How to monitor implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries?

**Collection of contributions received**

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# Topic note

In 2014, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed the [*Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines)](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I4356EN). They are a set of recommendations to states and other actors on how to make small-scale fisheries more sustainable. Key issues in the SSF Guidelines include allocating tenure rights equitably; managing resources responsibly; supporting social development and decent work; empowering fish workers along the entire value chain; promoting gender equality; and addressing climate change and disaster risks. The SSF Guidelines are the result of a participatory development process that brought together small-scale fisheries actors, governments, academia, NGOs, regional organizations and many other stakeholders. Their content reflects what these actors have identified as key issues for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, as well as related guidance on how to address those issues.

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines will require engagement with and partnerships across different institutions, organizations and actors, which will have different roles to play to address issues in relation to fisheries governance, gender, post-harvest, food security and nutrition and other wider societal interests.

But, how can we know that the SSF Guidelines have an effect?

In chapter 13, the SSF Guidelines explicitly refer to the need for monitoring of their implementation. FAO is working towards developing guidance for measuring progress at the national level of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This e-consultation aims to solicit views, recommendations, suggestions, and good practices for monitoring the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Your knowledge about and experience with small-scale fisheries is valuable as we work to develop a relevant, realistic and useful tool for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Please share your opinions on what parts of the SSF Guidelines should be monitored and how. What defines progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries? How can we measure progress? What would be meaningful and feasible indicators in your opinion? And, who would you suggest is suited to do the measuring? What could participatory monitoring look like?

We look forward to your insights and contributions. Thank you in advance for your time!

*Nicole Franz, Amber Himes-Cornell and Katy Dalton*

*for the FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat*

 **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

We would like your feedback on the three topics and related guiding questions presented below.

Background information and links to relevant documents related to the SSF Guidelines, their context and the process by which they have been developed, are available at: <http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/>

To help us analyze your comments, please indicate clearly to which topic(s) you are responding.

**1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

The SSF Guidelines are divided into three parts. Part 1 sets out the overall objectives, the scope, the guiding principles and the relationship with other instruments. Part 2 covers five thematic areas, namely responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management; social development, employment and decent work; value chains, post-harvest and trade; gender equality; disaster risks and climate change. Part 3 provides guidance for ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation addresses policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration; information, research and communication; capacity development; and implementation support and monitoring.

* What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?
* Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.
* At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?

**2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

There are many ways to measure progress - using quantitative or qualitative indicators that focus on outputs, processes and other aspects. In order to avoid additional burden and costs in relation to data and information collection it may be good to explore existing indicators for related global or national or sub-national objective and initiatives that relate to the issues addressed in the SSF Guidelines and the principles they are based on (e.g. for the Sustainable Development Goals, or national food security and development plans).

* Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”
* If possible, please provide examples of where the indicators you suggest have been used successfully, including in data- and capacity-limited contexts.
* Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences is crucial for the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Available lessons learned, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time, the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be modified or developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring can help making information available and shared.

Please share any experiences, both good and bad, as well as lessons learned related to participatory monitoring.

* What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?
* What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?
* Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?

# Contributions received

## Aklilu Nigussie, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Ethiopia

Participatory monitory has its own indicators depending on the targeted project yet most of them can have the basic similarity with key elements:

* Household (the project direct user or direct impact expected)
* Stakeholders who will have a direct and indirect contribution to the project
* Enablers those who will have an indirect impact on the project to facilitate and solve opportunities and constraints, like policymakers, other institutions.

We had different monitoring experiences related to technology users and adopters in the research system.

The smallholders are the implementer of the project (the project should be designed with participatory or involvement of SSF for its long term sustainability), yet the monitoring should be by the project designer or the funder or PI team or external body for its impact and it's true to type validation.

## Small-Scale Fisheries Core Team

Dear colleagues and forum participants,

I am pleased to welcome you to this e-consultation on how to monitor the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). We have come a long way since the SSF Guidelines were endorsed by COFI in 2014, but effective implementation requires knowledge of progress in order to make well-informed decisions. For this reason, the FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat is focusing efforts on developing guidance for monitoring and evaluation of the SSF Guidelines, and your inputs will be vital in steering this process and determining the best path forward. Thank you for your dedication to securing sustainable small-scale fisheries and your embrace of the participatory process! We look forward to an engaging and productive discussion.

Regards,

Katy Dalton –

for the FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat

## Vivienne Solis – Rivera, CoopeSoliDar R.L., Costa Rica

TOPIC 1:

I believe that the relevant  5 chapters for securing sustainable SSF are:  Tenure and access rights, Management of resources responsible, gender equity, Decent work and Climate change.

There is no possibility of reaching sustainable use of marine resources without a human rights base approach to it, small scale fishers ( men, women and youth) have been marginalized in most countries without accessing this basic human rights which need to be in place to move on with this communities for an adequate governance of their territories of life and the sustainable use of fishing resources.  In the case of climate, adaptation and knowledge from this communities are urgent issues to be considered in the framework of the already impacting results of these climatic effects.

I think that the geographical scale needs to approach both national, local.  Different monitoring and evaluation techniques and indicators will need to be developed to advanced.  Also global analyisis of advance need to be put in place.  We have used the annexed methodology for communities self evaluation of the guidelines subjects of interest.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NZjbfaxRQkPtg_hCsrJsVPLTNb3QYTQ-/view>

## Vivienne Solis – Rivera, CoopeSoliDar R.L., Costa Rica (second contribution)

TOPIC 3:

Key elements fo successful participatory monitoring are:  participation of local actors, different genders and ages in the analysis and long term process.  It needs to be flexible enough to permit returning to the indicators several times in time and reviewing what has been evaluted before. The process needs to have a lot of discussion on what is being measure and how each community perceives the situation.

It is a beautiful experience, and ever learning momment and a collective effort to move forward. We have evaluated the local initiatives of small scale fishers for several times now and it is always a learning process, a true moment, were we realized with them that maybe the changes are still going very slow.

The design and implemetnaiton of a monitoring system should be done by practical field technitians and local ssf community leaders, the process should be a learning one in practical sense and move on with the timing of the particular communities we are working with from my point of view.

## Ghulam Mustafa Mirani, Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum, Pakistan

TOPIC 2:

I think that all Chapters are linked to each other in account of Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

One of Monitoring and measures tool to assess progress towards priorities is  Close Co-Ordination with all stakeholders like respective Government Institutions including academia and CSOs we can measures the progress the identified priorities of issues. For example in our respective country we have organized low cost activities with small scale fishers and collect the evidences, local wisdoms and experiences through Small Group Discussions’ ( SGD) after that engaged all stakeholder through workshops and presented all suggestions for with fully data and with fact and figures to improve Tenure and access rights, Management of resources responsible, gender equity, Decent work and Climate change to concerned Government representatives and legislators for legislations and Provincial Government of Sindh Pakistan has taken appropriate actions to develop the Small Scale Fisheries and also address climate change, sustain water quality and protection of natural heritages, this was successfully done.

## [Patrick McConney](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/member/patrick-mcconney)****,**** University of the West Indies, Barbados

2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?

For the country members of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) we are aiming to integrate indicators for the SSF Guidelines into other current or planned monitoring and evaluation schemes. This is to allow regional and sub-regional reporting as well as national. We want to have core indicators that are common to all three levels as well as some specific to each level of governance. This design is similar to the Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework (GEAF) of the CLME+ Project. We also want to monitor how donor-funded projects are contributing to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the same way that many projects now report on their contribution to the SDGs. It is important to avoid asking much more of fisheries authorities and fisherfolk organisations with limited capacities for additional tasks

## [KBN Rayana](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/member/kbn-rayana)****,**** JNU &IAMMA Institute of Agric. Mktg, Mgt., & Admin, India

Sustainable small scale Fisheries:

is usally first to reuse of existing tanks, in the villages/rural areas.

Besides this encourage to club with Agriculture and enhance of waterssheds/rainwater harvested projects encouraged with fish farming.

Use of back waters of rivers and Oceans...

usually riverss and oceanss goess with big farming and cooperative ssystemss of farming ... hence above two methods important to make lively hood. most important thing that every where there are certain population call it as their profession/caste , who ree mostely depencded on this fisheriess. Encourage such group and obtain the importnce besides addressed ur points.e

By using those community who prominent generation wise more easy adoptable and making development eassy, besides others to encourage in thiss line and train properly/

regarding msurement involve more local government, Geographically to enourage by obtaining locl stasts by calling each village of the state.

This will faciitate more accurate and direct approach for any officer including FAO`s can face with them for interaction any time

2. Indicators

Indicator is production and processing... So thiss will give more accurate by this lively hoods of their progres and crises. So direct approach by initiating a officer for this along wwith regional /local governments.

processing--if processed price will be higher for lively hoods, however pollution control and odor smell to be prevente particularly in the deeveloping countries . Carefully addressed by comparing with pollution and other any pest/ mosqutoes etc impact.

In India Fisheries developed well particulrly shrimp etc. But to lack of pollutions and adopting fresh water techniques there are many sset backs to the farmers.

3

Participatory  Monitor:

is an important factor .. this to be clubbed with available local fisheries dept at national level, again clubbing to the stat level /regional/local level.

To monitor there must be a special officers developed along with collection of data from the arable areas, and status from time to time.

if possible one officer /consultant to be initiated from FAo , who will coordinate and monitor from time to time

by

Prof. Dr. KB NaRayana

Jaipur National University and IAMMA.

## FAO Publications

Here is a selection of titles proposed by FAO Publications for forum participants who would like to read more on small-scale fisheries.

[Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication](http://www.fao.org/3/i4356en/i4356en.pdf)

These guidelines are intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty.

[Strengthening, empowering and sustaining small-scale aquaculture farmers’ associations](https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7741en)

This paper presents case studies from five Asian countries, with the aim of demonstrating that that the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and hatchery operators can be improved by being associated. This is especially so when the association is strong in its democratically operated procedures and financial transparency.

[Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Sharing good practices from around the world](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA3041EN)

This document includes eight studies showcasing good practices in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries, including restoring lake fisheries and rural livelihoods through rights-based inclusive governance in Nepal, and social responsibility in Senegal.

[Towards the implementation of the SSF guidelines in West and Central Africa](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca4536en)

This paper reports on the outputs of the consultation, including increased understanding of the status of small-scale fisheries in the region, and the sharing of experiences on initiatives relevant to small-scale fisheries governance and development.

[Towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development: A handbook](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/fee037d6-944f-4d65-89ba-b438c7d41834)

This manual provides practical guidance on how to achieve gender-equitable small-scale fisheries in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

[Guidelines for micro-finance and credit services in support of small-scale fisheries in Asia](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca5128en)

These guidelines aim to increase awareness about the needs of small-scale fishers for more sustainable and inclusive access to finance, and to guide policy- and decision makers to encourage investment in the industry.

[Global Conference on tenure and user rights in fisheries 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Yeosu, Republic Of Korea, 10–14 September 2018](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca6967en)

Among the issues discussed during the conference were a rights-based approach to fisheries governance, the foundation of small-scale fishing, the legal details of tenure and user rights, and the links between the SDGs and tenure and user rights.

*Further reading*

[Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries](http://www.fao.org/3/v9878e/v9878e.pdf)

[The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9540EN)

[Report of the Expert Workshop on guidelines for micro-finance, credit and insurance for small-scale fisheries in Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 7−9 May 2019](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca6482en)

[Report of the thirty-third session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 9−13 July 2018](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca5184en)

[Guidelines for increasing access of small-scale fisheries to insurance services In Asia: A handbook for insurance and fisheries stakeholders](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca5129en)

[The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries 2018](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA2702EN)

[The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca6973en)

[Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca6958en)

## Eyongetta Njieassam, University of Dschang, Cameroon

3).

The key elements involve firstly to:

* clearly outline the definition of SSF;
* identify the stake holders involve directly and indirectly in SSF activity;
* evaluate and establish a credible Value Chain for SSF activity.

Then organising a workshop and training with stakeholders involve using participatory approach.

In the context of Cameroon and Africa in general, participatory monitoring is a novelty and a sound approach to gain credible data for monitoring SSF. Unlike before where government officials and other policy makers intervene without the consent of the stakeholders involved, today there is growing level of confidence and consciousness using participatory approach. This has begun to provide data for some missing links in SSF monitoring.

They key actors should be , fishery experts and policy makers, international organisation, community's leaders, local fishermen and others who are directly or indirectly involve with fishery activity.

## Anna Carlson, GFCM-FAO, Italy

*2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: how can we measure progress?*

For the GFCM region (RFMO for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea), we have adopted a Regional Plan of Action for SSF in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF) in September 2018 which supports the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the regional level, identifying actions to be taken over the next ten-years.

Subsequent the adoption of the RPOA-SSF, in 2019, we conducted a consultation process with stakeholders, fisheries administrations and relevant experts in the region in view of developing a monitoring framework for the implementation of the RPOA-SSF over its 10-year implementation period. This monitoring framework seeks to identify select priority actions for short-term implementation, as well as indicators - coupled with short- mid- and long-term objectives - to measure implementation. Breaking down big goals into achievable steps has been useful in developing indicators to measure progress. A simple questionnaire has been circulated among GFCM countries to identify baseline information in line with the indicators developed, with a view of limiting the reporting burden for countries.

Key issues:

* Set priorities and objectives within a timeframe (what we want to achieve and when). Break objectives into achievable steps and measure implementation in line with those steps
* Allow for flexibility (qualitative, quantitative indicators as appropriate), but set in place a mechanism for regularly assessing the state of implementation and reassessing as necessary (in the GFCM's case we have an SSF working group, plus an RPOA-SSF mid-term conference)
* Keep indicators simple to avoid creating additional reporting burden to countries

*3. Participatory monitoring: key elements and experiences*

The GFCM’s RPOA-SSF is long and complex, with over 50 paragraphs of specific actions to be implemented. In trying to identify priorities for implementation we attempted to consult as many interested parties as possible: SSF organizations, researchers, managers/administrators and partner organizations.

For such a multi-faceted topic such as SSF, a one-size fits all approach likely won't work and we recognized that priorities would vary at different levels (global, regional, national, local). As our organization is regional, we tried to steer focus towards identifying a limited number of common regional objectives. However, we know that there is a lot of work going on in the region to address different priorities at different levels and therefore we recognized that part of our role is to help build synergies among this ongoing work in order to drive additional efforts to where there are needs. Therefore, in addition to the monitoring framework, which is based on a limited number of big priority actions with agreed indicators, we have also developed a [mapping tool](http://www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/fisheries/small-scale-fisheries/mapping-tool) to facilitate monitoring work underway at local and national levels in our region.

Key issues/lessons learned:

* Try to be as inclusive as possible, engaging stakeholders, fisheries administrations, experts and partner organizations
* Ensure many different groups as possible can contribute to the monitoring process

## Mariam Elsayeh, Several News Agencies, Egypt

Salute Everyone,

I am glad to share this with you and I hope that it will be on your esteemed consideration.

The first element to consider is the awareness reach. Most of the fisheries that will work on the sustainable project. Some communities are out of the Media and Civil society attention,

The remote Islands like:

* The Maldives
* Mauritius
* Fiji
* Tuvalu

Out of what I witnessed in the Maldives:

fishing is not only a source of money for living but also its the primary source of the Maldivian families’ food security and they use rudimentary tools of fishing and have almost no fridges to small,

Furthermore, for agriculture, the soil is excellent, but the source of seeds are almost not available.

The awareness about how they can develop their community and natural resources,

Especially that all those communities are facing environmental disaster because of the floods in the small islands because of the global warming affecting the shores, and I am not sure how much this floods will affect the fishing industry, For Example, N. Atoll Holhudhoo Island

[www.facebook.com/Nholhudhoo-432211544020890/](http://www.facebook.com/Nholhudhoo-432211544020890/)

I highly recommend having a team of researchers to do more investigation about how we can develop those far away communities because their unique environments and the different tropical challenges they face will need customized recommendations.

Also, I am ready to provide the responsible and society leaders contacts in the Maldives; they can cooperate with such a project.

For other countries like Fiji and Tuvalu, I can work for some communication to know who is in charge.

## Norbert Francois Tchouaffe, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States of America

Dear All,

I do share the viewpoint of Mr Eyongetta related to the lack of data in Cameroon.

The reason behind this is the fact that experts are not associated to small scale project.

Fish industry need know-how and monitoring from experts as I have concluded in my attached paper.

Best Regards.

Dr Norbert Tchouaffé

Lecturer at the University of Dschang

**Attachment:**

Gender-equitable pathways to achieve fish marketing in Cameroon : A case study of Mbalmayo Markets

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Norbert_paper_fish_marketing.pdf>

## Michael Akester, WorldFish, Myanmar

Please find attached work we have delivered in Myanmar to promote the SSF guidelines.

We are monitoring progress by looking at the Fisher Associations we are creating in relation to Leasable fisheries and Marine National Parks.

Fisher associations are incorporating internal rules in line with the guidelines to ensure IUU fishing does not occur. This participatory monitoring is complex as it is sometimes dangerous for fisherfolk to accuse the perpetrators of IUU fishing (owners of trawlers and ‘light-boats’ that encroach the inland fishing and no-take areas; those using explosives, electricity and poison to fish in a range of inland and inshore waters.

Best wishes,

Mike

Michael J. Akester, Country Director, WorldFish, Myanmar

**Attachments:**

Pre-Multi-Stakeholder Information and Communication (MuSIC) Workshop Yangon, 8 February 2019

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Report%20pre-MuSIC%20Workshop%20Yangon%208%20Feb%202019.pdf>

WorldFish research linked to The SmallScale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines - Pre-Multi-Stakeholder Information and Communication (MuSIC) workshop

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Myanmar_pre-MuSIC_8Feb2019.pdf>

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

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/SSF%20Guidelines_for%20MuSIC%208%20Feb%202019.pdf>

## Diagne Bassirou, FAO Senegal, Senegal

We have read very carefully the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in particular the 13 guiding principles.

My opinion the principles clearly define the scope of the necessary monitoring.

However for a participatory approach, if there is no basic organization of small fishermen, it would be more practical to promote them and make them responsible in monitoring and reporting data.

The aim is to produce follow-up booklets for each basic organization of small-scale artisanal fishermen.

The booklet will be configured according to the monitoring and evaluation plan defined on the basis of the guide. So you can designate focal points at national or regional level who will periodically monitor applications and aggregate data for a local or national or even regional database.

All tools can be harmonized for better compilation of data at all levels even at the level of the main office.

The focal points can be equipped with a smartphone configured according to a digital data collection application for much more efficiency and data enhancement.

## Gaoussou Gueye, Confédération africaine des organisations professionnelles de la pêche artisanale, Senegal

Original contribution in French

**Critères de progrès pour assurer la durabilité de la Pêche Artisanale**

* Gestion efficace des ressources (marine, côtière et continentale)
* Transparence et respect de la réglementation liée à la gestion des ressources (marine, côtière et continentale
* Equité par rapport au genre et à la communauté côtière à l’accès et à la gestion des ressources marines, côtières et continentales
* Cohérence entre les politiques de gestion des ressources (marine, côtière et continentale) et celles de lutte contre la pauvreté, la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle
* Participation et engagement des parties prenantes dans la gestion des ressources (marine, côtière et continentale)

**Indicateurs significatifs et réalisables : comment mesurer les progrès en question**

* Existence du Code de la Pêche et de la lettre de politique sectorielle
* Existence d’un dispositif législatif et réglementaire conforme aux lois
* Bonne évaluation biologique et socio-économique des ressources (marine, côtière et continentale) et des données statistiques
* Mettre un dispositif d’enquête pour évaluer le niveau de satisfaction des parties prenantes
* Accès à l’information à travers une bonne stratégie de communication

**Planification participative : Eléments clés et expériences**

* Tous les projets et programmes doivent être participatifs avec l’implication des parties prenantes de la création à la mise.
* Gestion participative avec un système de contrôle et de suivi-évaluation
* Favoriser en cadre d’échanges entre les ministères tels que l’éducation, la santé, l’environnement et la justice
* Bonne mise en œuvre des Directives Volontaires et respect des Droits Humains

English translation

**Defining progress towards securing the sustainable small-scale Fisheries**

* Effective management of marine, coastal and inland resources
* Transparency and compliance with regulations related to the management of marine, coastal and continental resources
* Gender and coastal community equity in access to and management of marine, coastal and inland resources
* Coherence between resource management policies (marine, coastal and continental) and those for poverty eradication, food and nutritional security
* Participation and involvement of stakeholders in resource management (marine, coastal and inland)

**Meaningful and feasible Indicators: How can we measure progress?**

* Existence of the Fisheries Code and the sectoral policy letter
* Existence of a legislative and regulatory framework in conformity with the laws
* Good biological and socio-economic assessment of resources (marine, coastal and inland) and statistical data
* Put in place a survey mechanism to assess the level of satisfaction of stakeholders
* Access to information through a good communication strategy

**Participatory Planning: Key Elements and Experiences**

* All projects and programmes must be participatory with stakeholder involvement from creation to implementation.
* Participatory management with a system of monitoring and follow-up-evaluation
* To promote exchanges between ministries such as education, health, environment and justice
* Good implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and respect for Human Rights

## Sérgio Mattos, Tropical Marine Ichthyology Group – IMAT, Brazil

In June 2016, two year after FAO adopted the SSF Guidelines, a “National Seminar on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Small-scale Fisheries” was hold in Brazil, aiming at learning about values, norms, and principles to enable its implementation in Brazil, through capacity formation and experience exchange to disseminate local knowledge, through a broad and participative process of dialogue.

Deliberations and outcomes from previous events held in Brazil with a direct or indirect linkage to the SSF Guidelines were starting points, although acknowledged the impossibility of comprehending and cover an exhaustive assessment of the topics, despite multiple and diverse contributions. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (Topic 1) required an identification of legal basis and public policies that, in principle, would have positive or negative impact in actions of implementing the SSF Guidelines, searching for political coherence in the national scenario, and becoming an instrument enabler of operating reforms in the existing complex legal and institutional framework. In this regard, the Guidelines were well-conceived considering understanding necessaries actions for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, when conducting in Part 2 five thematic areas and issues taking social, economic and environmental aspects into consideration basis for sustainable development.

It is clear that connections among chapters, paragraphs, and topics strengthen the Guidelines’ objectives and goals, set in Part 1. Nevertheless, current political context of loss of social and economic rights and attacks in the field of environmental conservation, which threatens small-scale fisheries, their fishing territories, and the natural ecosystems, highlight that securing sustainability requires following relationships with other instruments. Mainly, promoting actions to support the sector’s transition to sustainable development from an economic and environmental perspective, strengthening food and nutrition security, for the sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, at local level, although in light of regional (Latin America), national (Brazil), and sub-national (Brazilian Macro Regions) levels. Worth arguing for the need to confront legal instruments and initiatives linked to fisheries at national and international levels and the existing fishery management system, aiming at supporting alignment; incorporating small-scale fishing communities’ expectations and outlook; and contributing to establishing an efficient and effective institutional and legal framework.

