exist – in fisheries or other sectors – with regard to holistic and integrated approaches that can inform SSF Guidelines implementation?

4. Collective action and organizations

- * What regional organisations and networks already exist that could be built on for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines?
- * What are the most important gaps with regard to collective action and associations?

THANK YOU

Contact: VG-SSF@fao.org

E-consultation: www.fao.org/fsnforum/forum/discussions/SSF_Guidelines

FAO SSF Guidelines web page: www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en

Technical Consultation web page: www.fao.org/fishery/nems/40290/en

CSO SSF Guidelines development:
<https://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/>