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

Opportunities for Myanmar

Michael Akester M.Akester@cigar.org

Based on a presentation by Nicole Franz and Blaise Kuemlangan
The Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines: freshwater and marine

- An overview of the guidelines
- Opportunities for Implementation in Myanmar
1st Global instrument on SSF

Principles and guidelines – governance and development (founded on human rights principles)

Working together to ensure secure and sustainable SSF
Beyond fisheries - brings social development and responsible fisheries together

Developed through a participatory process
Part I: Introduction
1. Objectives
2. Nature and scope
3. Guiding principles
4. Relationship with other international instruments CCRF, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) +++

Part II: Responsible fisheries and sustainable development
5. Governance of tenure in SSF and resource management
6. Social development, employment and decent work
7. Value chain, post-harvest and trade
8. Gender equality
9. Disaster risks and CC

Part III: Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation
10. Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration
11. Information, research and communication
12. Capacity development
13. Implementation support and monitoring
Part I – Introduction

Objective

...objectives should be achieved through the promotion of a human rights-based approach, by empowering small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women, to participate in decision-making processes, and to assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources, and placing emphasis on the needs of developing countries and for the benefit of vulnerable and marginalized groups.
Part 2: Responsible fisheries and sustainable development

• Secure rights to fishery resources and land and the ability to benefit from them
• Sustainability, effective management and stewardship (taking care of)
• Social development issues in SSF (e.g. access to services, need for equality and equity, living standards)
• Secure incomes and safe, fair and decent working conditions
• Specific issues related to the postharvest sector and trade
• Highlights gender based issues and the need to promote equality and equity (fairness)
• Reduction of vulnerability and increased resilience
Part 3: Enabling environment

Addresses:

• Poor policy unity and cross-sectoral collaboration

• Interrelated aspects of access to information and capacity development

• Enhancing information and research on SSF and the need for capacity development at all levels and scales

• Potential challenges for implementation and strategies to ensure that the SSF Guidelines are applied
Next steps

Exploring opportunities for implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Myanmar
Myanmar Realities
Some challenges for SSF in Myanmar

• Increasing demand for fish combined with climate change make new challenges for SSF to provide food security, nutrition and income

• Other external threats: habitat destruction (including mangroves and other wetlands), pollution, siltation, illegal logging and sand mining +++

• Ineffective management processes: centrally based management of most coastal and inland resources is ineffective, while lower level management often suffers from a lack of technical knowledge and/or legal foundation

• Inadequate communication with, and real input from, stakeholders

• Lack of incentives for fisheries agency achievements outside the fisheries sector; insufficient financial resources
Myanmar – Opportunities

• New State/Region Fisheries Laws include Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) possibilities
• Historically productive fishing areas inland and coastal – possible to recover?
• Key contributor to food security: >50% of fish for local consumption is supplied by small-scale fisheries
Existing platforms

should build political support for the SSF Guidelines implementation

Organizations:

– DoF, MFF, CGIAR (WorldFish and IWMI), FAO, SEAFDEC, WCS, ILO, FFI, Danida, NORAD, NGOs and CSOs

Processes:

– Myanmar Fisheries Partnership (MFP), Fisheries Research Development Network (FRDN)

Frameworks:

– Development of new decentralized fisheries laws
**WorldFish support with the help of others...**

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<th>Raising awareness and providing policy support: Knowledge products and outreach</th>
<th>Strengthening the science-policy interface: Sharing of knowledge and supporting policy reform</th>
<th>Empowering stakeholders: Capacity development and institutional strengthening</th>
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**Supporting implementation:**
MYFISH 2 (project funded by ACIAR) and Myanmar Fisheries Partnership (MFP) a public private partnership
How can the SSF Guidelines support SSF in Myanmar?

1. Implement SSF Guidelines through previous/planned work and by complementing ongoing initiatives (e.g. Fisheries Sector roadmap, Regional Governments, Central Government, international and local NGOs: NAG & Pyoe Pin)?

2. Identify champions of change for specific issues: Frontier Magazine, Mizzima Myanmar?

3. Other aspects?
Building on previous/planned work and complementing ongoing initiatives:

Reform and build fisheries agencies for better services

- Increase **real input and influence by fishery stakeholders into policies/operations** of fishery agencies
- Create incentives for fisheries agencies to **work with private sector and other economic sectors** (e.g. trade, environment, tourism, health)
- Shift away from attempting government micromanagement of coastal fisheries to **empowering local communities**
- Improve the capacity of vocational training institutions in Myanmar to produce people who have the **multi-disciplinary skills** to manage fisheries
- Structure **fisheries agencies as coordinators and facilitators** rather than total service providers
Building on previous/planned work and complementing ongoing initiatives:

**Sustain coastal fisheries**

- Encourage *long-term relationships between fishery resources and their exploiters*
- Selectively *devolve management responsibility to communities*, with support from fisheries agencies for technical issues
- Encourage the transition from government-led development of what are often nonexistent opportunities to the concept that fisheries agencies, their officers, and communities are guardians of marine resources
- **Work across sectoral boundaries** to promote non-extractive use of coastal resources
- Formulate, review and update *climate change adaptation strategies* as impacts evolve and become clearer
  
  → SSF Guidelines can provide guiding framework to implement such a roadmap
Conclusion

• SSF key for food security, nutrition and livelihoods for over 3 million people in Myanmar (around 800,000 full-time and 2.4 million part-time)

• SSF Guidelines provide direction on SSF governance and development through shared management responsibilities

→ In line with principles and priorities identified by Myanmar

→ Many partners available to assist with the implementation of the guidelines: MFP members (including the DoF, MFF, FAO, WorldFish, International Donors like NORAD, Danida, ACIAR +++ , many INGOs and local NGOs).
Thank you! Kyaayyjuutainpartaal!

Ché Zu Tin Par Day

Photo: http://www.ericlafforgue.com/album/myanmar/