Helping measuring progress (Topic 2) on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, it is paramount establishing a "positive agenda" for civil society organizations, creating an autonomous movement coherent with basic human rights approaches, once neglected political spaces must be properly and adequately underwired. The process will consider following participatory methods of empowerment of fishers, strengthening exchanges of knowledge and experiences, to enable and facilitate communication between the government and the civil society organization. This is in line, and mandatory, with Sustainable Development Goal, SDG Indicator 14.b.1, that support actions to follow the “progress by countries in adopting and implementing a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework, which recognizes and protects access to small-scale fisheries' rights”. Worth mentioning that this “is a composite indicator calculated on the basis of the efforts being made by countries to implement selected key provisions of the SSF Guidelines”.

Hence, mechanisms and instruments for SSF monitoring & control, through actions in participatory fisheries management, fish production value chain, decent work, and socio-educational initiatives, with a focus on issues of gender, are meaningful and feasible indicators (Topics 2) “nice to have”. Which can promote knowledge on the current reality of the fishing sector and taking measures to be adopted for its sustainability, a following-up systemic assessment as results from cooperation projects once conducted on the Northeast Coast of Brazil small-scale fisheries.

From 2008 to 2011 the Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Canadian charity World Fisheries Trust implemented a project known as Gente da Maré (GDM), or ‘People of the Tides’. GDM worked strategically to build institutional and community capacity and linkages between government, university researchers, and local fishing associations involved in projects to improve the livelihoods and well-being of ‘marisqueiras,’ women and families that depend on clam and oyster extraction, mainly the Venerid clam Anomalocardia brasiliana, in the Northeast Region of Brazil where the country’s highest number of coastal and estuarine small-scale fishers are concentrated. Consistent with many of the principles and guidelines in FAO’s Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), GDM promoted an integrated approach to equitable development of sustainable fisheries that included: co-management including participatory research and stronger research-policy interface; empowerment of women in fisheries occupations and improved opportunities for women; and value chain upgrading and democratization focusing on the decent work agenda, ..., towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Brazil. (Mattos S M G, Wojciechowski M J, Macnaughton A E, da Silva G H G, Maia A M L R, Carolsfeld J (2017) Implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Lessons from Brazilian Clam Fisheries. In: Jentoft S, Chuenpagdee R, Barragán-Paladines M.J, Franz N (eds) The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation, vol 14. Springer, Heidelberg, p 473-494.)

As key elements and experiences to participatory monitoring (Topic 3) it is paramount greater involvement of people and entities, as fishing territories and rights can be followed by the evaluation and modernization of small-scale fisheries. Dialogue with other representations, strategies of improvements in public policies, seeking an evaluation and transformation to strengthen self-esteem, through self-monitoring and control, working on the application of methodologies and technologies for sustainable fisheries are strategies worth constructing for full implementation of the SSF Guidelines and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In my point of view, there are inconsistent policies for small-scale fisheries monitoring and control and impacts on fishing resources and fishers’ livelihoods, showing the decline faced by Brazil to apply fishing management measures. In a daily basis, fishers struggle on defending fishing territories from a cultural perspective, developing community tools for the delimitation of their territories, through self-identification and improvement of fishing communities’ self-management, to facilitate access of producers to different assets (such as land, water, energy, and infrastructure) and rural financial services (loans, savings, insurances), as well as non-financial services (technical assistance, innovation, and knowledge).

Strengthen the implementation of techniques, methods a,nd tools that can be used to support fishing communities to be self-reliant in conflict resolution is a challenge worth exploring, once restrictions on access to fishing territories, and intolerance and violence against fisherfolks, are generating disturbances and high levels of anxiety and stress, leading to still unidentified and nameless diseases that affect fisherfolks. Such are historical dilemmas and perspectives from a political point of view, especially regarding the invisibility of small-scale fishers as producers of food and income, that must be stressed to improving the creation and implementation of multisectoral public policies and programs for food security and nutrition, strengthening their institutions, adjusting existing legal frameworks, and supporting robustness of information systems and resource allocation.

**Attachment:**

Implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Lessons from Brazilian Clam Fisheries

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Mattos%20et%20al_SSF%20Guidelines%20Book%20Chapter_online-june2017.pdf>

## Stephen Ajagbe, Forestry Reserach Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan, Nigeria

All the chapters are relevant and highly applicable to SSF Guideline. However, I think the 5 most relevant topics chapters are Chapter 1, 5, 7, 9 and 11. These chapters covers all activities of small-scale fisheries management including climate change, gender equality, protection of tenure right, fisheries governance and comanagement.

also, I think the progress should be measured from the local geograhical scale. That is why participatory monitoring will be a good tool to assess the progress. Often, many data are lost not reported at the national level, couple with the fact that Fisher folks are marginalised, their interest may not be well represented at the national level.

Attachment:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Consultation%20response.doc>

## Stephen Ajagbe, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan, Nigeria (second contribution)

The said chapters also address Sustainaible Development Goals especially goals 1 and 2; to eradicate poverty and end poverty which is common among the fisher folks. However, the right to fish carries with it, the responsibility to do it responsibly.

## [Dr. R. Shashi Kumar Shashi Kumar](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/member/dr-r-shashi-kumar-shashi-kumar), Bangalore University, India

All the chapters are condensed the issues very well.  Work on sustainable development still needs to be reviewed as we find the existance of poverty even after a decade of it's implementation.  This report exhaustively examined all aspects of Sustainable Development Goals.

## El hadji Abdoulaye Coume, Direction des pêches maritimes, Senegal

Original contribution in French

**PROPOSITION**

**OUTIL DE SUIVI ET D’EVALUATION DU NIVEAU DE REALISATION DES DIRECTIVES SSF**

On peut s’inspirer de l’expérience développée dans le cadre du projet GOWAMER pour le calcul d’un Indice de gouvernance des ressources marines et côtières. Et mettre en place un **Indice de Mise en œuvre des Directives SSF**, (**IMD SSF) ;** Par une grille de notation des indicateurs pertinents retenus et le calcul d’une moyenne (valeur).

1. **Qu’est ce qui définit les progrès vers la sécurisation de la pêche artisanale durable ?**
* Critère 1 : Efficacité de la gouvernance des régimes fonciers et de la gestion durable des ressources marines et côtières
* Critère 2 : Equité et égalité par rapport au genre et aux groupes sociaux dans l’accès et la gestion des ressources marines et côtières et des activités post-capture
* Critère 3: Décence du travail, développement socio-économique et résilience des acteurs aux changements climatiques
* Critère 4 : Cohérence entre les politiques de gestion des ressources marines et celles de lutte contre la pauvreté et de sécurité alimentaire
1. **Indicateurs significatifs et réalisables/ comment mesurer les progrès ?**
* Les revenus issus des activités locales de la pêche et la sécurité alimentaire sont améliorés et se poursuit à la fin du projet
* Un texte adapté au contexte de la pêche locale pour l’accès au foncier côtier et à la ressource pour soutenir les moyens d’existence des communautés de pêche existe dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre d’aires marines protégées et /ou des zones protégées pour améliorer la biodiversité marine côtière sont mises en place dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre de récifs artificiels pour restaurer les habitats dégradés sont immergés dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre de plans d’aménagement de pêcheries sont élaborés et mis en œuvre dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre de plans de gestion de pêcheries sont élaborés et mis en œuvre dans un horizon temporel défini manière ;
* Pourcentage d’amélioration de la biodiversité marine et côtière dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Pourcentage de textes tenant compte des aspects des droits de l’homme affirmant l’égalité des sexes dans la chaine de valeur de la pêche dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre ou pourcentage d’acteurs ayant adhérés à une couverture médicale universelle dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre d’infrastructures et /ou équipements participant à l’amélioration et à l’allégement des conditions difficiles de travail des acteurs sont mis en place dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre de mesures d’adaptation pour une résilience des acteurs face aux impacts négatifs des changements climatiques dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Pourcentage de bénéficiaires du projet exprimant leur satisfaction sur les actions de renforcement de capacités réalisées dans un horizon temporel défini ;
* Nombre de missions de sensibilisation, d’informations et de communication sur les actions liées au développement de la pêche locale ;
* Nombre d’études réalisées pour renseigner le suivi et l’évaluation de la mise en œuvre du projet ;
1. **Systèmes de suivi participatif/ éléments clés et expériences.**

On peut s’inspirer du projet GOWAMER et mettre en place un **Indice de Mise en œuvre des Directives SSF**, (**IMD SSF) ;** Par une grille de notation des indicateurs pertinents retenus et le calcul d’une moyenne (valeur).

**EXEMPLE : Méthode d’appréciation de IMD SSF.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **VALEUR DE LA NOTE** | **PERFORMANCE DE LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DES DIRECTIVES SSF** |
| 16 ET PLUS | Très bonne |
| 14 A 15 | Bonne |
| 11 A 13 | Assez bonne |
| 10 A 9 | Passable |
| 8 A 7 | Médiocre |
| 6 A 5 | Plus ou moins mauvaise |
| 4 A 3 | Mauvaise |
| 2 A 1 | Très mauvaise |

**NB** : Le Suivi-évaluation participatif est une démarche qui met au centre de son processus les bénéficiaires du projet en faisant participer de manière accentuée toutes les parties prenantes. Les objectifs sont essentiellement fixés par les bénéficiaires du projet avec l’appui des agents du programme. Contrairement au Suivi-évaluation conventionnel dont les indicateurs sont choisis au début du projet, le Suivi évaluation participative choisit le plus souvent des critères à la place des indicateurs qu’ils revoient au fur et à mesure de la mise en œuvre du projet. Le SEP ne peut se faire qu’avec la participation active des bénéficiaires notamment dans un processus d’une analyse des informations qu’ils ont eux-mêmes collectées sur le terrain. L’analyse doit avoir une approche particulièrement qualitative et quantitative avec en exergue une acceptation de la diversité dan les points de vue. Le suivi des progrès et la capitalisation des informations et leçons apprises doivent se faire avec des outils appropriés et adaptés à la compréhension et à l’utilisation facile par les bénéficiaires du projet. Le principal de ces outils demeure la fiche ou la grille d’évaluation par les bénéficiaires qui permet d’apprécier et de suivre les progrès enregistrés.

**English translation**

PROPOSAL

TOOL FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

The experience developed in the framework of the GOWAMER project can be used as a model for calculating a Governance Index for Marine and Coastal Resources and setting up an Index of Implementation of the SSF Guidelines (IMD SSF) by means of a scoring grid of the relevant criteria selected and the calculation of an average (value).

1. What defines progress towards securing sustainable artisanal fisheries?
2. Criterion 1: Effectiveness of governance of land tenure and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources
3. Criterion 2: Equity and equality in relation to gender and social groups in terms of access and management of marine and coastal resources as well as post-harvest activities
4. Degree of decency of work, socio-economic development and resilience of actors to climate change
5. Criterion 4: Consistency between marine resource management policies and poverty alleviation and food security policies
6. Meaningful and achievable Criterias/ how to measure progress?
* Higher income from local fishing activities and food security till completion of the project.
* A statement adapted to the local fisheries context regarding access to coastal land and resources in order to support the livelihoods of fishing communities within a definite timeframe
* Definition of a number of marine protected areas and/or protected areas to enhance coastal marine biodiversity within a definite timeframe
* Immersion of a number of artificial reefs to restore degraded habitats within a defined timeframe
* Development and implementation of many fisheries management plans within a definite timeframe
* Development and implementation of many fisheries management plans within a definite timeframe
* Percentage of improvement in marine and coastal biodiversity within a definite timeframe
* Percentage of human rights-sensitive documents affirming gender equality in the fisheries value chain within a definite timeframe
* Number or percentage of actors having joined universal health coverage within a definite timeframe
* Creation of a number of infrastructures and/or equipment to improve and alleviate the hard working conditions of the actors within a definite timeframe
* Definition of a number of adaptation measures to ensure the resilience of stakeholders to the negative impacts of climate change within a definite timeframe
* Percentage of project beneficiaries indicating their satisfaction with the capacity building actions carried out within a definite timeframe
* Number of awareness-raising, information and communication missions on initiatives linked to the development of local fisheries
* Number of studies carried out to document the monitoring and evaluation of project implementation
1. Participatory monitoring systems/key elements and experiences

Inspiration can be drawn from the GOWAMER project and an Index of SSF Implementation (IMD SSF) can be set up, by means of a scoring grid of the relevant criterias selected and the calculation of an average (value).

EXAMPLE : IMD SSF assessment method

NB : Participatory monitoring and evaluation is an approach in which the beneficiaries of the project are at the centre of the process by involving extensively all the stakeholders. Objectives are mainly defined by the project beneficiaries with the support of the programme officers. Unlike conventional monitoring and evaluation, for which indicators are chosen at the beginning of the project, participatory monitoring and evaluation usually selects criteria instead of indicators, which they review as the project is implemented. The participatory monitoring and evaluation system can only be carried out with the active participation of the beneficiaries, particularly in the process of analysing the information that they have themselves collected in the field.. Such an analysis must have a particularly qualitative and quantitative approach with emphasis on the acceptance of diversity among different points of view. Monitoring of progress and capitalisation of information as well as lessons learnt need to be done with appropriate tools that are adapted to the understanding and easy use by the project beneficiaries.  The primary tool remains the beneficiary evaluation sheet or grid, which makes it possible to assess and monitor the progress made.

## Manuel Robert Jänig, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Germany

**1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

As all parts and chapters are important and relevant to the sustainable development of small-   scale fisheries, I don't like to rank them, but rather consider them as a whole.

However, when it comes to measuring and evaluating the SSF Guidelines, I believe that chapters 3,4,10,11 and 13 are the most important ones. This is because the mentioned chapters frame the basis for monitoring and evaluating, but also guide cooperation among national and international stakeholders.

Monitoring should preferably take place at the local scale, as this is where the most important action is taken. From there it is then possible to scale up to "higher levels" (national, regional, global).

**2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

To monitor and to assess SSF it would be nice to use the SDG framework, and both quantitative and qualitative indicators. Because the SDG framework is not applicable on local scales entirely, the proposed global indicators must be accomplished by easy-to-use and most important understandable indicators. These indicators can be derived from other frameworks such as the EU MSFD or IUCN´s Red List Assessment. (I have suggestions for some indicators, which I describe in an article. However, as this has not yet been published, I do not want to make them public here. But feel free to contact me if you are interested in an exchange.)

None of the indicators should be mandatory as each community has its own context and issues and must decide what is important to them.

To my knowledge, there are only a few existing frameworks that focus on data-deficient SSF. These are:

- Adaptive Fisheries Assessment and Management (AFAM) Toolkit by Gavin McDonald et al. (2017)

- Too Big To Ignore´s Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF)    and

- the indicators proposed by Ye et al. (2011) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2011.06.004>

Other frameworks, like the Community-based Indicators framework (Boyd & Charles 2006), the Fisheries Performance Indicators framework (Anderson et al. 2015) or the Canadian Fisheries Research Network (CFRN) framework (Stephenson et al. 2018) require a rich data set, especially for modeling purposes, which makes them not applicable to most SSF situations.

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

Any monitoring attempt should be transdisciplinary, so key actors are the members of the fishing communities, national statistical offices, ministries and scientists.

Key elements of successful participatory monitoring are public/joint deliberations in order to build trust, and to reduce complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity. Of course, respect is key!

## Shelly-Ann Cox, University of the West Indies - Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES), Barbados

1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

Disaster risks and climate change is the most relevant topic of the SSF Guidelines for the Caribbean. Negative impacts of climate change are already evident in this region. The fisheries sectors of Caribbean islands are the most vulnerable to disasters and climate change. Climate change stressors (sea level rise and increased frequency of severe hurricanes) will continue to have significant negative impacts on the safety of fishers, fisheries infrastructure, boats and fishing equipment and coastal fishing communities.

Efforts to provide climate services for the fisheries sector in the Caribbean need to be strengthened to reduce vulnerability to climate risk. The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established since 2009 to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services. A Caribbean Framework for Climate Services (CFCS) has been established but special emphasis on integrating the fisheries sector needs to be prioritized. Existing climate products can be used to inform decision-making in the fisheries sector, but sector-specific implications would be a useful addition. The development of sector-specific products for the fisheries sector can support the provision of early warning information systems for the fisheries sector and promote sustainable use of ocean resources, thereby supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

## Patrick McConney, University of the West Indies, Barbados (second contribution)

Q1. Although chapter 8 on gender equality may not be considered critical for the Caribbean some fisheries partners formed a Gender In Fisheries Team (GIFT) in 2016 to improve gender mainstreaming as set out in the SSF Guidelines. We have been very encouraged by the interest of both women and men, young and old, fisherfolk and academics. Often the dialogue is about ensuring that all in the fishing industry have a fair chance to succeed and prosper, so gender is only one dimension. In a regional survey, fisherfolk said that fisheries demonstrated gender equality much more than Caribbean society in general, and they were proud of this. We now need good metrics to measure and monitor the situation, particularly since many state and non-state gender agencies ignore our SSF.

Q3. One of the key elements of successful participatory monitoring is ensuring that the process is multi-purpose. That is, it serves several beneficial outcomes to which participants along different segments of the fisheries value chain, or in different fisheries or organisations, can easily relate over a reasonable period. Now there is a tendency to link monitoring to the achievement of the SDGs, but in many places the SDGs are still seen as a state concern removed from daily life. So it would be good to also have simple indicators suitable for multi-year high school curricula so as to facilitate intergenerational interest in monitoring fisheries and fostering stewardship.

## Small-Scale Fisheries Core Team, FAO, Italy

Dear Forum participants,

Thank you to all who have contributed to this discussion so far, it is exciting to see how the depth and breadth of comments continues to expand as we receive more contributions. Certain topics have emerged as common threads across the contributions thus far.

Many participants have stressed the importance of the participatory approach, and how vital diverse SSF stakeholder engagement is. However, while this approach is highly valued, many have also pointed out how challenging it can be to execute in practice. Another frequently mentioned challenge is that of access to reliable data on SSF. For these reasons, many contributions have suggested that monitoring be carried out at the local level, but be connected or nested within a national or regional effort.

Additionally, there does not seem to be consensus on which components of the SSF Guidelines are the most important to measure, reflecting that the determination of priorities is highly context dependent. Within different contexts, some have pointed out the importance of aligning monitoring efforts with other existing frameworks, laws and policies. While the advice about developing indicators has been varied, participants tend to agree that indicators should be simple, have both quantitative and qualitative elements, and be measured at different scales and over different time periods.

These topics are just a small sample of the varied feedback we have received. The more contributions, the more rich and valuable the discussion becomes. During the last few days of the forum, we welcome additional comments that will continue to foster an informative and thought-provoking dialogue. Many thanks to all consultation participants for your time and effort. We greatly appreciate your input.

Best regards,

Katy Dalton, for the FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat

## Fernanda Fitzmaurice, Comunidad y Biodiversidad A.C, Mexico

1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fishers.

a)In terms of topics most relevant of SSF-Guidelines in our Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) context  would be responsible governance of tenure, sustainable resource management, social development/ decent work, gender equality, and climate change.

b)**Responsible governance of tenure**: This guideline express that tenure and access to resources is vital for human rights guarantee and enjoyment. This point is a vital aspect of long term-viability of SSF, that represent half of the world catches, employing 90% of people involved in the sector (FAO 2014). In LAC context, 2.3 million people are directly/indirectly involved in the fisheries sector (Chuenpagdee et al, 2019) and SSF-LAC contributes globaly with 10% of the catches (Salas et al.2011).

Moreover, since 1999, COBI has been studied and recognized, how ensuring and guarantee fishing rights for SSF, have a positive effect on the sustainable use of resources, in comparison with other communities that do not possess a secure tenure (Bourillón, 2002).

**Sustainable resources management:** The topic of this Guideline calls for recognizing the role of SSF in conservation measures of their own areas, where their activities develop, calling for consultation and participation on designing, planification, monitoring and implementation of fisheries management strategies and policies, especially for historically underrepresented groups such as indigenous people and women.

In this sense COBI believes this Guideline is of great relevance since as organization has developed strong methodological models for the participation of coastal communities in monitoring their resources and ecosystems for conservation purposes, using citizen science as a vehicle to capacity building and knowledge generation (Fulton et al 2019).

There is evidence of concrete benefits for resource conservation in the involvement of communities from the beginning, having as an example marine reserves in the form of no-take zones, have developed better when artisanal fishers have designed and generate the knowledge on the state of the ecosystem and the resources. (Fulton et al 2019).

**Social Development and Decent Work**: SSF: A general reality that SSF lacks systematically of labor and social rights, with precarious and even dangerous activities. Due to this situation it's vital to start making progress towards achieving decent work conditions in SSF, through specific legislation and clear public policies.

**Gender Equality:**The relevance of this Guideline lies in the fact that women have been historically excluded from the decision–making processes at the fisheries sector, despite their contributions, for example, fish processing, where up to 90% of this is made by women (FAO 2014). They remain unrepresented in official statistics, only recognized as helping or supporting male fishers' activities (Kleiber et al 2015).

There is evidence of woman and fisheries sustainability benefits since a study have to demonstrate how woman posses a long-term visión regarding benefits of sustainable use of resources and are willing to invest effort for achieving these outcomes, while men just see the relationship between fishing and income (Revollo-Fernandez et al 2016).

A stronger focus on knowledge, fairness, governance and gender balance is needed for creative solutions towards environmental challenges regarding marine ecosystems, including fisheries (Torre et al 2019).

**Climate Change:** Undoubtedly climate change is affecting and will affect disproportionately to SSF, compromising their sustainability and viability, for this reasons more than ever it's important to invest and work towards adaptation and mitigation efforts, focusing especially on how to socialize and escalate the traditional ecological knowledge, that SSF has developed concerning their adaptation and resilience to changing climate patterns.

2. At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?

Progress at Guidelines implementation should be measure at multiple scales (local, national, regional) and with a focus on different actors (goverment, fishers, civil society, industrial fishing).

Modifications to standardized indicators will be needed and the development of methodologies to measure this, for cases where groups and governments do not possess the capacities to do it.

3. Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1?

Until this moment suggested indicators could be the following:

**Responsible Governance of tenure**

proportion of the adult population who perceive their tenure rights as legally secure, regardless of whether these rights are documented. Mandatory

proportion of adult population with secure tenure rights, that posses legal documentation, disaggregated by sex, type of tenure and cultural identity. Mandatory

existing legal and technical support for coastal communities regarding their tenure and access rights. Nice to have

**Sustainable Resource Management**

percentage of artisanal fishers, disaggregated by sex, that participate on the planification for the stablishment of management categories of marine zones (marine reserves, natural protected áreas, fish refugees). Mandatory

Number of fisheries that have specific long-term objectives to achieve sustainability in the fishery. Mandatory.

Number of fisheries that meets some international sustainability standard (MBA, Fairtrade, MSC, etc.) Nice to have.

**Gender Equality**

number of men and women who carry out activities within the value chain, which is not remunerated, within the fishing organizations of community partners, broken down by sex, age and fishing cooperative Mandatory

number of women and men in fishing communities, broken down by type of leadership position (member, manager, leader, etc.) Mandatory.

number and percentage of women participating as members within each fishing organization at the governmental and civil level Mandatory.

number and percentage of women, who participate in management positions within each fishing organization at the governmental and civil levels Mandatory.

number and percentage of women in fisheries decision-making institutions, by type of organization and scope of influence (local, community, district, national, etc.) Mandatory.

attitudes towards male / female participation in fishing and aquaculture activities. Nice to have.

4. Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.

Good Practices to Eliminate Gender Inequality in Fish Value Chains released by FAO IN 2013.

UN Women, 2014 ([https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/librar...](https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2014/capacity%20assessmenttool_may2014_seconddraft%20pdf.pdf?la=en)).

Aguilar y Castañeda, 2000 (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2000-042.pdf>)

Quantitative indicators for common property tenure security, a publication of International Land Coalition

Reflection on Land Tenure Security indicators, a discussion paper by UNDP Oslo Governance Centre.

MSC. Working towards MSC certification: A practical guide for fisheries improving to sustainability ([https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-bus...](https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-business/msc_capacity_building_toolkit.pdf?sfvrsn=3c080f7a_4) apartado 3.2.1 Fishery-specific objectives pag 343.)

5. What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?

Strong public policies for community-based monitoring projects and methodologies.

Funding

Building of trust between scientists and community members.

Validation methodologies of data and knowledge gathered.

Early engagement of community members in the designing and implementation of the project.

Being systematic and constant.

6.What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?

COBI during the last 20 years has designed, tested and implement a community-based monitoring system on three key marine ecosystems in Mexico: kelp forests in Baja California in the Pacific, rocky reefs of the Gulf of California and the coral reefs of the Mesoamerican Reef System. This model has achieved to engage local fishers in data collection with two main objectives: a) science-based conservation for management decision, while improving livelihoods through knowledge and temporary employment. For this purpose 400 artisanal fishers and members of coastal communities have been participating in national marine reserve program, 222 fishers including 30 women have been trained to conduct underwater census using SCUBA gears, achieving 12,000 transects. For testing and validating the model, independent scientists have evaluated the training and the standards.

Fishery monitoring programs have been established with fishers and community members to collect data on certain species or areas. Small-scale fishers from seven communities in the Gulf of California, Pacific Ocean, Mexican Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico have been trained to collect data on invertebrates (incl. clams, penshell, lobster, and squid) and finfish (incl. ocean withefish, rooster hind, goldspotted sand bass yellowtail amberjack, and red snapper). Community members are trained to use different tools (traditional logbooks, e-logbooks, biometric measuring equipment, genetic sampling techniques etc.) by CSOs in collaboration with local Fisheries Research Centres of the National Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture (CRIP-INAPESCA). The projects aim to improve the understanding of regional fisheries, fishery dynamics and to collect fishery dependent and independent data in data-poor regions.

7.Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?

Artisanal fishers (men – women- young people).

coastal communities

industrial fishing

civil society

academia

policymakers

processing and commercialization industry (retailers, buyers, restaurants)

## Godswill Chimdugam Wachukwu, Chiwills Aquarium and Farms (CWAFs) Limited, Nigeria

HOW TO MONITOR THE IMPLIMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUBSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES.

1. REFERENCE INDICATORS; In order to succeed in monitoring the implementation of such guidelines for the SSF, major and concerned SDGs should be considered such as the (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12). If only the monitoring can cut across all the above goals or at least the first four goals, then it will go a long way to settling issues concerning Gender, ( here, both male and female should be treated as very and equally important), Good health, (here, emphasizes should be focused on the type of, and chemical content of the consumables as well as those used in harvesting the end-products), Zero hunger / No poverty, ( here, attention is directed to assisting the entrepreneurs to succeed in their business endeavors and business enlargement by producing high quality and quantity of products.

2. AGE BRACKET; In as much as it is good for all hands to be on deck, and every age bracket carried along, it is also and very much important that the guidelines monitoring pay quality attention to the youthful age bracket from the local and grassroots levels. The youths are believed to be very energetic and equipped with reasonable wealth of unprocessed ideals which might never be put to work if they do not get necessary push of this nature. However, it is my personal opinion that young men and women be given major and leadership roles and responsibilities to enable them build and exercise their God given self-worth and potentials.

3. FISHERIES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS; Business set-ups are mostly for profit making which also largely contributes to moving the status of the entrepreneurs and their businesses from small-scale to large-scale and also building the courage and self-worth of the entrepreneurs. This now necessarily draw the attention of the monitoring to providing applicable indicators that can possibly enhance productivity and performance of the set-up. (Anderson et al. 2015).

Some photos:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Chiwill%20letter%20head%20WITH%20PHOTO%20SAMPLE.pdf>

## Kafayat Fakoya, Lagos State University, Nigeria

**1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

The SSF Guidelines are divided into three parts. Part 1 sets out the overall objectives, the scope, the guiding principles and the relationship with other instruments. Part 2 covers five thematic areas, namely responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management; social development, employment and decent work; value chains, post-harvest and trade; gender equality; disaster risks and climate change. Part 3 provides guidance for ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation addresses policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration; information, research and communication; capacity development; and implementation support and monitoring.

* What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?

**1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

The SSF Guidelines are divided into three parts. Part 1 sets out the overall objectives, the scope, the guiding principles and the relationship with other instruments. Part 2 covers five thematic areas, namely responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management; social development, employment and decent work; value chains, post-harvest and trade; gender equality; disaster risks and climate change. Part 3 provides guidance for ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation addresses policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration; information, research and communication; capacity development; and implementation support and monitoring.

* What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?
* Sustainable Resources Management
* Responsible Governance of Tenure
* Social development, employment and decent work
* Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration
* Information, Research and Communication
* Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.
	1. Sustainable Resources Management- Small-Scale Fisheries are complex social-ecological systems with locus on the human behavior which affects fishing attitude and managing the fisheries resources. A shift towards more participatory, governance arrangements is a panacea to the general failure of central governments in managing common pool resources. This shift lays the foundation of other alternative management approaches, including integrated area management, ecosystem-based management, protected area management, and adaptive management which to varying degrees require fisher’s knowledge and participation in all phases of management from planning to implementation. Sustenance of fisheries livelihoods, incomes, employment and food security for future generations depends on responsible management of sustainable fisheries resources. This chapter is explicit in that it links continuity of sustainable fisheries resources to human capability to plan, exploit, utilize and manage the resources optimally. Organizations and collective action in small-scale fisheries (SSFs) are a way of maximizing long-term community benefits to deal with the threats of fisheries mismanagement, livelihood insecurity and poverty. Through these means, small-scale fishers find ways to rebuild depleted fish populations and sustain healthy ones in order to maintain their livelihoods. Dependence on the state of fishery will incentivize proper management by fishers. Several scientific studies of fishery cooperatives have confirmed that collective management of common-pool fishery resources can result in ecosystem conservation and stewardship. Bound by strong tradition of social capital and strong leadership, fishery cooperatives serve as a buffer against changes in collective –choice arrangements, improve monitoring, control and surveillance due to self-policing and regulations; and promote resource conservation. Also, they are cost –effective as costs of monitoring fisheries are reduced to fit within budgets of most states. Fishers’ local knowledge on the fishery and non- fishing related activities aid in the creation of flexible, locally appropriate rules, allowing fishers to adapt in the face of change given increasing complexity, uncertainty and non-linearity of fisheries as social–ecological systems (Fakoya and Akintola 2018).
	2. Responsible Governance of Tenure: While tenure systems represent mechanisms to eliminate open-access, unsecured tenure in SSF represent a major challenge for access to fishery resources by millions of fishery dependent individuals around the world. Most fishers or workers are poor because they depend on the fishery resources for their food and nutritional security, income and livelihoods. Waterfront communities are threatened with eviction due to urbanization and coastal development. In many countries, fishing communities have been displaced with no compensation or alternative relocation sites. Securing access to fishery resources and land for fishers and fish workers means to prevent deprivation of right to food, income, livelihoods and employment (Charles, 2013).
	3. Social development, employment and decent work: Lack of social amenities and physical infrastructure reduces attraction of youths into the fishing sector and is also the cause many fishers to exit from fishing. Compared to industrial fisheries, agriculture and other occupations in the food production sector, SSFs are the least attractive to formal financial and insurance institutions (Akintola et al., 2017). Low access to financial capital limits expansion and investments in fishery business and in turn puts a limitation on income which affects sustenance of the fishing households. Well-being of fishery dependent workers is also compromised as result of poor access to health care facilities which are seldom adequate and poorly equipped. Poverty, poor health and ignorance continue to hold sway as long as socio-economic indicators are low. Also, lot of fisheries dependent households will find it increasingly difficult to cope with declining fish catch and income because they lack formal education or vocational training to diversify livelihoods and harness modern technologies and opportunities to improve productivity. Lack of electricity is a deterrent to the use of cold chain supply for fish preservation and storage of good quality fish. Traditional methods of fish preservation continue to thrive amidst concerns impinging on detrimental effects on health of fish processors and consumers; quality and nutritional losses, inadequate or low capacity resulting in huge quantitative losses, time-wasting, labor and drudgery (Akintola and Fakoya, 2017).

* 1. Policy Coherence, Institutional Coordination and Collaboration : Lack of policy coherence, overlapping jurisdictional boundaries and mandates on conservation, ownership rights and management by two or more ministries, departments and agencies/ institutions including fisheries departments results in power struggles over common pool resources (CPRs) such as waterways and fisheries. This is retrogressive and causes a lot of confusion particularly if SSFs are bound to compliance with formal rules or regulations that are not only contradictory and also counterproductive. Harmonization of different policies concerning fisheries; networking and linkages of institutions with overlapping mandates on fisheries will achieve holistic and inclusive ecosystem approach in the fisheries sector with clear roles and responsibilities for each ministry, departments and agencies( MDAs) (Akintola et al., 2017).
	2. Information, Research and Communication : The level of quantitative and qualitative information, research, and communication available on small-scale fisheries is inadequate to be useful in decision- making. SSF research is a prerogative of funding accessible and available to interested researchers. The narrative in many developing countries is that SSFs are seldom recognized and prioritized in developmental issues compared to industrial fisheries and aquaculture. As a result, many fisheries have limited information about them while others require knowledge at different scale levels. There are gaps in information with respect to governance, tenure, gender, livelihoods, climate change impacts, the economics of small-scale fish production, and spatial mapping of fishing grounds. Often, narrow network platforms exist for constructive engagement of stakeholders in small-scale fisheries to engage in discussions that will lead to better defining and understanding of the research required in small-scale fisheries. Moreover, subjects of the research (fishers, fish workers etc.) are excluded at the conceptualization of research problems and planning, and execution of the research. Little evidence of collaborative studies exists among researchers. The prevailing situation is, therefore, one of narrow scientific, social, and economic views being presented. There are limited mechanisms in place to tap into indigenous knowledge of experienced and older fishers vis-a-vis fishing, fisheries, and governance. The great and varied phroneses for which forbearers of the fishing community earned their reputation is increasingly being lost as more of the fishers drop out from fishing. Consequently, the fishing world continues to lose part of its heritage and also key information that can feed into decision-making processes at optimal costs (Akintola et al., 2017).

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* At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?
	1. Costs are implied at every level. As a result, the objective should be to prune costs as much as possible particularly in developing countries where budgets allocated to SSFs are very low. Hence, it may be in the best interests to measure progress at subnational level or across geopolitical zones. Otherwise to highlight nuances among and across different fishing units or fishing systems, sample surveys should be conducted at local levels within each geopolitical or agro-ecological zone and used as proxies at subnational and national levels, respectively.

**2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

There are many ways to measure progress - using quantitative or qualitative indicators that focus on outputs, processes and other aspects. In order to avoid additional burden and costs in relation to data and information collection it may be good to explore existing indicators for related global or national or sub-national objective and initiatives that relate to the issues addressed in the SSF Guidelines and the principles they are based on (e.g. for the Sustainable Development Goals, or national food security and development plans).

* Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”

Not all indicators may be considered mandatory because their functionalities may be incorporated in some other indicators that are mandatory or of primary importance. These indicators indicated in the Table are considered are as “mandatory” and denoted with “M” while the “nice to have” indicators are denoted with “N”.

Table 1: Proposed indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the SSF VG

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Social development, employment and decent work** | **Responsible Governance of Tenure** | **Responsible Resource Management** | **Policy Coherence** | **Information, Research and Communication** |
| % fish workers between 15-29 years that are in the labourforce**M** | % of fishing households with formal or traditional / historical access rights to a given fishery to land, shoreline or evidence of legal land ownership, customary rights to land ownership**M** | Size –based indicators of Catch: i. Mean length -Mean length of all species in the catch or by size classes); ii. Mean maximum body size (MBS)- Weighted mean of the maximum size that the species in the catch can have in their lifetime **M** | Number of spatial planning approaches in inland and marine fisheries. **M** | Number of small - scale fisheries research and collaborative and participatory data collection and analyses. **M** . |
| % of fish workers < 15 years in labour force – a measure of child labour.**N** | % loss of fisheries and shoreline due to the change of use of these resources for other purposes.**M** | Functional Indicators of the Catch: i. Mean trophic level (MTL)-Weighted mean of the trophic level of the species in the catch; ii. Trophic guilds - Relative abundance of species belonging to these trophic guilds: herbivore, invertivore, omnivore, piscivore, and planktivore; iii. Spatial guilds -Relative abundance of species associated to a habitat in the water column: demersal, bentho-pelagic and pelagic; **M**  | Cooperation among Government - Level of coordination among various sectors and levels of government in fisheries management;**M** | Proportion of SSF budget allocated to research. **M**  |
| % of labourforce that is self-employedN  | % of fishing households with traditional use or historical access of a given fishery resource for subsistence, commercial or ceremonial use**M**  | Conservation Indicators of the Catch: Threatened categories-Relative abundance of endangered species based on categories established by IUCN; v. Landed by-catch-Relative abundance of species that are not intentionally targeted and usually discarded**M** | Evidence of holistic, institutional structures and linkages at local, subnational and national levels and network for achieving cross sectoral collaboration: integration- existence of specific mandates and mechanisms (planning processes, budgetary processes, guidelines or regulations) that allow MDAs to share information, align respective sectoral programmes, policies, budgets, allocate responsibilities and other resources to SSF VG implementation.**M** | Inclusiveness of knowledge, culture, traditions, and practices of fishing communities to inform governance and sustainable development process.**M** |
| % of females over 15 that are employed**M** | Number of fishing households or workers involved in conflicts over land, water and fisheries resources against fishing community.**M** | % protected area coverage / % endangered habitats % area covered by a given habitat /proportion of area fished N | Evidence of policy measures to ensure harmonization of policies affecting the health of marine and inland waterbodies and ecosystems.**M** | Number of research into working conditions into migrants and fishworkers, health, education, and decision-making in the context of gender relations for equitable benefits for men and women. N |
| % of fishing households with access to conventional schools **M** | Number of evicted fishing communities**M** |  | Existence of formal provisions or mandates to regularly monitor and report progress on policy coherence**M** |  |
| % of fishing households with access to vocational / skill training acquisition centres**M** |  | Fishery : productivity Production from fishing using all fishing gear -kg/day/household NCatch Per Unit Effort **M**Revenues per Unit Effort**N** | Existence of coordination mechanisms that allow for systematic consultation, collaboration and alignment of efforts at the subnational, national and local levels. **M** |  |
| % of fishing households with access to conventional health facilities**M** |  |  | Existence of explicit commitment to SSF VG implementation formally included into national legislation and/or national strategy and/or action plan. **M** |  |
|  Number of fishers within households: Attitude to fishing as an occupation, fishermen believe that this occupation is good and want their families to be fishermen. N |  | Stakeholder Engagement in Management System: i. % inclusiveness of Stakeholders - Existence of legal framework and mechanisms that allow engagement for involvement and engagement of stakeholders (fishers, fish workers, academia and research, civil society organizations) in planning, designing and execution of the fisheries management plan, policies and MCS system; **M**ii. Diversity of Stakeholders : Stakeholders come from an assortment of diﬀerent groups/organizations. **M** iii. Representation of Stakeholders - Involved Stakeholders are representative of the aﬀected population. Niv. Style of Stakeholder Engagement - Methods chosen to involve stakeholders (e.g. consultative, informative, instructive). N v. Extent of Stakeholder Involvement - Timing and frequency of stakeholder involvement in fisheries management planning and design process. **M**vi. Information Dissemination to Stakeholders - Degree to which information/knowledge is provided to the stakeholders. Nvii. Power and Inﬂuence of Stakeholders-Extent of stakeholders’ inﬂuence and control over the decision-making process. Nviii. Capacity of Management Body - Management body’s ability to access, utilize and manage eﬀectively (i.e. funding, resources, staﬀ, training). **M** |  |  |
| % of fishing households with access to adequate housing conditions **M** |  | % of fisheries compliance by fishers: assesses the degree to which fishers follow existing regulations for the fishery in which they participate **M** |  |  |
| % of fishing households with access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and access to sustainable and safe energy sources **M** |  |  |  |  |
| % of fishing households with access to conventional savings, credit and insurance schemes **M** |  |  |  |  |
| % of fishing households with access to social security schemes **N** |  |  |  |  |
| % of fishing households with perception of high level of security and access to and justice from crimes, violence, organized crime activities, piracy, theft, sexual abuse, corruption and abuse of authority in community **M** |  |  |  |  |
| Number of job-related accidents/deaths that occur per year in the fishery or community **M** |  |  |  |  |
| % of fish workers employed as forced labour OR % of fish workers participating in Harvester Organizations **M** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| % of fish workers earning average wage higher than the living wage: generally defined as a wage adequate for a worker to survive (meeting basic needs) in the country or region in which he/she lives. **M** |  |  |  |  |
| % change in average gross earnings in the fishery minus average costs: to assess whether profits are changing and if so, whether the change is being caused by changes in costs, ex-vessel prices, fishery stocks or something else. N |  |  |  |  |
| % of non-residential (migrant) workers / non -residents in employment N |  |  |  |  |

* If possible, please provide examples of where the indicators you suggest have been used successfully, including in data- and capacity-limited contexts.
	+ 1. Canada : Dehens, L.A. and Lucia M. Fanning. L.M. 2018. What counts in making marine protected areas (MPAs) count? The role of legitimacy in MPA success in Canada Ecological Indicators 86: 45–5.
		2. Colombian Pacific : Herrón P, Castellanos-Galindo GA, Stäbler M, Díaz JM and Wolff M. 2019. Toward Ecosystem-Based Assessment and Management of Small-Scale and Multi-Gear Fisheries: Insights From the Tropical Eastern Paciﬁc. Front. Mar. Sci. 6:127. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00127
		3. Towards a set of indicators for tracking progress on policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) at the national level. Available Accessed : <https://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/Draft%20proposal_PCSD%20process%20indicators.pdf> 7 March 2020
* Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.
	+ 1. A community-based ﬁsheries monitoring program based on size-based, functional and conservation indicators for the assessment of the catch of SSF in the Colombian Paciﬁc was implemented from 2011 to 2016 by the regional non-government organization (NGO) MarViva Foundation. Data gathered at landing sites included: date, common name of landed species, weight landed per taxa to the nearest 0.05 kg, catch status (e.g., whole, gutted), ﬁshing gear type and ﬁshing method. Also, total length of ﬁsh(or disk width in rays)and total length of invertebrates to the nearest 0.5 cm were measured in a representative sample of the catch (20–30%). All ﬁsh species were identiﬁed to the lowest taxonomic level possible following identiﬁcation guides available for the region.
		2. A community –based programme was implemented as part of a Co-management arrangement. Three phases were (pre-implementation, implementation and post-implementation were analyzed in order to analyze the achievement of the EAF/Co-Management implementation ion the yellow clam fishery. Information was analyzed, in a before or after context for the fishery. REF: Ignacio Gianelli,I., Martínez, G. and Defe, O. 2015. [An ecosystem approach to small-scale co-managed fisheries: The yellow clam fishery in Uruguay](https://econpapers.repec.org/article/eeemarpol/v_3a62_3ay_3a2015_3ai_3ac_3ap_3a196-202.htm). Marine Policy 62: 196-202.

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences is crucial for the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Available lessons learned, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time, the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be modified or developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring can help making information available and shared.

Please share any experiences, both good and bad, as well as lessons learned related to participatory monitoring.

* What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?
	+ 1. The process must be open-ended and built on trust. It must not seek specific outcomes but encourage new perspectives, create opportunities for new learning, especially learning from each other’s perspectives.
		2. The process must be legalized so that all participants feel secure in contributing and have guarantees of stakeholder ownership.
		3. In addition, legitimacy will motivate active participation and commitment in follow-up activities.
		4. Equity must be sought among participants and getting each of them feeling valued and respected from the start.
		5. The process must be inclusive and avoid dominance or control by few or any group of participants.
* What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?
	+ 1. We have not had experience in participatory monitoring
* Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?
	+ 1. Academics/researchers, fishers or representatives of fishers ‘cooperatives, fish workers, CSOs and Government.

## Pedro Murguía, UFIC/CITI, Mexico

Original contribution in Spanish

Actualmente represento intereses de organización diferente, pero con esos datos anteriores he participado en dos ocasiones en los trabajos de las directrices voluntarias en la ciudad de ROMA, Italia, instalaciones de la FAO, en Julio del 2018 y marzo del 2019, en temas relevantes como la contaminación por minas de oro a las aguas continentales de mi estado en prejuicio de las pesquerías a pequeña escala en aguas interiores principalmente de la especie denomina Tilapia.

Actualmente desarrollamos en México con el apoyo del gobierno federal un proyecto Nacional para la repoblación de alevines de Tilapia (siembra de embalses) en los cuales estoy participando para mi estado de Sinaloa, con 6 (seis proyectos) que vendrán a impactar en la economía y rescate de producción en biomasa de pescado de las comunidades pesqueras aledañas a los cuerpos de agua beneficiados, son los principales actores los que desarrollamos estos proyectos y es impulsado por el gobierno Mexicano a través de la CONAPESCA.

UNO.- Proyecto para la presa Ing. Aurelio Benazinni Vizcaíno, mejor conocida como EL Salto

población pesquera beneficiado: 230 pescadores

comunidades beneficiadas: El Chirimole, Portezuelo, El Sabinal, El Salto Grande, El Paredón Colorado, Pueblo Nuevo, San José de Conitaca, todos ellos pertenecientes al municipio de Elota, estado de Sinaloa.

DOS.- Proyecto para la presa José López Portillo, mejor conocida como El Comedero

población pesquera beneficiada; 346 pescadores

comunidades beneficiadas: La Ilama, Mezcaltitán, Los Algodones, El Ranchito, Las Higueras de Jacopa, San José de las Bocas, El Carrizal, Los Molinos, todos ellos pertenecientes al municipio de Cósala, estado de Sinaloa.

TRES.- Proyecto para la presa Presidente Adolfo López Mateos, mejor conocida como El Varejonal

población pesquera beneficiada: 320 pescadores

comunidades beneficiadas: La Nona, Jesús María, El Varejonal, La Ciénega de los Lara, pertenecientes al municipio de Culiacán, Badiraguato, estado de Sinaloa

CUATRO: Proyecto para la la laguna de Caimanero

población pesquera beneficiada: 75 pescadores

comunidades beneficiadas: Sataya, Villa Juárez, El Rielito, Rosa Morada, Los Molinos, El Castillo, todos ellos pertenecientes al municipio de Navolato, estado de Sinaloa

CINCO.- Proyecto para la laguna de Abocho

población pesquera beneficiada: 40 pescadores

comunidades beneficiadas: Abocho, Potrerillos, Pueblo Nuevo, pertenecientes al municipio de Elota, estado de Sinaloa

SEIS.- Proyecto para los Diques de El Norote

población pesquera beneficiada: 27 pescadores

comunidades beneficiadas: Casa Viejas, Agua Marga, La Cruz, pertenecientes al municipio de Elota, estado de Sinaloa.

Estatus actuales: Se empezó a sembrar alevines de Tilapia en la Laguna de Abocho el día 9 de marzo, con 350 mil alevines, la presa Ing. Aurelio Benazinni Vizcaino, el Salto el día 19 de marzo, con 450 mil alevines.

En espera el día 20 de marzo la presa José López Portillo, El Comedero.

el día 27 de marzo la presa presidente Adolfo Lopez Mateos, El Varejonal

el día 3 de abril la laguna de Caimanero

el día 10 de abril el dique El Norote

La siembra es de 1 millón de alevines de Tilapia por embalse salvo la laguna de Abocho y el dique de El Norote con 500 mil y 300 mil respectivamente, por lo anterior este proyecto se estará trabajando y desarrollando durante los meses de marzo, abril y mayo para poder terminarlo.

MONITOREO ACTUAL: Presa Ingeniero Aurelio Benazinni Vizcaíno, El Salto y la laguna de Abocho, a medida que se siembren los demás embalses entrarán en la etapa de monitoreo.

Cantidad de alevines de Tilapia por sembrar: 5 millones.

Producción esperada en Biomasa: 1000 toneladas aproximadas

Cantidades en dinero: 35 millones de pesos mexicanos

Solo para estos 6 (seis) proyectos que estoy monitoreando.

Debido a lo anterior comentado sírvase para poder tener mi registro ya que las páginas actuales no se encuentran vigentes la fecha máxima para poder registrarse es el día 16 de marzo del presente, sin más por el momento quedo en consideración de respuesta.

Todo lo anterior se encuentra documentado en papel y en archivo electrónico, adjunto solo fotografías de los dos escenarios que se sembraron los demás a consideración en tiempo y forma ya explicado anteriormente.

CPR Pedro Murguía, México

English translation

Although I am currently working for a different organization, I have participated in the development of the SSF Guidelines at FAO headquarters in July 2018 and March 2019. One of the relevant topics in which I have been involved is the pollution of inland waters –caused by gold mines- in my state (Sinaloa) and its impact on small-scale tilapia fisheries.

In Mexico, with the support of the federal government, we are currently implementing a tilapia fingerling stocking national plan. I am participating in 6 projects of this plan -aimed at improving the economic conditions and restoring the stock biomass of fishing communities in target reservoirs- in the state of Sinaloa. All these projects –outlined below- are promoted by the National Commission for Fisheries and Aquaculture (known in Spanish as CONAPESCA) of the Government of Mexico and have local fishermen as key players.

1. Ingeniero Aurelio Benasinni Vizcaíno dam, better known as El Salto

· Target population: 230 fishermen

· Target communities: El Chirimole, Portezuelo, El Sabinal, El Salto Grande, Paredón Colorado, Pueblo Nuevo and San José de Conitaca. Municipality of Elota, state of Sinaloa.

2. José López Portillo dam, better known as El Comedero

· Target population: 346 fishermen

· Target communities: La Ilama, Mezcaltitán, Los Algodones, El Ranchito, Las Higueras de Jacopa, San José de las Bocas, El Carrizal and Los Molinos. Municipality of Cósala, state of Sinaloa.

3. Presidente Adolfo López Mateos dam, better known as El Varejonal

· Target population: 320 fishermen

· Target communities: La Nona, Jesús María, El Varejonal and Ciénega de los Lara. Municipality of Badiraguato, state of Sinaloa.

4. Caimanero lagoon

· Target population: 75 fishermen

· Target communities: Sataya, Villa Benito Juárez, El Realito, Rosa Morada, El Molino and El Castillo. Municipality of Navolato, state of Sinaloa.

5. Abocho lagoon

· Target population: 40 fishermen

· Target communities: Abocho, Potrerillos and Pueblo Nuevo. Municipality of Elota, state of Sinaloa.

6. El Norote dikes

· Target population: 27 fishermen

· Target communities: Casa Viejas, Agua Amarga and La Cruz. Municipality of Elota, state of Sinaloa.

CURRENT STATUS:

· 350 000 tilapia fingerlings were stocked in the Abocho lagoon on the 9th of March.

· 450 000 tilapia fingerlings were stocked in the Ingeniero Aurelio Benasinni Vizcaíno dam (El Salto) on the 19th of March.

PLANNING:

· In José López Portillo dam (El Comedero), tilapia fingerling stocking shall start on the 20th of March.

· In Presidente Adolfo Lopez Mateos dam (El Varejonal), tilapia fingerling stocking shall start on the 27th of March.

· In Camaneiro lagoon, tilapia fingerling stocking shall start on the 3rd of April.

· In El Norote dykes, tilapia fingerling stocking shall start on the 10th of April

· Overall, Abocho lagoon and El Norote dykes shall be stocked with 500 000 and 350 000 tilapia fingerlings respectively; the remaining reservoirs shall each host 1 million tilapia fingerlings.

· The projects will run from March to May.

MONITORING STATUS:

· Ingeniero Aurelio Benazinni Vizcaíno dam (El Salto) and Abocho lagoon are currently being monitored.

· The remaining reservoirs will be monitored once stocking starts.

Some aggregate figures of the six projects outlined above:

· Number of tilapia fingerlings stocked: 5 million

· Expected stock biomass: approximately 1 000 tons

· Monetary value: MXN 35 million

All of the above is duly documented, both in paper and digital form. I attach some images of the two reservoirs –El Salto dam and Abocho lagoon- already being stocked.

Apologies for the late submission of this contribution. I look forward to your comments.

Pedro Murguía, Mexico

## Fatou Camara, National ASSOCIATION of ARTISANAL fisheries operations, Gambia

1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small scale fisheries.

All charter and parts are relevant to sustainable small scale fisheries guidelines.

But to my opinion I think these are the most relevant charter,parts 5,8,9,11,13 it mentions and cover the basic principles of small scale fisheries guidelines

Progress should be make at the local level from there to National to international level.

## Joromana Phiri, Natural Resources Management, Zambia

What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries? Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.

⦁ The guiding principles are all of great importance and need to be addressed in a holistic and interlinked approach for ensuring sustainability in the fisheries sector. Directing resources to rural areas provides benefits that go beyond the urban areas, rewarding the lives of a whole population and the growth of a nation. As the rural landscape transforms, it catalyses on-farm and off-farm economic activity to thrive, resulting in more schools, health centres and social services to  spring up.

⦁ Aggregated gender equality that enhances equal opportunities to work and access to finance/non finance resources (especially for women and the youth) in the fisheries sector will contibute to household food security and nutrition as well as economic development.

⦁ Capacity development and research is vital for raising awareness issues in sustainable capture fisheries. It is necessary for building capacity for integrated fish health and  disease management. Also takes into consideration fish feeds and nutrition.

⦁ Incorporating indigenous knowledge in modern sustainable fish production systems which will lead to producers having a sense of ownership thereby resulting into change of attitudes. Small scale fish workers more willing  to embrace new methods of fishing for improved yields.

⦁ Efficient and effective policy and monitoring frameworks ensure quality control, maintenance of standards, adherence and enabling market environments  along the entire fish value chain.

⦁ Economic, social and environmental sustainability: applying the precautionary approach and risk management entails justice and enhancement of sovereignity for biodiversity and their ecosystems. Mechanisms in place for sustainable resource utilisation and conservation measures.

At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?

⦁ At local community level simplified structures for measuring their own progress should be put in place to provide information to the subnational and national levels.

⦁ The sub national and national levels must also have their own monitoring mechanisms in order to ensure data credibility and perform gap analysis.

2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?

⦁ Linking progress to country specific food security and national plans

⦁ Comparison with international  mandates such as the SustainableDevelopment Goals (SDG1,5,8,9,10,12,14)

⦁ Framework for assessing progress in implementing technical guidelines and good governance requirements for measuring/monitoring SSF could be the *Criteria* (e.g. Developing the capacity to implement Monitoring/measuring for SSF), *Indicator*(e.g. Development of MRV procedures (methods, tools, etc.) ), *Progress level* (e.g. Development of MRV procedures not planned- 0/Low, Development of MRV procedures planned - 3/Moderate, Development of MRV procedures started and developed - 5/High), *Score*(e.g. 0-5 rating from low to high)

What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?

 1.       Organizational Structures with M&E Functions

2.       Human Capacity for M&E

3.       Partnerships for Planning, Coordinating and      Managing the M&E System

4.       M&E frameworks/Logical Framework

5.       M&E Work Plan and costs

6.       Communication, Advocacy and Culture for M&E

7.       Routine Programme Monitoring

8.       Participatory Surveys

9.       National and Sub-national databases

10.   Supportive Supervision and Data Auditing

11.   Evaluation and Research

12.   Data Dissemination and Use

 What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?

When capacities are built, farmers and extension staff  assigned with roles and responsibilities to take up monitoring at community level are able to spearhead monitoring activities (site visitations, interviews using monitoring forms, focused group discussions etc). The scenario is the same at subnational stages.

Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?

Project funders, Project implementers, Extension staff, Local community representatives (e.g. fish farmers, fish traders), other Key Stakeholders (e.g. local authority)

## Arjan Heinen, PARTS Partnership in Rural and Technical Services, Philippines

Response to the request by the FAO for monitoring priorities and tools.

Most important chapters in the VGSSSF:

1. Objectives 1

2. Nature and scope 1

3. Guiding principles 2

4. Relationship with other international instruments 3

5. Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management 5

5a. Responsible governance of tenure 5

5b. Sustainable resource management 6

6. Social development, employment and decent work 8

7. Value chains, post-harvest and trade 10

8. Gender equality 12

9. Disaster risks and climate change 12

10. Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration 15

11. Information, research and communication 16

12. Capacity development 17

13. Implementation support and monitoring 18

All chapters are important. But the vastness of the objectives can have a paralyzing effect on the readers and the governments that want to implement this.

The focus should be on 5. Responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management. Where social development, employment and decent work will be an outcome of the process. With 5 at the centre, 7 can increase the incentive to for further improvement of 5. Doing 7 without 5 is counterproductive. Gender equality (in the projects) is also a prerequisite in developing 5 and working on 5 can further increase gender equality in broader society. There has to be a mechanism where SSFs get compensation for coral bleaching, increased frequency of typhoons and sea-level rise. Climate justice (9).

Policy coherence. States that are willing to embark on a trip towards development of the Small Scale Fisheries (and small holder farmers) within a globalized economy that rewards large scale capitalists way of producing will have to get their incentives and rewards through a global redistribution system of wealth. It is important for the UN, the EU, ASEAN, China and a post-Trump America work on this.

Progress should be measured in the number and quality of managed stocks and fishing areas. Are stocks managed in such a way that SSFs are improving? Seabass in Europe is a good example. Here an increasingly bigger part of the TAC is allotted to metiers that are small scale. Managed fishing areas like the Frysian Decentralized Eel Management in the Netherlands is an example of a better managed area that improved the economics of the SSFs in that area.

In the Philippines some Municipalities improved the management of the coastal areas under their jurisdiction (Cortes and Hinatuan for instance). Areas exclusively used by small scale fishers. Ultimately the basic indicators here are the total biomass of edible creatures in the intertidal zone, on the reef and in the coastal areas and the sustainable harvest connected to that. Besides the share of the TAC of the pelagic species that go to the coastal fishers and their communities.

Monitoring participatory.

Stock decline and stock recovery are often slow processes that need long-term measurements of CPUE to show changes. It is hard to do the monitoring participatory. Data should be gathers by the governments (or management bodies). Analysis should be shared with the resource users.

Comparing different areas under different management regimes, is a better way to monitor in a participatory way. Preferably by walking on the reef, snorkelling and interviews with resource users.

So monitoring of the implementation of the SSF guidelines could involve the following questions:

1. Is the state or the province setting up specially managed areas and is there a preferential role for the SSFs? (ACs in the EU waters, VBCs in inland waters in the Netherlands, Fisheries Management Areas in the Philippines, Municipal waters in the Philippines, true LMMAs within municipalities).

2. Is the state facilitating exchange between these managed areas and are SSFs involved in this exchange.

Key Actors:

At the state level NGOs and national fishers organizations have an important role in the monitoring of progress in the implementation of the VG-SSF.

Those involved in LMMAs should also be involved in monitoring their own progress and in learning from the progress of other

## Alexis Rife, Environmental Defense Fund, United States of America

1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

● What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?

Responsible governance of tenure (especially 5.3, 5.4) and sustainable resource management (5.13, 5.14, 5.15)

Climate change (9.2)

Information (11.1)

Capacity Development (12.1,12.3)

Implementation (13.2)

● Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.

Responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management: Secure and exclusive tenure rights, when paired with science-based limits and systems that hold stakeholders accountable are the backbone for sustainable fisheries management. These systems are most durable to meet local goals and needs when done through co-management schemes with fishery stakeholders.

Climate change: Climate change poses a critical threat to small-scale fisheries and communities, which are likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change. States must act now to get fisheries management in place.

Capacity Development: Participation in management systems of actors is critical to its successful uptake and implementation and should be done in mutually respectful ways that acknowledge the skills capacity of actors.

Implementation: Resources are required to support and implement sustainable management and States should report the financial flows they are prioritizing to advance SSF.

● At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?

Progress is likely to be best measured at the national or RFMO/regional body scale, however there should be an option for reporting at local and national scales. It will likely be most simple to input data on indicators in smaller units of scale.

2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?

● Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”

● If possible, please provide examples of where the indicators you suggest have been used successfully, including in data- and capacity-limited contexts.

● Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.

EDF has developed and uses a number of tools and resources to measure the impact of our work. These include:

Responsible governance of tenure (especially 5.3, 5.4) - 1. Fisheries policy and governance analysis [http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/fisheries-toolkit/fisheries-policy...](http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/fisheries-toolkit/fisheries-policy-and-governance-analysis)

2. SEASALT Analysis <http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/fisheries-toolkit/seasalt>

Sustainable resource management (5.13, 5.14, 5.15) 1. Diagnostic Scorecard [http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/fisheries-toolkit/diagnostic-score...](http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/fisheries-toolkit/diagnostic-scorecard)

2. Socioeconomic Outcomes Tool <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X18305815?via%3Dihub>

Information (11.1) 1. Framework for Integrated Stock and Habitat Evaluation: [http://fishe.edf.org](http://fishe.edf.org/)

Implementation (13.2) 1. Diagnostic Scorecard <http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/fisheries-toolkit/diagnostic-scorecard>

2. Socioeconomic Outcomes Tool <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X18305815?via%3Dihub>

3. The Fishery Performance Indicators ([https://www.fpilab.org](https://www.fpilab.org/)) also provide a useful framework for monitoring

4. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences

● What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?

● Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?

For successful implementation of a monitoring system, there must be consultative processes, partnerships amongst different stakeholders (fishers, academics, NGOs, government/decision-makers), and clear roles, responsibilities, and protocols, including defining what are the standards and what is qualitative. Existing partnerships and initiatives could be leveraged to identify opportunities for successful monitoring and training necessary to do so. We can also leverage new and emerging technologies to standardize and streamline monitoring efforts.

● What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?

EDF has worked with fishing communities in many countries to implement participatory monitoring and would be happy to further discuss these programs.

## Siyanbola Omitoyin, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Dear Coordinator,

The following are my contribution to the above discussion

Answers to the following questions may help in monitoring implementation

* Who are small scale fishers?(Definition, boundaries and application to different countries: under developing, developing and developed countries)
* What are their activities, evaluation of their current status and interventions that can improve their livelihoods
* Identification of the stakeholders, their contribution along the value chain and improvement possibilities

Participation of small scale fishers at all levels including policy makers, scientist, extension officers is required such that data gathering will be enhanced

Gender should also be considered.

Omitoyin Siyanbola

University of Ibadan

## Rupert Quinlan, Outreach Director, Blue Ventures Conservation

Blue Ventures’ story started in 2003, on the remote southwestern coast of Madagascar. The local Vezo communities were facing deepening poverty because of steep declines in their fisheries. We helped one village close off a small part of its octopus fishing grounds for a few months to allow stocks there to recover. When the fishery was reopened, fishers reaped a huge increase in landings – and in their cash earnings. As news of this fishery boom spread, neighbouring communities started copying this ‘community catalyst’ approach. Crucially, this sparked more ambitious coastal management efforts, enabling us to create the country’s first locally managed marine area (LMMA) governed by a network of fishing villages in 2006.

Since then, this temporary fishery closure model has been adopted hundreds of times along thousands of kilometres of Madagascar’s coastline, spawning a grassroots marine conservation revolution with >75 more LMMAs established to date. Ten years on, monitoring of Madagascar’s first LMMA has clearly showed fish populations are recovering − a robust measure of conservation effectiveness that even the country’s centrally managed marine national parks have been unable to achieve. Today, over 18% of the island’s seabed is managed by communities, for communities. A civil society network unites fishers across the country and is working with the state to reform fisheries and secure community access rights.

Blue Ventures has learnt how to develop locally led approaches to marine conservation that benefit people and nature alike. We were founded on the simple idea of putting communities at the heart of conservation. By listening and responding to basic human needs, we design our models to catalyse and sustain marine conservation, unlocking the potential of coastal communities to manage their resources. We work in places where the ocean is vital to local cultures and economies, and are committed to advancing the rights of small-scale fishers throughout the coastal tropics.

We’ve shared our approaches with partners and communities across the Indian Ocean, driving replication of the model in ten countries, reaching over 650,000 beneficiaries. And in our more established markets, where our core model is already outperforming traditional government-led initiatives, it is ​driving real policy change​.

At its heart, our low-cost, simple approach earns fishing communities more through increased catches and better livelihoods, and so it reshapes the economic relationship between people and conservation. It motivates fishing communities, seafood companies and governments to cooperate and take more ambitious steps to safeguard the marine resources underpinning coastal livelihoods. We believe that it holds the power to catalyse systemic change across entire coastlines.

Blue Ventures is determined to enforce and enhance the rights of small scale fishers. The need for enlightened policy-making is huge. With secure rights, fishing communities are the best qualified custodians and stewards of inshore fisheries and marine biodiversity. We advocate for more supportive and equitable policies to safeguard small-scale fishers’ interests and rights, and support government partners to make evidence-based policy decisions that prioritise community needs. These include devolving marine management legislation to allow communities to manage fisheries securely; establishing restrictions on fishing gears, practices and catch sizes; designating locally managed protected areas; and securing closed inshore fishing zones to protect against destructive industrial fishing vessels.

We are keen to inform this move towards a greater focus on policy development and advocacy by centering our attention on the SSF Guidelines.

1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

The SSF Guidelines are divided into three parts. Part 1 sets out the overall objectives, the scope, the guiding principles and the relationship with other instruments. Part 2 covers five thematic areas, namely responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management; social development, employment and decent work; value chains, post-harvest and trade; gender equality; disaster risks and climate change. Part 3 provides guidance for ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation addresses policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration; information, research and communication; capacity development; and implementation support and monitoring.

● What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?

○ The emphasis on empowerment and a human rights based approach which benefits marginalised groups (including women), e.g. 1.1.2. This is repeated throughout the document but is something that we struggle to measure in practice. Understanding this better and coming up with better indicators/ways of assessing is an important part of working towards sustainable SSF.

○ There is focus on participation (guiding principle 3) throughout the guidelines but as practitioners we need to get better at understanding what that means. Especially in the context of co-management, context specific consideration of the nature of participation and what it should look like is necessary to identify strategies for sustainable SSF, which serves all user groups.

○ Chapter 6 Taking a systems level, approach to addressing the needs of coastal communities and the threats to marine resources and ecosystems; to include addressing health community needs, especially the health needs of women.

○ Chapter 9 Addressing the risks to coastal communities posed by climate change. In particular, investing in community initiatives that build resilience to climate change.

○ We would also like to cite the importance of dealing with tenure rights, fishery value chains, policy coherence/Institutional coordination and capacity development (local community empowerment). An observation throughout the countries where we operate - serving communities - it the need to address deficiencies in these areas. Guidance provided on these issues through the SSF Guidelines is greatly valued.

* Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.

○ We have seen first hand how poor health serves to limit fishing communities' ability to engage in natural resource management. We have witnessed the impact of improving community health, and of improving women's health in particular, on communities' ability to engage in NRM. Tropical coastal communities are among the most vulnerable to climate change, and climate shocks and stressors will significantly affect their ability to manage their resources sustainably.

○ Measurement/assessment systems should support achievement of the objectives, and the principles support an understanding of how the objectives have been achieved.

○ Tenure rights: The guidelines promote human rights based approach, including fishing rights. SSF management in Madagascar is still under an open access regime; fishers would like to be supported and benefit from access regulation that recognise their traditional access and rights to fisheries but also address the high destructive fishing methods of industrial and some commercial fishing operations. These activities are subject to less governance and management structures than SSF.

○ Value chains: Hundreds of thousands of people depend on the fisheries for their livelihoods throughout the value chains and post harvest in Madagascar. Octopus and crab are two most valued species through value chain improvement to increase fishers income and support sustainable fisheries management.

○ Policy coherence/institutional coordination: We focus on management transfers policies that directly influence small-scale fisheries governance. In Madagascar, incoherence occurs mainly between two departments: fisheries and environment. Indeed, the environment ministry is in charge of marine protected areas and natural resource management transfer, and fisheries ministry for marine resources management. The lack of coordination between these two departments will lead to implementation problems on a local level.

○ Capacity development (local community empowerment): the guidelines emphasize the need of SSF to have a voice and role in governance. The involvement of fishers in dialogue and design of policies is the key for decision making process. This describes

the good relation between the government and communities in the co-management system.

* At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?

○ This may be variable for different fisheries, particularly where there are fisheries that cross country borders, it may be better at the level of the fishery since different fisheries will have different actors, but there would likely be some overlap where things may progress for one fishery that supports progress in another so probably some collation and coordination is needed at regional/national levels as relevant

2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?

There are many ways to measure progress - using quantitative or qualitative indicators that focus on outputs, processes and other aspects. In order to avoid additional burden and costs in relation to data and information collection it may be good to explore existing indicators for related global or national or sub-national objective and initiatives that relate to the issues addressed in the guidelines and the principles they are based on (e.g. for the Sustainable Development Goals, or national food security and development plans).

● Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”

○ Tenure rights: area(s) of common fishing under the tenure of local communities that are legally (existing of related laws) recognized and secured (eg.LMMA). This is mandatory because an open access regime is not appropriate for fisheries management; access must be regulated. Besides, this indicator can be used also to measure the conflict between industrial and small-scale fishers.

○ Value chains: financial benefits of each actor. This is mandatory to ensure the win-win benefits between local fishers and the actors involved along the value chain. This will improve the engagement of these actors, particularly local community members, in the resources management and governance.

○ Policy coherence/Institutional coordination: Conflicts (between the actors - and amongst them - namely community members, government/ministries, supporting institutions), synergy, governance and management structure; existing of appropriate law (appropriate to the local context - including culture, social aspects); existence of MoU/agreement between institutions.These inconsistencies lead to disorder among communities, creating barriers on their engagement and participation in resources governance and management.

○ Capacity development (local community empowerment): participation and representation of local community in the dialogue, consultation and decision making from each level (local, regional and national) of management and governance structures and processes. This is mandatory. This is one of the key points about governance.

* If possible, please provide examples of where the indicators you suggest have been used successfully, including in data- and capacity-limited contexts.
	1. Tenure rights: An assessment of marine and coastal tenure rights system and governance is being conducted by Blue Ventures. It is a first step for identifying the tenure right issues and recommending eventual solutions to recognize and secure for access and control.

○ Value chains: Value chain analysis has ben carried out through fisheries project improvement and fisheries management plans for crab and octopus in Madagascar to identify main actors within the product value in order to improve catch value and set up governance structures. Fisheries management plans include responsible post-harvest practices and value chain improvement for crab and octopus to enable export income to benefit small-scale fishers and collectors. For instance, an octopus fishery management platform was set up in the south west of Madagascar in order, inter alia, to identify among all stakeholders the price of octopus.

○ Policy coherence/Institutional coordination: under the natural resources management transfer Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Fisheries is issuing a transitional inter ministerial order establishing the conditions for managing mangrove ecosystem.

○ Capacity development (local community empowerment): structures are implemented at local, regional and national levels so that local communities can express their voices and thus be involved in decision-making processes. This happens particularly in crab and octopus fisheries.

* Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.
	1. Agarwal's (2001) participatory exclusions framework, although from the forestry sector, has really shaped thinking about participation and inclusive management, and as a result has shaped how Blue Ventures approaches its work. Also, Johnson et al (2018) RBE framework is helpful and translates well into selecting indicators.

○ Value chains: NGOs, the private sector and fisheries authorities are currently invested in participatory monitoring and evaluation within project cycles, programme and harvest campaign. The database on price associated with catch is available for analysis with appropriate tools.

○ Policy coherence/Institutional coordination: In Madagascar, the environment and fisheries ministries have their own monitoring and evaluation frameworks. But as these need to be harmonized, the CNGIZC (National Committee for Integrated Coastal Zone Management) is mandated by the government to coordinate and oversee the management of coastal areas, especially the monitoring and evaluation within the policy cycle.

○ Capacity development (local community empowerment): The network of the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) ensures the monitoring and evaluation of these areas and the capacity buildings of LMMA managers.

3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences is crucial for the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Available lessons learned, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time, the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be modified or developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring can help making information available and shared.

Please share any experiences, both good and bad, as well as lessons learned related to participatory monitoring.

We need long term and sustained commitment to ensuring data collectors and communities understand the data, what it means, and have the skills to collect and understand it. Methods must be co-designed and a strong relationship built on trust is needed to make it participatory monitoring work. We need to understand motivational factors and enabling conditions which make people want to participate and be able to

* What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?
	1. Simple/low cost

○ Accessible

○ Co-designed/all stakeholders involved to assess their monitoring methods which should be aligned/standardized.

○ Quick and useful feedback to stakeholders to inform decision making

○ Scalable

* What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?
	1. We are involved in participatory mapping (fishing zones, permanent and temporary reserves, marine habitat), catch monitoring (with local community members), and participatory census (fishers census, fishing gears census, fishing profile).
* Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?
	1. Stakeholders (fishers, governments, private sector, NGOs (those concerned with human rights as well as fisheries management etc))

## Foluke Areola, G W& L CONSULTA LIMITED., Nigeria

Introduction

Small- Scale Fisheries has not been given the importance it deserves on the national level, as a major contributor to food security, livelihood, employment creation, etc. Over the years it had been the major contributor to national fish production with figures ranging above 70% of the national fish production figure in Nigeria.

The FAO Small-Scale Voluntary Guidelines (SSF guidelines) are a set of recommendations developed to guide states and other actors on how to make small-scale fisheries more sustainable.

Challenges of the SSF sector in Nigeria:

The SSF sector has faced several challenges over the years. These include,

a) Lack of substantial budgetary allocation to Small Scale Fisheries Development activities to fund national and international /donor counterpart programs.

b) Under reporting of fisheries statistics as a result of lack of updated frame and catch surveys since 2007. Most especially at the national level, to predict or estimate actual catch volume and to facilitate or aid proper future planning for development.

c) Many landing sites are remotely located, and not easily accessible for meaningful socio-economic development.

d) Data from localised or community fisheries go unreported or are not captured, in particular, production by small scale aquaculture.

e) The Small-scale fisheries operators are disenchanted by the lack of sustainable support by government to many of their challenges such as inadequate supply of fishing inputs, disruptions of their activities by environmental issues such as flooding and coastal erosion.

The disorganised nature of their location and operations make it impossible to have the requisite data that would make monitoring of their fishing activities and other related associated activities easy and comprehensive under the guiding principles of the SSF guidelines. Unlike the industrial sector, where the visibility of operations enhances an appreciation of the sector’s contributions. Together with the large-scale aquaculture farms, their contributions to foreign exchange earnings in the country put them at a better advantage for private sector investments and government quick interventions. The SSF though better positioned to export non aquaculture products to the European markets, have not been able to maximise the opportunities because of their locations in remote areas, lack of technical expertise on quality control and best practices amongst most operators.

Implementation of FAO SSF Guidelines

Securing the commitment of government at all levels (Federal, State, Local Government) for the implementation of the FAO SSF guidelines is most important. This should be done before

the design of a relevant, realistic and useful tool for the monitoring and evaluation of the guidelines can be achieved. The commitment would guarantee developing specific sector policies and legal framework to support SSF in the country. Though Nigeria has adopted the guidelines and accented to, by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, the implementation is still very slow and poor. Sector specific funding is very important. There should be budgetary allocation specific to the implementation of the SSF guidelines. Deliberate efforts to create awareness and sound education of the SSF guidelines amongst policy makers, regulatory agencies, stakeholders at community, Local Government, State and National levels should be made. A good understanding of the principles of the SSF guidelines will make the monitoring easy and efficient to implement.

Recommendations

Data collation

Data is very important. A baseline data on the activities of the sector, and evaluation of progress or otherwise is the very first step. The last national frame and catch survey was in 2007. There is an urgent need for an updated national frame and catch survey to predict or estimate catch volume in SSF for the country. Sex-aggregated data will give information on gender. A bottom-up approach of management is also advocated and strong stakeholders’ involvement in policy formulation, decisions and implementation along the entire value chain.

Monitoring indices

The monitoring indices should include those that are operational at the community, state and national levels. The indices should monitor resources management, decision making, culture and social aspects and progress of all activities within the SSF. Monitoring should also be at different levels of operations taking into consideration social and economic factors within the communities. Some of the indices should include:

a) Evaluation of governance structure within the fishing communities on the national level. What informs women’s participation and mode of participation in governance, decision making, and how the principle of equality and equity are considered or effected? Are the structures in place open in terms of gender? Identification of cultural and religious norms that affect Tenure and Use rights, women’s participation in direct fishing activities. How has going to Sea by women being affected by civilisation, urbanisation, capitalisation and relegation of women under different forms of biases?

b) Development of measurable indices to evaluate the number of fisheries organisations at local, state and national levels, number of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), associations directly or in-directed related to SSF, the increase in the number of associations and their advocacy activities, and at what levels of Governance? Also indices to measure platforms of exchange of ideas, experiences, trainings and partnerships should include, number such platforms, number of women in leadership positions, number of trainings and partnership arrangements, number of women fisheries organisation at local and national levels.

c) Indices to monitor the direct activities of women such as number of women in fishing communities, number of women in fishing, processing and marketing (governance structure in the markets), livelihoods and alternative means of livelihoods, other socio- economic activities and multiple roles in fishing communities.

d) Actual fish production which could be through artisanal fisheries or small-scale aquaculture. Indices will include monitoring sea-related activities, those involved directly in fishing; boats and net making or supplies and repairs; sponsors of fishing activities who rent or lease fishing boats and other in-puts; and for aquaculture, types of fish growing structures, sizes, location, outputs; post- harvest activities; processing; value addition; marketing; employment. (women participation, mode of participation, cultural and religious norms in SSF to address gender equality and equity, respect for culture, discrimination etc).

e) Trade – markets, marketing structure, trade dynamics. Monitoring indices should include discrimination in market access; under what terms are trade alliances formed between SSF producers and off-takers? What protects small -scale practitioners from being deprived of commensurate benefits for their catches since often, they lack the capability to store their products. How are the small -scale aquaculture producers able to market when they crop their ponds? Do they market directly? Another index is measurement of the lease arrangement or sponsorship of fishing expenditure. At what costs do they rent or acquire inputs from suppliers/sponsors and under what payment arrangements in cash or fish catches? These factors will affect the sustainability of the SSF.

f) Human rights indices on conflicts between the artisanal fishermen and industrial fleets at sea especially within the non-trawling zone should include: how many conflicts are reported, resolved and compensation paid to the artisanal fishermen for loss of their fishing crafts annually? Are compensations commensurate to losses? Are the processes fair in cost of time and expenses to the fisherfolks or loss of fishing days? Are the processes of arbitration fair or subjected to human judgement, influence or are scientifically based? Develop recording system for loss of lives and livelihood at local, state and national levels? Develop monitoring indices for resolving conflicts within and between fishing communities and how is gender equity maintained?

g) Still on human rights, are SSF operators compensated for pollutions from oil, sand and discharge of effluents? Are SSF operators adequately compensated by oil companies or do the communities consider SSF operators in sharing of compensations to the communities? Dredging, sand- filling in urban areas have negative effects on coastal fisheries, destroying spawning beds, disrupting live cycles of some species of fish, increasing the turbidity of the water and making it difficult to fish thereby reducing the catch per unit efforts, increasing steaming time and fuel consumption in going further to sea for those who have capable sea worthy fishing crafts. How many such incidences have been reported and how many were adequately addressed?

h) How to monitor interrelated issues of food security, livelihood, climate change, poverty reduction, education, general living standards (provision of water, health services, schools, storage facilities (cold stores, stores), gear and repair platforms etc. Are there data to support the percentage of catches consumed by fishing households? Whatever percentages of their catches are traded off to meet other needs in the family? What is the level of development in the fishing communities - living and working conditions? What are the levels of vulnerability to the effects of climate change such as floods, flooding, drought) on their livelihood and operations (loss of lives, relocation from operating base or landing sites, loss of crafts, fishing inputs, ponds and growing structures washed away, fish and net loss, loss of processing facilities and dried up ponds) Are there schools and health services within the community? What is the level of education amongst the fisher-folks?

Evaluation: There should be periodic evaluation of the guidelines on policies and regulations, improvement in general welfare and women participation, ability to adapt to effects of climate change, fish production data and of the other indices.

Conclusion

There is the urgent need to establish a framework for data collection on which to base development of the SSF sector and the implementation of the FAO SSF Guidelines. A national implementation body should be formed which should include relevant government and supervisory agencies, CSOs, fishmen, fisherwomen and fish farmers, processors, marketers, fisheries cooperatives societies, researchers and universities, women organisations to monitor and periodically evaluate the implementation of the guidelines.

Areola.

## Lilian Ibengwe, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

Continuous learning and sharing of experiences is crucial for the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Available lessons learned, best practices and tools should be used and reinventing the wheel avoided, but at the same time, the local context may differ to such a degree that specific tools and solutions must be modified or developed. Monitoring of progress will be important to keep track of what is working (and what is not) and participatory monitoring can help making information available and shared.

Please share any experiences, both good and bad, as well as lessons learned related to participatory monitoring.

**· What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?**

Key elements are fisher’s knowledge involving the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and local ecological knowledge (LEK). Incorporation of TEK and LEK is relevant in recognizing fisher’s participation and shared decision-making regarding fisheries resources management.

**· What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?**

Through my career in Fisheries Management I’ve learnt both science and fisher’s knowledge play a major role in fisheries resources management. For instance, Tanzanian coastal communities have long histories of interaction with the marine environment. Their unique customs and taboos have been developed over many centuries and communicated from generation to generation to ensure the sustainability of coral reefs and fishery resources. In early times area-based restrictions were applied in some villages to manage octopus stocks. For example, In Kisimkazi village Mtwara Region, there was a traditional management system which included seasonal closures of octopus fishery, with controls on fishing gear and access to the area by outside fishers. Currently, octopus seasonal fishing closure is practiced in Somanga and Songosongo in Kilwa district and Jojo in Mafia district along the coastal.

Likewise, community-based fisheries management approach such as Beach Management Units (BMU’s) and Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMA’s) is practiced in Tanzania, as institutional arrangements for sharing responsibilities between government and local communities in managing fisheries resources.

**· Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?**

Should involve both local communities, CSO’s, NGO’s, Local Government and Central Government.

## Julian Medina Salgado, Confepescar, Colombia

Original contribution in Spanish

Hola buenas,

Gracias por tenernos en cuenta para dar nuestros conceptos sobre la pesca en pequeña escala, esperamos sea provechoso lo que aquí escribimos, si algo mas estamos atentos.

**1) ¿Qué define el progreso hacia la obtención de pesquerías sostenibles en pequeña escala?**

Hay que tener mucha claridad en la palabra « Progreso », nuestra comunidad esta convencida que para hablar de progreso en la pesca debemos tener un ambiente sano, donde nuestros ecosistemas le brinden todas las oportunidades a nuestros peces de poder reproducirse, donde abunden los manglares y los juveniles tengan la proteccion necesaria para llegar a ser adultos.

La idea no solo es tener leyes que sus objetivos sean la proteccion de las especies y no permitir la sobre pesca y la pesca ilegal, va mucho mas alla , y es que las autoridades que tienen a su cargo la gobernanza de nuesytrpos mares, la pesca y los ecosistemas, se articulen de verdad y pongan en marcha su verdadero rol, el cual es salvaguardadr esta ancestral actividad y permetir la sostenibilidad del recurso en el tiempo.

El verdadero progreso de nuestras comunidades alrededor de la pesca en pequeña escala esta en la comercializacion y en la explotacion del recurso, si nuestros pescadiores le dan un buen tratamiento al producto, seguro tendremos alimentos saludables y con un muy buen valor de comercializacion, tambien cuando el pescador deje de capturar especies por debajo de la talla minima, hay si estamos hablando de sostenibilidad, las artes no reglamentadas deben dejar de usarse, y las autoridades deben monitorear constantemente como pescas, donde pescas y con que pescas.

Un verdadero conocimiento de como ?, Cuando ? y Donde ? se reproducen nuestros peces, nos permitiria establecer vedas sobre determinadas especies, lo que aumentaria la probabilidad de la sostenibilidad del recurso pesquero.

**2) Indicadores significativos y factibles: ¿Cómo podemos medir el progreso?**

Teniendo ecosistemas saludables y controlando la explotación pesquera, traería la esperanza a nuestras comunidades y la mejor forma de medir ese progreso es haciendo un monitoreo constante, durante más de 12 meses, así miraríamos el verdadero comportamiento de las especies y tomar mejores decisiones sobre determinadas pesquerías, el monitoreo debe incluir medición de gonodas, medición del pez, donde y como fue capturado, mes en el que fue capturado y cuantos machos y cuantas hembras, esta información nos permitiría establecer vedas en favor de nuestra actividad.

Por otro lado, en mi país, los ODS no se cumplem en nuestra actividad y se lo puedo detallar así:

1. Objetivo 14 Vida Submarina, este objetivo que nos interesa a todos los que tenemos alguna relación con el mar, al estar vulnerado, nuestras familias pesqueras sufren, y también se afectan los ODS 1. Fin de la Pobreza, 2. Hambre Cero, 8. Buenos empleos y crecimiento económico, 11. Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles, 12. Consumo responsable y 13. Protege el planeta, al estar vulnerados todos estos objetivos lógicamente que nuestras comunidades para poder salir de la pobreza absoluta estamos en una gran desventaja y así Colombia, como país firmante no estaría cumpliendo con el deber con sus connacionales.
2. Siguiendo con el Objetivo 14, dentro de él hay unos sub objetivos , 14.1 Prevención y reducción de la contaminación marina, 14.2 Gestión arrecifes marinos y costeros, 14.3 Minimización de la acidificación de los océanos, 14.4 regulación y explotación pesquera sostenible, 14.5 Conservación zonas pesqueras y marinas, 14.6 Combatir pesca ilegal y excesiva, 14.7 Beneficios económicos de la pesca sostenible, 14. A Investigación y tecnología marina, 14.B Fomento pesca pequeña pesca y artesanal, 14.C Convención NNUU sobre los derechos del mar. Ni los objetivos, ni los sub objetivos, vemos que se cumplen en nuestras comunidades pesqueras del caribe colombiano, podemos resaltar todos los acontecimientos de contaminación que se han dado en el golfo de morrosquillo por hidrocarburos, aguas servidas de los alcantarillados de los municipios costeros, agroquímicos que con las lluvias caen a los arroyos y ríos y por ende a nuestro mar caribe, como también los desastres de la bahía de Cartagena, también los volcamientos de carbón en Santa Marta y muchas cosas más que no terminaríamos de contar y no solo por hablar de contaminación, también por desplazamiento de nuestros territorios ancestrales por la industria y el mal llamado desarrollo, que contamina y destruye todos nuestros ecosistemas marinos y costeros, y si nos vamos por la sobre pesca y la pesca ilegal, esto terminaría de desestabilizarnos mucho más, hay un control muy pequeño de parte de las autoridades involucradas en estos procesos, las Car no asumen sus responsabilidades, Guarda Costas dicen que no tienen tantas unidades para combatir estos males y la AUNAP carece de herramientas y no hace cumplir las directrices dadas, cada día vemos como nuestra ancestralidad como pescadores artesanales está condenada y nuestras familias cada día carecen más de los servicios básicos y las pocas oportunidades para tener una vida digna, no sin antes mencionar que nosotros como pescadores cumplimos con el deber de llevar pescado a la mesa de muchas personas de este país, que nunca se preguntan ¿Como hicieron los pescadores para capturar tan rico manjar?, quisiéramos realmente una verdadera directriz desde el gobierno para que muchos de estos males empiecen a acabar, pero mientras La Aunap siga siendo mezquina con sus pescadores no lo vamos a lograr, nuestro deseo como pescadores es sacar adelante el sector y que no nos vean como los parásitos del sector productivo, queremos una verdadera revolución, donde el gobierno nacional vea en el sector pesquero artesanal una verdadera alternativa de producción y aportantes al PIB, no más acidificación de nuestros mares, no más sobre pesca y pesca ilegal, no más tala de manglares, no más desaparición de ciénagas y humedales, no más vertimientos al mar y al solucionar estos problemas no se estaría haciendo solo a los pescadores artesanales, sino a todo un país que necesita recuperarse ambientalmente y así cumpliendo con la Constitución Nacional.

**3. Sistemas de monitoreo participativo: elementos clave y experiencias.**

* ¿Cuáles cree usted que son los elementos clave de una vigilancia participativa satisfactoria?

Siempre que se involucre al sector pesquero para la toma de decisiones, vamos a aportar importante información y si nos toca hacerlo desde nuestra posición se entregara en mejor esfuerzo para que la información sea valedera y eficaz, precisa y confiable

* ¿Cuáles son sus experiencias con la vigilancia participativa?

Los monitoreos pesqueros, ellos nos han permitido establecer que especies están más afectadas por la sobre pesca y la pesca ilegal

* ¿Quiénes deberían ser los principales actores que participan o son responsables del diseño y la implementación de un sistema de vigilancia para las Directrices PPE?

Desde la autoridad pesquera se deben diseñar, pero siendo participativos desde los inicios para el empoderamiento de las comunidades, por eso no diría quienes, diríamos que haciendo un equipo de pescadores y gobierno, saldría los mejores sistemas de monitoreo.

English translation

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude for giving us the opportunity to share our views on small scale fisheries. We look forward to a fruitful discussion and remain available for further contribution.

**1) Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

The term “progress” must be clearly defined. Our community believes that progressing in small-scale fisheries requires a healthy environment in which ecosystems facilitate breeding, mangroves are abundant and juveniles are protected to grow safely.

Our proposed approach goes beyond laws aimed at protecting species and banning overfishing and illegal fishing. Marine and fisheries authorities should be genuinely coordinated and aligned in their efforts to fulfil their primary role: safeguarding this ancestral activity and ensuring the sustainability of fishery resources over time.

The real progress of our small-scale fishing communities lies in the commercialization and exploitation of our resources. Adequate handling will result in healthy and highly marketable fish. Observing minimum size regulations is key to sustainability. Unregulated fishing must be eliminated, whilst fishing gears and fishing areas should be constantly monitored.

A thorough understanding of fish breeding (i.e. knowing how, when and where does it take place) would enable the establishment of specific species closures, enhancing the sustainability of fishery resources as a result.

**2) Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

Keeping ecosystems healthy and controlling fisheries would be a major step forward for our communities. Constantly monitoring our fisheries -for more than 12 months- is the best way of measuring progress. This would expand our knowledge of the actual behaviour of the species and improve decision-making on certain fisheries. The following indicators should be monitored: weight of the gonads; (fork) length and weight; fishing areas and fishing gears; month of capture; number of male/female fish. This information would enable us to establish beneficial closures.

On the other hand, SDGs are far from being achieved in small-scale fisheries in Colombia.

1. SDG 14 (Life below water) is the key goal for all of us who make a living from the sea. When this precious resource is threatened, fishing households suffer the impact and the fulfilment of the following goals is also affected: SDG 1 (No poverty); SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities); SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production); SDG 13 (Climate action). Colombia is at great disadvantage in its quest to end poverty and is not fulfilling its duties as signatory country.
2. SDG 14 includes several targets: target 14.1 on the prevention and reduction of marine pollution; target 14.2 related to the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems; target 14.3 aimed at minimising ocean acidification; target 14.4 on fishing regulation and sustainable fisheries; target 14.5 regarding the conservation of coastal and marine areas; target 14.6 focused on combating overcapacity and overfishing as well as illegal fishing; target 14.7 aimed at increasing the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources; target 14.A on marine research and technology; target 14.B focused on providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets; and target 14.C on UNCLOS.

In the fishing communities of the Colombian Caribbean, we are far from achieving the abovementioned goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Episodes of pollution in the Gulf of Morrosquillo -due to hydrocarbons, sewage from coastal towns, agrochemical spills driven by the rain into streams, rivers and the Caribbean Sea- or Cartagena Bay, or coal spills in Santa Marta are few examples of some the environmental challenges we need to address.

The invasion of our ancestral territories by industry and so-called development -which pollutes and destroys all our marine and coastal ecosystems- is another major issue. The regional autonomous corporations fail to take responsibility, the Coast Guard claims a shortage of units to address this issue, and the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries (known in Spanish as AUNAP) lacks the necessary tools and does not enforce the established guidelines. Every day our ancestral legacy as artisanal fishermen is neglected and our families increasingly lack basic services and limited opportunities to have a dignified life.

As fishermen, we fulfil the duty of delivering fish to many people in this country, who never wonder how did we manage to catch the delicious delicacy they have on their dish. We need government guidance to address the abovementioned challenges and more generous support from AUNAP to succeed in our endeavours. Our desire is moving the sector forward: we do not want to be regarded as parasites of the productive sector. We want a real revolution consisting of the following transformations: recognising small-scale fisheries as a real alternative in terms of food production and GDP contribution; halting ocean acidification; eliminating overfishing and illegal fishing; eradicating the clearing of mangroves; preserving marshes and wetlands; and stopping dumping at sea. Solving these problems would not only benefit artisanal fishermen but the entire country -in need of an environmental restoration- whilst complying with the National Constitution.

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

* What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?

Involving the fisheries sector in decision-making would make an important difference. We should do our best efforts to provide valid, effective, accurate and reliable information.

* What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?

We have been engaged in fisheries monitoring. As a result, we have been able to identify which species are most affected by overfishing and illegal fishing.

* Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?

Fisheries authorities shall design the monitoring system with the early -and continuous- participation of fishing communities to strengthen their empowerment. Hence, rather than wondering who should be the key actors, we believe a team of fishermen and government officials would deliver the best monitoring system

Yours sincerely,

Julián Medina Salgado

Confederation of Artisanal Fishermen and Fish Farmers of the Colombian Caribbean (known in Spanish as CONFEPESCAR)

## Marc Leopold, IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement), Madagascar

Original contribution in French

1. Critères de progrès pour assurer la durabilité de la pêche artisanale

· Quels sont, à votre avis, les 5 chapitres, paragraphes et/ou thèmes les plus pertinents des Directives SSF pour évaluer les progrès réalisés en vue de garantir une pêche artisanale durable?

Pour être le plus synthétique possible en terme de cibles, les 5 paragraphes suivants me semblent prioritaires à conduire simultanément :

1) Paragraphe 5.3 Droits fonciers des petites pêches (PP)

2) Paragraphe 5.13 Gestion appropriée

3) Paragraphe 6.15 Education des enfants

4) Paragraphe 7.4 Organisations du secteur des PP

5) Paragraphe 11.9 Recherche collaborative

· Veuillez décrire les raisons pour lesquelles vous estimez que ces chapitres, paragraphes et/ou sujets sont les plus pertinents.

La première raison générale est que ces 5 paragraphes traduisent des faits tangibles et donc l’engagement des parties concernées sur le terrain des PP (et pas seulement des engagements « de papier »).

La seconde raison générale est que chacun de ces paragraphes inclut en fait les préconisations de nombreux autres paragraphes des Directives (cf. ci-dessous), et traduit donc le fait que ces différentes préconisations soient prises en compte ensemble, de manière intégrée, ce qui est me semble-t-il l’objectif des Directives.

Les raisons spécifiques sont décrites ci-dessous.

1) Paragraphe 5.3 Droits fonciers des petites pêches (PP)

- la sécurisation des droits fonciers est la barrière n°1 contre la pêche industrielle côtière, qui est un facteur d’impact majeur avéré ou potentiel dans la quasi-totalité des PP (même si elle n’est évidemment pas le seul). Elle permet en outre de circonscrire la gestion dans l’espace et les acteurs à mobiliser.

- ce processus inclut les préconisations de nombreux autres paragraphes des Directives, en particulier : §5.4 (législation adéquate), §5.5 (qui est une condition préalable du §5.3), §5.7 (choix des zones, cas particulier permettant d’atteindre §5.3), §5.9 (équivalent au fait d’avoir des droits fonciers), §5.19, §10.2 (inclus dans MSP), §11.6 (prise en compte des savoirs locaux).

2) Paragraphe 5.13 Gestion appropriée

- ce paragraphe est l’objectif central à atteindre par les Directives car la gestion durable appropriée, formalisée, est à la base de tous les services des PP.

- ce processus inclut les préconisations de nombreux autres paragraphes des Directives, en particulier : §5.14 (modalités), §5.15 (cogestion) lui-même en lien étroit avec les §7.1&7.2 (participation de la filière dont les femmes), 10.7 (gouvernance), §12.4 (capacités des administrations), §5.16 (MSC), §5.17 (base légale), §5.20 (mauvaises pratiques), §7.8 (effet des filières d’exports), §9.2 (prise en compte du changement climatique).

3) Paragraphe 6.15 Education des enfants

- Ce processus est la base de nombreux autres processus de long terme sur le bien-être et du développement humain, mentionnés par les Directives comme étant une responsabilité des Etats. Le niveau d’éducation des enfants est en effet souvent corrélé à leurs conditions d’existence futures (niveau de revenus, opportunités professionnelles, capacités à se soigner cf. §6.2, 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.13), et à capacité à leur participation dans les organisations (7.4).

4) Paragraphe 7.4 Organisations du secteur des PP

- ce paragraphe est une des conditions pour les processus des §5.3, 5.3 et 11.9 ci-dessus.

- Promouvoir les organisations a un coût, qui doit être pris en charge par les Etats via différents mécanismes possibles en tant que condition nécessaire aux bonnes pratiques de gouvernance.

- Ce paragraphe permet aussi de faciliter d’autres préconisations formulées dans d’autres paragraphes des Directives : §7.6, 7.10 et 12.1 (capacités) et §8.2 (organisations des femmes).

5) Paragraphe 11.9 Recherche collaborative

- En tant que responsabilité de toutes les parties, la recherche collaborative (source d’innovation) est un moyen de construire la coopération au sein des PP. Or ce processus de coopération est une condition de la gestion durable des PP (§5.13).

- Ce processus de recherche collaborative, défini par consultation, implique logiquement les préconisations du §11.8 (plateforme et instances de partage de l’information), §11.10 (recherche tournée vers l’action), et §12.3 (capacités locales).

- Ce processus serait le pilier des préconisations des §11.1 (données à collecter), 11.3 (transparence), et 11.5 (type de données particulier), qui est la responsabilité de l’Etat, et inclut le §11.4 & 11.7 (communication des savoirs locaux et de l’information produite, y compris après analyse des données);

- Ce type de recherche doit pouvoir contribuer au suivi général de la mise en œuvre des Directives dans les Etats, si cela ressort comme une recommandation des consultations : il peut ainsi mesurer l’appropriation des Directives par les acteurs (§13.4).

· À quelle échelle géographique convient-il de mesurer les progrès (par exemple, locale, nationale)?

Les Directives étant endossées par les Etats, il conviendrait d’en mesurer les progrès à l’échelle nationale. Cette évaluation pourrait prendre la forme d’une synthèse de composantes sectorielles. Suivant la nature des paragraphes ci-dessus, ces composantes seraient des secteurs administratifs (eg, pays, régions, communes) et/ou les secteurs visant les différentes filières des PP à l’échelle nationale, sub-nationale et locale.

2. Des indicateurs significatifs et réalisables: Comment mesurer les progrès en question?

· Avez-vous des suggestions d'indicateurs susceptibles d'être utilisés pour évaluer les progrès accomplis dans la réalisation des priorités que vous avez identifiées dans la première partie ? Veuillez indiquer si vous considérez ces indicateurs comme obligatoires ou simplement « intéressants ».

Tous les indicateurs ci-dessous sont considérés comme obligatoires, puisqu’ils mesurent les processus prioritaires identifiésci-dessus.

1) Paragraphe 5.3 Droits fonciers des PP : nature et contenu des textes légaux instituant des droits fonciers aux PP.

2) Paragraphe 5.13 Gestion appropriée : évaluer si la gestion est appropriée requiert d’évaluer deux lots d’indicateurs jugés pertinents :

i) le plus souvent par les acteurs des filières des PP : souvent ce sont des indicateurs biologiques et socioéconomiques quantitatifs dépendant du contexte considéré (eg, niveau de biomasse des ressources ; tendance du niveau de biomasse des ressources ; quantité et valeur des captures ; tendance de la quantité et de la valeur des captures ; niveau et tendance revenus des ménages issus des PP à l’échelle hebdomadaire, mensuelle et annuelle ; niveau et tendance du partage de la valeur produite au long de la filière) ;

ii) le plus souvent par les autres acteurs (administrations…) : des indicateurs des bonnes pratiques : indicateurs de gouvernance le plus souvent qualitatif (eg, existence et caractère adaptatif des mesures de gestion dans le temps et l’espace, existence et niveau des sanctions en cas de non respect des règles, existence et fonctionnement d’instances de co-décision des mesures de gestion, production et partage de données pertinentes et d’analyses sur l’état et l’évolution des PP)

3) Paragraphe 6.15 Education des enfants : niveau scolaire des jeunes < 16 ans dans les ménages de pêcheurs

4) Paragraphe 7.4 Organisations du secteur des PP : nature, taille (nombre de membres) et capacités (eg, niveau et utilisation du budget, % d’autonomie financière, nombre et qualité du staff) des organisations de PP ; implication dans l’aménagement des PP (suivi des PP, animation interne, processus de décision, échelle d’intervention).

5) Paragraphe 11.9 Recherche collaborative : nature des projets de recherche sur les PP (questions traitées, stratégie de montage de la recherche, échelle d’intervention, durée), caractère adaptatif des recherches au contexte des PP, articulation avec les parties prenantes du secteur des PP et les administrations (nature des partenariats, responsabilités respectives des acteurs des PP et des chercheurs, échanges de données et d’information, utilisation des résultats des recherches à des fins de gestion), articulation financière et technique avec les autres agences d’intervention sur les PP, origine et pérennité du financement, budget total et budget relatif à la valeur des produits des PP.

· Veuillez, si possible, fournir des exemples de cas où les indicateurs que vous suggérez ont été utilisés avec succès, y compris dans des contextes où les données et les capacités sont limitées.

Mon expérience provient de cas d’étude de certaines pêcheries à l’échelle locale et nationale en Océanie (cf. références ci-dessous).

Léopold M (2016) Evaluating the harvest and management strategies for the sea cucumber fisheries in Vanuatu. Projects No 4860A1 (BICH2MER) and No CS14-3007-101 (BICHLAMAR). IRD, Nouméa, 64 pp. <http://umr-entropie.ird.nc/application/files/7614/7150/3919/Leopold2016_Evaluating_harvest_and_management_strategies_for_sea_cucumber_fisheries_in_Vanuatu>

Léopold M., Ham J., Kaku R., Gereva S., Raubani J., Moenteapo Z. 2015. Spatial sea cucumber management in Vanuatu and New Caledonia. SPC Beche-de-mer Information Bulletin 35: 3-9.

Léopold M., Cornuet N., Andréfouët Serge, Moenteapo Z., Duvauchelle C., Raubani J., Ham J., Dumas Pascal (2013). Comanaging small-scale sea cucumber fisheries in New Caledonia and Vanuatu using stock biomass estimates to set spatial catch quotas. Environmental Conservation 40 :367-379.

Léopold M., Ham J., Kaku R., Kaltavara J., Raubani J., Gereva S., Moenteapo Z., Andréfouët S. and Dumas P. 2013. Towards a new management strategy for Pacific Island sea cucumber fisheries. SPC Information Newsletter 140: 43-48.

· Veuillez décrire les cadres de suivi et d'évaluation et les sources de données dont vous avez connaissance et qui permettraient de mesurer ces indicateurs.

1) Paragraphe 5.3 Droits fonciers des PP : ce processus peut être évalué simplement par un inventaire et suivi des textes légaux instituant des droits fonciers aux PP.

2) Paragraphe 5.13 Gestion appropriée :

- indicateurs biologiques et socioéconomiques : cf. références ci-dessus expliquent les méthodologies utilisées dans certains cas.

Les statistiques de pêche officielles peuvent aussi être utilisées pour reconstruire des estimations plus réalistes de certains des indicateurs économiques, voire biologiques via une collaboration avec la recherche (cf. point 5) ci-dessous)

- indicateurs de gouvernance : cf. référence ci-dessus et ci-dessous pour la définition d’un cadre d’analyse de la gouvernance :

Léopold M., Thébaud O., Charles A. (2019). The dynamics of institutional innovation: crafting co-management in small-scale fisheries through action research. Journal of Environmental Management 237: 187-199.

Les sources de données mobilisables proviennent aussi de rapports de projets de recherche correspondant à l’approche transdisciplinaire des PP ou à la démarche de recherche-action (cf. point 5) ci-dessous).

3) Paragraphe 6.15 Education des enfants : ce processus peut être évalué simplement par des enquêtes auprès des ménages (eg, statistiques officielles par enquêtes socioéconomiques ou enquêtes dédiées), en prenant garde à la représentation de l’échantillon des ménages de PP et des autres secteurs économiques (contrôle)

4) Paragraphe 7.4 Organisations du secteur des PP : les indicateurs peuvent être évalués à partir d’une compilation de sources de données pertinentes et accessibles, comme les rapports d’activité des organisations des PP, des administrations chargées des pêches et des autres OSCs partenaires,

et de projets de recherche correspondant à l’approche transdisciplinaire des PP ou à la démarche de recherche-action (cf. point 5) ci-dessous).

5) Paragraphe 11.9 Recherche collaborative : Les indicateurs peuvent être simplement mesurés à partir des informations concernant les projets de recherche réalisés. Les sources de données mobilisables proviennent de rapports et publications scientifiques de projets correspondant à l’approche transdisciplinaire des PP ou à la démarche de recherche-action.

3. Planification participative: Éléments clés et expériences

· Quels sont, à votre avis, les éléments clés d'un suivi participatif réussi?

1) Permettre de collecter des données fiables (suivant un protocole rigoureux), à un coût par unité largement inférieur à celui d’un suivi par une organisation tierce (consultant ou recherche)

2) Etre en lien avec une organisation / administration capable de gérer, sauvegarder et traiter – analyser les données selon une méthodologie rigoureuse, et d’en restituer les résultats et les indicateurs estimés rapidement (les suivis uniquement gérés par les PP sont rares à moins que les organisations soient suffisamment développées et performantes)

3) Créer un partenariat entre acteurs des PP, administrations, chercheurs et autres OSCs : les suivis participatifs sont alors par définition une action collective, dont il est attendu (si elle réussit) qu’elle soit poursuivie par d’autres actions collectives (décisionnelles), initiant une logique vertueuse. Je pense que c’est ainsi le meilleur moyen d’initier un processus de cogestion durable.

· Quelles sont vos expériences en matière de suivi participatif?

L’ensemble des données que je collecte ou ai collecté sur les PP sont issues de suivis participatifs (cf. publications <http://umr-entropie.ird.nc/index.php/team/marc-leopold>). Je considère que toutes les données collectées sur les PP devraient incorporer une participation des PP, certes à un degré divers selon la nature et complexité des données. Pour ma part, cela me semble tout à fait atteignable et pourrait être généralisé.

· Qui devraient être les principaux acteurs impliqués ou responsables de la conception et de la mise en œuvre d'un système de suivi des Directives SSF?

Afin de faire le lien entre les Directives et la gestion et situation des PP au niveau national, les principaux acteurs impliqués ou responsables de la conception et de la mise en œuvre d'un système de suivi des Directives SSF devraient être logiquement les mêmes acteurs que ceux impliqués dans la cogestion des PP : principales organisations de la filière (pêcheurs, transformateurs, exportateurs…), administrations des ministères des pêches et de la recherche (voire de l’environnement, le cas échéant), chercheurs impliqués sur les PP, autres OSCs principales impliquées dans les PP.

English translation

**1. Criteria for defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

* What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?

In order to be as concise as possible in terms of targets, the following 5 paragraphs seem to me to have priority and should be carried out simultaneously:

1) Paragraph 5.3 Tenure rights in small-scale fisheries

2) Paragraph 5.13 Appropriate management systems

3) Paragraph 6.15 Children’s education

4) Paragraph 7.4 Organizations of the small-scale fisheries sector

5) Paragraph 11.9 Collaborative research

* Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.

The first general reason is that these 5 paragraphs reflect tangible facts and thus engage stakeholders of the small-scale fisheries on the ground (and not just "paper" commitments).

The second general reason is that each of these paragraphs actually includes recommendations from many other paragraphs of the Guidelines (see below), and therefore reflects that these various recommendations are taken into account jointly, in an integrated manner, which is, in my view, the objective of the Guidelines.

Specific reasons are described below.

1) Paragraph 5.3 Tenure rights in small-scale fisheries

- securing land rights is the main barrier against coastal industrial fishing, which is a major factor of proven or potential impact in almost all small-scale fisheries (even if it is obviously not the only one). It also allows to circumscribe management on a spatial basis and identify the actors to be mobilized.

- This process includes recommendations from many other paragraphs of the Guidelines, in particular: §5.4 (adequate legislation), §5.5 (which is a prerequisite for §5.3), §5.7 ( enforcement of exclusive zones, special case for reaching §5.3), §5.9 (equivalent to having tenure rights), §5.19, §10.2 (included in MSP), §11.6 (taking into account local knowledge).

2) Paragraph 5.13 Appropriate management systems

- This paragraph is the central objective to be achieved by the Guidelines, since an appropriate, formalized sustainable management approach is the cornerstone for all services of the small-scale fisheries.

- This process includes recommendations from many other paragraphs of the Guidelines, in particular: §5.14 (modalities), §5.15 (co-management) itself in close connection with §7.1 and §7.2 (participation of the sector including women), 10.7 (governance), §12.4 ( administrative capacities), §5.16 (MSC), §5.17 (legal basis), §5.20 ( poor practices), §7.8 (effect of export sectors), §9.2 (taking climate change into account).

3) Paragraph 6.15 Children’s education

- This process is the basis for many other long-term processes for human well-being and development, mentioned by the Guidelines as a responsibility of the States. The level of education of children is indeed often correlated to their future living conditions (level of income, professional opportunities, ability to take care of themselves, see §6.2, 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.13), and their ability to participate in organizations (7.4).

4) Paragraph 7.4 Organization of the small-scale fisheries sector

- this paragraph is one of the requirements for the processes described in §5.3, 5.3 and 11.9 above.

- Promotion of organizations has a cost, which has to be borne by states through different possible mechanisms as a prerequisite for good governance practices.

- This paragraph also facilitates other recommendations expressed in other paragraphs of the Guidelines: §7.6, 7.10 et 12.1 (capacities) et §8.2 (women’s organizations).

5) Paragraph 11.9 Collaborative research

- As a responsibility of all parties, collaborative research (a source of innovation) is a means for building cooperation within the small-scale fisheries. Yet this process of cooperation is a requisite for the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries (§5.13).

- This collaborative research process, defined through consultation, implies naturally recommendations from §11.8 (information sharing platforms and bodies), §11.10 (action-oriented research), and §12.3 (local capacities).

- This process would be the cornerstone of recommendations contained in §11.1 (data to be collected), 11.3 (transparency), and 11.5 (particular type of data), which fall under the responsibility of the State, and would include §11.4 and 11.7 (communication of local knowledge and information produced, including after data analysis).

- This type of research should contribute to the general monitoring of the implementation of the Guidelines in the Member States, as far as this emerges as a recommendation from the consultations: in this way it can measure the ownership of the Guidelines by the stakeholders (§13.4).

* At what geographic scale should progress be measured (e.g., local, national)?

Since the Guidelines are endorsed by States, progress should be measured at national level. This assessment could consist in a summary of sectorial components. According to the nature of the above paragraphs, these components would be administrative sectors (e.g., countries, regions, municipalities) and/or sectors targeting the different branches of small-scale fisheries at national, sub-national and local levels.

**2. 2.      Meaningful and feasible indicators:  How can we measure progress?**

* Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”

All the following indicators are considered mandatory, as they measure the priorities identified above.

1) Paragraph 5.3 Tenure rights in small-scale fisheries:  nature and content of legal texts instituting land rights in small-scale fisheries.

2) Paragraph 5.13 Appropriate management systems: In order to assess the appropriateness of management, two sets of indicators that are considered relevant should be evaluated:

 i) most often by actors involved in small-scale fisheries: these are often quantitative biological and socio-economic indicators depending on the context under consideration (e.g. level of resource biomass; trend in the level of resource biomass; quantity and value of catches; trend in the quantity and value of catches; level and trend in household income from small-scale fisheries on a weekly, monthly and annual scale; level and trend in the sharing of the value produced along the chain);

ii) most often by other actors (administrations...): good practice indicators,  governance indicators that are most generally qualitative (e.g. existence and adaptive nature of management measures in time and space, existence and level of sanctions in case of non-compliance with rules, existence and functioning of co-decision bodies for management measures, production and sharing of relevant data and analyses on the status and evolution of small-scale fisheries).

3) Paragraph 6.15 Children’s education: educational level of young people < 16 years old in fishermen's households;

4) Paragraph 7.4 Organization of the small-scale fisheries sector: nature, size (number of members) and capacities (e.g. level and use of budget, scope of financial autonomy, number and quality of staff) of organizations of small-scale fisheries; involvement in the planning of small-scale fisheries (monitoring of small-scale fisheries, internal animation, decision-making process, scale of intervention).

5) Paragraph 11.9 Collaborative research

nature of small-scale fisheries research projects (issues addressed, research design strategy, scale of intervention, duration), adaptability of research to the small-scale fisheries context, articulation with small-scale fisheries stakeholders and administrations (nature of partnerships, respective responsibilities of small-scale fisheries stakeholders and researchers, data and information exchange, use of research results for management purposes), financial and technical articulation with other small-scale fisheries intervention agencies, origin and sustainability of funding, total budget and budget relative to the value of small-scale fisheries products.

* If possible, please provide examples of where the indicators you suggest have been used successfully, including in data- and capacity-limited contexts.
* My experience is drawn from case studies of some local and national fisheries in Oceania (see references below).

Léopold M (2016) Evaluating the harvest and management strategies for the sea cucumber fisheries in Vanuatu. Projects No 4860A1 (BICH2MER) and No CS14-3007-101 (BICHLAMAR). IRD, Noumea, 64 pp. <http://umr-entropie.ird.nc/application/files/7614/7150/3919/Leopold2016_Evaluating_harvest_and_management_strategies_for_sea_cucumber_fisheries_in_Vanuatu>

Léopold M., Ham J., Kaku R., Gereva S., Raubani J., Moenteapo Z. 2015. Spatial sea cucumber management in Vanuatu and New Caledonia. SPC Beche-de-mer Information Bulletin 35: 3-9.

Léopold M., Cornuet N., Andréfouët Serge, Moenteapo Z., Duvauchelle C., Raubani J., Ham J., Dumas Pascal (2013). Comanaging small-scale sea cucumber fisheries in New Caledonia and Vanuatu using stock biomass estimates to set spatial catch quotas. Environmental Conservation 40 :367-379.

Léopold M., Ham J., Kaku R., Kaltavara J., Raubani J., Gereva S., Moenteapo Z., Andréfouët S. and Dumas P. 2013. Towards a new management strategy for Pacific Island sea cucumber fisheries. SPC Information Newsletter 140: 43-48.

* Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.
* 1) Paragraph 5.3 Tenure rights in small-scale fisheries:  This process can be assessed through a simple inventory and monitoring of the legal texts instituting tenure rights for small-scale fisheries.

2) Paragraph 5.13 Appropriate management systems:

- biological and socio-economic indicators ( see above references) explain the methodologies used in some cases.

Official fisheries statistics can also be used to reconstruct more realistic estimates of some economic or even biological indicators through collaborative research (see point 5) below).

- Governance indicators: see reference above and below for the definition of a governance analysis framework:

Léopold M., Thébaud O., Charles A. (2019). The dynamics of institutional innovation: crafting co-management in small-scale fisheries through action research. Journal of Environmental Management 237: 187-199.

The sources of data that can be called upon also stem from reports of research projects corresponding to the trans disciplinary approach of the small-scale fisheries or the action-research approach (see 5) below).

3) Paragraph 6.15 Children’s education: this process can be assessed simply through household surveys (e.g., official statistics through socio-economic surveys or dedicated surveys), being careful to represent the sample of households from the small-scale fisheries and other economic sectors (control).

4) Paragraph 7.4 Organization of the small-scale fisheries sector: Indicators can be assessed on the basis of a compilation of relevant and accessible data sources, such as progress reports from small-scale fisheries' organizations, fisheries administrations and other CSO partners, and research projects corresponding to the trans disciplinary approach of small-scale fisheries or the action-research approach (see point 5) below).

5) Paragraph 11.9 Collaborative research: Indicators can simply be measured using information from completed research projects. The sources of data that can be called upon also stem from reports and scientific publications corresponding to the trans disciplinary approach of the small-scale fisheries or the action-research approach.

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

* What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring? 1) To allow reliable data to be collected (following a rigorous protocol), at a cost per unit much lower than that of monitoring by a third party (consultant or research).

2) To be connected with an organization/administration capable of managing, saving and processing - analyzing data according to a strict methodology, and to rapidly return results and estimated indicators (monitoring only managed by small-scale fisheries is uncommon unless organizations are sufficiently developed and efficient).

3) Establishing a partnership between small-scale fisheries actors, governments, researchers and other CSOs: participatory monitoring is then by definition a collective action, which is expected (if successful) to be followed by other collective (decision-making) actions, initiating a virtuous logic. I think this is the best way to trigger a sustainable co-management process.

* What are your experiences with participatory monitoring
* - All the data I collect or have collected on small scale fisheries are derived from participatory monitoring (see publications <http://umr-entropie.ird.nc/index.php/team/marc-leopold>) I consider that all data collected on small-scale fisheries should incorporate the participation of small-scale fisheries stakeholders, albeit to varying degrees depending on the nature and complexity of the data. I think that this is entirely achievable and could be generalized.
* Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?

In order to relate the Guidelines to the management and situation of small-scale fisheries at national level, the main actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines should logically be the same actors involved in the co-management of small-scale fisheries, that is: the main organizations of the sector (fishermen, processors, exporters...), administrations of fisheries and research ministries (or even of the environment, if applicable), researchers involved in small-scale fisheries, other main CSOs involved in this sector.

## Yifang Tang FIAN International Secretariat ,Germany

Comments on behalf of TNI and FIAN.

**What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?**

Guiding Principles

Chapter 5. Governance of Tenure in SSF and Resource Management

Chapter 6. Social Development, Employment and Decent Work

Chapter 7. Value Chains, Post-Harvest, and Trade

Chapter 8. Gender Equality

Chapter 9. Disaster Risks and Climate Change

The order of the chapters does not imply any prioritized order, as all principles are important and interconnected.

**Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.**

Guiding Principles are relevant as they reaffirm international human rights standard as well as principles of human rights (e.g. human rights and dignity, non-discrimination, rule of law, accountability, etc.) which provide the basis for the SSF Guidelines. These should inform all implementation measures and therefore need to be a central part of monitoring as well.

Responsible Governance of Tenure is a crucial element because it determines if and how SSF communities have control over and access to access natural resources (both land and water), indispensable for the realization of the right to food and nutrition and many other related human rights.

Social Development, Employment and Decent work are important components as they affect a significant proportion of small-scale fishers. Social development includes access to social services and is a crucial dimension of SSF. Also, SSF is an important source of employment and income indispensable for the realization of human rights of small-scale fishers. Due to several challenges faced by SSF worldwide (e.g. expropriation due to port developments, urban development, nature conservation, oil and gas exploration, mining, privatisation of fisheries and climate change impacts),

SSF are threatened with dispossessions from their fishing grounds, losing thus their main source of livelihood. Also, decent work must be ensured so safety and security of SSF is endured, social protection is provided, and participation in decision making, as well as equal treatment for women and men SFF, are ensured.

Value chain, post-harvest and trade: The expansion of the globalised food systems and increased export orientation negatively affect SSFs in the entire value chain. Despite differences in cultures and national practices, the general tendency is that often small-scale fishers involved in post-harvest activities (processing and trade) are expropriated from the sector. Women, who in most countries play a key role in post-harvest activities, are often the first to lose their livelihood because of privatisation and export orientation of fisheries.

The principle of Gender Equality and the realization of women’s rights is of immense importance in SSF for several reasons: 1) women play a key role in particular in the pre- and post-harvest activities; 2) women continue to be politically marginalised in most countries where SSF play an important role in terms of culture, providing healthy food and nutrition for the majority of the population, and the numbers of people involved; 3) women often also carry the double burden of having to maintain the households and families, with an immense amount of unpaid care work.

Disaster risk and climate change: It is well documented that coastal communities, in particular, are among the most affected by climate change and specifically in tropical regions (some of the countries with the largest numbers of SSF communities). It is also well documented that SSF  communities – using low impact fishing gears and supplying local markets which both have a very limited carbon footprint – contribute very little to global warming. Furthermore, small-scale fishing communities play a critical role in preserving and sustainably managing marine and freshwater ecosystems, thus being essential for the conservation of biodiversity and the resilience of such ecosystems.

At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?

The progress should be first measured at the local and national levels. Given that the SSF Guidelines are based on human rights and focus on small-scale fishing communities, it is critical that monitoring starts at the local level. This is the condition for successful participatory monitoring (see section 3). The national level is of great importance because states are the ones who are required to implement the SSF Guidelines, based on their human rights obligations. To ensure coherence and compliance with the SSF Guidelines' core principles, the GSF, and in particular, its Advisory Group, have been mandated to provide guidance to and oversee monitoring efforts at national and local levels.

**2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

**Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”**

Indicators need to be developed according to a consistent monitoring framework, which is in line with the SSF Guidelines and its core principles. It is, therefore, crucial to establish clear principles and objectives of monitoring, before developing indicators. Given that the SSF Guidelines are focused on the rights of SSF communities, the principles and objectives of monitoring, as well as the indicators need to be developed in close cooperation with the organizations that represent them.

Rather than collecting very specific indicators at this stage, it is important to define a process that will lead to establishing a consistent monitoring framework, based on which appropriate indicators will be developed.

**Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.**

It is crucial to ensure that any data gathered can be easily accessed by SSF communities, and data collection must also ensure the participation of SSF communities and communities, thereby also prioritizing qualitative information. “Data” should therefore not be understood in a way that refers only or mainly to quantitative data, such as data from official statistics.

Monitoring of the SSF Guidelines should be based on human rights, which means that indicators should be guided and build upon already existing human rights-based instruments and guidelines, such as those promoted by social movements, indigenous peoples’ organizations and CSOs within the CFS. For example, the right to food guidelines and tenure guidelines, reflecting and linking to SDGs. Human rights-based monitoring of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines should go beyond data collection and specific actions of states, but rather analyse whether or not the states is fulfilling its human rights obligations and tackling structural issues related to small-scale fisheries which lead to violations of human rights, such as the right to food and nutrition. This is the basic framework used by the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition for its alternative monitoring “Peoples Monitoring for the Right to Food and Nutrition”. Some members of the IPC Fisheries Working Group are members of the GNRTFN and already engaged in this people-centred monitoring process.

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

**What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?**

Human rights-based approach (integration of norms, standards and principles of international human rights treaties and instruments in national laws, policies and programs)

Centred on knowledge and participation of fisher peoples and their organisations

Respect for freedom of expression and the right to autonomy of fisher peoples and their organizations, and protection against repercussions in cases where fisher people speak truth to power. This is of utmost importance in a serious of countries where authoritarianism is becoming increasingly pronounced.

Ensure accountability

Transparency

Applied and contextualized to the national, regional, and international levels

Need relevant and appropriate indicators that are constructed by SSF communities and supporting organisations

Strengthening of the capacity of SSF to claim their rights, and to plan actions in line with their priorities and needs.

**What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?**

Through a series of national and regional level workshops on the use of the SSF Guidelines, we have learned some few lessons:

Small-scale fishing communities have profound knowledge and understanding of local and national level context relating to the objectives and principles of the SSF Guidelines

small-scale fishing communities are knowledgeable well positioned to articulate views on the scale and extend of the implementation of the SSF guidelines. In numerous countries where national and regional workshops have taken place, it is clear that governments are lacking behind on all 5 above-highlighted principles.

loss of tenure rights is a serious threat all over the world: expropriation do provide space for aquaculture and tourism (Honduras), clearing of forests for large-scale agriculture or construction of dams (Brazil), privatisation of fisheries (South Africa), construction of artificial islands (Indonesia) are some of the evidence gathered at national level workshops on SSF guidelines.

Any monitoring framework should take into account the realities experienced by the SSF communities and their organisations.

**Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?**

Key actors will differ depending on the levels:

Global/international:

Advisory Group (AG) of SSF-GSF plays an essential role in enhancing the monitoring of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and ensure that this is in line with the human rights-based approach of the SSF Guidelines. The GSF should guide monitoring by developing a consistent monitoring framework that is in line with the core principles of the SSF Guidelines, as well as indicators. These may be adapted at the national level, according to the specific context.

National and local:

As monitoring must be a tool to protect the rights of the SSF communities, SSF communities, Indigenous Peoples (and their traditional authorities), and their organisations must be the key actors in designing and monitoring the implementation of SSF Guidelines. As said before, state authorities are required to implement the SSF Guidelines based on their human rights obligations. Consequently, they need to ensure proper monitoring of advances and the human rights situation of small-scale fishers.

There needs to be a clear linkage between the national and international level. For example, the national level monitoring exercises conducted by SSF communities and their organisations, as well as monitoring efforts conducted by states, should contribute to and inform a global/international monitoring process. This means that a clear mechanism needs to be in place that ensures and promotes social movements’ and CSOs' participation in monitoring, for example, by producing  monitoring reports that can feed into the global monitoring process of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

## Vittoria Elliott, WorldFish Center, Cambodia

**1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

**What do you think are the 5 most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries?**

**Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.**

Although Sustainable Natural Resource use/management should more generally be seen as a priority for meeting SSF guidelines and more generally the ‘Code’, there are sections that should be considered “priorities” but specifically with reference to “most relevant” for “assessing progress”, might not be. The following fall under the remit specifically of being “most relevant for assessing progress”:

1)  5b Natural Resource Management, specifically: 5.13 States and all those engaged in fisheries management should adopt measures for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and to secure the ecological foundation for food production. They should promote and implement appropriate management systems, consistent with their existing obligations under national and international law and voluntary commitments, including the Code, that give due recognition to the requirements and opportunities of small scale fisheries.

Rationale:

The rationale for identifying 5b and in particular 5.13 is as follows: Part 2, describes governance requirements, which are an essential enabling condition; employment, gender equality and value chains etc. are essential for securing the value of the SSF and ensuring it is shared equitably; whilst risk and climate are all concerned with mitigating potential threats. Fundamental to the maintenance of SSF is the availability of resources to exploit – without which all other elements become irrelevant – therefore the assessment of Sustainable natural resource use (sustainable harvest, EAFM, etc.) is key to ensuring that resources are maintained, harvested sustainably and remain available for future SSF.

2) 13 Implementation and Monitoring: specifically, “13.4 States should recognize the importance of monitoring systems that allow their institutions to assess progress towards implementation of the objectives and recommendations in these Guidelines. Assessments of the impact on the enjoyment of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and on poverty eradication should be included. Mechanisms allowing the results of monitoring to feed back into policy formulation and implementation should be included. Gender should be taken into consideration in monitoring by using gender-sensitive approaches, indicators and data. States and all parties should elaborate participatory assessment methodologies that allow a better understanding and documentation of the true contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable resource management for food security and poverty eradication including both men and women.” AND 5.16 States should ensure the establishment of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems or promote the application of existing ones applicable to and suitable for small-scale fisheries.

Rationale:

13 is obviously important for assessing progress as it encompasses the implementation and monitoring elements, without which it is not possible to know if progress is being made even if all other guidance is being followed and all elements are being successfully implemented.

As such – tracking progress specifically on implementation and developing suitable monitoring approaches is essential for determining impact of the SSF guidelines and progress in meeting objectives.

3) Meeting the objectives of the SSF 1.1, and 1.2 (and Guiding Principles), more specifically: 1.1 c) to achieve the sustainable utilization, prudent and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and related instruments,

Rationale:

Outlining the Objectives is essential for supporting progress assessment as it frames “the what” for assessment (i.e. what is the goal and how will we know when we have reached it) and helps to identify how you can define the indicators of progress towards the goals. Thus, the Objectives should be used to create indicators with benchmarks for framing progress on whether these stated objectives have been achieved. The Guiding Principles are also important because they also represent the conditions by which the objectives should be met and should thus be used to ensure that meeting the objectives is not negatively impact any of the principles.

4) Governance (and enabling conditions, rights and responsibility), specifically 1.1 c) to achieve the sustainable utilization, prudent and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and related instruments, AND 5.20 States should avoid policies and financial measures that may contribute to fishing overcapacity and, hence, overexploitation of resources that have an adverse impact on small-scale fisheries AND 5.14 All parties should recognize that rights and responsibilities come together; tenure rights are balanced by duties, and support the long-term conservation and sustainable use of resources and the maintenance of the ecological foundation for food production.

Rationale:

Enabling conditions in the form of governance and tenure are essential for enabling SSF and as such these sections should be used to benchmark progress towards the enabling conditions that are essential for meeting the objectives. Equally a clear objective is to generate the revenues from fisheries for SSF, thus tracking progress in enabling conditions for securing revenues is also important for meeting the objectives.

5) Links to the CODE: ensuring that actions for meeting SSF guidelines are in-line with meeting the CODE. Specifically, Objective 1.1 c) to achieve the sustainable utilization, prudent and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and related instruments, AND 5.13 They should promote and implement appropriate management systems, consistent with their existing obligations under national and international law and voluntary commitments, including the Code, that give due recognition to the requirements and opportunities of small-scale fisheries.

Rationale:

The links to the “CODE” in the Preface (and mentioned elsewhere) is important and also represents an important section relevant for assessment because ultimately the SSF objectives and guidelines should meet the CODE and if progress tracked against the SSF objectives is not consistent with meeting the CODE, this should be highlighted and addressed.

**At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)?**

A combination of scales. Ideally the scale should allow monitoring at the local level that can be aggregated to something meaningful at the national level and comparable between nations – in order to do this a certain amount of bespoke decision-making around monitoring is need whilst making sure that indicators (or at least some of them) can be comparable between nations. Examples of such are creating milestones that ask whether planning / strategy documents have been prepared and identifying key items that all strategies should include such as enabling instruments, whilst including additional elements that countries will develop for tracking progress specific to each countries specific requirements

**2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

**Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”**

1) Sustainability of natural resource use

Tracking against benchmarks and milestones towards meeting sustainability of resource use, such as,

- Measures for the long-term “conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and to secure the

ecological foundation for food production” have been defined

- Measures have been tested and adapted to the local context

- Legal frameworks exist for the measures to be implemented

- Stakeholders have rights over resources and consider themselves responsible for conservation and sustainable use

- Measures are being implemented

- Effectiveness of measures are being evaluated for their impact on the goal of conservation and sustainable use

- Benchmarks for sustainable use have been defined

- Evaluation of impact of management measures on resources show positive impacts – requiring the addition of a specific series of indicators:

NB – the series of benchmarks and steps would also provide a system for tracking progress towards other key elements, such as the governance needs, legal frameworks, rights and responsibilities. Therefore, addressing the fundamental inter-connectedness of the SSF guidelines and their relationship to the CODE.

2) Development of monitoring systems and capacity

- Measures for M&E of each critical component (against each objective) have been defined / designed / developed, incorporating benchmarks, milestones and intermediate goals.

- Measures for M&E have been piloted/ tested for their effectiveness

- Measures for M&E are consistently being implemented

- M&E measures are demonstrating target impacts

3) Objectives

Generation of specific indicators under each objectives could be used to frame the way that progress is measured/monitored.

4) Governance, Tenure / ownership / responsibility, Revenue

e.g. Extent of ownership and responsibility, revenue generation from SSF, Legal instruments in place.

- Extent of participation, (and break down by gender, indigenous people’s etc.), in planning

- Integration into law

- Extent of co-management

- Measures have been designed – track progress against general measures of design appropriate for all in management designs (e.g. protected areas, forest management, etc.) and context/country-specific ones select

- Measures have been designed - track progress against general measures of implementation appropriate for all in management designs (e.g. protected areas, forest management, etc.) and context/country-specific ones select

5) Alignment of SSF achievements with the CODE

Integration of monitoring framework with progress to meet the code.

**If possible, please provide examples of where the indicators you suggest have been used successfully, including in data- and capacity-limited contexts.**

The majority of the recommended indicators are related to process and, as such are easy to measure in a ‘done/not done’ approach, providing important information on progress but not necessarily meeting the objective of evaluating impact of implementing the guidelines.

Many of the specific indicators of impact of following the SSF guidelines can also focus on each of the enabling conditions in a ‘completed/not completed’ manner. E.g. Are the appropriate legislations in place to allow SSF rights of access? In other cases, progress can be tracked in a similar way but will need to be evaluated against a defined framework of benchmarks or acceptable targets. For example, 5.14 recognizing rights and responsibilities – defining the target is necessary to describe when this ‘target’ has been achieved. A starting point for tracking progress would therefore be to assess whether a country has defined these targets, the enabling conditions are in place to reach the targets, planning process designed, etc. A similar process can be used to track progress for gender equality. I.e. Are men and women equally represented in dialogues? Are indigenous people’s represented in decision-making processes? Etc. Likewise, for revenue generation. What is the target for SSF to contribute to economies? Are the enabling conditions in place (legal frameworks, rights, etc.?) Are those targets being met? With regard to the sustainable management aims of the SSF, ultimately, all processes can be achieved successfully but not necessarily be meeting the goal of whether the SSF are being managed sustainably. To measure the impact it is necessary to start measuring natural resource availability, starting by defining what ‘sustainable harvest’ would mean for a given system and what the targets need to be. Again application of steps would look something like – Has sustainability been defined (in whatever way possible – based on the data and information available for the system (see below for examples)? Are the enabling conditions in place to regulate harvest to meet these yields (e.g. laws, regulations, gear restrictions, management units, etc.? Are the regulations being implemented?

Adopting a similar framework across the objectives makes progress tracking more coherent, consistent and measurable: setting stepwise and timebound priorities, objectives and benchmarks within each of the objectives of the SSF; providing guidelines for measures but remaining flexible for selection of indicators to allow both consistency and relevance; defining and tracking progress in the enabling conditions for meeting targets; and remaining flexible to update as relevant.

The greatest challenge is determining whether implementation of the SSF guidelines are having the impact intended/expected? (requiring measuring the fishery resources themselves in some capacity). A number of tools are suggested below for assessing resource availability and tracking sustainability in SSF.

**Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.**

Examples:

<http://fishe.edf.org/get-started>

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0122809&type=printable>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165783615000065>

<https://snappartnership.net/teams/data-limited-fisheries/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165783617300243>

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2019.00127/full>

A Handbook prepared by Fishbio for evaluating impact of conservation interventions is a useful reference: <https://www.mekongfishnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Guidebook-for-Assessing-FCZs-in-Lao-PDR_FISHBIO-1.pdf>.

My own publication, describes experiences and an effective system for “Monitoring of tropical freshwater fish resources for sustainable use” Elliott et al. 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jfb.13974>

And the following as a specific technical guide: <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/content/developing-methodology-standardized-fish-monitoring-mekong-basin-0> Boon, L., Elliott, V., Phauk, S., Pheng, S., Souter, N., Payooha, K., Jutagate, T., Duong, V.N. (2016). Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute (Fisheries Administration) and WorldFish. Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

**What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?**

Legal / jurisdictional and a feeling of ownership of the monitoring by the participants

Engaging the most relevant stakeholders and ensuring they have jurisdiction to carry out the monitoring (usually community partnerships with government and commerce)

Ensuring that the participants are interested in collecting the results and have the capacity to use them to inform their actions.

Supportive networks of communities

Trust among stakeholders

**What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?**

I have set-up 3 different systems of participatory monitoring in the Mekong: 1) for measuring inland fisheries resource availability, working with community members serving as citizen-scientists, 2) a voluntary network of inland fishers for monitoring fishery harvest, and 3) local community monitoring for determining impacts of conservation and fisheries management interventions.

Application of the WorldFish “salapoum” approach of engaging communities in local monitoring supports the key need of participants engaged in monitoring having a heightened awareness of the purpose and outcomes of monitoring and how they can be applied to adaptive management and implementing community led EAFM:

<http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource_centre/WF_2787.pdf>

**Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines?**

National and International Scientists

Local stakeholders – particularly for feasibility

National and local government (and regional if transboundary issues are relevant)

(NB – to include government representatives of fisheries and the environment, but also representatives of Ministries responsible for labour, revenue, value-chains, etc. in order to meet relevant targets outside

Independent experts to potentially act as mediators / provide overall perspective to the process AND FAO representatives that can support consistency among countries.

## Brandon Eisler, Nutritional Diversity, Panama

What incredible timing, and with the extension and all!

Small fisheries are a great solution to issues surrounding general poverty, food supply, special preservation, and fertilization of permaculture.

Also what a pleasure to see the statement as bold as "2020 The Year of Artisanal Aquaculture & Fisheries," to fuel the science into a great movement.

Especially in times of serious flu scare amidst the COVID-19 emergence. After reading all related material, I still can't stop thinking of the plethora of herbal solutions that are passed on and never even mentioned. Immunity and robust strong immune systems should be the primary focus. I would think. But that is me.

1. Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

Sustainable living systems all by themselves feature so many benefits it would be foolish for an impoverished person to ignore. Yet, I would say it is the main reason we are still so far out of balance and more of these systems are not in play.

The second reason this concept is will be hard to achieve is government policy.

Jokingly we can say both the stupid people and the government policy have to go.

2. Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?

When people get into stuff like this, they get into it, I have noticed learning from one another in farming usually runs pretty well. With the internet, even better such as here.

3. Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences.

Same answer as to #2. Maybe an app that is can help keep data including fish populations census.

I would like to work more on the small fishery idea myself.

I think now knowing 2022 will be the world year for it I am motivated to get in the groove!

The only thing that makes it more motivating is considering the idea that your hand would be in a bit of karmic reforestation.

I think this also a great addition to the Poverty Nexus work a few months back.

Considering what is happening to our waters everywhere, I am very thankful for your focus on this as a committee!

Some sort of marketing for this 2022 Small Fisheries campaign could be really motivating also.

A Decade of Farming for Families is also an excellent motivation for the next 9 years of concentrated family farming.

As they say when I was growing up " Rock & Roll." They also said, "take it easy."

## Meryl Williams, Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section, Malaysia

GAFS Response

This response is from the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section (GAFS) of the Asian Fisheries Society. The objectives of GAFS are to: (1) promote cooperation among scientists/academics, technicians, fisheries officers and non-governmental organization experts on gender in fisheries and aquaculture; (2) give greater visibility to and increase awareness of the importance of incorporating gender and more particularly women in fisheries and aquaculture interventions; (3) advocate for the advancement of women within the fisheries and aquaculture; and (4) promote the establishment of local networks of individuals and organizations involved in gender issues in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and to collaborate with other networks and civil society organizations with similar objectives.

Hence, our suggestions relate to the gender elements of the SSF-VG. We also draw your attention to Quist (2016) [LINK - <http://www.asianfisheriessociety.org/publication/abstract.php?id=1115> – “A Gender Analysis of the Adopted Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication: Constraints and Opportunities” Asian Fisheries Science, 29:149-160.]

Our key messages from our response below are as follows:

* **Women vital to SSF:** Women are a large, important but poorly documented part of SSF, creating monitoring problems within the overall SSF Guidelines monitoring challenge. Many local and national fisheries officials have a very low awareness of the gender provisions in the SSF Guidelines. This could lead to women’s status and engagement diminishing, in spite of efforts to improve SSF. Monitoring should be sensitive to the possibility of negative as well as positive change in gender equality.
* **Local scale monitoring is key:** The scale of monitoring should primarily be local due to the diverse forms of SSF. Progress measured at the local level would then be collated for the regional/national levels where progress would be measured in terms of policies and programmes in line with the Guidelines, including special programs addressing women. Empirical studies are needed to work through model approaches, at the national level, for collecting sex-disaggregated data.
* **Adapt SDG gender targets:** The SSF monitoring programme could adapt selected gender targets from relevant SDGs (UN Women, 2018). An annex of suggested targets is provided for consideration. SDG 14 (Life Under Water) is one of the few SDGs to contain no gender-specific targets.
* **In depth gender analysis needed:** To help overcome gender blindness, in depth gender analysis is needed to establish the fisheries (resources and value chain) and the policies, institutions and organizations that specially affect women of fishing communities.
* **First raise community awareness of SSF Guidelines:** Greater awareness among SSF communities on the Guidelines is the essential first step for participatory monitoring. Capacity building is needed to educate women and men on the ground that the SSF Guidelines is an exclusive instrument that can be used to ensure their livelihoods including their access to their resources and all other aspects encompassing it.
* **Combine participatory monitoring with social change:** Nurturing social change is entwined with participatory monitoring. Participants will be the fishers, the local governments, fishers’ organisations, CSOs, researchers (especially those working in SSF and gender). Government agencies will have to cede some control and work in a collaborative rather than top-down manner.
1. **Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

*Most relevant chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics of the SSF Guidelines for assessing progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries*

We focus on the gender equality dimension of the SSF Guidelines because women are a large and important part of SSF, though this is poorly documented due to the poor coverage of women’s participation within the overall inadequate SSF statistics. How women are impacted by the Guidelines, positively and negatively, is critical, but challenging due to the weak data.

*Please describe why you believe these chapters, paragraphs, and/or topics are most relevant.*

Our members have direct experience on the ground in communities in several countries, e.g., India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria. This experience is that the local and even national fisheries agencies officials have very low awareness of the gender dimension in the SSF Guidelines. With such low awareness of the gender dimension, little or no progress can be expected, and indeed women’s status and engagement may further diminish, in spite of what may happen to other segments of the SSF communities.

*At what geographical scale should progress be measured (e.g. local, national)*

The scale should primarily be local. SSF is diverse in its form and scale and varies from region to region and large variations occur even within countries. Progress can be measured at the local level and then collated for the regional/national levels. The national level progress can be measured in terms of policies and programmes made that are in line with the implementation of the Guidelines. This could be, for instance, special programmes for women in SSF.

1. **Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

We note that SDG 14 (Life Under Water) is one of the few SDGs to contain no gender-specific targets (UN Women 2018 “Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development“). As the SSF Guidelines are associated with SDG 14, it is imperative that this global instrument redress that gap at least for part of the fisheries realm.

*Do you have suggestions for indicators that could be used to assess progress towards the priorities you identified under part 1? Please discuss whether you consider these indicators mandatory versus “nice to have.”*

Guidance on suitable monitoring measures and indicators could be developed from the work of UN Women which collated all the gender indicators in the various SDGs (UN Women 2018 – LINK <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018>). For example, selected indicators in SDGs 5 (Gender equality), and several other indicators can be adapted for SSF indicators. Considerable work has already gone into producing these SDG indicators and selected ones can be used for monitoring the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. As a start, a table of suggestions is annexed to this submission.

As the gender component of the Illuminating Hidden Harvests project is showing, the problems with the lack of quantitative sex-disaggregated data are immense and will not be solved quickly. Therefore, monitoring of the gender impacts of the SSF Guidelines cannot rely on comprehensive quantitative data. Even simple indicators such as the number of women, men and youth involved will be hard to obtain. Indicators will need to be drawn from case studies or data drawn together from proxy data. Big data approaches may also be tested, e.g., for judging the usage of mobile phone systems by women and men traders, such as is being examined in projects such as Data2X (<https://data2x.org/>).

*If possible, please provide examples of where the indicators you suggest have been used successfully, including in data- and capacity-limited contexts.*

WorldFish gender researchers are starting to use an adapted form of the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (<http://weai.ifpri.info/>) to form a Women’s Empowerment in Fisheries/Aquaculture Index. They have successfully applied it as a research too in Zambia floodplain fisheries and other countries and sites. Please contact Dr Cynthia McDougall for further information.

Although these more research oriented tools may not be appropriate for comprehensive monitoring, they are soundly based conceptually, unlike some other attempts to include sex-disaggregated data in an oversimplistic manner, such as the Fisheries Performance Indicators system (<https://www.fpilab.org/fishery-performance-indicators/>). In cases where simple counts of women’s involvement are used without reference to the quality of that engagement, high percentages of women in certain occupations may be misinterpreted, e.g., are the women only employed in low-paying, exploitative labour or in work that allows prospects for their empowerment and economic wellbeing?

*Please describe any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources you are aware of that could be drawn on to measure these indicators.*

At the 7th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, a panel discussion proposed empirical studies to work through model approaches, at the national level, for collecting sex-disaggregated data. (<https://www.genderaquafish.org/gaf7-long-report-expanding-the-horizons/>).

<https://data2x.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BigDataBigImpact-Report-WR.pdf> - “Big Data Big Impact? Towards gender sensitive data systems”.

**Participatory monitoring: Key elements and experiences**

Monitoring programs, participatory or otherwise, will need to be initiated by central government agencies that establish the framework for data collection and form the national oversight arrangements comprised of government agencies, civil society bodies, fishers and fishing community cooperatives and groups, women’s oganisations, all ensuring a good coverage of the value chain.

That said, the lack of attention to Small Scale Fisheries in most countries has had a direct effect also on women’s lack of visibility in the sector. If the complexities of SSF and gender roles, however, are not well understood, the monitoring system will be deficient. Several of our GAFS members commented on the overall lack of attention to SSF in particular countries, and the stereotyping of women’s roles as being confined to on land processing and marketing, and of men’s roles as being on water

To help overcome gender blindness, and noting the local particularities of SSF, in depth gender analysis is needed to establish the fisheries (resources and value chain) and the policies, institutions and organizations that specially affect women of fishing communities. What are the social norms, values and practices that determine gender roles and gender power relations? Are the resources and ecosystems fished by women included? What determines marginalization, exclusion, exploitation, discrimination of women: at the household level, at the community level, at the working place, at the market place? This will necessitate that institutions and organisations (partners) also examine their own practices and policies and ensure that their members and staff are aware of and understand these issues.

From such analysis, the strategic needs of women in (small scale) fisheries and fishing communities and not only their practical needs can be identified and voiced. Strategic needs are issues 1) that are key to women’s empowerment like voice and decision making, education and knowledge, decent work and income, appropriate means of production and 2) that affect women specifically, such as reproductive health and rights, violence against women, women in conflict areas and areas with environmental/natural resources crises or displacement due to land grabbing or development projects. The list of possible monitoring targets in the Annex are useful here.

Monitoring and nurturing social change are entwined in participatory monitoring. Monitoring will need to finding evidence of change (or not) of gender relations and related norms and practices and of realization of women’s rights, and of participation of both women and men in this process. And in this we need to link all levels: micro, meso and macro. Searching for locally adapted practice, identifying how successful approaches (alternatives from below) may be brought to scale.

Finally, monitoring should not only look for positive change but be sensitive to the possibility that negative change on gender equality is possible.

*What do you think are key elements of successful participatory monitoring?*

Greater awareness among SSF communities on the guidelines is the essential first step. That there is an exclusive instrument that can be used to ensure their livelihoods including their access to their resources and all other aspects encompassing it must be known to the fishermen and women on the ground. Capacity building on these lines is essential. Only then can participatory monitoring be thought of and can it be effective.

*What are your experiences with participatory monitoring?*

A project carried out with small scale clam fishers in Kerala, India, which also had components of technology upgradation, needed constant interaction with the fishers. This also had the involvement of the local governing bodies and other agencies in the village. Though it was not strictly monitoring of the Guidelines, several lessons can be learnt on how monitoring can be effected on the ground. This will require people’s participation as well as the participation of the local governing authorities.

*Who should be the key actors involved in or responsible for the design and implementation of a monitoring system for the SSF Guidelines*?

The fishers, the local governments, fishers’ organisations, CSOs, researchers (especially those working in SSF and gender). However, we recognize that this will mean that some government agencies will be having to cede some control and work in a collaborative rather than top-down manner.

Some of our GAFS members have been involved in capacity building of fishermen and women on the SSF Guidelines (including with government and ICSF initiatives) and they have found that there is still a long way to go. When we talk of monitoring, sensitisation and awareness at all levels of governance as well as among the fishers themselves is key to successful implementation and only then can monitoring follow.

The crucial importance of early and regular documenting and monitoring should be taken at heart. All need to join hands to develop functional systems by which knowledge is accumulated and shared.

**------------------**

**ANNEX TO QUESTION 2**

**SDG Gender Targets and possible adaptation for SSF Guidelines (see the full Figure 2.1 from UN Women (2018) for further targets)**

**Note**:

1. The subset of the Figure 2.1 (UN Women, 2018) gender targets include a number of community-based measures.
2. The possible gender targets for fisheries and SSF highlighted in green are suggested priorities.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Selection of SDG gender targets with relevance to SSF** | **Possible gender targets for Fisheries and SSF** |
| **1. NO POVERTY** |  |
| 1.1.1 Population living below US$1.90 per day, by sex | SSF population living below US$1.90 per day, by sex |
| 1.2.1 Population living below the national poverty line, by sex | SSF population living below the national poverty line, by sex |
| 1.3.1 Population covered by social protection, by sex | SSF population covered by social protection, by sex |
| 1.4.2 Secure tenure rights to land, by sex | SSF secure tenure rights to coastal land (housing, ports, landing areas), by sex, community |
| 1.b.1 Proportion of government spending to sectors benefiting women, poor and vulnerable groups | Proportion of government funding to SSF benefiting women |
| **2. NO HUNGER** |  |
| 2.3.2 Average income of small scale food producers, by sex | Average income of small scale fish producers, by sex (see also 1.1.1) |
| **3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** |  |
| 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio | Maternal mortality ratio in SSF communities |
| 3.1.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel | In SSF communities, births attended by skilled health professionals |
| 3.3.1 New HIV infections, by sex | New HIV infections in SSF communities, by sex |
| 3.7.1 Satisfactory family planning with modern methods | In SSF communities, satisfactory family planning with modern methods |
| 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate | In SSF communities, adolescent birth rates |
| 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services, including reproductive and maternal health | In SSF communities, coverage of essential health services, including reproductive and maternal health |
| **4. QUALITY EDUCATION** |  |
| 4.3.1 Participation of youth and adults in education, by sex | Participation by youth and adults, by sex, in SSF training and extension |
| 4.6.1 Proficiency (at a given age group) in functional literacy and numeracy skills, by sex | In SSF communities, proficiency (at a given age group) in functional literacy and numeracy skills, by sex |
| **SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY** |  |
| 5.1.1 Legal frameworks to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on sex | Policies and legal fisheries frameworks to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on sex |
| 5.2.1 Women and girls subjected to intimate partner violence | Level of reported violence against women and girls in fisheries communities |
| 5.4.1 Unpaid domestic and care work, by sex | Measure, e.g., population numbers, of unpaid fisheries sector and community care work, be sex |
| 5.5.1 Women in parliaments and local governments | Women in SS fisheries management bodies |
| 5.5.2 Women in managerial positions | Women in SS fisheries leadership positions |
| 5.a.1 Ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex | Ownership or secure rights to SSF resources, e.g., landed catch |
|  | Ownership or secure rights to coastal/riverine/lacustrine living space for SSF, by sex or community group |
| 5.a.2 Laws that guarantee equal land rights | Laws that protect SSF resource and living space rights |
| 5.b.1 Women who own a mobile phone | People in SSF communities who own a mobile phone, by sex |
| 5.c.1 Countries with system to track gender equality | Countries with system to track gender equality in SSF |
| **8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH** |  |
| 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment, by sex | (see also 5.2.1)  |
| 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children engaged in child labour, by sex | Proportion and number of children engaged in child labour in SSF, by sex |
| 8.8.2 National compliance of labour rights, by sex | National compliance of labour rights in SSF, by sex |
| **10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES**  |  |
| 10.2.1 People living below 50% of median income, by sex | SSF community people living below 50% median income, by sex |
| **13. CLIMATE ACTION** |  |
| 13.b.1 LDCs and SIDS receiving support for climate change related planning and management | Evidence that climate change policies and actions relevant to SSF are gender sensitive |

## Small-Scale Fisheries Core Team,FAO, Italy

English version

Dear online consultation contributors,

The online consultation is now concluded. We thank all contributors for taking the time to share your perspective, thoughts, and valuable insights. Your inputs are extremely useful to us as we conceptualize and design guidance for monitoring the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. We hope you have enjoyed reading the contributions, making connections, and learning from others about small-scale fisheries around the world. A full summary of the contributions will be available shortly via this webpage. Please feel free to contact us again directly at ssf-guidelines@fao.org, and be sure to watch the [SSF Guidelines website](http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/) and Twitter ([@FAOfish](https://twitter.com/faofish)) for updates on this work.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Katy Dalton for The FAO SSF Guidelines Secretariat

French version

Chers contributeurs à la consultation électronique,

La consultation électronique est maintenant terminée. Nous remercions tous les contributeurs d'avoir pris le temps de partager votre point de vue, vos réflexions et vos précieuses idées. Vos contributions nous sont extrêmement utiles car nous conceptualisons et concevons des orientations pour le suivi de la mise en œuvre des directives SSF. Nous espérons que vous avez apprécié lire les contributions, établir des liens et apprendre des autres sur la pêche artisanale dans le monde. Un résumé complet des contributions sera disponible sous peu sur cette page Web. N'hésitez pas à nous contacter à nouveau directement à ssf-guidelines@fao.org, et assurez-vous de regarder le [site Web des directives SSF](http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/fr/) et Twitter ([@FAOfish](https://twitter.com/faofish)) pour les mises à jour sur ce travail.

Avec gratitude et meilleurs vœux,

Katy Dalton pour le Secrétariat des directives FSS de la FAO

Spanish version

Estimados colaboradores de la consulta electronica,

La consulta electrónica ya ha concluido. Agradecemos a todos los contribuyentes el haber dedicado su tiempo a compartir sus perspectivas, opiniones y sus valiosos conocimientos. Sus aportaciones son extremadamente útiles para nosotros a la hora de conceptualizar y diseñar guías para vigilar la implementación de las Directrices PPE. Esperamos que hayan disfrutado leyendo las contribuciones, estableciendo relaciones y aprendiendo de otros sobre la pesca en pequeña escala en todo el mundo. En breve estará disponible un resumen completo de las contribuciones a través de esta página web. No duden en contactarnos directamente en ssf-guidelines@fao.org, y asegúrense de visitar el [sitio web de las Directrices PPE](http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/es/) y Twitter ([@FAOfish](https://twitter.com/faofish)) para obtener actualizaciones sobre esta iniciativa.

Con gratitud y mis mejores deseos,

Katy Dalton, Secretaría de la FAO para las Directrices PPE

## Shanali Pethiyagoda, FAO, Italy

As our work focuses on supporting countries in developing and implementing agriculture sector National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), we think our recommendations would in general be well-suited to monitoring of activities implemented under the “disaster risks and climate change” thematic area of the SSF Guidelines.

**Defining progress towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

We would like to point you to our upcoming knowledge product – “Addressing Fisheries in NAPs - Supplementary Guidelines to the UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines”. This is to be published in the following months, and includes a chapter on the fourth and final Element D of the National Adaptation Planning process which is “Reporting, monitoring and review”. This chapter provides guidance on how the fisheries sector could formulate a specific plan for monitoring and evaluating sector activities targeted by the NAP which enable greater adaptation outcomes for the systems and people of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It also highlights principals for choosing M&E indicators for implementation of any sectoral NAP. We would be glad to share this publication with you once it is finalized.

**Meaningful and feasible indicators: How can we measure progress?**

Once again, under the disaster risks and climate change theme, we would suggest the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Indicator C-2 on reducing direct agricultural loss attributed to disasters (<https://www.preventionweb.net/files/55594_session4faomarkovaandkhim.pdf>). It assesses the damage and loss in agriculture by agriculture subsector, including fisheries. There are two subcomponents worth highlighting here;

The “production loss” subcomponent captures the decline in production of each subsector that is irreversibly lost due to disaster. In the case of production loss in aquaculture and fisheries, indicators include the difference between expected and actual value of fisheries/aquaculture capture in disaster year. In the case of aquaculture the pre-disaster value of production lost in fully damaged aquaculture areas can be a useful indicator.

The “asset damage” sub-component measures disaster impact on facilities, machinery, tools, and key infrastructure related to agricultural production. Fisheries assets include ponds, hatcheries, freezers and storage buildings, engines and boats, fisheries equipment; forestry assets include, among others, standing timber, firebreaks and watch towers, forestry equipment and machinery, fire management equipment. The monetary value of (fully or partially) damaged assets is calculated using the replacement or repair/rehabilitation cost, and accounted under damage.

Furthermore, on the question of any monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data sources that we are aware of that could be drawn upon, we suggest the Uganda Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for National Adaptation Plan for Agriculture and the performance indicators for the Fishery component (document attached).

<http://assets.fsnforum.fao.org.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/public/discussions/contributions/PME%20Framework%20for%20NAP-Ag%20-%20FINAL%20REPORT%20September%202017.pdf>

## ****Cornelia Nauen,**** Mundus maris, Belgium

Dear colleagues,

I noted that a key element in recording SSF catches was not mentioned. The Sea Around Us ([www.seaaroundus.org](http://www.seaaroundus.org/)) is the one place where independent scientists in countries all over the globe have painstakingly researched and shared the currently best available estimates about SSF, subsistance and recreational marine catches. Using this resource systematically and encouraging and engaging in research in more countries to improve on the first 20 ys of efforts could much improve the conditions of fisheries management not only in Asian, African and Latin America countries. This is where most women and men in SSF live and work (almost 99% by FAO estimates in the SOFIA 2018 report - you must be working on an update even if COFI 2020 may not happen as usual). Taking inthese estimates as a starting point for further improvement could help government administrations and others to beef up their efforts for the implementation of the guidelines and revalue the importance of their domestic and regional SSF.

I would like to add an experience from the efforts since the 60s to integrate environmental concerns into policy framing and the civil society movement to add criteria of social justice since the 70s. There has since been much talk about integrated water resources management, rural development programmes and the need to blend natural resources analyses in fisheries with social science understanding, something strongly expressed in the consultative process that led up to the Guidelines and the defence of their grounding in human rights approaches.

Despite all the efforts that allowed us to learn a lot in these decades, the nexus between marine ecosystems, water, energy, food, social organisation and other dimensions playing out at local level in people's lives is fiendishly difficult to put into practice. Sectoral government silos remain strong and many well-intended processes even among a diversity of experts can not quite deliver on what's needed.

It always boils down to the two questions: (1) who asks the questions and who's heard, (2) what is the process and how is it set up?

While we know how important governments are in these processes, we also know that they can't do it alone, not even the ones well-endowed with resources.

While people at local level have no choice but juggle with the many challenges and opportunities to make a living, the higher up the ranks of formalisation and institutions you get, the more difficult it is to bring this rich and often contradictory tissue of experiences and knowledges to bear on processes, especially under conditions where key interlocuteurs are located in a mono-purpose agency or similar. Such configurations are not amenable to creating knowledge ecologies for robust solutions based on dialogue and negotiations.

The spatial marine planning approaches that are spreading in many places may well fall victim to such shortcomings and not deliver despite significant resources allocated.

That is a key motivation that led to our support for developing a small-scale fisheries academy to empower men and women in SSF to exchange among themselves in families, neighbourhoods, communities, along value chains to be empowered to speak for themselves. As you know we are early days with testing the methodology for training trainers. The covid-19 pandemic has forced us to postpone the next round of training and stalled progress momentarily, just as it's spanners in the work of key international negotiations.

At the same time, the experience that measures thought unthinkable before have been taken, may embolden efforts to seize opportunities not to go back to the utterly unsustainable state before and join forces for more experiementation of alternatives.

Please bear with me for condensing big concepts into a short text and refraining from explaining more of the background and theoretical and empirical underpinning.

But I wanted at least to flag the issues and stakes and express our interest to contribute to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in whatever way we can, preferably in a strong collaborative mode.

Kind regards,

Cornelia

Dr. Cornelia E Nauen

President
Mundus maris - Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl