

**Africa Regional Workshop**  
**IYAFA: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries**  
**Report**



**15–18 February 2023**

**Harajuku Hall, Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana**

Report prepared by **Ahana Lakshmi**

Organized by



**International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)**  
and  
**Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD)**







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# **Report on Africa Regional Workshop – IYAFA Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries**

**September 2023**

## **Report prepared by**

Ahana Lakshmi

## **Published by**

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# Contents

<b>Abbreviations and Acronyms.....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>1. Opening Session .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Welcome .....	1
1.2. Welcome Addresses .....	1
1.3. Overview of the Workshop .....	5
<b>2. Session 1: Access Rights for Marine and Inland Fishworkers to Resources, Fishing Grounds and Markets—A Regional Overview .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. Francis Nunoo, University of Ghana: Access Rights in Marine Fisheries .....	7
2.2. Margaret Nakato, Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda: Access Rights in Inland Fisheries .....	8
2.3. Group Discussion 1: Access Rights for Small-scale Fishing Communities to Resources .....	10
2.4. Closing Remarks by Moses Anim, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.....	16
<b>3. Field Trip: Knowledge/Experience Sharing with Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA).....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4. Session 2: Women in Small-scale Fisheries .....</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1. Moenieba Isaacs, University of the Western Cape, South Africa: Women as Fish Harvesters.....	19
4.2. Rosemarie Mwaipopo, ICSF: Post-harvest Issues.....	21
4.3. Group Discussion 2: Key Issues Facing Women in Small-scale Fisheries .....	23
4.4. Panel Discussion: Solutions and Ways Forward for Improving Women’s Access to Resources and Participation.....	29
4.5. Group Brainstorm: Developing an Action Plan.....	37
4.6. The African Regional Action Plan: Women and Gender in Fisheries .....	42

<b>5. Session 3: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work</b>	<b>45</b>
5.1. Benjamin Campion, ICSF: Social Development Challenges and West African Fishing Communities	45
5.2. Rosemarie Mwaipopo: Presentation on the Mwambao Coastal Community Network, Tanzania—Social Development Challenges and East African Fishing Communities	46
5.3. Group Discussion 3: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work	48
<b>6. Session 4: Presentation of Workshop Statement and Discussion</b>	<b>57</b>
6.1. Presentation of the Draft Workshop Statement	57
6.2. Presentation of the Final Workshop Statement	61
<b>7. Vote of Thanks</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Annexures:</b>	
Annexure 1: Concept Note	65
Annexure 2: Programme	68
Annexure 3: Group Discussion Questions	71
Annexure 4: List of Participants	73

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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CBO	community-based organization
CSO	civil society organization
DAA	Development Action Association
DOPA	Densu Oyster Pickers Association
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
FCWC-FISH	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
GBV	gender-based violence
GDP	gross domestic product
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUU fishing	illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
IYAFA	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ghana
MPA	marine protected area
NGO	non-governmental organization
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
RFMO	regional fisheries management organization
SSF	small-scale fisheries
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
STI	sexually transmitted infection
TAC	total allowable catch
TESCOD	Technical Services for Community Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNMDG	United Nations Millennium Development Goals
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
USCOFEP-CI	Union of Cooperative Societies of Women in Fishing and Assimilated People of Côte d'Ivoire
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure





Artisanal fish landing centre,  
Côte d'Ivoire



## Executive Summary

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The United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAF), with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as the lead agency. In this context, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), its members and partners organized regional workshops with a focus on Small-scale fisheries in Africa. The third in the series was held in Accra, Ghana, from 15 to 18 February 2023 with a focus on Africa. Representatives of fishworker organizations, governments and academia from sixteen countries participated.

In the opening session, Jojo Solomon, president of the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF), called for dialogue with the government, which is the regulator and policymaker, as the only way forward. Benjamin Adjei, assistant FAO representative (FAOR) and Head of Programme said that to secure small-scale fisheries, all actors must identify sustainable entry points for change and turn them into transformative processes in the fishing communities. Maame Esi Quayson, the director of Marine Fisheries Management, Fisheries Commission of Ghana, called for increased engagement between fishworker organizations, cooperation between fishworkers and like-minded organizations as well as amplification of women's voices towards inclusive development in the sector. Moses Anim, the deputy minister of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), Ghana, and guest of honour for the workshop, spoke about the measures of the Ghanaian government, especially the new fisheries and aquaculture policy that had a stand-alone thematic area on small-scale fisheries aimed at improving their management. Declaring the workshop open, he said that MoFAD welcomed the workshop and looked forward to concrete outcomes for addressing the bottlenecks in the small-scale fisheries sector from the point of view of sustainability, participatory inclusion and within continental boundaries. Following this, N. Venugopalan of ICSF and Peter Adjei of Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD), Ghana provided an overview of the workshop.

The first session was a regional overview of access rights for marine and inland fishworkers to resources, fishing grounds and markets. Francis Nunoo of the University of Ghana spoke about access rights in marine fisheries, first outlining the current situation and challenges, including the limited sense of property rights and limited regulation through religion and taboos, and then about potential solutions to these challenges. Margaret Nakato of the Katosi Women Development Trust from Uganda spoke about access rights in inland fisheries, pointing to difficulties in management arising from the distance between inland fishing communities. She also emphasized on the loss of access to fishing grounds and resources putting a strain on post-harvest activities and affecting women's livelihoods. This was followed by a group discussion in which participants were divided into three country-based groups to deliberate on a set of questions. The rapporteur of each group presented a summary of their discussions.

The next day began with a field trip to the Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA). Members of DOPA took turns to explain their activities, specifically about developing a co-management model that helped them move from randomly picking oysters without regard to their size to a managed regime with closed season which allowed them a better income with the harvest of only large oysters.

The second session focused on women in small-scale fisheries. Sivaja Nair from ICSF introduced the session saying that during the conceptualization of the workshops, ICSF had made it mandatory to dedicate a day to discuss issues pertaining to women in small-scale fisheries, keeping in mind the differences between different groups of women, their diversity and their huge importance. Moenieba Isaacs from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa spoke about women as fish harvesters as well as about the social reproduction of gender roles and norms which makes women's role in economic production invisible, unpaid and underpaid. Pointing out the huge variation in activities across different parts of Africa, she called for a single organization to reflect all the needs of the most vulnerable women on the continent. Rosemarie Mwaipopo from ICSF spoke about

post-harvest issues and emphasized that the diverse experiences and issues of women should not be homogenized. She also highlighted how women, in trying their best to ensure household food security, had become compliant in environmental destruction (e.g., by purchase of juveniles) or succumbed to other pressures (sex for fish).

Next was a presentation of photographs contributed by different participants showcasing the role of their communities' women in fisheries, with the contributors explaining the context of the images. This was followed by the presentation of the second group discussion, which focused on women in fisheries. The session concluded with a panel discussion with one woman representing each country addressing questions on (a) how they had been successful in addressing the challenges facing women in fisheries and (b) how women were mobilizing and organizing. An action plan was also developed to address the challenges facing women in fisheries.

The third session was on social development, employment and decent work. Benjamin Campion from ICSF spoke about the Social Development Challenges and West African Fishing Communities. Benjamin pointed out that decent work, which he equated to a decent working environment with better conditions, would lead to increased economic production and income as well as would empower people. Achieving this would lead to food security and poverty reduction. Following him, Rosemarie Mwaipopo presented on behalf of the Mwambao Coastal Community Network, Tanzania, an organization working on participatory planning and bringing together stakeholders at several levels for addressing marine issues. The third group discussion called on the participants to deliberate over as many as thirteen questions. The rapporteurs of each group presented the summary.

In the penultimate session, the draft workshop statement was presented and a lively discussion ensued. The modified statement was then presented in the concluding session. Sivaja Nair of ICSF proposed the vote of thanks.



Women fishvenders waiting for the catch, Gambia



# 1. Opening Session

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## 1.1. Welcome

Peter Adjei of TESCOD welcomed the honourable Deputy Minister of MoFAD, Ghana, the chairman of the Fisheries Commission of Ghana, and representatives of fisheries associations from all over Africa to the Africa Regional Workshop organized as part of the IYafa. The workshop's theme was 'Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries'. Countries represented at the workshop were Tunisia, Mauritania, Senegal, the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti and Seychelles. The workshop had fifty participants, with twenty-six women and twenty-four men representing thirty-two small-scale fisheries organizations, academia and government agencies.



Welcome remarks from Peter Adjei, ICSF member and Director of Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD), Ghana

## 1.2. Welcome Addresses

### *Jojo Solomon, President, GNCFC*

Jojo said that the workshop was very timely and appropriate as Ghana was going through a lot of transformation in the fisheries sector. Problems of all the countries represented were similar and included overcapacity, overfishing and conflicts with industrial trawlers because of depleting stock. He said Ghana had a few lessons to showcase and added that the only way forward was to engage in dialogue with the government and not be in constant conflict with it, for one day the government, it being the regulator and policymaker, would hear them. He gave a few examples from Ghana of the consequences of engaging with the government: Ghana had passed a co-management policy with state and non-state actors coming together to manage the resources, along with the people exploiting the resources. The Fisher to Fisher (F2F) dialogue channel had helped in counting and registering all canoes. The Ghanaian minister had been able to visit neighbouring countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Togo to convince them about the importance of the closed season since small pelagic fish were a shared stock. Jojo said that it was important not only to reduce the number of craft but also to ensure the right kinds of gear were used. Ghana was also addressing the important issue of



Opening remarks from Jojo Soloman, President, National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF), Ghana

illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through ‘landing beach enforcement committees’ (LaBEC). This could be developed as a model and replicated by other countries to augment their government’s efforts in removing IUU fishing. He concluded by highlighting the importance of these activities for ensuring the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities.

***Benjamin Adjei, Assistant FAOR / Head of Programme Ghana***

Benjamin began by highlighting the important role of fisheries and aquaculture in sustainable development and in achieving many goals, especially the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). He pointed out the importance of supporting the sustainable development of the



Opening remarks from Benjamin Adjei, Assistant FAO Representative to Ghana (FAOR) and Head of Programme

small-scale fisheries sector to ensure better production as well as environmental protection. He called for collective efforts for the effective management of fisheries and aquaculture systems. He argued for the expansion of aquaculture and for it to be made attractive to fishers by providing the right tools and expertise all along the value chain. He suggested coming up with options to sustain small-scale fishing communities during the closed season and finding ways to make them resilient by creating the necessary enabling environment. He also acknowledged the efforts of women in the sector.

Speaking of the importance of collective efforts in the development of policies and their successful implementation, Benjamin suggested working towards a voice that would obtain an invitation to the dialogue table. Only if the small-scale fishers in the value chain sat with the government would the closed season mentioned by the previous speaker be a success. Citing the SSF Guidelines as a good basis to join the discussion table with evidence and value propositions, Benjamin stressed on prioritizing its implementation, not only at the policy level but also at the local level.

To secure small-scale fisheries, he said that all actors must identify sustainable entry points for change and turn these into transformative processes in the fishing communities. He commended ICSF for their work in the small-scale fisheries sector and with the SSF Guidelines as well as TESCOD for promoting the SSF Guidelines. He concluded with a quote by the director general of the World Food Programme on World Fisheries Day: Small-scale fishers deserve greater recognition and support to end hunger and poverty.

***Maame Esi Quayson, Director, Marine Fisheries Management, Fisheries Commission of Ghana***

Acknowledging the important role played by the small-scale subsector in fisheries in many developing countries, Quayson said that in Ghana, the sector contributed to the economy by employing over 2.2 million people directly and indirectly, a status similar to other coastal African states. She added that the Fisheries Commission also recognized the efforts put in by fishers to ensure food and nutritional security. Highlighting the contribution of small-scale fisheries to the global economy, she underscored the need to increase awareness to protect the resources and livelihoods of the many communities dependent on it. This could be achieved by ensuring sustainable and equitable management of the small-scale fisheries sector. For this, she called for increased engagement



Opening remarks from Maame Esi Quayson, Director, Marine Fisheries Management, Fisheries Commission of Ghana



between fishworker organizations, cooperation between fishworkers and like-minded organizations, and amplification of women's voices towards inclusive development in the sector, which was also one of the workshop objectives. She also mentioned some of the government's approaches to secure the sector. The workshop would assist in better understanding the need for fishers to collectively safeguard the fisheries resources for present and future generations. Each person being aware of their role in the value chain would not only help transform the sector but also help each one act as an agent of transformation in their respective fishing communities. She called for measures to make the environment resilient against the impacts of climate change and variability. Calling for a continuation of the fight against IUU fishing, she highlighted the need to change the attitude towards voluntary compliance and to ensure sustainable co-management of resources. She promised that the Fisheries Commission would continue to render technical support as well as supportive policies and other measures to ensure optimum utilization of resources.

***Address by Special Guest of Honour: Moses Anim, Deputy Minister, MoFAD, Ghana***

With two-thirds of Africans relying on fish for their daily protein requirements, the deputy minister recognized the small-scale fisheries sector to be not only a major component of food security but also a key contributor to the country's gross domestic product (GDP), employment and foreign exchange. In 2021 in Ghana, fish constituted 60% of animal protein intake, which was higher than the global average of 17% and accounted for 1.04% of the GDP. The per capita fish consumption for the same year was 24.6 kg. That year, the sector employed an estimated 3 million of Ghana's population along the value chain. With an average export value of 330 million USD for 2015–2019, fish was considered an important non-traditional export commodity in terms of foreign exchange. Therefore, Ghana depended highly on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for nutrition, macro economy and employment. For the small-scale fisheries sector to continue to be productive and enhance the quality of life for fishers and their households, he called for addressing the current challenges in the sector for long-term sustainability.

In March 2022, the MoFAD of Ghana in collaboration with FAO had officially launched the IYAF 2022 celebrations in Ghana and thereafter ushered in a series of activities in fishing communities across various regions. The fish festival organized by MoFAD on the theme of sustainable fisheries provided a platform to raise awareness about the role of small-scale fisheries in the governance,



Opening remarks from Moses Anim, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), Ghana

conservation, development and sustainable use of natural resources. The deputy minister then laid out some steps taken by the Ghanaian government. It was pursuing long-term measures to protect the fisheries sector, allow for recovery of over-exploited fisheries and reboot the depleted fish stock. Measures included enacting a new Fisheries Act that would, among other things, incorporate co-management, fishing gear specifications, climate change and port state measures to combat IUU, with prescription of severe sanctions against IUU fishing infractions. Ghana had also formulated a new fisheries and aquaculture policy with a stand-alone thematic area on small-scale fisheries aimed at improving their management to enhance net returns and quality of landings by promoting participation of small-scale fishers in the governance, conservation and sustainable management of fisheries.

Speaking of policies in the pipeline, the deputy minister said that a new marine fisheries management plan was being developed to provide a strategic framework for reversing the down trend in marine fisheries resources and establishing a sound management regime to ensure sustainable exploitation of fish stocks in an enhanced environment. He laid out the details of this plan: construction of modern landing sites, fishing ports and harbours, in order to ensure the safe landing of artisanal canoes and safety of fishing gear as well as improvement in the hygienic handling of fish and fishery products to meet international standards for exports. He also spoke about measures already in place to address this. MoFAD had already launched a seer fish certification and licensing scheme to regulate the fish processing sector through accreditation and licensing of fish processors. Women—present in large numbers in the post-harvest sector—participated fully in this. Some of the women were already certified and were engaging in more hygienic and more quality-assured processing. Ghana had also rolled out canoe identification cards to regulate access to resources in the fisheries sector and was also regulating the number and size of canoes; for all these activities, extensive databases had been created.

He said that the full range of challenges in the small-scale fisheries sector called for more collaborative and concerted effort by all stakeholders. He commended ICSF and TESCOD in Ghana for working closely with MoFAD and the Fisheries Commission and for wider dissemination of the SSF Guidelines by providing translations in the local language, which he said had helped deepen various stakeholders' understanding of the document. He also mentioned the piloting of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework to assess the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Acknowledging the limitations of governments in addressing the various challenges of poverty and sustainability, he said actions would require the support of all relevant stakeholders. Incentivizing small-scale fishers to adopt sustainable practices would lead to reduced poverty, assured food security and enhanced socio-economic well-being of fishing communities. Declaring the workshop open, the deputy minister said that MoFAD welcomed the workshop and looked forward to concrete outcomes for addressing the bottlenecks in the small-scale fisheries sector from the point of view of sustainability, participatory inclusion and within continental boundaries.

### 1.3. Overview of the Workshop

N. Venugopalan of ICSF explained that the current workshop was the third in the series of IYAFSA workshops, following the ones held in Asia and Latin America-Caribbean. Countries participating in the workshop made up 14% of Africa's coastline of more than 40,000 km.

He said that it was helpful to take stock of the situation nine years after the SSF Guidelines had been agreed upon and develop a roadmap for the future. He added that ICSF had been working to highlight the issues of small-scale fishers, of their marginalization and vulnerability to poverty and natural disasters.

The concept of exclusive economic zone (EEZ) had changed the entire way of looking at marine fisheries, he said. From a weakly territorial space prior to 1982 (before the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [UNCLOS]), ocean space had now become an area to be governed and

managed. *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*—Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse of the future—would require collective action and thinking. Plans would have to be made to ensure that fisheries and post-harvest fisheries have more inclusive value chains, to develop better safety nets for the community, and to enable women to enjoy better space in policy development and associated levels of better food security and nutrition of small-scale fishers.

Venugopalan then made a short presentation on the background of the workshop and outlined its objectives. Following him, Peter Adjei described the plans for the different sessions and the major issues to be flagged in them in a pan-African context.

The presentation is available at: [https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Overview-IYafa-Africa\\_14Feb2023\\_Venu\\_Peter.pdf](https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Overview-IYafa-Africa_14Feb2023_Venu_Peter.pdf).



Workshop participants from Tanzania and Kenya



## 2. Session 1: Access Rights for Marine and Inland Fishworkers to Resources, Fishing Grounds and Markets—A Regional Overview

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**Chair: Benjamin Campion, ICSF**

### 2.1. Francis Nunoo, University of Ghana: Access Rights in Marine Fisheries

The objective of Francis' presentation was to bring out the issues, challenges and the potential solutions with respect to access rights in Africa's marine fisheries. Though his presentation mainly focused on West Africa, he gave examples from other parts of Africa as the fisheries across Africa were similar in terms of the finfish and shellfish harvested, fishing craft and gear, and management regimes. Small-scale fishers in Africa had evolved into a vibrant industry with a mix of improved traditional and modern gear/fleets to exploit the enormous and diverse fisheries and ocean resources of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Francis described the fisheries resources and practices prevalent in Ghana. There were over 500 commercial marine species—bivalves, crustaceans and finfishes—and the fleet included artisanal canoes, semi-industrial craft, tuna fleet and trawlers. Fishing was a way of life along the coast. The business was usually seasonal, yet an important source of livelihood. There was inter-generational transfer of knowledge and skills, and very early entry into the fisheries, partly based on kin membership. From a young age, children helped to smoke or dry fish, helped the fathers carry buckets of fish to their homes and so on. There was a high degree of gender segregation in tasks. Fishing was integrated into the local leadership structure with the chiefs having the fishing gear leaders as part of their council. There was a limited sense of property rights and limited regulation through religion and taboos. Fish was perceived as a resource with open access with the belief that if they did not grab their portion, someone else would. Canoe/gear owners were social security providers in that if members of the crew fell sick, the owners were expected to help out. Living conditions along the coast were poor and needed improvement.

Francis explained the zonation of the sea vertically as well as horizontally as per UNCLOS, with each country having a territorial limit up to 12 nautical miles (nm) and EEZ up to 200 nm. In Ghana, the Maritime Zones Delimitation Law defined the areas canoe fishers could fish in (up to 36 m depth) and industrial fishers could fish only beyond that. However, canoes could be seen fishing at 60 m depth while industrial fishers came to depths as low as 10–20 m to fish. Transboundary stocks were shared by multiple countries. Decline in fisheries could be attributed to, among other things, the use of fine mesh and discarding fish after picking out the target species. There were also issues of habitat degradation, pollution by plastics and tainted fish. Most fishing inputs were being imported from China.

Small-scale fishers depended on the availability as well as access to resources and access rights (entrance, harvesting, transferability, security and protection). Canoes, even motorized canoes, could go only up to a certain distance in the sea but there were resources beyond that in the EEZ. Since African countries did not have enough capital or technology, they often sold their rights to other countries who collected fish from their waters, exported the big, high-quality fish, leaving behind the small fish, shrimp and prawn. There were many different types of access agreements in various countries, which had been drawn up without consulting the small-scale fishers. Weak legal framework, weak institutions, social and political relations, technological limitations, poor port infrastructure, and poor monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) all contributed to ceding resources to others who were able to harvest them. In addition, pollution, discarded single-



Access Rights in Marine Fisheries, led by Francis Nunoo University of Ghana, Ghana

use plastics, IUU in the EEZ, sea piracy, maritime insecurity, conflicts among fishers, illegal drug trafficking, child labour, oil and gas exploration, ports and shipping, and tourism were some of the many challenges that were reducing access to marine resources. There was also migration along the coast, with Ghanaian fishers present in many other countries.

Francis then spoke of the potential solutions to the many challenges. He said that there was an African Common Fisheries Policy but little was known about it except that it mentioned that locals must benefit from the resources. There were also other instruments like the African Blue Economy Strategy to add wealth along the entire value chain, African International Maritime Strategy, Lomé Charter, Agenda 2063 and so on. Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO) such as the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC-FISH) were not as effective as they should be. He called for sustainable seafood management as well as working with the government for co-management. It was necessary to harmonize MCS across the region to curb IUU fishing and for access agreements to be supported by international law. In conclusion, he said that the resources were for small-scale fishers and hence called for the community to educate themselves about the right things to do, to engage with the authorities of fisheries commissions and Ministry of Fisheries, and to keep at it to ensure that the resources would be used for the improvement of small-scale fishers' livelihoods.

The presentation can be accessed at the following link: [https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Marine\\_Fisheries\\_Access\\_Rights\\_Nunoo.pdf](https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Marine_Fisheries_Access_Rights_Nunoo.pdf)

## 2.2. Margaret Nakato, Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda: Access Rights in Inland Fisheries

Margaret Nakato began her talk saying that as one went further inland from the coast, the road tended to become bumpier. For fishing communities to meaningfully benefit from fisheries and enjoy the benefits from the sector, secure tenure was essential along the entire value chain, from accessing the fishing grounds to securing access to fisheries resources and the market. Challenges to access rights in inland fisheries were distributed along the entire value chain, with an obstacle arising in one segment also affecting the others. Thus, if the earliest point in the chain was restricted, all actors

downstream would get affected. She said that inland fisheries were facing a number of challenges that compromised their ability to access resources. The challenges included the development of leisure parks (beach tourism), real estate expansion, gas and oil exploration, and plantations and aquaculture on Lake Victoria. Communities were being evicted despite the existence of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT or Tenure Guidelines). She gave the example of a community that was moved out from its location, after which the people had to walk a long distance to use the lavatory facilities in the old location as the new location had none.

Margaret said that the fisheries sector got the lowest priority, was the first to be marginalized or excluded, and was the subject of a number of unfair regulations. Inland fishing communities were located far apart from each other and were hence complex to manage. Uganda had enacted a new law requiring all boats to be 28 ft long; this meant that fishers with smaller fishing craft including a number of women, were no longer allowed to fish in the lake. Similarly, breeding areas were taken over by the powerful after the areas had been identified, restricting access to others.

She said that women formed a large percentage in the post-harvest sector, and for them, access to fisheries was important to be able to get their resources for trading and processing. But even here, there were new regulations such as landing sites having gazetted fish processing areas. If these criteria were not met, then it would become illegal to engage in the sector. There was a huge competition for resources between the factories and the local women interested in processing fish or trading in it. With resource scarcity in inland fisheries, women got only those fish discarded by factories to process and trade. She cited the example of over forty women waiting for a fishing boat to arrive in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to illustrate the high competition for fish. She called for regulations to limit the export of fish so there would be fish for local consumption and trade, which would also improve employment. The shortage of resources had resulted in women establishing relationships with fishermen in return for access to fish (sex for fish), resulting in a number of single mothers.

Using the example of the increase in the value of the maw of the Nile perch, Margaret pointed out that as the fish gained value, local communities that were very active in that segment were pushed out, with additional pressures due to regulations, irregularities and the brutalities of the Uganda People's Defence Force employed to curb illegal fishing. Climate change also played a role. With



Access rights in inland fisheries, led by Margaret Nakato, Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda

rise in the water levels in the lakes, infrastructure and housing got destroyed; there was also mass death of the Nile perch attributed to changes in the temperature of Lake Victoria. Other problems she highlighted were pollution due to wastes from fishing communities, factory effluents flowing into the lake and sand mining destroying breeding grounds. The COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted inland fisheries, and the women had to fall back on their savings to survive. Post the pandemic, they had no capital to go back into fisheries. She said that the Katosi Women Development had worked with partners to put back 700 women in the sector by raising capital.

The problems of losing access to fishing grounds meant that they could not be passed on to the next generation nor could there be generational transfer of fishing equipment. Gender-based challenges were rampant with girls becoming burdened with no education and facing gender-based inequalities. Access to capital and technology were lacking as were equipment, cooling facilities, ice, storage and market access. There was poor organization among fisherfolk resulting in human rights abuse and violations. Margaret concluded her presentation by saying that they had been working at different levels on supporting access to fishing communities by providing boats to groups of women, potable water in communities and training in the SSF Guidelines so that women could engage in trade and would be able to put improved products in the market; but many challenges remained.

### 2.3. Group Discussion 1: Access Rights for Small-scale Fishing Communities to Resources

**Facilitator: Lucyphine Julius Kilanga, Tanzania**

Groups were formed and provided with questions for deliberation. The rapporteur of each group made the presentation. The questions are available in the annexure 3.

#### **Group 1: Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Ghana**

**Rapporteur: Rosemarie Mwaipopo, Tanzania**

The answer to the **first question** was presented in two parts as follows:

With regard to awareness of fishers and fishworkers about their rights, the team said:

- **Internal:** There was low level of awareness and knowledge on fisheries and related legal instruments. The mobile livelihoods that fishers practised resulted in difficulties in doing targeted advocacy for their rights. Other issues included weak institutions and structures for co-management, for e.g., corruption, low capacity to mobilize resources among fishing communities and their institutions, and language barriers affecting communication and mobilization among fishers. This was seen more in Ghana and Nigeria. Absence of advocacy and communication strategy at the local level was also an issue.
- **External:** There was a lack of political will and commitment at the government level and limited access to basic social services, capital resources and extension services. Insurgency and internal conflict (for example, Boko Haram) limited the ability of fishing communities to access resources.
- There was criminalization of fishers and fisher associations, particularly those who advocated for fishers' rights. There was also limited intra- and inter-agency collaboration. Even fishing communities did not have robust collaboration amongst themselves to facilitate awareness on their rights.
- Gender inequality was a cross-cutting issue. This limited women from accessing their rights and the ways in which they could use resources.

To identify capacity gaps, the team suggested the following:

- Institute a network of fisher associations, starting from the bottom fishers to their regional or national level.



- Develop a network of fisher advocates or activists who would advocate and mobilize for fishers' rights.
- Form media coalitions, which would be instrumental in supporting and putting forward fishers' agendas.
- Put in place information platforms or hubs.
- Form economic alliances, because one needed resources to support issues of fishers' rights to access resources.

For the **second question**, on the measures/tools in communities that could be used to push back against policies/regulations that denied rights to fishing grounds and access to fisheries resources, the group suggested the following:

- Form fishers' associations.
- Have a network of community-based fishers' advocates like non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and also fisher cooperatives.
- Employ accessible version of the SSF Guidelines and the Tenure Guidelines (language, availability).
- Raise the profile of traditional and customary knowledge and practices to influence at the top level.

The answer to the **third question** was presented in multiple parts.

On the type of tenure rights, they said:

- Traditional tenure rights did not apply in their countries because they had been made obsolete by national governments, but they did apply in other countries.
- There were individual or private rights or areas where the leadership enforced rights of access in certain fishing areas.
- There were government or public rights where the government detailed public access.
- Community land existed in certain countries, but rights of occupancy and ownership were insecure. If the government wanted to, it could make obsolete whatever rights the community claimed.



Group discussion on access rights for marine and inland fishworkers to resources, fishing grounds and markets

The group said that the best type of rights were community tenure rights because they gave the community ownership and could also widen people's access to resources. But these had to be protected by law, otherwise they could be seen as open access.

Representatives of all four countries agreed that liberal policies had not contributed. While it was ideal to speak about them, in terms of actually maintaining and sustaining people's traditional rights, the four countries were not secure.

On the contribution of the Tenure Guidelines and SSF Guidelines, the experience was varied. Ghana had made quite a difference in the application of the SSF Guidelines because the document had guided the formulation of the fisheries management plan and it was also being used in implementing the co-management policies being rolled out. Although the other three governments had also ratified the SSF Guidelines, which were being used to inform human rights issues in relation to land tenure, the guidelines were yet to be implemented to their fullest extent.

The biggest blocks were seen as political and very delicate. There was competition with other blue economy sectors. For example, the harbours wanted to acquire small-scale fishers' lands and the group wondered what the government should do under such circumstances.

The answer to the **fourth** question was presented in multiple parts as follows:

With respect to gendered impacts, the group identified three issues: Restricted access to fishing grounds had increased gender-based abuse and human rights abuse (fish for sex/sex for fish in Tanzania). Secondly, women were insecure when venturing into inaccessible fishing grounds. Thirdly, household food security had decreased to the detriment of their families and had also furthered marginalization.

With respect to measures/policies that could contribute to greater gender equity in resource access, the group's feedback was as follows:

- Policies should be thought of in a holistic manner. They should not only focus solely on fisheries but also have a multi-sectoral policy framework and should be economic empowerment policies. For example, for women in Tanzania, access to loans or technology would facilitate access to fishing grounds or resources; education policies in Ghana or Tanzania giving free education up to secondary level would increase awareness and ability to ensure fishers can make their own claims; health insurance for expectant mothers would allow them to practice their fishing activities with confidence. This could be complemented with subsidies for processing activities, like in Ghana.
- Ghana had an excellent fisheries gender policy. For example, it was mandatory for the displacer of fishing communities to resettle them, particularly the women. Although there were gender components in the fisheries policies of all the other countries, in some countries, they were yet to be implemented, while in others they were yet to be gazetted. Gender issues, like in Tanzania, were integrated quite minimally in the policies.

## **Group 2: Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Djibouti, Tunisia**

*Rapporteur: Ramzi Hamrit, Tunisia*

For the **first question's** first part on identifying gaps in claiming rights, the group laid out the following issues: lack of information and knowledge about rules and regulations, fishermen's failure to organize themselves into professional structures, lack of awareness of legal and regulatory texts among fishermen and other actors in the fishing industry, lack of diffusion of legal texts regarding fishing zones and access to fishery resources, lack of clear maps for the various activities in marine and continental waters, and lack of land rights for fishermen's localities.

To address the above challenges, the group made the following suggestions: raising awareness among organizations to build alliances, involving the State to boost alliances among fishers, and enhancing alliances via various means of communication (media, radio, television, newspapers, internet and social sites). The group also highlighted the importance of the voluntary work of organizations (especially their members) and suggested mapping to identify the zones of the various players (fishermen, tourism, oil companies) and involving fishers in updating such maps. This would be prudent, because if changes were to be made without fisherfolk's knowledge, other players would be able to move in, leaving no room for fisherpeople.

For the **second question** regarding measures and tools, the group went back to the first response regarding mapping, but in a slightly different way. There were already laws defining the limits of inshore fishing—up to 6 miles from the coast. Unfortunately, they were not respected by industrial ships. It was a political law that also had an environmental aspect as fish spawned in those waters. It was necessary to take this into consideration to support and protect coastal zones. The group also highlighted the importance of supporting fishers to gain access to equipment credit for fishing activities, that is, fishing itself and every activity after it (processing, marketing, etc.). Though credit schemes already existed, their use must be encouraged through payment facilities and preferential rates. There were both economic and social aspects to this.

For the **third question** on tenure rights, the group said that there was no clear mapping to identify and distinguish areas between fishermen, tourism and others. There were no discussions either between the various actors to identify zones and activities. This was a huge problem. The group said that they had seen a hotel or an oil tanker coming up one day, with no communication with the fishermen already working in the area. They also spoke of conflicts when fish farmers established their trade in areas with a lot of fish disregarding the fact that there were already fisher families earning their livelihood there. It would not be possible to talk about security without documents establishing tenure rights, and such documents were absent.

Indigenous Peoples' rights, unfortunately, got trampled upon by money: a person unconnected to the place and the community but with money could impose his position. One day he would file his application and, the next day, he would be on his way to establishing his hotel, his oil well, his industry.



Group discussion on access rights for marine and inland fishworkers to resources, fishing grounds and markets



Discussing the **fourth question** on gender equity, the group shared that they viewed this as complementarity rather than as equality, though they acknowledged that this might not be a point of view shared by others. The group argued that complementarity was better, in which each individual's specific talent would complement each other. For example, an individual could not undertake both fishing and processing at the same time. On a global scale, it had always been this way in fishing, processing and transport. On the subject of equality, the group was for providing people with the chance to work, but they felt that not everyone might agree to doing the same thing.

### **Group 3: South Africa and Uganda**

**Rapporteur: Sibongiseni Candy Gwebani**

On the capacity gaps/challenges mentioned in the **first question**, the group said the following:

- There was disproportionate power between governments/those in power and fishing communities. The latter were often disenfranchised or stripped of their rights and the field was not level.
- There was a lack of recognition for fishing communities' customary, traditional and access rights.
  - o There was a challenge, therefore, in understanding the disproportionate power between those in power and the fishing communities.
- Fishers had become apathetic and despondent due to a lack of progress around their struggles and lack of fulfilment of the government's commitments to them, making it very difficult for fishing communities that wished to remain in the sector.
  - o One of the challenges was inadequate literacy levels impacting decision-making capabilities. Fishing communities were often approached by big companies or conglomerates who swindled them into contractual agreements that often did not favour small-scale fishers but were instead to their detriment.
- Fishers were left out of decision-making processes, making it a huge challenge to engage with governments at national, local and provincial levels.
- Commercialization of the fisheries sector was also a big problem as it was cutting small-scale fishers out and threatening their livelihoods.
- Laws and policies did not necessarily translate to the transformations the fishing communities wished to see on the ground. South Africa had lots of policies to protect the human rights of small-scale fishers, yet there was a huge number of violations.
- Capacity gaps and challenges: There was a lack of information on human rights instruments. Knowledge about the SSF Guidelines did not necessarily trickle down to fishing communities. Hence, there was difficulty in fighting for access rights.

In terms of alliances, the group pointed out the need to:

- Align with right to food organizations and public interest lawyers.
- Tap into the legal fraternity to ensure the accountability of governments, especially in following its own laws.
- Strengthen advocacy at a national level before moving to a regional level.
- Evaluate the alliances made. Alliances for conservation were popular but when it came to livelihoods, nobody wanted to join the struggle. Alliances should not be half-hearted and undependable in the long run.

The group also spoke of the politicization of small-scale fishing communities during elections.



Group discussion on access rights for marine and inland fishworkers to resources, fishing grounds and markets

On the **second question** about measures and tools available, they said:

- The Abalobi App in South Africa, which tracked fish from the sea to the local markets, was being used by small-scale fishing communities in the Western Cape.
- Noting the importance of the SSF Guidelines as a good tool for fighting for human rights and access rights of small-scale fishing communities, the group also called for mobilizing and supporting fisher organizations at each level as a tool of advocacy.
- In South Africa, the existing policy on small-scale fishers could be used to advocate for the rights of the community.

For the **third question** on tenure rights, the group shared the following: In Ghana, the traditional tenure rights allowed access to fishing grounds only after registering through the chief—a customary/traditional measure of granting access/tenure rights. But it also came with respecting the gear used. In the Gambia, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Seychelles, there was open access to natural resources except around marine protected areas (MPAs). The only country not part of this kind of regime was South Africa. While liberal policies assisted in formally recognizing fishers and their fishing activities, they were also meant to curb victimization and violence that fishing communities often faced. For e.g., inland fishing communities in South Africa for a long time had operated informally; there had been no legislative/regulatory framework recognizing their work. But South Africa was in the process of implementing the inland fisheries policy which had come into effect last year. Organizations were using the SSF Guidelines for advocating fishing rights.

On the **fourth question** on gender equity, the group said that women in Ghana were not allowed to go to sea, which had led to them taking a more prominent role in the post-harvest chain. This had empowered them in their finances, with many women becoming heads of household and owning their own gear. But this had also overburdened them because now they worked within the home and were also the primary income earners in the family. On the measures and policies that already existed, the group said that in Ghana, women contributed to fisheries management by refusing to buy illegal fish (slogan—‘No to bad fish’). Women were prioritized in financial aid in Ghana, which assisted in small-scale fishing and helped provide for family and for strengthening livelihood activities.

## 2.4. Closing Remarks by Moses Anim, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

In his closing remarks, he appreciated the work done and said it showed that the participants wanted to solve the existing problems. He emphasized on inculcating the culture of doing the right things regardless of the outcome and to situate business within the confines of rules, regulations and laws.

A depletion in ocean assets was being caused by both climate change and human factors. The degraded areas in estuaries and mangroves in Ghana were now being restored to create more habitable areas for fish. Mining continued to be a challenge in fresh water areas. The gender issue was also very big. Earlier, the policy in Ghana had focused on fisheries, post-harvest activities and handling as a unit. This had not worked well, and hence they had decoupled fisheries (harvest) and post-harvest activities, to which trade was added. Through the Aquaculture for Food and Jobs programme supported by the GIZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*), the government was providing holding ponds and fingerlings for youth groups, associations and some institutions. Women were being given training and funding to purchase products, which they could process and sell, through this project.

Laying out some more suggestions, the deputy minister said that it was important to engage media persons, who must be given training to be able to write the stories correctly. Fisher associations must be guided on fisheries science and the various treaties, conventions and laws, to enable them to promote responsible fishing and avoid contributing to existing problems. With stock levels dwindling, all stakeholders must work together to solve issues, because food security was not just for the present but for posterity, he concluded.



Group discussion on access rights for marine and inland fishworkers to resources, fishing grounds and markets



### 3. Field Trip: Knowledge/Experience Sharing with Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA)

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A field trip was organized to DOPA. Lydia Sasu of the Development Action Association (DAA) explained that they worked with three groups, one of which was DOPA.

The DOPA members had developed a co-management model for picking oysters through collaboration with three communities. The initial phase had been difficult with their having to convince the elders of the communities. Then they came up with rules and regulations—such as the size of oysters to be picked and the frequency of visits to oyster beds—as people tended to not obey when there weren't any rules. It was decided that if a person disobeyed the rules once, the committee would speak to them. The second time around, the person would be brought before the DAA board. The third time, the person would be taken to the police as the co-management plan had been signed by the government. Initially there had been disagreements, but eventually everyone had agreed.

One of the women had provided a space in her courtyard for the participants to be trained. They were taught about oyster biology and ecology and were made to collect data from the field. This made them feel like scientists, though others thought they were just feeding oysters. They instituted a five-month closed season from November to April during which nobody collected oysters, which had been on for the sixth year in a row.

Bernice Agorogo from DOPA spoke of learning about the economic importance of oysters. They had formed the association after finding out that the women fish processors were being cheated. There was a lot of initial resistance but the training helped. They learnt about the major sites for oysters as well as the importance of picking the large ones and leaving the smaller ones behind. They also learnt about oyster biology and how oyster spats attach themselves to hard surfaces. Earlier, they used to pick all sizes of oysters and sell them by the handful for small amounts. But later, as part of the organization, they began selling large oysters at good prices. They received visitors from outside, and they too visited neighbouring countries, interacted with oyster fishers and exchanged knowledge. From the oyster sales and the money made, they started a village savings association,



Field visit to Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA), Ghana

one for each community, with its own rules and regulations regarding sharing of money and availing loans. This way there was some income to work with during the closed season.

The DOPA members shared photos and posters documenting DOPA's journey, which the workshop participants appreciated. The photos showed mangrove restoration, local women collecting data, oyster shells being strung together for spats to attach themselves and regular cleaning of the area to ensure that the oysters had a clean habitat.

The participants and DOPA members interacted during and after the presentation. One DOPA member wanted to know if it was possible for them to receive training to produce paint or other products from the oyster by-products. N. Venugopalan from ICSF said that if they could provide a write up, it could be put out as part of the ICSF news alert reaching out to over 1,200 subscribers worldwide and somebody might be able to help. A participant from the Gambia recalled how the group had visited his country, met with the Oyster Federation there and undergone training; he was happy to see that it had helped in developing this thriving community. He appreciated that they were looking at adding value to their products and said that it was important today for fishers to look beyond the meat in the fish and add value to the by-products as well. In the Gambia, the shells were used in road construction and in the preparation of organic fertilizer. A participant from Mauritania pointed out pollution as a key issue in breeding oysters. A participant from Kenya said that though they did not grow oysters, she had learnt a lot, especially regarding the way DOPA had set rules and regulations and regarding the ways to deal with people breaking rules. A participant from Uganda said that silverfish, which used to be discarded, had become a food source for people, and said that as women, they had to be enterprising.

The field visit concluded with a trip to the beach and a boat ride through the mangroves.



Meeting with the members of Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA), Ghana

## 4. Session 2: Women in Small-scale Fisheries

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**Chair: Sivaja Nair, ICSF**

Introducing the session, Sivaja Nair said that when ICSF had conceptualized the workshops, they had made it mandatory to dedicate a day to discuss issues pertaining to women in small-scale fisheries because these were different, diverse and of huge importance. In the two previous workshops, the participants and coordinators together had been able to come up with action plans on gender equity making clear demands within the regional context; they hoped to do the same in this workshop too. There had been an expansion of spaces in policy areas in terms of gender, for example, in the 2022 Montreal meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), there had been a wide range of discussions on gender sensitivity and gender responsiveness. While there were targets in terms of gender responsiveness and frameworks like the SSF Guidelines that talk about gender equity, the question remained as to how far these instruments could translate into concrete actions to support women in small-scale fisheries, concluded Sivaja.

### 4.1. Moenieba Isaacs, University of the Western Cape, South Africa: Women as Fish Harvesters

Sharing a personal example, Moenieba Isaacs said that her grandmother had been one of the first fisherwomen who had sold fish in Simon's Town, close to the Cape of Good Hope. Her ancestors had come to Africa by ship from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), perhaps blown there due to a storm, frequent in that area. The apartheid regime had been racist against the local people, including Indigenous and African people. Her work in fisheries was driven by her passion, she said.

In her presentation, she focused on tenure regimes and types of institutions. She said that the fishing industry had already been privatized during apartheid, and so small-scale fishers had to fit in that private system, which was a challenge.



Women in small-scale Fisheries, led by Moenieba Isaacs, University of the Western Cape, South Africa





Group discussion on key issues facing women in small-scale fisheries

She spoke about social reproduction which refers to women's invisible, often unpaid roles. Women have a role not only in terms of production but also in terms of family responsibilities; they have roles in bearing children and the roles in society, in organisations, and in communities.

Speaking about marketization and commodification, she said that it was important to factor in the resources left behind for the community to eat, a critical aspect for their well-being. The anti-apartheid movement had also been a movement against privatization. Commodification of fish had put a price on it and made it unaffordable. Privatization often worked against the people.

Of the cultural link between women's identity and the ocean in different parts of Africa, Moenieba shared that in West Africa, women had songs for the ocean and people offered prayers before going out into the sea. Often, women were not given the opportunity to go out to sea, but when they did, they felt a sense of independence, freedom, joy and peace. Pointing out the importance of fish to women beyond its value as a mere commodity—with it being food and nourishment for the family as well as a source of income for the schooling of their children, running their homes and buying fishing equipment, and hence a way of life itself—she said that fishing was becoming more expensive with rising costs.

In South Africa, fishing communities had been forcibly removed to new locations under apartheid. Now it was the blue economy that displaced people through oil and gas development, construction of hotels and other activities. This displacement disrupted families and caused unemployment in general, and of youth in particular, leading to drug abuse and crime. The question was how to balance the path to privatization while holding on to culture, identity and food.

With respect to fishing regulations and the government, she said that regulations, licenses and reporting were a double-edged sword, especially because regulations were changed without consulting fishers. Though strong locally based organizations—also formed and driven locally—were found in some parts of Africa, she pointed to their absence in South Africa. She underlined the importance of solving problems at the local level.

Talking about women and activism, she said that she had become an activist because her father was a fisherman. They were forced into activism to support the men to organize meetings and protests. She said that women should be aware that men would move in and try to take over if an enterprise made

money. Hence, she pointed to the need for strengthening and building up women's organizations. She spoke of women as entrepreneurs producing local and indigenous products. She also spoke of the Abalobi app, a digital platform connecting fishers to top restaurants and delis but which also ended up promoting demand for specific kinds and quantities of fish. During the COVID-19 pandemic, women in Ghana who accessed and used digital technology had been able to deliver fish home whereas those that solely relied on physical markets had been left out, exposing the digital divide. Digital platforms made marginalized women more marginalized; hence, she spoke of the importance of overcoming the digital divide without creating more inequality down the line.

She put forth a plea to look at the issues concerning women in the continent. The first step was to find the most vulnerable and the most marginalized women in fisheries—those going to the seashore to get fish to sell. She asked that the stakeholders look at systems and processes supporting these women's lives and their livelihoods as well as the organizations researching and working with them. Pointing out that the action taken in different parts of Africa were often worlds apart, she called for a single organization that would reflect the needs of the most vulnerable women on the continent. If this was not done, privatization would create more inequalities, like it had in South Africa. If all the fish were to be sent to the market, people would be poorer and would lose nutrition. Moenieba concluded her presentation by emphasizing the need to look at what was just for women and link that as well to small-scale fisheries.

Presentation link: [https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/TYAFA-2023-Ghana\\_-Moenieba-Isaacs.pdf](https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/TYAFA-2023-Ghana_-Moenieba-Isaacs.pdf)

## 4.2. Rosemarie Mwaipopo, ICSF: Post-harvest Issues

Rosemarie Mwaipopo began her presentation by asking the participants to consider what gender was. While policies provided support to women, it was necessary to move beyond simple recognition to active appreciation. Also, while talking about women in post-harvest issues, there was a tendency to homogenize. She underlined the diversity among women and the different ways in which they experience issues, with the differences in availability of capital, age, marital status, etc., affecting this diversity. In Tanzania, she said, they did not just talk of married women who were compliant to their husbands, but they also talked of active women. There were many things that women did without being dependent on men; it was important to appreciate this diversity. Women worked as porters, processors, harvesters, traders and transporters in Tanzania.

Speaking of the various roles that women had been taking on along the value chain, Rosemarie said that the easiest entry in post-harvest fisheries was labour. Women took this on not necessarily to challenge gender norms but to get income. It had become the starting point instead of buying fish to sell.

The second was processing, which varied across landing sites. Processing enabled women to interact a lot and to communicate even beyond borders. For example, in Zanzibar, women processors dried and boiled sardines for traders in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The processing was laborious and the technology generally poor. The quality of processing determined the income.

The third was trading, which started from the acquisition of products. Sometimes it was difficult to differentiate between harvesters and traders since many harvested octopus and molluscs and traded in them. Trading gave them an income to sustain their families. Some governments and NGOs gave subsidies/capital/interest-free loans that enabled women to engage in relatively large-scale trading. Though some women worked as agents for hotels, when the fish catch was low they had nothing to sell and hence worried a lot. Women often pooled together resources to get a vehicle to go to the bigger markets whereas small-scale operators used public transport. The latter were vulnerable because if their fish went bad, they would lose their income and capital.

Rosemarie highlighted some key issues that affected those working along the value chain. Women laboured a lot to maintain household food security. Because of this, they were also responsible for



Post-harvest issues, led by Rosemarie Mwaipopo, Member, ICSF

environmental destruction by purchasing juveniles and remaining silent on the use of dynamite, as their priority was to maintain food security in their homes. Second was the issue of poor infrastructure in landing sites resulting in health problems, forcing women to retire early and pushing them into poverty. Declining catch and lack of alternatives made them succumb to sex for fish. It was important to think not just about women's activities but also the whole chain of their lives and livelihoods. The third issue was with regard to operating spaces—women clustered in small spaces were taxed on entry at landing sites while waiting for fishers, even if later they were not successful in buying fish. These were issues that few people talked about. The fourth problem was post-harvest losses because of poor processing facilities, absence of cold storage, use of poor-quality fish and low prices. Pointing out some measures, Rosemarie gave the example of women in some places who had pooled together funds and purchased cold storage units, which could also be used by others.

Next, Rosemarie discussed women's potential in securing better livelihoods. The first was empowerment through control of the entire value chain where harvest and post-harvest functions were linked. For example, Mtwara women owned their vessel, went fishing and sold their catch. The next was to do with value addition such as packaging processed sardines, but these were undertaken mostly by resourceful individuals; producer groups or companies could make a change in this regard. Technologies could be provided to improve market information for better access and value. Another way of supporting them was to provide alternative but related investments such as cold storage facilities and microcredit.

The capacity of women to organize gave them self-support and a voice. To the north of South Africa, there were many strong women's organizations. She gave the example of the Tanzania Women Fishworkers Association (TAWFA), who had many chapters in marine and inland fisheries. They had a voice strong enough that they could summon the principal secretary of fisheries to discuss their problems. However, the question was whether it was really a voice for fisherwomen or a good name for the government. She pointed out that women's processors' platforms too had a voice. But Rosemarie asked how they could use this voice to access products and technology and if the women questioned where products came from to be able to refuse those from destructive sources.

The African states had advanced a number of gender and women-sensitive programmes with varied achievements. The invisibility discourse was increasingly being deconstructed, and by harnessing women's potentials, it was being shown that this invisibility should not have existed. It was not just



about gender or gender disaggregation. Diversity data was also important given women's diversity across situations. The question, therefore, was to determine how policy could minimize social and gender constraints and inequalities. While the government was cognizant of issues such as sex for fish or fish for sex, how it would address the needs of vulnerable women was another issue for consideration. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, women who used to export sardines across the border to Mombasa could not cross the border. Rosemarie prompted the audience to think about the ways in which the government could interfere, engage and protect vulnerable women under such circumstances.

While access to improved technologies (post-harvest) had been promoted for nutrition and food security, who had access also had to be considered. Coming to challenging gender social norms that subdue women, Rosemarie called for supporting women's organizations through campaigns. While they were active on certain platforms, for example, against sex for fish, the reality was different. She also asked the participants to consider ways to challenge gender-based violence (GBV) and the ways in which CBOs could integrate gender as a meaningful system, beyond just in numbers.

In conclusion, Rosemarie said that though her talk had been about women in post-harvest activities, it was necessary to go beyond simply thinking of the activities women engaged in and look at how women could be empowered and mobilized, to look at how women could fight for the marine base that they too were dependent on.

Presentation link: [https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Africa\\_IYafa\\_WIF\\_Rosemarie-Mwaipopo.pdf](https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Africa_IYafa_WIF_Rosemarie-Mwaipopo.pdf)

### 4.3. Key Issues Facing Women in Small-scale Fisheries

**Facilitator: Elyse Mills, ICSF**

In this session, photographs contributed by different participants illustrating the role of women in fisheries in their communities was shown with the contributors explaining the context of the images. The photographs are available as a video on: <https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>



Group discussion on key issues facing women in small-scale fisheries



Participants viewing photographs of the photo exhibition

The set of photographs by Charmaine Daniels from South Africa showed how women in a small community called Ocean View operated. There was no harbour and the surf was dangerous. They had to land their craft on the sand and then offload their fish catch, which was bought by a fishmonger who in turn sold it to the community at double the price he paid the fisherwomen. In South Africa, women could choose to go on a boat or not. Although it was becoming male-dominated, women still had to fish to help feed the family. It was not like in Ghana where the men fished and the women took over once the fish were landed. In South Africa, the fishers operated on a quota system for which a permit was issued by the government.

Elhadji Daouda Ndiaye from Senegal said he came from a family of fishers in a country of fishers with more than 26,000 pirogues. Displaying a photo of a woman gutting a fish, he explained that before the pirogues came back to shore, women could be seen going down to the beach around 4 a.m. to try and get some fish for the fishers to use as bait. For all the men who left in the morning to go fishing, it was the women who gave either fish for bait or money for fuel expenses. Afterwards, the women bought the fish to supply the local market or for processing. After processing, the men were given the fish for export (cephalopods and crustaceans), a niche where men dominated, while women dominated the local market. Additional pictures that he showed included the auction site, where small refrigerators used to store the fish—in the absence of adequate infrastructure—could be seen.

Lucyphine Julius Kilanga showed photos from Tanzania of women fish processors working in Lake Victoria in the Monza region. Women, having collected their catch, could be seen packing and loading it into their cart, after which they would start separating the sardines from the waste. The next photograph showed another landing site near the Kenyan border where sardines were being dried on the sand directly as there were no other facilities. But this was not allowed, explained the speaker, and sometimes fisheries officers penalized them for this. The pay was very low and the work long and arduous as the fish had to be turned over every six hours.

Next, Rosemarie Mwaipopo showcased a set of photos of a fisher woman called Hadija from southern Tanzania. One photo showed large tuna being cut so that women could afford to buy the cut pieces. Hadija's colleagues fished for small pelagics from their own boats. There was also a photo of women in Bagamoyo in eastern Tanzania collecting sea snails, which was food for their households. These

women had been slowly pushed out when big developers occupied the coastal areas. There was now a mega harbour coming up in that area. The last photo showed women and children outside an octopus hole the day after octopus fishing was opened post the three-month seasonal closure.

Margaret Nakato from Uganda explained that the first photo was of women at a landing site examining the catch before taking it for processing. She also showed a photo of women with racks using clean technology for smoking fish after the lockdown had been lifted. These produced fish free of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). Women could lock the racks while they went back to do their housework.

Nana Kweigyah Isaac from Ghana shared a picture of a woman selling buns and bread loaves on a beach to show the important ancillary services provided by women. These items (which could be bananas, rice, etc.) were often given on credit to the fishermen, thus ensuring they had something to eat. Some women received fish as payment. In the canoe landing sites, women sat in the open or in the shade of a canoe; in the harbour, there were sheds for the women to sit. Women sitting in the open with buckets of fish raised questions about the quality of fish and the health of the women. In Ghana, it was the women who financed most fishing expeditions.

The next set of pictures showed oyster collectors who went in boats to collect oysters. One of the women oyster collectors, Bernice Agorogo, explained this process. Now, with training and implementation of the closed season, they had been able to harvest larger oysters. But the work was hard and they did not make much money.

In Seychelles, most women in the fishing sector were in administration and research, said Nancy Marchia Onginjo. The first photo showed women aboard a research vessel and another where the launch of an app on co-management was being explained to schoolchildren. Nancy said that only about ten women were into fishing, including her, a reef fisher. There was also a photo of her with her catch. They had faced algal blooms that killed the fish in the region, and it had taken time for the fish to return.

Rose Adjoavi Togbenou from Togo said that a group called Alowodo (meaning 'It's the hand that works') collected fish waste that used to earlier choke up the gutters. The waste was collected in



Group discussion on key issues facing women in small-scale fisheries





Group discussion on key issues facing women in small-scale fisheries

baskets, spread out to dry in well-equipped yards, smoked in ovens and sent to the mill to make it into fine powder. The powder was then packaged in 1 kg bags. This was used as feed for poultry and cattle as well as for market gardening. The result was a clean, dry environment, which also reduced odours. The photos showed the women at a producers' forum and also the way they processed the waste.

Elyse Mills thanked the presenters and said that the photos showed the many roles of women that were crucial in keeping small-scale fisheries alive.

## Presentation of Group Discussions on Women in Fisheries

### Group 1: Seychelles, South Africa, Gambia

*Rapporteur: Nancy Marchia Onginjo*

On the **first question** regarding the major challenges faced by women in fisheries, the group said that there was low capital to compete with the market, inadequate fisheries resources, inadequate publicity of fisheries policies, gender stereotyping, socio-cultural norms and tradition, inadequate security, network challenges, IUU in the artisanal sector, high cost of fishing gear, impacts of climate change on resources, and poor fish processing methods and infrastructure. They also pointed to the high level of international quality standards to be attained to be able to export. The group said that usually, in businesses, there were no family and friends; but in the African continent this was not the case. There was also no social security, inadequate access to health care and a lack of competition to take up leadership roles.

To the **second question** on specific measures required for recognizing women's social reproduction roles, the group said that empowerment was important. They called for capacity building of both men and women but keeping in mind the roles of women in terms of their customs and traditions; policy change enhancements and modifications towards equity and opportunities; access towards family planning for women; and day-care and child care facilities for children in the fisher communities.

For the **third question** dealing with issues in the post-harvest sector, the group said that in some areas, there was inadequate storage or processing facilities and hence proper handling of fisheries resources in the landing site were needed along with hygienic standards. They called for public investments in inland and coastal resources, value addition to fish resources, technology, access to these resources and formulation of policies allocating a percentage of the budget to be used in post-harvest. They pointed out that without resources there could be no post-harvest work.

## Group 2: Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana

*Rapporteur: Christiana Saiti Louwa*

To the **first question** on challenges faced by women, the group had the following points:

- **Security of investments:** In most cases, almost everywhere, women invested their money and equipment, but then the men just disappeared, impoverishing the women further.
- **Extortion of investments:** In places like Nigeria, women had to enter into an agreement with fishermen going to sea—paying them some money in advance to receive fish for a certain period of time. This money was not refundable, and the fishermen tended to disappear. This amounted to extorting women before actually doing business.
- **Household financial burden:** Many fishers were polygamous, leaving all the household financial burden to fall on women, which in turn affected their working capital.
- **Unplanned infrastructure:** Women had limited access to landing sites because of poor roads, the long distance to get there and the non-registration of/unfamiliarity with landing sites.
- **Security issues:** Some areas were prone to insurgencies, and so women faced problems in accessing markets and landing sites. They often resided in rough, remote parts of the country. Women in isolation were prone to be attacked. Governments must be responsible for this issue and respond to it.
- **Corruption and politicization:** There was a lack of accountability, with the grants for fisherwomen not reaching them. There was low prioritization in distribution of government resources and grants as well as politicization of issues, which affected the State support for fisherwomen.



Group discussion on social development challenges and solutions

- Inadequate market information systems: Women often did not have this information, especially beyond the village, where usually the money was.
- Lack of ownership of working tools/fishing gear/vessels: This led to women being cheated as they had to depend on men for access to these for a fee.
- No proper guideline on quality control and value addition: Women-centric products often got left out.
- Abandonment: Families and children were sometimes neglected in these communities.
- Child exploitation and abuse: Some parents in the fishing sector discouraged their children from going to school and instead used them for cheap labour or married off the girls early.

To the **second question** on social reproduction roles, the group shared the following key points:

- There must be proper investment in community infrastructure to support women's activities, which would allow them to do their business well and also look after their families better.
- There should be investments in innovative projects accessible to women.
- There must be effective representation of women in decision making, especially in the fisheries sector. Only then would the social reproduction roles performed by women be taken into account and better policies be formulated to address women's issues.
- There must be a code of conduct, sensitive to women, for responsible fisheries.

On the **third question**, the group identified the following issues in the post-harvest sector:

- There was unregulated or inaccessible/inadequate information on policies, such as in taxation and certification.
- Enough access to lucrative markets was not available, with seasonality and fluctuation in the pricing systems further affecting this. For example, in Lake Turkana, while fresh fish could be sold in the local market, dry fish had to be sold further away in DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, etc.
- The market was volatile with price seasonality and pricing decisions made by others.
- It was usually non-local people who held the monopoly in the fishing business. They were usually wealthy people, who intervened with the pricing.
- Quality control was inadequate, for example, in handling.

The group said these could be addressed and negotiated through the following measures:

- Promote technology that would improve productivity and add value (cold storage, rooms), along with being accessible, affordable, locally relevant and modern/innovative.
- Improve and promote relevant and timely information systems.
- Connect fishers with marketing platforms in the region and give them access to other marketing information systems.
- Establish community marketing cooperatives to mutually grow the financial base.

### **Group 3: Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Djibouti, Tunisia**

*Rapporteur: Ramzi Hamrit*

On the **first question** about the major challenges faced by women in fisheries, the rapporteur said that their group had proceeded a little differently from the other groups, going country by country, because there were differences between the countries.



In Senegal, women had full access, without any problems, to oyster fishing and other similar activities. However, cultural codes excluded them from accessing other resources (fishing and boats, of course). Because of cultural codes, they also could not buy, install or repair fishing gear. As for marketing, they had to compete with industrialists. However, access to local markets was not a problem. Social security with medical care did not exist. As for leadership, women were very well represented and organized. There were already women's organizations.

In Togo, women could participate in fishery activities. They were also involved in gear purchasing and marketing. They had access to local regional markets. But, they had problems with customs duties, which the rapporteur expressed was a fairly general problem everywhere. So women were not involved in exports. There was also no social security with medical care. Women were very active in leadership and well organized, and there were alliances between these organizations.

In Côte d'Ivoire, access to boats was a huge cultural challenge, and so women did not have any access to resources and boats. But they could participate in the purchase of gear, fitting and repairs. Because of political reasons, they faced major problems with market access and marketing. There was also no social security with medical care. In terms of leadership, they were very active and well organized in their professional structures.

Mauritania and Djibouti were different from the other countries. There was no problem with women accessing boats and resources; no problem in acquiring, assembling and repairing gear; and no problem with marketing. They even had access to social security and medical care. The organizations were very active and well organized.

Tunisia too was very similar, except that the organizations were a little less active, according to what the rapporteur had heard from his colleagues.

On the **second question** regarding women's social reproduction roles, they said that there was no discrimination and the women were well organized among themselves and had the freedom to do what they wanted. In fact, when it came to leadership and organization, they were well represented and very active.

On the **third question** regarding post-harvest issues, the rapporteur said that it was not a problem specific to women but a general one, with the existing infrastructure being inadequate for creating value addition to fish products.

#### **4.4. Panel Discussion: Solutions and Ways Forward for Improving Women's Access to Resources and Participation**

*Facilitator: Rosemarie Mwaipopo, ICSF*

Panel: One woman representing each country addressed questions on: (a) how they had been successful in addressing the challenges women in fisheries faced and (b) how women were mobilizing and organizing.

##### **Group 1**

*Olorode Ganiat Oluwakemi, Nigeria*

Olorode represented the Fishermen and Women Association of Lagos State and said that her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother had been in the fishing business. Her mother had been the head of the women in their community, and Olorode took her mother's place just before she died. Her mother had wanted the women to stand on their own feet and fought for women who were not allowed to do anything on their own. When Olorode returned to her mother's community, she saw that most women were being duped by men who took money in advance to buy fishing equipment and then disappear, often selling the fish they caught to others.

Then, the organization convinced influential women who had money but were not into fisheries to help the fisherwomen bid directly with bigger fishermen. They introduced chits, daily contributions of small amounts by women in the group, to help them save money. In this manner they avoided taking bank loans and worrying about repayment. Even if the chief collector borrowed, it was repaid on a daily basis. They introduced cooperatives through which saving a certain amount of money enabled getting loans to twice or thrice that amount to finance their business. They also made sure that when one of them lost a husband, they pooled resources together and gave the woman something to lessen the impact of the loss.

Olorode then spoke of the needs yet to be met, starting with a good room for storage of fish to reduce spoilage. They also wanted the next generation to embrace working in the fishing sector. They wanted smokeless ovens or clean fuel for smoking their fish as constant inhalation of smoke had been said to lead to cancer. The alternative, charcoal, was also not helpful. The University of Lagos researchers had helped them make briquettes from the roots of water hyacinth which could be used for smoking. They also wanted the government to equip their public health centres so they could have access to quality AIDS services.

### ***Josephine Opere Oddo, Ghana***

Josephine said that the fish processing programme had been started in the western region in the 1990s when the current executive director had been a member of the Assembly from that region. Josephine as a student used to go around with her to see how the fish processors worked. They learnt that most of them were migrants and did not have any good spaces to do their work. At that time, there had been enough fish in Ghana, but lack of storage had forced people to throw fish back into the sea.

An association of the migrant women was formed. Then, non-formal education programmes were organized on learning that the migrants were mostly illiterate. In 1993, the organization was registered as an NGO and they were able to obtain support from outside to provide electricity, bath houses and places of convenience for these women. Word spread about this work. As they dealt with more migrants, they realized that there were other issues too: single parenthood, lack of working capital, inability to access loans, and small and slow ovens for smoking fish. The NGO was able to secure funding from a donor, and fifty-four women were provided with charcoal ovens in the city of Sekondi. When the director moved to the central region, the French embassy reached out to help. A large shed was first built with ovens for the women to use. Subsequently, USAID helped them obtain 'comfort ovens' that reduced PAH in fish.

The women who learnt to read and write became executives in the NGO. For access to credit, a savings loan scheme was available; there were other means of funding available to care for family needs without touching the working capital so that they could always stay in business. Since the fish stock had reduced, the NGO was providing training in healthy fish landing and in business management to get maximum value out of even the small quantity of fish they were able to procure.

### ***Rose Adjoavi Togbenou, Togo***

Rose had inherited her work from her maternal grandmother. She used to go to the harbour with her on Saturdays and watch the pirogues come in and sell fish to her grandmother. Later, Rose built her own pirogue, though it had not been an easy path. Most of their fishermen were Ghanaians, who asked for lot of money to build a pirogue and demanded the money before even starting work.

It was still the fishermen who went out to sea, while the fisherwomen bought them fuel and everything else they needed. The fishermen fished for three or four days, came back and handed over the fish to the women, who then sold the catch to retailers. So, the women had to spend around 200,000 francs initially. After the sale of fish, each fisherwoman might be left with about 3,000 francs. But the next day, the women had to come up with the same money again, around 200,000 francs, to give to the fishermen.

The women used to work individually, before they decided to form a group in 2006, and in 2013 changed their status to a union. Today, there were women fishmongers and processors in the union, which had formed a federation. With the organization, they had a structure that supported them in terms of training. There was also an injection of funds.

The FAO had started the AVEC (*association villageoise d'épargne et de crédit*) system for the women, for which Rose thanked the UN organization. Under this, the women met once a week. One could contribute between 1,000 and 5,000 francs. When one needed money, the AVEC office gave a low-interest loan. At the end of the year, the women split the interest amongst themselves.

However, problems remained. Though the women worked together, they still had to come up with the money to give the fishermen. So, they were still forced to go to *mutuelles* (private agents), because they could not approach the banks. But the interest rates of the *mutuelles* were too high and unaffordable. Credit transactions were not available either.

Climate change too had obvious repercussions on fishing. After spending 100,000 to 200,000 francs on a fisherman who went out to sea, the women sometimes saw him come back with nothing. And the next day, he had to be financed again. Rose expressed that they were doomed to work like this forever. It was their job, she said, and they had to work hard at it.

Rose also thanked the authorities for the new fishing harbour but said that resources continued to be a big problem. Though they had good seasons, during the off-season, it was necessary for fisherwomen to find another income-generating activity. She was a fishtrader but she also sold yoghurt. The authorities did not take fisherpeople's views into account, she said, and added that this might be the case in every country.

In the absence of a member of parliament in the workshop, Rose told the federation president for Togo, also present in the room, that the State should set up a bank for them with loans at low interest rates so the fisherwomen could stop lining up in front of private credit companies whose rates were 9% to 20%. Once a loan was taken from them, one had to keep paying it back forever.

Rose concluded on a strong note urging fisherwomen to have courage.



Panel discussion on solutions and ways forward for improving women's access to resources and participation



***Fatou Camara, The Gambia***

Fatou was born in a fishing community, with both parents being fishers. On her current work, she said that she was a member of the National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operations, which dealt with the livelihood of people dependent on small-scale fisheries. She mainly engaged with women in post-harvest, creating local and regional markets for them, building capacity, raising loans, and enhancing the livelihood of women dependent on small-scale fisheries.

Fatou concluded her talk by laying out the issues they faced. Their main challenge was the competition from a fish meal factory in the area, which paid high prices to the fishers, making the procurement of fish highly competitive. The other challenge they faced was the lack of any storage facility.

***Ake Viviane Dompedan, Côte d'Ivoire***

Viviane from Côte d'Ivoire was in the workshop representing the USCOFEP-CI (*Union des Sociétés Coopératives des Femmes de la Pêche et Assimilées de Côte d'Ivoire*) and shared about her life and her community.

When she was a child, her family used to catch a little fish to feed themselves. But as an adult, she went into trading. She used to work out of Adjamé market, selling jewellery and bread. Then the market was closed and she was left in the lurch.

She eventually went to the Abobo Doumé fish market with her wares for women. She met quite a few women and realized that this was the work she used to do with her father when she was not at school. So, she made the move. There were not many of them on the site: around 600 in 2001–2002. She realized that to get into this trade, the women had to invest in pirogues. Being fairly fluent in Fanti, Ashanti and a little English, she approached the fishermen and asked them about how she could obtain fish boxes. It worked and she started on the job. Things were going very well.

With other women arriving over time, they called a meeting and agreed that they could not work on their own and had to get together at least once a week to discuss their working conditions. They then set up an association named after a fish seller in Abidjan. As things progressed, they set up a simplified cooperative, which became CMATPHA (*Coopérative des Mareyeuses et Transformatrices des Produits Halieutiques d'Abidjan*, or the Cooperative of Fishmongers and Fish Products Processors of Abidjan). They chose Micheline, whom everyone knew, as their president. It was a big challenge because they had to bring together all the women who worked with fish in Côte d'Ivoire. They went from town to town, village to village to bring them together. At first, there were four cooperatives, then sixteen. They then formed a union from an administrative point of view.

But then, they got a letter from the government telling them to get out of their site, on the basis that they were working out of a dirty site. It was the truth: the big fish were being processed on the ground. They had to take care of that. After the war, they found themselves meeting a lot of women, widows and others who had fled their villages. Everyone had been interested in what they were doing. It was a great burden because if they got kicked out, then all those women would be abandoned. They wrote a lot of letters, and in the end, it paid off: the Kingdom of Morocco listened to them, and helped them with a project for a new landing site.

Despite obstacles in their way created by others, they managed to go forward. The union, chaired by Micheline, now had 37 cooperatives. They even made a film called *Une Place, Une Mareyeuse, Un Toit* (*A Place, A Fishmonger, A Roof*). By joining together in cooperatives or groups, women have the opportunity to autonomously apply their own values and principles to respond to the issues that affect them. In Côte d'Ivoire, one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Union of Cooperative Societies of Women in Fishing and Assimilated People of Côte d'Ivoire (USCOFEP-CI), spread across the entire Ivorian territory, was to ensure the well-being and cohesion of its members. With this in mind, the Union has drawn up a social policy which covers all areas of life. In 2021, the Union even went so far as to sign an agreement with a real estate company for the construction of social

housing, which should allow women in the Union to improve their living conditions by accessing decent housing. “*One fishmonger, one roof*” is the objective of this project supported by USCOFEP-CI to improve the living conditions of women in the artisanal fishing sector and their families.

They also set up the AVEC system, which had been of great help to the women. Every week, they got together and put something in the office treasury. If someone needed money, they went to the office and disbursed the funds. At the end of the year, they shared the interest deducted.

Their challenge today, she said, was to organize themselves. She also referred to the fishermen swindling them as another issue. She asked that their rulers listen to them a little and put something in place for people in the fishing sector, because it was the fishers who helped feed the population. She asked that their work be recognized, like agriculture was.

### Facilitator’s Remarks and Discussion

Rosemarie Mwaipopo, the facilitator, summarized the key points made by the first set of speakers:

- **Agency:** Self-mobilization and self-initiatives had helped women successfully overcome dependence. A key point was building financial resources either through group savings or facilitating access to credit, including accessible sources of credit at reasonable rates of interest.
- **Social reproduction:** The presenters had talked of women not only as fishers or fish processors but of them making a home and how they tried to negotiate between fishing and the things they had to do for their home.
- **New technology:** Introduction and investment in new technology had resulted in improved productivity.
- **Mobilization:** All presenters had showed that mobilizing across social groups—including migrants and Indigenous Peoples—had been beneficial to the women in the community.



Panel discussion on solutions and ways forward for improving women’s access to resources and participation

- Capacity building: Many of the presenters had overcome issues in their community through capacity building.

Rosemarie then requested the participants to clarify some points. First, she asked Viviane about how they had overcome issues to build a network of women.

Viviane explained that initially, they had gone from village to village to mobilize the women to get together and form cooperatives. They took someone to help with the applications. Her love for handling fresh fish and memories of working with her father had given her the courage to try helping other women to take loans to subsidize fish boxes and pirogues.

To a question about what they had done to win over the fishmeal factories, Fatou said that they had written to the government, the issuer of licences, to reduce the number of fish meal plants. They had organized a sensitization of various women to persuade them to finance the women fishmongers so that the latter could win the competition.

On a question on whether they had asked the government for increase in access to credit and if they had taken any steps in the meanwhile, Rose said that it was not the government that had helped them but the OIF (*Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*). They had built infrastructure such as toilets and had left a sum in the fund. But the women had not accepted the sum that was part of the debt. As an organization, the OIF could do nothing more for them, and the women too no longer made savings. For the moment, they did not have to take loans from the government. They relied on themselves with the help of the scheme devised by the FAO as well as on the money they earned and the loans they took out together in their cooperatives.

Responding to a query from the facilitator about potential social differences when systems to support migrant and Indigenous women were created, Josephine from Ghana explained that they had worked with them but since the migrants and Indigenous Peoples formed different suburbs in the community, when they had to work with them in the village, the spaces were different, that was all.

Answering the Rosemarie's question on whether facilitating group savings had made a difference in the way women were able to access resources, Olorode from Nigeria answered in the affirmative. Most of the women who had lost their husbands had become vulnerable and could not buy and sell fish. When they were given money, they used it to buy fish from the fishermen, which they could sell at a profit to sustain their family.

## Group 2

### *Hadija Juma Malibiche, Tanzania*

Being from the Mtwara region and having been born and brought up in a fishing community, Hadija said that she had discovered four challenges in her community as she was growing up: (a) economic poverty, a life-long challenge, because of the lack of a savings habit; (b) patriarchy—men did not want women to be in a decision-making position in any situation, and cultural norms always marginalized women in everything they did; (c) illegal fishing; and (d) child labour.

Hadija was educated till the fourth form and could not proceed beyond that because of the family's economic circumstances. As an adult, she volunteered with a fisher organization funded by Swissaid and learnt about fish farming as an alternate livelihood. She subsequently formed 10 groups for fish farming in 7 villages, constituting about 110 members. They opened bank accounts and were obligated to take loans from their account to generate profits and use it in their activities. The fish farmer groups grew over the next few years and also received attention and funding from donors, enabling them to expand their activities to livestock, especially milk cattle.

Just after things started going well, men threatened her with machetes because she, a woman, was a community leader mobilizing others. In the beginning, when the process was hard, the men had just



been observing. But when they saw that money was coming in and projects were happening, they threatened her. Finally, she had to write to the donors to support her to continue her education as it had become risky for her to continue in the organization. She went back to school and on return, successfully tackled the child labour issue by mobilizing the community and raising awareness. Now, in her community, there was no more truancy. Subsequently, she started a fisherwomen's organization which was being funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and was functioning well.

### ***Christiana Saiti Louwa, Kenya***

Like most Africans, Christiana was also from a patriarchal society with elder men taking decisions, she said. But eventually, the women had to stand up and say that cultural issues and development issues were distinct, and so everybody, the women, youth, elders, must participate and make decisions for development. She explained how they had addressed the different challenges.

- **Capacity building:** In order for women to participate in decision making, especially in leadership, advocacy and entrepreneur skills, they did a lot of capacity building. They connected women to market spaces, especially within Kenya, and facilitated intergenerational knowledge transfer through multi-generational discussions to prepare the next generation of fisherwomen.
- **Healthy environment for healthy communities:** Climate change had resulted in swollen water bodies that had dredged up all kinds of things to the shores. They inspired women and youth to clean up the landing beaches, dig pits to dump and burn the garbage.
- **Growing the financial base from within:** Since the nearest bank was 350 km away, they decided to grow their own financial base. It was like a merry-go-round. Women met, pooled together money, gave out a loan to one person in the group to start/sustain businesses, and when that person returned the money, another took it.
- **Alternative livelihoods:** They began focusing on those livelihoods that were close to their culture, such as making and selling bead bracelets, necklaces, baskets, etc. This was essential with fish being seasonal and income not being stable.
- **Exchange visits:** They arranged for visits to and from other groups.



Panel discussion on solutions and ways forward for improving women's access to resources and participation

***Nancy Marchia Onginjo, Seychelles***

Nancy had recently been appointed the chairperson of the Seychelles Fishermen and Boat Owners' Association, she shared. The person who put her in that position could understand what the power of women could do. Also, her father had constantly encouraged her. Though a student of law, fishing was her passion.

There were currently only ten fisherwomen in Seychelles; it being a male-dominated sector was one of their challenges. Moreover, Seychelles being a modernized country, the youth were not interested in fisheries; in fact there was only one young person, an eighteen-year-old, currently taking interest in fisheries in her island. This was a point of concern given the importance of fish in nutrition. Calling artisanal fishing an art, she said that it was transferred through generations.

Already, Sri Lankans, Ghanaians and others were working on Seychelles' semi-industrial long liners. She expressed concern about the increasing involvement of fishermen in drug trafficking and even human trafficking.

***Perus Logose, Uganda***

The Kiyindi Women Fish Processors Association dealt with value addition in fisheries, said Perus, also a part of the organization. The main challenge with value addition in fish was marketing. When they got a new product, they went door to door trying to advertise with free samples. When the product was good, the market responded favourably. They took part in exhibitions, trade fairs and agricultural shows, in which they handed out their business cards. They worked on value addition in silver fish. Earlier, people used to refuse to eat it, instead using it as food for animals, and only the poor would eat it. The organization had changed this scenario through value addition. Silver fish was now available in supermarkets where mostly rich people shopped.

Earlier, they had a problem in accessing resources as they had no fishing craft or fishing gear. The FAO's Smartfish programme helped them get racks, equipment and a sales outlet. Now the fish were put on raised platforms to avoid contamination because an important reason for people not eating silver fish in the past had been the way it was poorly processed, with them being dried on open ground. The GIZ in Uganda also gave engines and fishing craft to the women.

The challenge in processing was further overcome by the technical team who trained them in good handling practices and other new processing technology. Researchers helped them by bringing out smoke-free ovens, in which the smoke levels could also be set. These units were distributed by the GIZ, either given for free or at cost or through loans.

The financial challenge was overcome by persuading women in the community with money but who were not into fishing to provide quick loans to fisherwomen, to be repaid in a day or two. The women were now mobilizing themselves into groups. This savings group loaned out money, even hired out craft and distributed the money earned among the members.

From being a local organization, they were now a national one in Uganda, with Perus as the treasurer. Their landing site had become the best because of their activities and was the central point for fish export to Tanzania, Kenya, Congo, Rwanda and other countries, concluded Perus.

***Charmaine Daniels, South Africa***

Charmaine began by saying that South Africa was different because of the laws. The fishers had to get quotas or permits to fish, which had to be renewed every ten to fifteen years. There was a governance body that fishers could approach, but it was ruled by powerful men.

As a fisherwoman for thirty-six years, her observation was that women were always on the backseat. It was only the craft owners that went forward in the industry. A woman could not ask for a place in a man's craft because he preferred to give it to another man. In South Africa, it was the men who were the processors and ran the markets while women waited at home. She expressed concern that things

in her country might go the same way as in Seychelles, with drugs and divorces splitting the family. If more South Africans could come to such workshops, they would learn about the happenings in other countries.

Without proper rights over resources, one would tend to poach. She also pointed out the problem of rising input costs. If, for example, she went fishing and was able to catch only part of her total allowable catch (TAC) in that outing, she would then hesitate to send the craft out again the next day because of the high fuel prices. The way forward was for women to come together, organize and speak for themselves, as men were not going to. It was necessary to go to the government and ask why women were being left out of the system.

Taitum-Lee Manuel from the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of the Western Cape, also added a few points. She said that it was necessary to mobilize the youth of South Africa and make them aware of how making decisions today, such as about the blue economy, would impact them in the future. This could be done by providing training and opportunities to the youth. To illustrate the power of coming together, she gave the following example. Foreign companies, like Shell, used to carry out seismic testing for exploration of oil and gas, which endangered the species in the South African waters, making them move away. Since South African fishers were allowed to catch fish only in certain locations, the daily catch was not viable anymore when the fish moved away from the usual fishing grounds because of the seismic testing. The fishers united and protested, winning the court case against Shell. She said that, in her view, the way forward was a youth-based organization for small-scale fisheries championing the security of fishers and securing their livelihoods for future generations.

## Facilitator's Remarks

Rosemarie summarized the key points made by the second set of speakers as follows:

- **Entrenched patriarchy:** Women were trying to overcome entrenched patriarchy in the fishing community. It could be seen in so many ways, sometimes exposing women to physical insecurity but also making it difficult for them to access resources.
- **Beyond fishing as an occupation:** Women looked at fisheries as a whole system of livelihood. It was not simply about taking, selling and marketing the fish. It was about the lives in the fishing community.
- **Child labour :** The fathers, sometimes the mothers, took their children to fish. It was an issue that could not be avoided even though it was not about fishing per se.
- **Connecting women to women:** Encouraging women to meet with women from other communities through exchange visits and woman-to-woman intergenerational transfer of knowledge had been beneficial.
- **Building their own financial resources:** This was essential because without money, it was not possible to do what one wanted.

Rosemarie also pointed out that the presenters had not talked much about sustainable extraction of resources.

## 4.5. Group Brainstorm: Developing an Action Plan

**Facilitator: Moenieba Isaacs, University of the Western Cape, South Africa**

The primary task for the session was to lay out the key actions needed to address the challenges facing women in fisheries.



Moenieba expanded on this with questions about (a) understanding what was needed for women in fisheries in order to make inroads in the African Union Declaration (b) framing some of these issues and challenges as actions, and (c) coming up with a frame that would include the different levels of women in fisheries.

#### ***Sid'Ahmed Abeid, Mauritania***

Sid'Ahmed began with talking about some of the recent declarations. At the Organisation for African Unity (OAU), a major meeting about women had been held four years ago, bringing together forty-two African countries, and the Nouakchott Declaration had been issued. At the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA), the International Women's Day (8 March) was celebrated every year and a declaration issued. On 8 March, Côte d'Ivoire would be hosting the Women's Meeting. Saying that it was vital to monitor the realities of these declarations, he wondered if the declaration made in the workshop would be implemented.

He expressed that it was necessary for fisherwomen to change strategy as the fishermen had. The men had agreed they had no enemies. One had to negotiate with everyone without systematic opposition. It was not necessary to be against people or governments to achieve their needs. Women were in a state of necessity and they had claimed that they had been abandoned by everyone. He said that their various organizations supported women as they were their wives, sisters and daughters. They were not against women, rather they wanted things to change for them.

Men needed women too, although their traditions were not in favour of it because the fishing sector was in a workforce crisis and there was a worldwide shortage of fishermen to produce such an important resource, so precious for food and nutrition as well as essential for a prosperous economy.

He said that a strategy must be based on something achievable. Governments must be made to understand that women's actions were to strengthen the global economy. The approach should not be to look at problems of parity between men and women but to foster a spirit of complementarity. One day, women might outnumber men. Hence, it was better to start from this principle to build for the future, he concluded.

Moenieba requested him to share Nouakchott and CAMFA declarations with the group and agreed that the International Women's Day would be an important occasion to highlight the role of women in fisheries.

#### ***Ndiaye Elhadji Daouda, Senegal***

Daouda said that the education of women was important, along with better knowledge and capacity building. With fisheries on the decline, he felt that it was important to diversify activities and look to other sources of income to improve living conditions for fishermen and enable the sea to rejuvenate so that the fishermen could continue to benefit from it.

#### ***Aliou Sowe, The Gambia***

Aliou said that those present in the workshop all had the same objective of understanding the realities on the ground. He agreed that the challenges were many and went on to lay out some suggestions and learnings.

It was important to have sustainable management, development and participation of the women fraternity to work towards provision of fish security. Methods to establish women cooperative societies must be found. While marketing cooperatives could be found within the communities, it was necessary to have cooperatives for those engaged in smoking and drying as well as for the fresh fish-sellers. Governance was key and should cater to not only men leading the process but also women. Women's voice should be functionalized and put into action. If this was not done, complaints and challenges would continue. Not only the ministries responsible for fisheries but also

the ministry of women affairs, women's bureaus and others had very little understanding to support women in fisheries. In the Gambia, the government had very little knowledge and understanding of what the fisheries sector was doing. It was necessary to engage with the government and persuade them to support the sector. Subsidies, training, capacity building, materials for post-harvest, cold storage vans, etc., were all needed. When the FAO gave projects to the government ministries to support food security, the benefits of major equipment mostly went to men. Noting that there was a substantial difference between various countries, Alieu suggested that organizations, CSOs and governments should be persuaded to listen to women's needs.

#### ***Perus Logose, Uganda***

Perus said that the action area had to be in the development of the value chain in order to avoid waste in post-harvest losses.

Moenieba agreed that this was important as in traditional fishing communities nothing went to waste. But there was so much more waste today, and Moenieba wondered about the reason for that.

#### ***Francis Nunoo, Ghana***

Francis had the following suggestions: encourage collaboration between women's organizations; have an agenda desk each at the ministry for fisheries and ministry for women to coordinate women's activities and provide them with a voice that would reach governments and policymakers; and target the various regional blocs in addition to the African Union.

#### ***Margaret Nakato, Uganda***

Given Margaret's area of action in building capacity of women leaders with respect to the SSF Guidelines, she shared her experience and learnings from it.

If community leaders knew about the document's benefits, they would be able to use that information to guide their actions in the communities. She gave an example of building back better after a fire, in which a community had been encouraged and guided by the SSF Guidelines.

Also, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines need to be followed up in each country. Instead of making piecemeal demands, the fishing communities could have strong voices about the direction in which the country should be moving. She also referred to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, saying that even though this too referred to fishing communities, few know about this. If the leaders knew about the various instruments and how to use them, it would help a great deal, she said in conclusion.

Moenieba agreed with the importance of the SSF Guidelines but cautioned that because of the its voluntary nature, if the national law did not integrate the guidelines, the government could not be made accountable for it. In 2024, which would mark ten years since the release of the SSF Guidelines, it would be important to see how well the guidelines had been implemented. She pointed out the importance of the guidelines as a tool while speaking about issues regarding protected areas, conservation, blue economy and tourism that were often used to evict women from their livelihoods.

#### ***Ake Viviane Dompedan, Côte d'Ivoire***

Viviane said that women must not move forward as scattered individuals as things would not change that way. It was necessary to hold on to each other. Social networks were helpful in contacting each other at any time. If Ghana had a problem, Côte d'Ivoire would also have the problem, and vice versa. Quoting the Bible, 'Wherever the sole of your foot treads, I give it to you,' Viviane said that they had put their foot in fisheries and now it was up to them to see how things could be moved forward for the people relying on fish as a food source.

***Christiana Saiti Louwa, Kenya***

Sharing her on-the-ground experience, Christiana said that when they talked about the SSF Guidelines, the Tenure Guidelines and Kenyan policies on fisheries to communities, people had shrugged them off saying that these policies took a long time for implementation because of their voluntary nature, and meanwhile, they had to eat. They expressed wanting to hold governments responsible and demanded immediate action to improve the lives of women. She said that governments and FAO must put in place mechanisms to directly support grassroot women's organizations. For grassroot women in fisheries to survive and thrive, mechanisms trickling down to the grassroots women—in terms of technical, financial resources, services rendered, etc.—were essential.

Moenieba, adding that she had challenged the World Fish Congress about finances, said that it was important to reimagine how funding could go directly to communities instead of each one taking a big chunk of it at a higher level and very little trickling down.

***Lucyphine Julius Kilanga, Tanzania***

Lucyphine said that women should be the first to take responsibility for responsible fishing and sustainability of resources and should become aggressive and strategize without waiting for funders. There should be development interventions that would close the gender gaps. For example, in Tanzania, eleven priorities had been listed but there was nothing about how they would benefit women in small-scale fisheries. They had succeeded in the establishment of a gender desk in the ministry of fisheries and livestock but there was no information on what had been achieved so far. Many were not even aware of a gender desk at the ministry. While such things were happening at the top level, at the local government level, it was absent. Gender inequality issues and violations could not be reported when the women were from areas far away from the ministry. Hence, such structures had to be built bottom-up, starting at the grass-roots level, otherwise women would not benefit.

She also spoke of the relevance of interventions that were handed to them to implement. The outcomes and indicators had already been defined and there was no certainty that it would work in a particular context. It would make more sense to conduct a needs assessment and design and implement what was suitable for the community. Financial empowerment of women was essential but obtaining funding for women's organizations or cooperatives, even if the organizations were endorsed by the ministry, remained a challenge.

***N. Venugopalan, India***

Venugopalan said that ICSF had recently completed a training programme with Indian fishworker organizations. They had compared government programmes with chapters from the SSF Guidelines and found that almost 80% of the former had been addressed in some way or the other, though perhaps not sufficiently. The SSF Guidelines also demanded a rights-and-duties framework from fishworker organizations. It was essential to tell the government what had or had not been done and submit memoranda of demands at various levels. The experience of Indian fishworker organizations was that when ten demands were submitted, at least three got included in the next budget. It was good to negotiate with the government to implement the guidelines, concluded Venugopalan.

***Nana Kweigyah Isaac, Ghana***

Expressing that women would participate in fisheries if they had access to resources, Nana saw women's participation in fisheries as directly linked to providing them access and the presence of resources. With declining resources, women's participation would be limited. There were many areas in which women having the numbers and being influential enough must have a role to play, such as in controlling illegalities in artisanal fisheries, climate change mitigation and addressing marine pollution, he concluded.



***Lydia Sasu, Ghana***

She said that though it had been ten years since the SSF Guidelines had been brought out, they had not gone down well with everyone initially. Around 140 million people in the world were engaged in fisheries sector and many of them were from rural areas. It was necessary to look again at the SSF Guidelines and for small-scale fishers to have a voice, concluded Lydia.

***Sibongiseni Candy Gwebani, South Africa***

Expressing the need to be more deliberate with gender-linked transformation, Sibongiseni emphasized the need to look inward, to start prioritizing and elevating the voices of women and to actively create spaces and platforms for women to voice their issues. She pointed out that on the first day of the workshop, there had been a panel that had four men but only one woman. It was necessary to get more aggressive and deliberate in creating platforms where women were represented and their voices heard.

***Wudie Bakie Koroma, Sierra Leone***

Wudie emphasized the need to remind ourselves about the role of women in fisheries. In the value chain, 60% to 70% of the work was done by women. In spite of that, there were issues of gender inequality in the fisheries sector. Women's non-participation in marine capture made some men think it was because they were weak and lazy. In inland fisheries, in some countries, 80% of the harvest was done by women. One of the obstacles was politicians using men for their own goals. The lack of infrastructural development was a reason for women not seeing themselves as another force. Women did not have spaces where they could meet and work together. Where there were no special facilities to transport fish, women had to use the general facilities along with other commodities. The same was the case with markets. He concluded by stressing the need for women to be united to be able to work alongside men.

***Ramzi Hamrit, Tunisia***

Ramzi focused on describing how the women in his country had fared so far. Achieving a goal required a very structured approach, said Ramzi. First, it was a question of willpower, but that was not enough and one had to develop strategies to achieve goals. In Tunisia, there was widespread belief in will power. The second was continuity and resilience to achieve the goals that women had in mind. The third was the skills women had acquired through training and education to reach their desired position. He said that at present, Tunisian women researchers outnumbered men by more than 67%. Also, at the port level, there were women in charge without any problems. They had made their way into these positions, thanks to their initial determination, continuity and endurance, and had finally made their mark. Even in the recent world ranking of businessmen, there had been two Tunisian women in the top 100. This was because of their résumés and their efforts so far. It was their right and they had asserted themselves. They had proved they could get where they wanted, he concluded.

***Gnininvi Amedji Ametepe, Togo***

Gnininvi began by calling for a new direction in the action plan. Prioritizing women was important because they took care of a large part of the activities. The men went out to sea to fish, unloaded the fish on land and left, while the rest of the work was the responsibility of women. Gnininvi wondered how women could be positioned so that they could rise a little higher.

Questioning the practicality of sustainable and equitable fishing, he spoke of the presence of industrial fishers. He wondered how women's fishing could be sustainable given the presence of industrial fishers and emphasized the need to find answers to such questions. He also pointed out the lack of funds as another major issue in accessing resources.

## 4.6. The African Regional Action Plan: Women and Gender in Fisheries

During the IYAFA Africa Regional Workshop, one full day was devoted to participatory exchanges on women and gender in small-scale fisheries. The aims of the exchange were to: reflect on the challenges women face in both harvest and post-harvest work, share inspiring examples of women's organizations and mobilization, amplify women's voices, and develop an action plan for the African region.

Despite different local and national contexts, women across the African region face similar challenges and obstacles, including lack of: access to fisheries resources; safe and clean spaces to process and sell fish; participation in decision-making processes; support for organizing and setting up cooperatives and associations; finance; education; and training opportunities. However, the women participating in the Africa workshop also shared their experiences of agency and innovativeness, illustrating their capacities for resilience, which can be emulated and shared. They highlighted the importance of uniting their struggles and working together to find creative solutions to tackle challenges. Through collective discussions, they pinpointed several concrete actions that need to be taken in the African region:

- 1) **Capacity development, education and training opportunities** for women must be established, with facilitation and support from governments and local organizations. These opportunities should be centred on strengthening women's voices and knowledge of their rights; educational support enabling girls to stay in school longer; capacity development for women leaders (particularly youth) in small-scale fishing communities; and fish processing techniques that allow women to work more safely and hygienically. Financial, logistical and institutional support is crucial during such trainings and for following up on training outcomes.
- 2) **Women's participation in fisheries' decision-making spaces** must be strengthened in order for women to be able to actively contribute to processes that directly affect them. Structures in fisheries must begin at the grassroots level to ensure decision making is actually taking concrete community issues into account. There must be more deliberate action taken to achieve gender transformation, including creating spaces and platforms for women to voice the issues they are facing.
- 3) **Preferential access must be provided for women to access financial support**, such as grants, credit and loans, that support their activities in fisheries. This includes support for setting up their own harvesting, processing or selling businesses; investing in new harvesting gear or processing tools (including new technologies); paying membership fees to cooperatives or associations; or enrolling in skills-training programmes.
- 4) **The establishment of cooperatives, associations and other organizations** should be prioritized by women working in fisheries, with technical and financial support from governments and allied organizations. These organizations should remain independent from external influences and be properly registered according to national regulations. Existing organizations must also be supported in order to strengthen and expand capacities. Women's organizations should focus on providing spaces to discuss and develop strategies for addressing common challenges, while opportunities are created for organizations to network, share experiences and collaborate in order to facilitate unity and collective action.
- 5) **Mechanisms must be put in place to support grassroots women's organizations directly**, allowing them to access financial and other support independently and to determine programmes and activities based on their community needs. External organizations should not determine what interventions and outcomes are needed without first taking community voices into account. Women's organizations should also receive leadership and skills training in order to strengthen their capacities in resource mobilization, democratic governance, conflict management and advocacy.

- 6) **Awareness must be raised about the challenges women in fisheries are facing as well as their innovativeness**, highlighting the importance of their roles in addressing issues like climate change, pollution and declining resources in their communities. Women are often the first to take responsibility for working toward sustainable fisheries and resource use, yet their crucial contributions are too often unrecognized. Scaling up advocacy work and information sharing on women's roles as well as emulating innovative and collaborative efforts that support women-led fish processing and trading activities should be prioritized.
- 7) **Action must be taken all along the fisheries value chain to prevent waste and food loss**, which have a direct impact on women's livelihoods. This includes investment in landing sites and infrastructure, smoking and processing facilities, storage and refrigeration, adequate packaging, hygiene and training in food safety. Women's organizations should also be provided with financial support or insurance policies for their members to recoup losses when they lose a significant amount of their fisheries products due to adverse weather or breakdown of storage facilities.
- 8) **Governments should scale up their support for women in fisheries**, including through the development of gender-sensitive policies and the establishment of gender departments or committees directly responsible for addressing gender-based challenges and obstacles in fishing communities. Such departments or committees should also be carefully trained on the crosscutting gender dimension of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines) and contribute to the development of a national plan of action for implementing the SSF Guidelines.

### Facilitator's Remarks

Moenieba concluded the session by recounting the important suggestions that had come out of it: helping women, helping vulnerable women, getting women sustainable livelihoods, creating vibrant communities, strengthening women's voices and taking these voices to different platforms. As a researcher, she had decided to ensure women spoke for themselves rather than her speaking on their behalf. Women were also needed in research, as scientists and in government. She



Group discussion on African regional action plan on women and gender in fisheries



hoped that in future there would be more women speaking about their fishing activities in a language comfortable to them, rather than in academic spaces where they were made to feel uncomfortable.



Women smoking fish, Kenya

## 5. Session 3: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work

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Chair: Peter Adjei, ICSF

### 5.1. Benjamin Campion—Social Development Challenges and West African Fishing Communities

Benjamin began his presentation by saying that talk of social development and decent work in the context of FAO was generally in the realm of rural activities. FAO considered fisheries as one of the activities undertaken by people in the rural environment, like agriculture. Benjamin used a word cloud to show words frequently used in this context. He outlined the criteria for decent work as developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) explaining that it was not just quantity but also quality that counted. Basic worker rights in this declaration included the right to free association and collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in employment. Benjamin listed the four pillars of decent work according to the ILO: employment generation and enterprise development, standards and rights at work, social protection, and governance systems.

Work in fisheries was globally considered as one of the most sustainable forms of employment, especially for coastal states or countries with huge water bodies. Issues of decent work were considered so important that they were moved from being a target under a goal in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDG) to a separate goal in the UNSDG. Many governments talked about the jobs they had created but Benjamin wondered about the kind of decent jobs among these. Decent work would lead to increase in economic production and income and would empower people, and on achieving this, food security and poverty reduction could be achieved.

Benjamin went back into history to look at work in the past when slavery was considered legitimate and people were treated as commodities. In the modern era, with slavery being illegal, new forms of slavery had come up such as child labour, women forced into sex work and fishers being forced to work on fishing craft in unsanitary conditions. Deprivation of people might increase profitability, but this should not be the case. Hence, the SSF Guidelines were being used to improve the conditions of fishermen, with targets such as increasing the proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, social protection and road infrastructure) in small-scale fishing communities.

Speaking of the living conditions of small-scale fishing communities, Benjamin said it was easy to identify fishing communities even as one approached them because of poor roads, housing and other infrastructure. Poor infrastructure and access to schools and medical facilities was a major problem in the Lake Volta region, with small communities, especially fishing communities, having to depend on small fishing craft and canoes for transport. Similarly, poor infrastructure and old technology for fish processing, whether smoking or drying, resulted in health problems due to inhalation of smoke. Fish was also important at the micro level, providing jobs and nutrition.

While talking of decent work, Benjamin said that it was important to look at the representation of small-scale fishers in various governmental institutions. For example, in Ghana, the board members of the Fisheries Commission included representatives of artisanal fisheries as well as women. The chief fishermen in the various landing beaches were also involved in the management of fisheries in one way or another at the local level. The women in the processing sector too (*konkohema*/lead fishmonger/queen fishmongers) were involved in governance.



Social Development Challenges and West African Fishing Communities, led by Benjamin Campion, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana

The question of child labour was difficult because children start learning how to fish or to assist their parents at a very early age to develop proficiency. The reportage on these aspects was often carried out by NGOs or international organizations that pretended to know better than the people involved in it. Speaking also about how fishers were being used for political gains, he pointed out that when the time for elections came around in Ghana, there were banners, for example, about bringing a million fisherfolk under insurance cover, but the promises disappeared soon after the elections.

Finally, Benjamin spoke of the need to improve technical/vocational ability of the people in fishing communities. Ghana had sought to address this by building a fisheries training institution but it had been mostly on paper. It was also important to look at livelihood diversification because an alternate income source would be essential during the closed season as well as during fluctuation in landings. In addition to deprivation, he added, fishermen had to battle ‘imported’ challenges such as the seasonal sargassum seaweed deposits on the beach, which increased after oil exploration had begun. He concluded his presentation by equating decent work with a decent working environment.

## 5.2. Rosemarie Mwaipopo: Presentation on the Mwambao Coastal Community Network, Tanzania—Social Development Challenges and East African Fishing Communities

Rosemarie made the presentation on behalf of her colleagues from Zanzibar who had not been able to attend the workshop. She began with a background of the organization. The Mwambao Coastal Community Network (henceforth, Mwambao) operated from Zanzibar, part of the republic of Tanzania. They worked on networking the coastal communities along the Tanzanian coast, particularly in Zanzibar but also in the Kenyan coast. They believed in participatory planning and brought together all stakeholders at several levels for addressing marine issues.

She gave an overview of small-scale fisheries in Tanzania and the issues they faced, explaining that fisheries played an important role in the national economy, food security, income and employment



opportunities, especially for low-income earners. But in Tanzania, which had a number of fishing communities despite its small coastline, the fishers were increasingly being pushed out because of other economic priorities. The fisheries sector there had also been facing a number of challenges like overfishing, illegal fishing practices (like use of dynamite), inadequate and illegal fishing gear, and high post-harvest losses. There was also inadequate support from financial institutions, lack of knowledge of rules and regulations, lack of life-saving arrangements and lack of entrepreneurship skills. As in other African countries, climate change was also having an impact, with change in the species composition affecting women as they were not able to find the species that they had been dependent on. Rosemarie also pointed to the lack of marine spatial planning which made it increasingly easy for people to move into other people's areas. There was also the problem of large fishers versus small fishers, which was seen in inland waters as well. Despite the challenges, the sector contributed much to the socioeconomic development of the fishers' community. In fact, Zanzibar depended almost entirely on small-scale fisheries.

She next described the several ways in which the challenges were being addressed. The president of Zanzibar had recently floated the idea of blue economy policy and strategy. It had brought together researchers and academics, who asked the government about its relevance to grassroots communities.

Mwambao too had been thinking about the thrust of the blue economy—sustaining marine environment through sustainable exploitation—for the last twenty years. They were trying to translate this idea to link it to policy, which had to make sense for women and small-scale fishers. Facilitating the coming together of different actors—energy stakeholders, tourism stakeholders and academia across different gender groups—to work on marine spatial planning was another work undertaken by Mwambao. They had been looking at other innovative ideas such as giving credit for successful conservation of mangroves. Alongside, they also worked on improving the market system through participatory market system development. For example, Mwambao facilitated octopus closures, but when the fishery opened, they also facilitated the sale of the best octopus to the best dealers. Though competitive, it still got the fishers a fair income, concluded Rosemarie.

## Facilitator's Remarks

Peter Adjei, the chairperson, laid out the key highlights and some 'fish for thought'. Referring to Benjamin's presentation on decent work, he wondered if the definition from FAO should be adopted as such or be redefined using parameters relevant to the fishing community. He felt this to be the case with the definition of child labour as well. On the issue of displacement in Rosemarie's presentation, he said that the backbone of small-scale fisheries was social development, whether it was tenure rights, gender issues or quality of life. Denial of access to fishing space was denial of quality of life.

Referring to the work done by the Mwambao organization, Peter said that it was time for fisher associations to make a gentle leap forward towards not just demanding but also trying to be an active participant—like involving in marine spatial planning and marine policy to have a say in them. Most public agencies, such as fisheries agencies and organizations of the government, did not consider social development as part of their mandate. For example, it was the work of ministries of education to provide education/schools and of the ministries of housing to provide housing. The fisheries ministries tended to be at a loss on where to draw the line. But social development, employment and decent work were also the bottom line because these would show whether the fisheries sector was working and small-scale fisheries were moving towards decent work for all.

Presentation link: [https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Africa\\_IYafa\\_SSF-Social-development.pdf](https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Africa_IYafa_SSF-Social-development.pdf)

### 5.3. Group Discussion 3: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work

The thirteen questions for this group discussion (see annexure 3), for which the participants were divided up based on their countries, focused on getting information from each of the countries on policies related to (in this order): poverty eradication, employment generation, decent work, social inclusion, health, education, housing, sanitation and drinking water, and climate change, as well as on the presence of support institutions, awareness on GBV, existing legal frameworks to protect fishers and, finally, sustainability. The participants were also asked about how these policies had been adapted to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The detailed questions are given in the appendix.

#### Group 1: Tanzania and Kenya

*Rapporteur: Lucyphine Julius Kilanga*

**Question 1:** Kenya and Tanzania both had policies and programmes focusing on poverty eradication and marginalized people. In Kenya, the challenge was the policies targeted marine fisheries rather than inland fisheries. In Tanzania, though they targeted both, they were only on paper with poor implementation.

These policies had existed before COVID-19 struck, but they were not revamped to adapt to the pandemic. Both Tanzania and Kenya had put in place other measures and interventions to deal with the pandemic; however, there were no special focus on fisheries. Strict lockdowns had been imposed in East African states like Kenya and Uganda, while in Tanzania, there had been mobility. Though people had been able to move around and fishing had continued, fishing activities with neighbouring countries had been a problem as those countries had been in lockdown. So the income had reduced due to less buyers.

**Question 2:** In Kenya, there was a training institute for fisheries, but it was located in a remote area and difficult to access for children from some communities, with difficulties in even ruffling together the fare to travel there. There was a similar institute in Tanzania too—the Fisheries Education Training Institute (FETA). Being a government institution, meeting the criteria for entry here was a challenge. Also, the intake was small and not accessible to all. Moreover, there was a mismatch between the education here and employment opportunities. In most jobs, graduates did not get to practice what they had learnt in the institutes. Many of them wished to practice aquaculture, but it was quite expensive. The government jobs in the fisheries sector were also limited, with 200 to 500 graduates applying for ten posts. Though they were trained in fisheries, many were forced to shift to other professions, such as becoming entrepreneurs in hardware.

**Question 3:** Both Tanzania and Kenya had national fisheries policy that addressed decent work. There were social security policies, but they were not specific to the fisherfolk communities. In Tanzania's National Informal Sector Scheme (NISS), fishers were mentioned among the beneficiaries, but since the scheme came into place, it had not been publicized. Though politicians did talk about it, fishers were not aware of it. Kenya too had a national health insurance scheme, but it was not specific to fishing communities.

**Question 4:** Though there were social inclusion policies in both countries, they did not specifically address the fishing communities. There was still discrimination against some communities. Instead of being called Indigenous, they were now addressed as underserved communities.

**Question 5:** Tanzania had the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) but it was on a voluntary basis. Since fishers kept moving, they preferred not to enrol for it. So the Ministry of Health was strategizing about making health insurance mandatory for all, which would cover fishers when in place.

During COVID-19, people could access health services easily. They also received information from the State, for instance, there were phone awareness campaigns.

**Question 6:** Although the education policies were again generic, education was recognized as a fundamental right and was mandatory, so fishing communities benefitted from these policies. Truancy was in fact a crime. As evident from Hadija's presentation, implementation depended on everyone's initiative.

**Question 7:** In housing too, the policies were generic and not specific to the fishing communities. Moreover, the rich communities tended to access these rather than fishing communities.

**Question 8:** Both Tanzania and Kenya had policies on sanitation and drinking water but, again, not specific to the fishing communities. Though they automatically included fishing communities, these policies did not benefit them and they were left out in the implementation. If one sampled/studied communities with poor sanitation, fishing communities would likely be at the top. They had no access to clean water or sanitation and had very poor hygiene.

**Question 9:** There was no climate change policy but only strategies, policy briefs and action plans. Though these did address climate change impacts, they were poorly implemented. For example, in Tanzania, though the national fisheries policy mentioned closure for a lake or sea, it was previously not implemented. Climate change had led to reduced species, especially of the Nile perch and small sardines. After experiencing the effects of climate change, the government was now keen on implementation. So, they had become very strict on lake closures, with penalties imposed for fishing during the closed season.

**Question 10:** There was institutional support, for example, through the Environmental Management and Economic Development Association (EMEDO), Tanzania Women Fishworkers Association (TAWFA) and El Molo Forum. There were different empowerment schemes in different institutions. Some offered financial support, some social support, and yet others offered psychological support. Women in small-scale fisheries faced a lot of difficulties, so platforms they were a part of and the networks they entered helped in relieving some of their psychological pressures.



Participant during discussion on Social Development Challenges and West African Fishing Communities

During COVID-19, though there had been economic relief, it had been negligible. Kenya had supported women who had gone out of business as they could not get to the lake for fishing. In Tanzania, many organizations had been crippled economically, making it hard for them to support women. Women too had been scared of accessing financial support because of concerns of repayment.

**Question 11:** Though there were government policies against GBV, they were not sufficiently implemented. It was the CSOs who were trying to help by raising awareness in the fishing communities. Women in small-scale fishing communities were not even aware of the mechanisms in place, such as knowing where to report or who to approach in case of violence. There was increased violence in places where such awareness was low. The transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among the fishing communities in East Africa was very high, because they were not informed. These health issues were also not given priority. Even if a person knew which government institution to approach, there was corruption in the process. Patriarchy and cultural norms were also strong, impeding with progress in these areas.

**Question 12:** While there were institutions that worked on justice, they were not specific to fishing communities. Laws to provide timely access to justice were not effectively implemented. Access to justice was easier for the private sector. People had been trying to empower the fishing communities through coalitions of paralegals and human rights defenders. The rapporteur too was a member of such a coalition, and she was also part of raising awareness about their rights. But these were individual efforts, which must be expanded.

Though Kenya had policies for both inland and marine fisheries, the focus was skewed towards marine fisheries because of the blue economy.

**Question 13:** The national fisheries policies in both Kenya and Tanzania tried to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries. For example, there was a two-week closure of inland fisheries and three-month closure of marine fisheries. As soon as the season opened, fishers got good catch, which had motivated the fishers to adhere to these.

## Group 2: Nigeria

### *Rapporteur: Odulaja Omolaja*

Rapporteur: **Question 1:** There were policies addressing poverty eradication. The federal government, through the Empower programme, was paying 30,000 naira per month to graduates who were unemployed. In some areas, the unemployed graduates taught in schools, assisted government teachers, participated in local government activities like clearing of bushes, etc.

There were no specific policies for fishers and fishworkers, and the existing ones were not effective to the extent of eradicating poverty. Though the policies were monitored by the government, their impacts did not really go down to the grassroots level because of political influences. There had been some impact during COVID-19, but it had not reached all communities.

**Question 2:** Though there were employment policies, they were weak in the sense that federal employment opportunities were not equally distributed across regions. There was no specific focus on fishing communities, Indigenous communities, etc. There had been policies meant to address the impacts of COVID-19 on employment. Even if the policies had not been properly implemented, organizations had taken care of the Indigenous and fishing communities by doing grassroots work.

**Question 3:** There was no policy from the government on decent work. But there were NGOs that were creating awareness about decent work and of the working conditions in fishing and processing activities. The existing policies did not adequately address the fishing community, especially migrant fishers.



The government had not taken any special steps during COVID-19. The only benefits the fishworkers had experienced during the pandemic was through NGOs, especially the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON).

**Question 4:** Though there were policies against discrimination they were not specific to fishing communities. The presenter said that there was no discrimination in the community/region they came from, where everyone enjoyed equal rights.

**Question 5:** There was a health insurance policy that covered a wide range of people, including fishers.

**Question 6:** There were education policies. Programmes such as adult education reached the fishing communities too. The All to School programme provided free primary and secondary education to all.

**Question 7:** Though there were housing policies, they were mainly for workers and civil servants.

**Question 8:** The existing policies on sanitation were not properly implemented. There was poor hygiene in fishing areas. Fishing communities tended not to follow policies, but with the help of NGOs and women's organizations, there was an effort to spread awareness.

**Question 9:** Though there was a policy on climate change, it was not properly implemented and remained on paper.

**Question 10:** There was the Fishers Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (FICON) and other associations of women.

During COVID-19, though the government had made arrangements for palliatives, the political class had hijacked them. Instead, various organizations had distributed palliatives such as food, kerosene, etc., to the fishing communities.

**Question 11:** In the constituency of the participants, there were no policies to address GBV. The fishers and fishworkers had local security outfits in place to address issues of violence against women and girls in the community. The community was effective in stepping in to protect the girl child from being violated. There were also human rights activists who offered free services towards attaining justice.

**Question 12:** There were legal frameworks to protect fishers at the federal, state and local levels.

**Question 13:** There were policies to address climate change, but they were very weak.

### **Group 3: Uganda, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Seychelles, South Africa**

**Rapporteur: Perus Logose**

**Question 1:** There were poverty eradication programmes in all the countries.

**Question 2:** The Gambia had a World Bank programme to address unemployment, while others had general programmes. Seychelles and Sierra Leone did not have such programmes. In Uganda, there was a GIZ project but with minimal outreach.

**Question 3:** Though all the countries had access to social services, with the exception of Seychelles, there was lack of implementation.

South Africa had a policy for decent work, but it was not inclusive of migrants, while Seychelles had a policy for migrant workers.

**Question 4:** Only Seychelles had a policy on social outreach.

**Question 5:** There were health policies that addressed occupational and reproductive health in all the countries. These policies did improve access to health for marginalized communities in Seychelles and South Africa; there were limitations in Uganda and Sierra Leone.

During COVID-19, the various governments had helped by providing medical care facilities, hand sanitizers and testing.

**Question 6:** Though all the countries had education policies and had implemented free education, the benefits were limited. The use of drugs, pregnancies and high school dropout rates among teenagers in South Africa were of concern.

**Question 7:** While South Africa and Seychelles had a housing policy, Uganda did not.

**Question 8:** Though all countries had policies on sanitation and drinking water, these were limited in Uganda and Sierra Leone.

**Question 9:** The group was not sure about the existence of climate change policies in their countries.

**Question 10:** Though there were institutions that supported the fishing communities, they were not spread out everywhere.

**Question 11:** There were policies in these countries to address GBV, but there were limitations to these in Uganda and South Africa. In Sierra Leone, there was a 'Hands Off Our Girls' campaign. Rapes were prevalent in South Africa, and GBV was prevalent in Uganda.

## **Group 4: Ghana**

*Rapporteur: Benjamin Campion*

**Question 1:** To address poverty eradication, Ghana had the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme, free maternal care, free meals in school, free education up to high school, national health insurance scheme, national rent assistance scheme, allowances for people or persons living with disabilities, capitation grant, microfinance institutions and small loan centres. For the marginalized, there was subsidized fishing gear, outboard motors, subsidized premixed fuel, improved ovens and relief items during the closed season. These policies were partially effective, and they needed improved targeting. The poor were disproportionately disadvantaged when it came to benefitting from some of these. The policies had also not been adapted to address the impacts of COVID-19.

**Question 2:** There was no specific policy addressing employment in the country.

**Question 3:** The chief fisherman was in charge of promoting the customs of Ghana, setting the rules and regulations for decent work. There was also a safe fish certification and licensing scheme. The fishers also enjoyed access to social security, etc. But these policies had not been adapted to address the impacts of COVID-19.

**Question 4:** The rapporteur expressed that the question on discrimination did not apply to Ghana as there was no discrimination in the country.

**Question 5:** There was a national health insurance scheme which was open to all.

**Question 6:** There was no occupational health policy. Reproductive health care, including antenatal and postnatal care, was available to all.

**Question 7:** There was free and compulsory basic education. Those who did not benefit from this could avail of non-formal education.

**Question 8:** The housing policy was not targeted towards fishing communities but was mostly for workers. There was a national rental assistance scheme.

**Question 9:** Though there were general policies on sanitation, there was a need to specifically target the fishing communities. Most fishing communities' living spaces and beach areas were public areas and were neglected. They were no man's land and were highly unsanitary.

**Question 10:** There were policies regarding climate change, but they were generic. They should focus on fisheries and inland water bodies.

**Question 11:** There were many measures and policies to address GBV. Traditionally, the chief fisherman and the chief fishmonger (konkohemaa) made the rules. They worked with the State to ensure that rules were properly implemented. There were also institutions to seek redressal.

**Question 12:** The chief fisherman of each landing sites provided opportunities for redressal of injustices in the fishing community; there were also the police and the courts.

**Question 13:** All the institutions mentioned above—the chief fishermen and others—worked towards improving and managing the fisheries. There was still room for improvement when it came to biodiversity and enforcement.

## Group 5: Mauritania, Tunisia, Senegal, Togo, Benin, Djibouti, Côte d'Ivoire

### Rapporteur: Ramzi Hamrit

Ramzi said that the group had broken down the questions according to what they found interesting. They found that the questions were multi-layered and sometimes complex, with a lot of information requested. Hence, the team provided a table of country-wise answers as below:

### Question 1:

Country	Poverty eradication programme	Poverty eradication programme for fishers	Programme effectiveness	Were the policies adapted to deal with the impact of COVID-19?
Senegal	Yes	No	Not effective	No
Togo	Yes	Yes	Partially effective	Partially adapted
Benin	Yes	Yes, currently	Effective	No
Côte d'Ivoire	Yes	Yes	Not adapted	No
Mauritanie	Yes	No	Not effective	No
Djibouti	Yes	No	Not effective	Yes
Tunisie	Yes	No	Not effective	No

**Question 2:**

Country	Employment policy	Job creation projects	Skills development programmes for fishers	Do development projects improve access to employment for Indigenous Peoples?	Projects for ethnic minorities	Were policies and projects adapted to deal with the impact of COVID-19?
Senegal	Yes, but not effective	Yes	No	No	Yes, for women; not for others	No
Togo	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes, for young people and women; not for others	Yes, but not implemented
Benin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Côte d'Ivoire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not for women
Mauritania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Especially for Senegalese	No
Djibouti	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

**Question 3:**

Country	Decent work policy focusing on working conditions for fishers	Access to social security, social assistance and insurance	Decent work policy for migrant fishers and fishworkers	Do they benefit from this policy?	Were the policies adapted to deal with the impact of COVID-19?
Senegal	No	No	No	No	No
Togo	No	Yes, for women processors; not for others	No	No	No
Benin	No	No	No	No	No
Côte d'Ivoire	No	Yes, to insurance	No	No	No
Mauritania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No



Country	Decent work policy focusing on working conditions for fishers	Access to social security, social assistance and insurance	Decent work policy for migrant fishers and fishworkers	Do they benefit from this policy?	Were the policies adapted to deal with the impact of COVID-19?
Djibouti	Yes	Yes, to social security	No	No	Yes
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

#### Question 4:

Country	Social inclusion policy	Social inclusion policy for migrant fishworkers	Is there, therefore, much less discrimination leading to the well-being of all?	How did this policy prevent discrimination during COVID-19?
Senegal	No	No	No	No
Togo	Yes	No	No	
Benin	Not for fishers	No	No	No
Côte d'Ivoire	No	No	No	No
Mauritania	Yes	Yes, for Senegalese fishers	No	No
Djibouti	Yes	No	Yes	No
Tunisia	Yes	No	Yes	No

#### Question 5:

Country	Health policy that benefits everyone	Policies on occupational, sexual and reproductive health	Do these policies improve access to health for the fishing communities?	Were there supportive policies during COVID-19?
Senegal	No	No	No	No
Togo	No	No	No	No
				Mismanaged
Benin	No	No	No	No
Côte d'Ivoire	No	No	No	No
Mauritanie	Yes	Yes, but not for sexual health	No	No
Djibouti	Yes	No	No	No
Tunisie	Yes	Yes	Partially	No

**Question 6:**

Country	Literacy and education policy	Benefit to children and/or adults in fishing communities?
Senegal	Yes	Children admitted to schools, like children from other communities. Literacy programme for all adults, including the fishing communities.
Togo	Yes, before	No
Benin	Yes	General, not specific to anglers
Côte d'Ivoire	Yes	No
Mauritanie	Yes	Yes
Djibouti	Yes	Yes
Tunisie	Yes	Yes

**Question 7:** There were no housing policies in these countries specially targeting the fishing communities.

**Question 8:** There were policies for sanitation, drinking water and energy, except for Benin's fishing community.

**Question 9:** There was no climate change policy in any of the countries.

**Question 10:** There were associations to promote decision making and institutional mechanisms for economic relief, except in the case of support during COVID-19.

**Question 11:** There were measures to raise awareness on GBV.

**Question 12:** There was partial access to justice; the answer was wide-ranging.

**Question 13:** There were laws to promote conservation, etc., but their contribution/impact was not very clear. The same was the case with policies on sustainable and responsible fishing practices. The rapporteur also seemed to hold the belief that the changes they had been noticing with respect to the weather, environment, etc., were seasonal and not related to climate change.

## 6. Session 4: Presentation of Workshop Statement and Discussion

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Chair: Francis Nunoo, University of Ghana

### 6.1. Presentation of the Draft Workshop Statement

The draft workshop statement was read out by Peter Adjei, which was then followed by a detailed discussion.

Sid'Ahmed Abeid from Mauritania spoke of facilitating trade between countries. Although the international convention TIR (*Transports Internationaux Routiers* or International Road Transport) allowed for free movement of closed and sealed trucks, there were checkpoints between Mauritania and Senegal and the transporters had to open the truck for inspection. With fifty check posts on the Mauritanian side and fifty on the Senegalese side, the fish would rot if they had to open the truck every time. They had raised this with their administration too. He suggested that surveillance be made participatory; they had had successful experiments with this.

Rose Adjoavi Togbenou from Togo pointed out the need to involve women in political decisions and review interest rates on loans to women. In response, Peter asked if she was referring to a case of no access to credit or high interest rates or both. Sid'Ahmed responded that preferential interest rate for fisherwomen was not the normal rate. Banks could charge up to 30%, whereas the interest rate should be 1%. Pointing out that this support was for people in poverty, he suggested that special funds be set up with affordable interest rates.

Lydia Sasu from Ghana said that the transport issue between African countries had to be looked into.

Wudie Bakie Koroma from Sierra Leone said that in the region, not only should there be reduction in fishing effort but also in mesh size of fishing gear for pelagic and demersal fish.

Nancy Marchia Onginjo said that in Seychelles tourism was the first pillar of the economy. She suggested that the tourism policy examine how it could work alongside the fishing community, such as the fishing community providing fish for tourists.

Ramzi Hamrit from Tunisia highlighted the issue of clandestine migration resulting in many lives lost at sea, especially of young Africans. He wondered how they could be persuaded not to migrate and to stay and contribute to the country, the workforce and local development, instead of throwing themselves to their deaths. If they were migrating legally with papers and contracts, they were free to do so, but Ramzi questioned if they could live a respectable life after illegally migrating. As a solution, programmes had to be created for young people.

Alieu Sowe from the Gambia referred to the paragraph which talked about climate change and the cost of inaction leading to internal migration. He felt that it could be referred to as 'migration' rather than qualify it. He also raised the point of governance and tenure rights not being part of the declaration despite extensive discussions over the previous three days. He especially referred to the inclusion of women's voices and the way they had structured their institutions. He said that fishers had to be sensitized. He felt that the declaration should focus on the grassroots level rather than being too global.

Rosemarie Mwaipopo from Tanzania referred to the paragraph on the destructive impacts of climate change and said it seemed like they, the participants of the workshop, wanted to take away the blame for irresponsible fishing from themselves and from fishing communities at large. It seemed as if they wanted the government to do everything whereas in the previous three days, the discussions had been about how they were part and parcel of destructive fisheries and hence should be responsible for the sustainable use of marine and inland fisheries. Rosemarie asked for that specific paragraph

to reflect that they were taking responsibility for sustaining the fisheries, which they depended on for their lives, to show that they were moving beyond making claims by taking action. She raised another point on the use of the terminology ‘local chiefs’, which she said did not apply to all parts of Africa and hence it would be better to talk of ‘traditional’ or ‘Indigenous’ leaders. With regard to the paragraph on tourism, she said that it was not only tourism that displaced fishing communities but other economic activities as well.

Moenieba Isaacs from South Africa felt that the declaration was soft. It was necessary to challenge the big narratives and big investments. She felt that the statement was slipping into fisheries management tools such as IUU, certification and governance, while the voices and roles of small-scale fishermen and women had been distilled. It needed a stronger statement around the impacts of conservation on small-scale fisheries, especially where protected areas and thirty-by-thirty were being declared and accepted. She also pointed out that the impact of blue economy and oil and gas on small-scale fishers was missing as was the role of the youth. She also wanted the discussions on fisheries management and co-management at regional and national levels to go deeper to talk about how they actually impacted small-scale fisheries. Marginalization, vulnerability, displacement and gross human rights violation of small-scale fisheries around the coast had to be included rather than just accepting fisheries management tools that were exclusionary in nature, she concluded.

Nana Solomon from Ghana said that the statement should call for regional collaborative management where there could be joint sea patrols to protect and preserve small-scale fishers. Governments should collaborate with small-scale fishers because then they could be seen as part of the blue economy, which was in the hands of the politicians.

Umaru Buba Wakil from Nigeria called for differentiating between customary rights and traditional law. Some specific villages had norms regarding the use of particular water bodies. Traditional community referred to a larger community with community-based rules and regulations for the management of fishers’ rights.

Benjamin Campion from Ghana said that the introductory paragraph should mention that all the participant countries had signed the intra-continental free trade agreement and hence should call



A participant during discussion on the workshop statement



for improving the movement of fish between these countries. Migration of fishermen to new fishing grounds should be made as easy as possible. The reduction in size of fishing fleets should be more specific to industrial fleets.

Elhadji Daouda from Senegal said that the fish scarcity crisis was mainly due to over-exploitation of resources and it was a sub-regional problem. In West Africa, almost all countries shared the same resources and all the pirogues migrated from country to country: from the Gambia and Senegal to Mauritania and Guinea, for example. While they lived in the same region, cultural and linguistic barriers differentiated between them. He called on the governments to combine firm surveillance and try to put in place appropriate policies to manage the shared fishery resources. Synergy was needed to apply an effective resource management policy. A second issue he raised was the problems created by joint ventures operating in West Africa, which did not respect any laws, violated all the zones reserved for artisanal fishing, caused accidents and destroyed fishermen's craft. He called for the governments to look at this problem.

Lydia from Ghana said that even among the small-scale fishers, the very small also needed to be recognized. Bernice Agorogo from Ghana pointed out that earlier the government had not often invited them to meetings. But now they were, and hence they had a voice.

Jacob Kabore Tetteh from Ghana said that there was not much about the environment in the declaration. Pollutants in inland waters were carried into the sea. Inland water bodies were also used heavily for transportation of goods. In this context, he asked that social issues, safety and tenure of fishing grounds be looked at too and called for better management of inland water bodies and better representation of inland fishers. Additionally, Jacob also raised the issue of network connectivity in fishing communities, pointing out that technological work could only be done by the government and not the fishers, especially in inland areas.

Perus Logose from Uganda, pointing to the reference to shared waters in the draft statement, argued that this was true of not only West Africa but also East Africa and suggested it be left open.

Margaret Nakato from Uganda referred to the placement of the SSF Guidelines and the UNSDG in the declaration and said that it seemed as if they had been added there as an afterthought. She urged the group to link the SSF Guidelines to everything, as all the recommendations were from the document. She also suggested calling upon governments to align national policies to the SSF Guidelines. She concluded with recommendations for supporting the regional advisory councils to engender strong coordination and networking at the African level as well.

Fatou Camara from the Gambia said that the governments and African Union should also be part of the fight against IUU.

Daita Bassirou from Senegal spoke about industrial fishers entering the artisanal zone with kilometre-long gear and plundering the resources. The artisanal sector should be protected by regulations and their small pirogues should be able to produce and sell to local consumer communities. The communities already monitored and protected fishing areas to ensure fish survival; governments should help them maintain this protection by setting regulations on mesh and catch sizes. He also called for protecting the mangroves, where fish rest and spawn and juveniles grow, in order to ensure fish for the future.

Nana Kweigyah Isaac from Ghana had the following suggestions. The statement needed to stress on transparency. Fishing communities must be consulted in the establishment of MPAs. It was better to have a closed area than a closed season, but because of the lack of data, it was easier to have a closed season. A case for input controls depending on the country, the jurisdiction and the best measure for resource recovery should be considered as fishing communities found it difficult to manage long closed seasons, being dependent on the resource on a daily basis. Seafood certification should be linked to trade to ensure sustainability. Most countries had established inshore fishing zones for small-scale fisheries; the problem was with monitoring these zones. It was necessary to



A participant during discussion on the workshop statement

ensure adequate representation and participation of women in fisheries management. Research was required not only for processing but also for data on fisheries management, so investing in research and data was a must to make informed decisions. He asked that issues of marine pollution and coastal erosion be mentioned in the statement as fishing communities were losing landing sites. The inshore zone was the first to be affected by land-based pollution—when it rained, the rubbish from the land got washed out into the shallow waters of the sea. Tourism and the use of coastal spaces must be in the context of diversified and supplementary livelihoods for fishers. This would contribute to reduced effort. As for safety at sea, there was a need to go beyond using ocean state information and include first aid, canoe tracking, etc. Safety at sea guidelines for artisanal fisheries were needed, he concluded.

Lydia from Ghana clarified that while during the five-month closed season there was resource recovery of oysters, fishing and other activities continued in the river.

Christiana Saiti Louwa from Kenya pointed to the sentence celebrating the valuable knowledge of fishers and suggested the inclusion of ‘indigenous and traditional knowledge of small-scale fishers’ and ‘fishing communities’. The latter referred to those living close to the place of their practice of customary fishing using their traditional knowledge and customs. Therefore, she argued for them to not be placed under fishworkers or fishers because their fisheries embodied spirituality and their own ways of life.

Lucyphine Julius Kilanga from Tanzania suggested changing ‘seafood’ to ‘fisheries products’ to include both marine and inland fish, as ‘seafood’ excluded inland fisheries products. She also suggested adding ‘modern’ before ‘processing facilities’ for women.

Peter agreed that this was an important point. For long, inland small-scale fishers had been marginalized and when it came to representation at national meetings and research, not much had been done for them.

Benjamin Nyampong from Ghana, referring to the participants speaking of poor implementation of policies, questioned the actions being taken to address this. For example, he wondered why people in Ghana had not been using their vote to make their point.

On the issue of sustainability, Nancy from Seychelles pointed out the need to go beyond undertaking research of more efficient energy processors, to implement measures reducing carbon footprint and improve the working environment of the fisherfolk. She also supported the points on transparency and said governments should be accountable for their fisheries management, pollution and competition for space for blue economy activities.

Olorode Ganiat Oluwakemi from Nigeria suggested addition of storage facilities.

Peter brought the session to a close by thanking the participants for their suggestions to improve the statement so as to truly reflect everyone's viewpoint.

## 6.2. Presentation of the Workshop Statement

After Peter Adjei read out the statement, and N. Venugopalan said that the statement would be translated into French and share it with the participants.



## 7. Vote of thanks

Sivaja Nair proposed a formal vote of thanks on behalf of ICSF and TESCOD. She thanked all the dignitaries who had come for the inaugural session; the fifty representatives of small-scale fishworker associations, cooperatives, trade unions, CBOs, academicians and NGOs from sixteen African countries, whose inputs and experiences had been of immense value and had brought meaning to the workshop; the resource persons whose inputs had supported the workshop; the women of the DOPA team for having extended a warm welcome and for sharing their experiences; Peter and his team for having made all the arrangements; the interpretation team for their uninterrupted information flow; the audio and video team for documenting the whole process; and finally the hotel and restaurant for their hospitality.

## The IYAFA Africa Workshop Statement

### **Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries 15–18 February 2023— Accra, Ghana**

We, the fifty-one representatives of small-scale fishworkers' associations, cooperatives, trade unions, community-based associations, academicians and non-governmental organizations from sixteen African countries, accounting for 14% of Africa's coastline and nearly 22% of the global fisheries population;

Having met in Accra, in the context of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 72/72), appreciating the emphasis on the participation of small-scale fisheries stakeholders in policy development and fisheries management strategies and also in the context of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs);

Welcoming the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the master plan for rededication towards the attainment of the Pan African Vision of 'an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena', and that Agenda 2063 is the concrete manifestation of how the continent intends to achieve this vision within fifty years from 2013 to 2063, we emphasize that this Agenda should ensure free and equitable access to Africa's seas, oceans, lakes, rivers and floodplains and the resources within;

Particularly concerned about the destructive impacts of climate change, including coastal erosion, and emphasizing that the cost of inaction, which can lead to internal and external migration, is far greater than the cost of early investments in mitigation and adaptive management measures;

Upholding the principles of regional and international cooperation, as well as collaboration and consensus building among all types of small-scale fishworkers, support organizations, and governments, and the collective negotiations needed to achieve concrete results;

Celebrating the valuable knowledge and skills of Indigenous Peoples and marine and inland small-scale fishing communities;

**Call upon the African national governments, African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), regional fisheries advisory bodies, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to:**

Implement a uniform closed season to protect shared fish stocks in Africa, and explore the possibilities of closed areas and the employment of input control methods;

Develop measures to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities that continue to constitute a serious threat to many marine fish stocks and ecosystems, including

the destructive fishing techniques employed by small-scale fishing communities, which is detrimental to the realization of sustainable fisheries;

Adopt a sound fisheries management system for artisanal fisheries at the national level to address over-capacity and overfishing problems, particularly by disincentivizing the indiscriminate expansion of fishing efforts;

Promote the certification of fisheries products at the national level to regulate and ensure production and consumption of safe and healthy food from small-scale fish processing facilities, especially through creating awareness of and promoting the use of improved smoking and handling technologies and tools, including by providing fisheries and fish products certification training programmes;



Designate and implement artisanal and small-scale fishing zones to provide secure tenure and protect the access rights of small-scale fishers to their traditional fishing grounds and resources, including through strict monitoring, control and surveillance of these zones;

Protect customary rights and traditional methods for granting tenure to small-scale fisheries communities by traditional and Indigenous leaders, and prevent the privatization of water bodies;

Promote and strengthen regional cooperation for fisheries management, both marine and inland, and develop effective monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms to coordinate and harmonize stakeholders' efforts and capacities for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources;

Ensure that bilateral fisheries access agreements protect the rights of small-scale fishers to their traditional fishing grounds and resources consistent with international laws and national legislation;

Control the capacity and efforts of all fishing fleets, reduce the size of industrial fishing fleets, and minimize the negative impacts of fishing gear and practices on small-scale fishing communities, such as by using strict gear regulations;

Remove barriers to regional trade in fish and fish products to promote greater access to fish as a source of food and nutrition, and promote equitable access to trade policy and market information for fishers and fish processors;

Ensure consultation, participation, transparency and accountability in declaring Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and government implementation of the 30x30 agenda, and ensure the protection of mangroves, nursery grounds and water bodies from pollution;

Develop policies for economic activities in coastal areas, including tourism, ports, fish landing facilities, oil and gas extraction and blue economy initiatives, that protect fishers from being evicted from their traditional lands and protect their human rights;

Ensure that the development of tourism also includes opportunities for fishers to engage in alternative livelihoods;

Reaffirm the importance of small-scale fishing communities' participation in fisheries governance, including in participatory management or co-management of fisheries resources, and skills and capacity development;

Create adequate training and employment opportunities for youth in fishing communities, especially to prevent risky emigration;

Strengthen the social pillar of sustainable fisheries, and improve the participation of fishing communities, especially women, in decision-making processes, including in developing adequate safeguards against the criminalization of fishers and fishworkers;

Recognize the crucial social reproduction role of women, support and empower women's organizations, and develop policies to transgress the perpetuation of gender-related discrimination in informal fisheries;

Reduce overlapping challenges and hardships faced by women by developing specific measures to address their issues as both fish and shellfish harvesters and processors;

Develop culturally appropriate platforms and modern fish processing and storage facilities for women and accessible public transportation facilities for women vendors;

Prioritize fisheries research and data collection, both in marine and inland fisheries, and improve data on small-scale fisheries, including on safer and more sustainable fishing and processing technologies to support decent working conditions for fishers and fishworkers;

Introduce guidelines for safety at sea and in inland waters to protect the lives and gear of small-scale fishers and fishing communities, and improve safety conditions related to weather forecasts and landing site infrastructure;

Develop national-level guidelines for value addition in the post-harvest sector, and provide easy and fair access to credit, especially by providing preferential rates for fishers and fishworkers;

Develop adequate forms of social protection schemes and occupational health care facilities, and provide direct support during health crises such as pandemics.

**We urge governments, agencies and organizations, working closely with the African Regional Advisory Group, to implement the SSF Guidelines in a participatory manner at national level.**



Participants during the field visit to Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA), Ghana

# Annexure

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## Annexure 1

### Concept Note

**International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and  
Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD)**

*IYafa: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries  
African Workshop—Accra, Ghana  
15–18 February 2023*

### Context

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, with FAO as the lead agency. This provided an opportunity to further reiterate the objectives and promote the implementation of the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines. Although IYafa was technically designated to 2022, this workshop highlighted the importance of not confining attention to small-scale fisheries issues to a single year, but continuing this attention well into the future.

Approximately 90% of the 140 million people engaged in fisheries globally work in the small-scale fisheries sector, predominantly, but not only, in the Global South. These small-scale fisherpeople (men and women) catch half of the world's seafood and provide over 60% of the fish destined for direct human consumption. For each fisherperson in the small-scale sector, at least four other people are engaged in related land-based activities, such as the preparation of equipment, fish processing and marketing. In total, more than 500 million people are estimated to depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. As a family-based activity, fishing makes a direct contribution to household food security, where women play a particularly important role both as the link with the market and as the provider of food in the household, in addition to their reproductive role. This significant contribution to food security, livelihoods and to local and national economies is expected to improve through the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Small-scale fisheries provide the first and most important link in a long chain of social, cultural and economic activities that contribute to the health and well-being of local communities and wider society. Fishing constitutes far more than merely an economic activity, but rather forms part of the culture, identity and way of life of fishing communities, marine and inland, with customs, food habits, rhythms of life, rituals, spiritual beliefs, value systems, traditions and social organization closely linked to fisheries and to the aquatic milieu on which their livelihoods depend. The provision of fish and fishery products by small-scale producers also plays an important role in food sovereignty, enabling low-income consumers, for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily accessible, to enjoy their right to food and other human rights. Often, small-scale fisheries have been the only form of social protection available and accessible to many marine and inland fishing communities.

Women play a vital but largely unrecognized and undervalued role in realizing the right to food by supplying fish and fishery products. The FAO estimates that in 2018, 59.5 million people, at least 14% of whom were women, were directly engaged either full time or, more frequently, part time in capture fisheries or aquaculture. This is likely to be a gross underestimate given that women's work in the fisheries sector is often unpaid and unrecorded. The most significant role played by women in fisheries is at the processing and marketing stages. Active in all regions of the world, women have become significant entrepreneurs in fish processing. In fact, most fish processing is performed by women, either in their own household or as wage labourers in the large-scale processing industry.

However, despite their entrepreneurial success, women often have to deal with considerable hardships and adverse working conditions. They may also face unequal competition for accessing raw materials for their processing and trading activities.

## Objectives of the Workshops

In this context, ICSF along with its members and partners organized four regional workshops and women's exchanges in 2022 and 2023 in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe, in partnership with fishworker organizations globally.

The African workshop was held in Accra, Ghana, from 15 to 18 February 2023. The overall goal of the workshop was to strengthen the recognition of small-scale fisheries' crucial contributions to global food security and nutrition and highlight the importance of access rights, social development and gender equality in the sector. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Increase international engagement of fishworker organizations regarding food security, access rights, gender equality and issues of social development.
- Deepen cooperation between fishworkers and like-minded organizations.
- Amplify the voices of women in the inclusive development of small-scale fisheries.
- Provide a platform for networking and sharing of best practices to build resilience among small-scale fishing communities.

The workshop was also an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Africa to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and nutrition, and promote the tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities.

## Participants

The workshop included forty participants from community-based organizations, national and international fishworker organizations, networks of women in fisheries and civil society organizations from across Africa. The target groups were primarily drawn from organizations that had been involved with the preparation, negotiation and implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Africa since 2011, such as the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty's (IPC) Africa Regional Group as well as fishing communities and organizations that ICSF members had been working with in their local and national contexts.

## Methodology

The workshop was held over four days and focused broadly on discussing the obstacles small-scale fishworkers face in accessing resources and fishing areas, how communities and organizations mobilize to address these challenges, and a range of social development issues. Fishworkers' inputs to the preparatory process had been important in determining the questions and specific topics that were discussed in the workshop. ICSF had shared a questionnaire to collect inputs from the participants beforehand.

Some of the sub-themes that were also addressed in the workshop—and central to the work of ICSF and its fishworker partners—included: human rights of fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities; social protection; impacts of blue economy agendas on small-scale fisheries; impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation initiatives on small-scale fisheries; roles of fisheries organizations, associations and cooperatives; decentralization of fisheries governance structures; mainstreaming gender equality/equity in fisheries; and promoting decent work and social development of fishing communities.



Some of the main features of the workshop were:

- Collaborative discussions and activities in which fishworkers were able to share their experiences and perspectives, learn from each other, and develop collective strategies and plans of action for addressing these issues in their local and national contexts.
- Open, inclusive spaces for fishworkers and like-minded organizations to meet face-to-face and deepen their cooperation on advocacy work related to food security and tenure rights.
- Exchanges between women in fisheries, which highlighted their experiences, the challenges they were facing, and the creative approaches they used to address these challenges.

The general structure of the workshop was as follows:

- **Day 1** // Session 1: Access Rights for Marine and Inland Fishworkers to Resources, Fishing Grounds and Markets
- **Day 2** // Session 1: Field Trip: Knowledge/Experience Sharing with the Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA)  
Session 2: Women and Gender in Small-scale Fisheries
- **Day 3** // Session 2 continued: Solutions and Ways Forward for Improving Women's Access to Resources and Participation

Session 3: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work

- **Day 4** // Session 4: Workshop Statement and Gender Action Plan

#### **Workshop outputs:**

- Collective statement by workshop participants
- Communications (website, newsletter, social media)
- Regional Action Plan on women and gender
- Photos and videos
- Workshop report



Fishermen sorting the fish catch, Ghana

## Annexure 2

### Programme

DAY 1 – Wednesday   15 February 2023	
8:00 – 9:00	<p><b>Registration:</b> Elyse Mills &amp; Sivaja Nair (ICSF)</p> <p><b>Logistics:</b> Kingsley Amenson, Patience Tetteh and Benjamin Nyampong (TESCOD)</p>
9:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p>Welcome: Peter Adjei (ICSF / TESCOD) (5 mins)</p> <p>Welcome Addresses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Jojo Solomon – President of Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) (10 mins)</li> <li>2) Benjamin Adjei – Assistant FAOR/Head of Programme (10 mins)</li> <li>3) Maame Esi Quayson – Director, Marine Fisheries Management, Fisheries Commission of Ghana (10 mins)</li> <li>4) Address by Special Guest of Honor: Moses Anim, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (15 mins)</li> </ol> <p>Overview of the workshop: Peter Adjei and Venu Gopal (ICSF) (20 mins)</p> <p>Group photograph</p>
10:30 – 10:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
10:45 – 12:00	<b>Participant Introductions</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 1: Access Rights for Marine and Inland Fishworkers to Resources, Fishing Grounds and Markets - A Regional Overview</b></p> <p>Chair: Benjamin Campion (ICSF)</p> <p>Inputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Francis Nunoo (University of Ghana) – Access rights in marine fisheries (25 mins)</li> <li>2) Margaret Nakato (Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda) – Access rights in inland fisheries (25 mins) Questions/Comments (10 mins)</li> </ol>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:45	<p>Group discussions (4 English groups, 2 French groups):</p> <p>Access rights for small-scale fishing communities to resources</p>
15:45 – 16:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Presentation of group reports</p> <p>Facilitator: Rosemarie Mwaipopo (ICSF)</p>
18:30 – 20:30	<p>Welcome Dinner</p> <p>Location: University of Ghana Campus</p>

<b>DAY 2 – Thursday   16 February 2023</b>	
8:15	Depart for field trip to Tsokomey, Greater Accra (30 km trip) <i>Please ensure you eat breakfast before 8:00 am</i>
9:30 – 11:45	Field trip: Knowledge/experience sharing with Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA)
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH (@ Bojo Beach, Tsokomey)
13:00 – 14:00	Return to Erata Hotel
14:00 – 15:00	Session 2: Women and Gender in Small-scale Fisheries Chair: Sivaja Nair (ICSF) Inputs: 1) Moenieba Isaacs (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) - Women as fish harvesters (25 minutes) 2) Rosemarie Mwaipopo (ICSF) - Post-harvest issues (25 minutes) Questions/Comments (10 mins)
15:00 – 16:00	Group discussions (4 English groups, 2 French groups): Key issues facing women in small-scale fisheries
16:00 – 16:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:15 – 17:30	Group discussions continue
18:30 – 20:30	Dinner @ Erata Hotel
<b>DAY 3 – Friday   17 February 2023</b>	
9:00 – 9:45	<b>Session 2 (continued...): Women in Small-scale Fisheries</b> Facilitator: Elyse Mills (ICSF) Photo Sharing: Digital exhibition of photos contributed by participants, showing the role of women in fisheries in their communities South Africa – Charmaine Daniels Senegal – Daouda Ndiaye Tanzania – Lucyphine Kilanga and Rosemarie Mwaipopo Uganda – Margaret Nakato Ghana – Nana Kweigyah Isaac and Bernice Agorogo Seychelles – Nancy Marchia Onginjo Togo – Rose Adjoavi Togbenou
9:45 – 11:15	Panel Discussion: Solutions and Ways Forward for Improving Women’s Access to Resources and Participation Facilitator: Rosemarie Mwaipopo (ICSF) Panel: Nigeria – Olorode Ganiat Oluwakemi Ghana – Josephine Opare Oddo Togo – Rose Adjoavi Togbenou The Gambia – Fatou Camara Côte d'Ivoire – Ake Viviane Dompedan Tanzania – Hadija Juma Malibiche Kenya – Christiana Saiti Louwa Seychelles – Nancy Marchia Onginjo Uganda – Perus Logose South Africa – Charmaine Daniels

11:15 – 11:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Group Brainstorm: Developing an Action Plan</b> Facilitator: Moenieba Isaacs (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) What key actions are needed to address the challenges facing women in fisheries?
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Session 3: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work</b> Chair: Peter Adjei (ICSF) Inputs: 1) Benjamin Champion (ICSF) – Social Development Challenges and West African Fishing Communities (25 mins) 2) Rosemarie Mwaipopo (ICSF) – Presentation on behalf of the Mwambao Coastal Community Network, Tanzania on Social Development Challenges and East African Fishing Communities (25 mins) Questions/Comments (10 mins)
15:00 – 16:15	Group discussions (4 English groups, 2 French groups): Social development challenges and solutions
16:15 – 16:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:30 - 17:30	Group discussions continue
18:30 – 20:30	Dinner @ Osu Oxford Street
<b>DAY 4 – Saturday   18 February 2023</b>	
9:00 – 10:45	<b>Session 3 (continued...): Social Development, Employment and Decent Work</b> Facilitator: Benjamin Champion (ICSF) Presentation of group reports
10:45 – 11:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 13:00	<b>Session 4: Presentation of Draft Workshop Statement</b> Chair: Francis Nunoo (University of Ghana) Presentation of the Draft Workshop Statement: Peter Adjei (ICSF / TESCOOD) Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 16:00	<b>Presentation of the Final Workshop Statement</b> Chair: Francis Nunoo (University of Ghana) Presentation of Final Workshop Statement (in English and French): Peter Adjei (ICSF / TESCOOD) and Ake Viviane Dompedan (USCOFEPECI)
16:00 – 16:15	<b>Vote of thanks:</b> Sivaja Nair (ICSF)
18:00 – 20:00	Closing Dinner @ Erata Hotel
<b>Sunday   19 February 2023 - Participants Depart</b>	



## Annexure 3

### Group Discussion Questions

#### *Group Discussion 1: Tenure Rights in Fisheries*

1. Awareness for fishers and fishworkers about their rights, ways to realize them and to represent their interests in relevant decision-making processes is key to secure access to fishing grounds and resources. Identify capacity gaps/challenges for fisher and fishworkers' organizations to claim their rights to fishing grounds and access to fisheries resources. What alliances do we need to build/strengthen to support national and regional advocacy?
2. What measures/tools (social, economic, environmental and political) already existing in the communities can be employed to push back policies/regulations that deny rights to fishing grounds and access to fisheries resources?
3. What type of tenure rights, at individual or community level, exist in your community? How have they contributed to secure access to fishing grounds and fisheries resources? How have the liberal policies contributed to strengthen the application of traditional/ Indigenous Peoples' rights? What are the contributions of Tenure Guidelines and SSF Guidelines in restoring tenure? What are the blocks for such instruments?
4. What existing measures/policies can contribute to gender equity in access to fishing grounds and fisheries resources?

#### *Group Discussion 2: Women in Fisheries*

1. What are the major challenges faced by women in fisheries in your country in terms of access to: resources, fishing craft and gear, post-harvest trade and markets, social security and healthcare, and leadership and participation in fishworkers' organizations?
2. What are the specific measures required for recognizing their social reproduction roles in your specific national context? Societal reproduction is a combination of the organization of production, the organization of social reproduction, the perpetuation of gender, and the continuation of class relations.
3. What are the issues in post-harvest sector and how can it be addressed and negotiated through specific measures?

#### *Group Discussion 3: Social Development and Decent Work*

1. Are there poverty eradication policies and programmes in your country? Are there any such policies and programmes targeting marginalized marine and inland men and women fishers and fishworkers, including from Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, ethnic and other minorities, migrants, etc.? How effective are these policies and programmes in removing poverty among target groups? Are any of these policies being adapted to address the impact of COVID-19 at various levels?
2. Is there an employment policy in your country? Are there employment generation projects and skill development programmes for fishing communities, marine and inland, within and outside fishing and fish processing activities? Do the employment/skill development policy and projects lead to improved access to employment of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, ethnic and other minorities, migrant fishworkers, youth and women? Are any of these policies and projects being adapted to address the impact of COVID-19 at various levels?
3. Is there any policy on decent work focusing on working conditions in fishing and fish processing activities, marine and inland, to benefit all workers, including the migrants? Do fishing communities, marine and inland, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants, and women, as a

- result, enjoy access to social security, social assistance and social insurance? Is there any decent work policy for migrant fishers and fishworkers? Are they benefiting from this policy? Are any of these policies being adapted to address the impact of COVID-19 at various levels?
4. Is there a social inclusion policy for men, women, children and youth, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, civil society, fishing communities, migrant fishers and fishworkers? Is there, as a result, a lot less discrimination leading to the wellbeing of all? How did this policy prevent discrimination during COVID-19?
  5. Is there a health policy to benefit all? Is there a policy on occupational health and safety and sexual and reproductive health? If so, do these policies improve access to health for fishing communities, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, migrant fishers, etc.? How were these policies of assistance during COVID-19?
  6. Is there a literacy and education policy? How does it benefit children and/or adults of fishing communities?
  7. Is there a housing policy, especially targeting fishing communities?
  8. Are there sanitation, drinking water and energy policies? Are they inclusive of fishing communities? How do they actually benefit fishing communities?
  9. Is there a climate change policy? Does it look at the role of climate change and extreme weather events in aggravating poverty, reducing access to housing, increasing the risk of diseases, and making life more vulnerable for marginalized people in marine and inland fisheries? How are these impacts being addressed and how are the remedial measures benefitting fishing communities, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, women, etc.?
  10. Are there institutions, such as effective associations, cooperatives, trade unions, credit unions, etc., of women and men to promote participation in decision making, negotiate wages and social protection measures, and protect access to resources and markets? Are these institutions improving the wellbeing of fishing communities? How did the institutional mechanism provide economic relief during COVID-19 pandemic, extending assistance to fishing communities and fishworkers along the value chain?
  11. Are there measures to provide sufficient awareness and protection in regard to violence, sexual abuse and harassment against women and girls in fishing communities and to address their poor access to justice? What is the impact?
  12. Are there legislations and programmes to provide safe and timely access to justice for fishers and fishworkers? Are there effective institutions to address their grievances in relation to their access to livelihood, health, housing, education, etc.?
  13. Are the above policies, legislations and institutions contributing to better conservation and sustainable use of freshwater, brackish water, marine and coastal biodiversity as well as to responsible and sustainable small-scale fisheries?

## Annexure 4

### List of Participants

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# SAMUDRA

**for Accra**

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



## AKWAABA & BA ACCRA!

**Welcome to Accra! Welcome to ICSF and TESCOD Africa Workshop celebrating sustainable and equitable small-scale fisheries.**

### WHAT'S ON TODAY

- Inauguration and introductions
- SSF access to resources
- Group discussions
- Dinner and cultural programme

### Welcome message

ICSF is organizing four regional workshops and women's exchanges in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe in partnership with fishworker organizations in these regions. The Africa workshop is the third in the series after the Asia and Latin American regional workshop. The overall goal of these workshops are to strengthen the recognition of small-scale fisheries' crucial contributions to global food security and nutrition and reiterate the importance of tenure rights, social development and gender equality in the sector.

*SAMUDRA for Accra*, published daily during the workshops, brings you programme updates, interviews with participants and short articles on SSF in the region.

For more information, write to [icsf@icsf.net](mailto:icsf@icsf.net) or [sivaja.icsf@gmail.com](mailto:sivaja.icsf@gmail.com)



### REPRESENTATION

- Participants from 16 Countries
- Representation from 32 SSF organizations
- 45 Participants
  - 24 Women
  - 21 Men

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Workshop Overview
- SSF Watch
- Voices of Women
- IYAFA Accra Special
- Resources



# Overview of the Workshop

The Africa Regional Workshop following the International Year of Artisanal Fishing and Aquaculture, 2022 is intended to ignite discussions in tenure rights, social development and gender equality in SSF and assess the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region. The broad objectives of the workshop are;

- To increase international engagement of fishworker organizations regarding food security, access rights, gender equality, and social development issues.
- To deepen cooperation between fishworkers and like-minded organizations.

- To amplify the voices of women in the inclusive development of small-scale fisheries.
- To provide a platform for networking and sharing of best practices to build resilience

The workshop includes three days of intense group discussions and presentations along with a day of field visit to field trip to Tsokomey for an experience sharing session with Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA) and a photo exhibition portraying women in fisheries.

The programme chart and further details of the workshop could be found at the workshop webpage : <https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

## The Organizers

### Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD)

TESCOD is an NGO with a focus on human rights-based approach to sustainable management of resources; particularly small-scale fisheries. TESCOD works with communities and organisations to build the capacity of their members through self-helps, education and training; and facilitates access to support services. Policy interventions in SSF have become an important focal area since the adoption of the FAO SSF Guidelines in 2014. for TESCOD.

### International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

ICSF is an international NGO that works towards the establishment of equitable, gender-just, self-reliant and

sustainable fisheries, particularly in the small-scale, artisanal sector.

As a support organization, ICSF is committed to influence national, regional and international decision-making processes in fisheries so that the importance of small-scale fisheries, fishworkers and fishing communities is duly recognized.

## Who's at the workshop

- 1 Union Nationale des Pêcheurs Marins Artisans et Assimilés du Bénin (UNAPEMAB), Bénin
- 2 USCOFEPECI, Côte d'Ivoire
- 3 Fédération Nationale de la Pêche Artisanale de Djibouti, Djibouti
- 4 Gambia Fisher Folk Association
- 5 National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operations, The Gambia
- 6 KNUST, Ghana
- 7 Development Action Association (DAA), Ghana

8. Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA), Ghana
9. Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF), Ghana
10. Central & Western Fishmongers Association (CEWEFIA), Ghana
11. National Fish Processors & Traders Association (NAFPTA), Ghana
12. National Inland Canoe Fishermen Council (NICFC), Ghana
13. Canoe & Fishing Gear Owners Association of Ghana (CaFGOAG)
14. El Molo Forum, Kenya
15. Fédération Nationale des Pêches (FNP) de Mauritanie, Mauritanie
16. Fishermen & Women Association of Lagos State, Nigeria
17. Amuludun Multipurpose Cooperative Society (Youth), Epe, Nigeria
18. Host Oil and Gas Community Women Association, Ughelli, Nigeria
19. Lake Chad Basin Fisheries Association of Nigeria
20. Collectif Nationale Des Pêcheurs Artisanaux du Sénégal
21. Association des Pêcheurs de la Commune Rurale de Mangagoulack, Senegal
22. Seychelles Fishermen and Boat Owners Association
23. Sierra Leone Artisanal Fishermen's Union (SLAFU)
24. Masifundise Development Trust, South Africa
25. South African Artisanal Organization, South Africa
26. Tanzania Women Fishworkers Association (TAWFA), Tanzania
27. Environmental Management & Economic Development Association (EMEDO), Tanzania
28. Fédération Nationale des Unions des Coopératives de Pêches du Togo (FENUCCOOPETO), Togo
29. Union des Coopératives de Pêche Maritime (UNICOOPEMA), Togo
30. Association Tunisienne pour le Développement de la Pêche Artisanale (ATEDPA), Tunisia
31. Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda
32. Kiyindi Women Fish Processors Association / UWFC, Uganda

## Voices of Women



**Ake Viviane Dompedan, USCOFEPECI , Côte d'Ivoire**

I am very happy to be here in Ghana since I believe that these workshops will help women to build their capacity and also to bring visibility to the work they do. I joined USCOFEPECI as a member in 2016. My membership in the organization has helped me immensely to gain a lot of information, gave me opportunity to travel and meet other women in SSF and discuss our common challenges thereby buiding a solidarity to find solutions to our problems. Women are an integral part of SSF, they are the start and end of the SSF- women sponser men when they go fishing- in terms of finding financial resources for them, preparing food and when they are back after fishing, women sell their fish or process them and pay the money to men. Women’s role is prominent both in pre and post harvest fisheries; yet their role is not valued in many contexts and we are invisible. We need access rights to places of our use and acces to technology and nfrastructure that will support our work. I hope that the workshop discusses these issues immensely to support us to identify mechanisms to mitigate these issues.

### THE SSF WATCH

<p><b>Ghana:</b> Small-scale fishing activities are deeply rooted in Ghanaian culture and are a key source of livelihoods and nutrition, both in coastal and riparian areas of the country. It is estimated that the small-scale fisheries sector in Ghana employs over 90 percent of total marine fishers in the country. Post harvest losses due to wastage, lack of effective participation in the decision making process are the major challenges faced by SSF in Ghana.</p>	<p><b>Uganda:</b> The small-scale fisheries subsector plays a critical role in the provision of livelihoods and food security in Uganda. Ugandan small-scale fisheries operate exclusively in inland waters. The fisheries sector contributes 2 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and 12 percent to agricultural GDP. The development of appropriate post-harvest infrastructure is a major challenge faced by SSF in the country.</p>
<p><b>Tanzania:</b> The United Republic of Tanzania is a frontrunner in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at country level with the development of a National Plan of Action for the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Small-scale fishers in Tanzania produce around 400, 000 tonnes per year.</p>	<p><b>Sierra Leone:</b> Small-scale fisheries play a very important role in national food security and nutrition in Sierra Leone guaranteeing livelihoods and as a source of income for many people. The sectors include approximately 18 000 artisanal fishermen and over 11 000 fishing canoes. The artisanal fisheries account for about 80 percent of the total marine fish landings.</p>



Photo portraying SSF in Ghana



## ICEBREAKERS IN GHANA

- Hello- Agoo (A-go)
- Good Morning-mema mo akye (mema mō ache)
- How are you- Ete sɛn? (Ete sern?)
- What is your name- Wo din de sɛn?

## Message from the Host



I welcome you all the IYafa Africa Regional workshop and am

happy to host you all in Accra.

Small scale fisheries has an important role in ensuring food security in Ghana and around three million people are dependent on SSF. However, the declining catch has been emerging as a major threat for SSF communities, having an implication on their social development indicators. Yet, Ghana is very particular in its efforts to sustaining SSF through policy action and involvement of CSOs. The co-management policy on sustainable resource management and interventions on education, especially within the framework of SSF Guidelines are few of the finest examples of such efforts. We have a lot to learn from each other and lets hope that this workshop is an avenue for the representatives of SSF from the 16 African countries to come together and identify potential solutions for the issues grappling the SSF in the region.

## IYafa AFRICA WORKSHOP 2023



Forty five participants from 16 African countries convened together at Accra, Ghana to attend the African regional workshop: Celebrating sustainable and equitable fisheries from 15-18 February 2023.

## Workshop webpage!

ICSF has launched a dedicated webpage on its new website, with resources, publications and useful information on SSF in the region. Visit the Africa Workshop page here:

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

## ON THE AGENDA OF WORKSHOP

- Social development of SSF
- Women and gender in SSF
- Group discussions
- Panels and concluding remarks
- Workshop Statement



# SAMUDRA

**pour Accra**

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



**AUJOURD'HUI**

- Inauguration et présentations
- Accès SSF aux ressources
- Discussions de groupe
- Dîner et programme culturel

**Message de bienvenue**

ICSF organise quatre ateliers régionaux et des échanges de femmes en Asie, en Afrique, en Amérique latine et en Europe en partenariat avec des organisations de travailleurs de la pêche dans ces régions. L'atelier Afrique est le troisième en la série après l'atelier régional Asie et Amérique latine. L'objectif général de ces ateliers est de renforcer la reconnaissance des contributions cruciales de la pêche artisanale à la sécurité alimentaire et à la nutrition mondiales et de réitérer l'importance des droits fonciers, du développement social et de l'égalité des sexes dans le secteur.

SAMUDRA pour Accra, publié quotidiennement pendant les ateliers, vous apporte des mises à jour du programme, des entretiens avec les participants et de courts articles sur la pêche artisanale dans la région. Pour plus d'informations, écrivez à [icsf@icsf.net](mailto:icsf@icsf.net) ou [sivaja.icsf@gmail.com](mailto:sivaja.icsf@gmail.com)



## AKWAABA & BA ACCRA!

**Bienvenue à Accra ! Bienvenue à ICSF et TESCOD Afrique  
Atelier célébrant la petite échelle durable et équitable  
pêcheries.**



**REPRÉSENTATION**

- Participants de 16 pays
- Représentation de 32 organisations SSF
- 45 participants
  - 24 femmes
  - 21 hommes

**QU'EST-CE QU'IL Y A À L'INTÉRIEUR**

- Présentation de l'atelier
- Surveillance SSF
- Voix de femmes
- Spécial IYAFA Accra
- Ressources



# Présentation de l'atelier

L'atelier régional africain qui suit l'Année internationale de la pêche et de l'aquaculture artisanales, 2022, vise à lancer des discussions sur les droits fonciers, le développement social et l'égalité des sexes dans la pêche artisanale et à évaluer la mise en œuvre des directives SSF dans la région. Les objectifs généraux de l'atelier sont;

- Accroître l'engagement international des organisations de travailleurs de la pêche concernant la sécurité alimentaire, les droits d'accès, l'égalité des sexes et les questions de développement social.
- Approfondir la coopération entre les travailleurs de la pêche et les organisations aux vues similaires.

- Amplifier la voix des femmes dans le développement inclusif de la pêche artisanale.
- Fournir une plate-forme de mise en réseau et de partage des meilleures pratiques pour renforcer la résilience

L'atelier comprend trois jours de discussions de groupe intenses et de présentations ainsi qu'une journée de visite sur le terrain à Tsokomey pour une session de partage d'expériences avec la Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA) et une exposition de photos sur les femmes dans la pêche.

Le tableau du programme et de plus amples détails sur l'atelier sont disponibles sur la page Web de l'atelier: <https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

## Les Organismes

### Services Techniques pour le Développement Communautaire (TESCOD)

TESCOD est une ONG avec l'accent mis sur une approche fondée sur les droits de l'homme pour la gestion durable des ressources ; notamment la pêche artisanale.

TESCOD travaille avec les communautés et les organisations pour renforcer les capacités de leurs membres par le biais d'auto-assistance, d'éducation et de formation ; et facilite l'accès aux services de soutien. Les interventions politiques en matière de pêche artisanale sont devenues un domaine d'intervention important depuis l'adoption des Directives FAO sur la pêche artisanale en 2014. pour le TESCOD.

### Collectif International de Soutien aux Travailleurs de la Pêche (ICSF)

ICSF est une organisation internationale ONG qui travaille à la mise en place d'une pêche équitable, équitable en

matière de genre, autonome et durable, en particulier dans le secteur artisanal à petite échelle.

En tant qu'organisation de soutien, l'ICSF s'engage à influencer les processus décisionnels nationaux, régionaux et internationaux dans le domaine de la pêche afin que l'importance de la pêche artisanale, des travailleurs de la pêche et des communautés de pêcheurs soit dûment reconnue.

### Qui est à l'atelier?

1. Union Nationale des Pêcheurs Marins Artisans et Assimilés du Bénin (UNAPEMAB), Bénin
2. USCOFEPECI, Côte d'Ivoire
3. Fédération Nationale de la Pêche Artisanale de Djibouti, Djibouti
4. Gambia Fisher Folk Association
5. National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operations, The Gambia
6. KNUST, Ghana
7. Development Action Association (DAA), Ghana

8. Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA), Ghana
9. Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF), Ghana
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14. El Molo Forum, Kenya
15. Fédération Nationale des Pêches (FNP) de Mauritanie, Mauritanie
16. Fishermen & Women Association of Lagos State, Nigeria
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29. Union des Coopératives de Pêche Maritime (UNICOOPEMA), Togo
30. Association Tunisienne pour le Développement de la Pêche Artisanale (ATEDPA), Tunisie
31. Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda
32. Kiyindi Women Fish Processors Association / UWFC, Uganda

## Voix de Femmes **Ake Viviane Dompedan, USCOFEPECI , Côte d'Ivoire**



Je suis très heureuse d'être ici au Ghana car je crois que ces ateliers aideront les femmes à renforcer leurs capacités et aussi à donner de la visibilité au travail qu'elles font. J'ai rejoint l'USCOFEPECI en tant que membre en 2016. Mon adhésion à l'organisation m'a énormément aidée à obtenir beaucoup d'informations, m'a donné l'opportunité de voyager et de rencontrer d'autres femmes de SSF et de discuter de nos défis communs, construisant ainsi une solidarité pour trouver des solutions à nos problèmes. Les femmes font partie intégrante de la SSF, elles sont le début et la fin de la SSF - les femmes parrainent les hommes lorsqu'elles vont à la pêche -

en termes de recherche de ressources financières pour elles, de préparation de la nourriture et lorsqu'elles reviennent après la pêche, les femmes vendent leur poisson ou traitent-les et versent l'argent aux hommes. Le rôle des femmes est important à la fois dans la pêche avant et après la récolte ; pourtant leur rôle n'est pas valorisé dans de nombreux contextes et nous sommes invisibles. Nous avons besoin de droits d'accès aux lieux d'utilisation et d'accès à la technologie et à l'infrastructure qui soutiendront notre travail. J'espère que l'atelier discutera énormément de ces questions pour nous aider à identifier des mécanismes pour atténuer ces problèmes.

### LA MONTRE SSF

**Ghana :** Les activités de pêche à petite échelle sont profondément enracinées dans la culture ghanéenne et sont une source essentielle de moyens de subsistance et de nutrition, tant dans les zones côtières que riveraines du pays. On estime que le secteur de la pêche artisanale au Ghana emploie plus de 90 pour cent du total des pêcheurs marins du pays. Les pertes après récolte dues au gaspillage, le manque de participation effective au processus de prise de décision sont les principaux défis auxquels est confrontée la pêche artisanale au Ghana.

**Ouganda :** Le sous-secteur de la pêche artisanale joue un rôle essentiel dans la fourniture des moyens de subsistance et de la sécurité alimentaire en Ouganda. La pêche artisanale ougandaise opère exclusivement dans les eaux intérieures. Le secteur de la pêche contribue à 2% du produit intérieur brut (PIB) et à 12% du PIB agricole. Le développement d'infrastructures post-récolte appropriées est un défi majeur auquel est confrontée la pêche artisanale dans le pays.

**Tanzanie:** la République-Unie de Tanzanie est un précurseur dans la mise en œuvre de les Directives SSF au niveau des pays avec l'élaboration d'un Plan d'action national pour la mise en œuvre des Directives SSF. Les petits pêcheurs de Tanzanie produisent environ 400 000 tonnes par an.

**Sierra Leone :** La pêche artisanale joue un rôle très important dans la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition nationales en Sierra Leone, garantissant les moyens de subsistance et en tant que source de revenus pour de nombreuses personnes. Les secteurs comptent environ 18,000 pêcheurs artisanaux et plus de 11 000 pirogues de pêche. La pêche artisanale représente environ 80 pour cent du total des débarquements de poissons marins.



Photo montrant SSF au Ghana



## BRISE-GLACE AU GHANA

- *Bonjour- Agoo* (A-go)
- *Je vous salue bonjour- mema mo akye* (mema mo ache)
- *Comment allez-vous- Ete sɛn?* (Ete sern?)
- *Quel est ton nom- Wo din de sɛn?*

## Message de l'Hôte



Je vous souhaite la bienvenue à tous l'atelier régional IYafa Afrique et je suis heureux de vous accueillir

tous à Accra.

La pêche à petite échelle joue un rôle important dans la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire au Ghana et environ trois millions de personnes dépendent de la pêche artisanale. Cependant, la baisse des captures est apparue comme une menace majeure pour les communautés SSF, ayant une implication sur leurs indicateurs de développement social. Pourtant, le Ghana est très particulier dans ses efforts pour soutenir la SSF par l'action politique et l'implication des OSC. La politique de cogestion sur la gestion durable des ressources et les interventions sur l'éducation, en particulier dans le cadre des directives SSF, sont quelques-uns des meilleurs exemples de tels efforts. Nous avons beaucoup à apprendre les uns des autres et espérons que cet atelier sera une opportunité pour les représentants des SSF des 16 pays africains de se réunir et d'identifier des solutions potentielles aux problèmes auxquels sont confrontés les SSF dans la région.

## IYafa AFRICA WORKSHOP 2023



Quarante-cinq participants de 16 pays africains se sont réunis à Accra, au Ghana, pour assister à l'atelier régional africain : Célébrer une pêche durable et équitable du 15-18 Février, 2023.

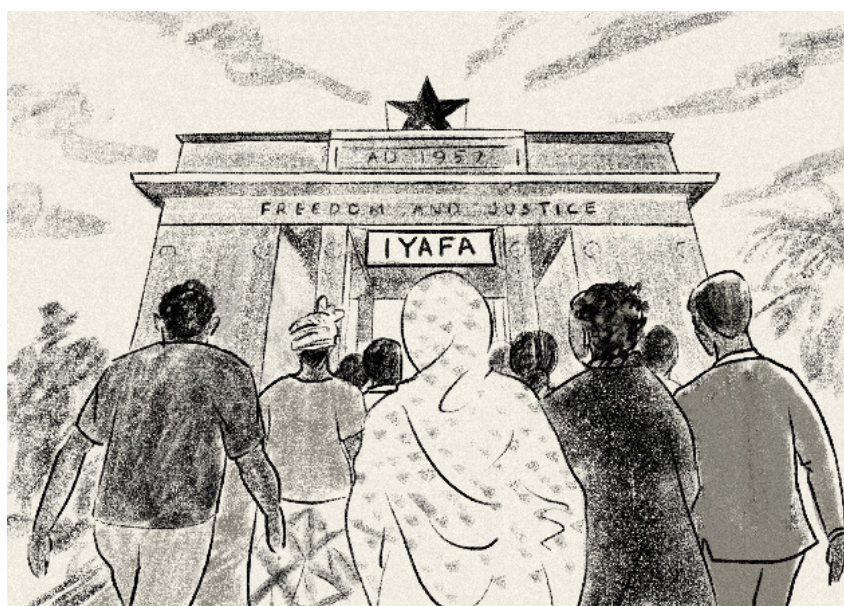
### Page Web de l'Atelier!

ICSF a lancé une page Web dédiée sur son nouveau site Web, avec des ressources, des publications et des informations utiles sur la pêche artisanale dans la région. Visitez la page Africa Workshop ici:

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

### À L'ORDRE DU JOUR D'ATELIER

- Développement social des SSF
- Femmes et genre dans SSF
- Discussions de groupe
- Panels et remarques finales
- Déclaration de l'atelier





# SAMUDRA

**for Accra**

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



## RECAP

- Field Trip to Tsokomey
- Experience sharing with DOPA
- Women in SSF

## Catch of the Day

### Aliou Sawe, The Gambia

The real catch of the day was the field visit to the Densu Oyster Pickers Association at Tsokomey. Great Thanks to the organisers for arranging the visit. We could see the way the community has mobilized itself to protect their resources, ensuring their access rights and livelihood. The view of women collectivising themselves to safeguard and sustainably co-manage their resources was quite motivating. It was reassuring to note that women were involved in harvesting, processing and marketing the product there=by claiming their space in the whole fisheries value chain. The exchange was quite educative and the field trip thereafter to the riverside gave a first hand experience of gaps and challenges faced in such endeavours. I am going to take back this message to my country to mobilise the oyster farmers and to revisit their governance structure and marketing strategies.



## Africa Workshop 2023

The four day Africa regional workshop was inaugurated on 15 February 2022, at Harajuku Hall, Erata Hotel.



The African regional workshop celebrating sustainable and equitable fisheries had a vibrant start at Accra. Peter Adjei welcomed the participants to the workshop. The welcome address by the delegates stressed on the need for collectivization, long term view on sustainability, social development and the need to prioritize implementation of SSF guidelines with a focus on gender equity. The address by the guest of honour: Hon Moses Anim, The deputy minister of Fisheries and aquaculture development discussed SSF within the framework of sustainability, food security and nutrition.

## ICE BREAKERS IN GHANA

- Good afternoon- Me ma mo ahä (me-ma mö ahä)
- Good evening- Me ma mo agyo (Me-ma mö ajo)
- Good night- Da yie (Da yi-ay)
- Thank You- Medaase (Me daa say)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Discussions
- Opinion
- SSF Watch
- Voices of Women
- Resources

## Access rights for Marine and Inland fishworkers to resources and spaces

The first day of the workshop ignited discussion on tenure rights with a focus on both inland and marine fisheries. The session started with inputs from Prof. Francis Nunoo who talked about access rights in marine fisheries. He offered a historical perspective on tenure rights in terms of national, bilateral and international agreements starting with a discussion on UNCLOS. While reiterating the need to preserve the commons, he stated the importance of protection of artisanal fishing zones and pollution control in ensuring the access right of small scale fishworkers.

The second input session on inland Fisheries by Margaret Nakato used a gender lens to discuss the issues pertaining to access rights in inland fisheries. She viewed the advent of tourism, pollution and unregulated development strategies as impacting the access rights of inland fishers.

*The ensuing group discussions divulged on issues like decriminalization of fishers association, need for information sharing platform, need for consultative and participatory approaches and mapping of SSF zones as strategies that need to be adopted to ensure the access right of SSF to their resources.*

### The Cultural Forum

A Twi popular song, sang by fishers to demonstrate the energy and skill required to paddle a canoe

*“TSisi mbom, tabon mbom  
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom  
Eyi yw adzea nEyw a aa  
Eyi yw adzea nEyw a aa  
Efaranyi kwan tabon Ennfa nko nekyir  
oo  
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom  
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom”*



**Nana Kweigyah Isaac, Ghana**

#### What the song means:

This is what we do, a fisher paddles the canoe to go forward and not backwards



Fisherwomen from korkorbite community weaving a mat using sari leaf during her past time. Fisherwomen from these communities engaged in oyster harvesting indulge in a second income generation activity like mat weaving during the closed season of five months from November- April

### Opinion



An area that need to be strengthened in fisheries within the 3 A approach fraework (Awareness, Alliance and Action). A lot has been done for

awareness creatrion and alliance building and we built a lot of alliances in the local, national and regional level. Now what we need is strong action, and we need to discuss a lot more on tangible actions that has to be undertaken

**Margaret Nakato, Uganda**



The presentations were interesting and shared new ideas and experiences, it was an educative experience. What I liked most in the previous day were

the questions that were shared to guide the discussion. It truly ignited fruitful discussions and we could also listen to different perspective from other groups. I believe that the most important thing for fishers to do now is to organize at their local contexts and build alliances with like minded organizations to make strong demands for their benefits.

**Ramzi Hamrit, Tunisia**



The discussions were very intense and interesting. I al looking forward to the field visit and expect that it will be interesting, since its all about brining women to

the forefront. In Seychelles we are not grappled by the challenge of gender inequities as discussed by the other countries, so it would be interesting to note how these differences work in the local contexts. The fishers need to come together and work together on a united front for reassuring their own benefits.

**Nancy Marchia Onginjo, Seychelles**



## Voices of Women



### Lucyphine Julius Kilanga, Tanzania

Its interesting to note that we have representation from the government representatives here, because, they are the final decision makers and one of the biggest challenge we face in our work is to get to the government representatives. What I see as a major challenge for women is their lack of access to technology inputs in relation to fisheries. Its not just about technology for processing fish or trading it, but also of information technology that limits their access to available resources. For example, there are many loans available for women, but they can't access it because of technological process involved in accessing these, like digitization of application forms and requirement of internet connectivity. There are economic and social factors that limits women's access to these technologies. What we require is a need assessment on technology adoption that is gender sensitive and gender responsive. Technology adoption shouldnt tranform itself as another tool for marginalising women. On the workshop, my suggestion is that it would have been better, if we could get some media attention.

### THE SSF WATCH

**Tunisia:** In 2018, the SSF contributed to 7% of the total fish production, which is about 6200 Tonnes. The sector employs about 6000 fishers who mainly use wooden boats, including feluccas and skiffs for fishing. Traditional gear includes traps, such as the nasse and the karfes, as well as gillnets and longlines. More modern gear includes handlines and small-mesh trawls. Many small-scale fishers in Tunisia also use beach seines.

**Togo:** The SSF in Togo is mainly characterized fishers using traditional gear such as canoes, traps, and nets. Around 22,000 people, including fishers, processors, and traders are employed in this sector. Despite its importance, the small-scale fisheries sector in Togo faces a challenges, including overfishing, weak regulatory frameworks, and limited access to credit and markets.

**Senegal:** SSF accounts for about 3% of the country's GDP and provides employment for over 600,000 people. The fishers use traditional techniques and small boats, such as pirogues, canoes, or dugouts and uses nets, lines, hooks, and traps to target a variety of species including sardines, mackerel, octopus, shrimp, and other demersal and pelagic fish

**Seychelles:** There are approximately 1,500 small-scale fishers, who contribute to about 10% of the country's total fish production. The government has implemented a licensing system for small-scale fishers to manage fishing effort, and supports scientific research to better understand fish populations and to inform sustainable management practices



Densu Oyster Picking Association (DOPA) shares their experiences with the workshop participants

## THE EXPERIENCE !

The warm welcome offered by the members of the DOPA helped the participants to beat the heat and break a leg on their way to the meeting ground. The photo exhibition on the group's activities detailed the activities of DOPA in relation to oyster farming. In the exchanges thereafter, the women detailed the way how organizing themselves ensured their livelihood, economic advancement and sustainable management of their resources.

The major challenges shared were the need for alternate income generation during closed season and the need for technical assistance to use the byproducts like oyster shells

## When theory met Practice !

The sessions on gender was a true amalgamation of theory and practice when the resource persons made an effort to embed challenges faced by women in fisheries within the realms of feminist theories on gender realities. The effect of this was further reflected in the presentations that ensued that had deeper reflections on issues pertaining to women.

## The Photo sharing

The photo sharing celebrating women in fisheries portrayed women's roles in various processes along the fisheries value chain. The participants then discuss various challenges faced by women all through these processes in their national context.

For more information on the photos shared, please visit the ICSF webpage on Africa workshop

## FIED VISIT TO TSOKOMEY



The participants interacting with the DOPA representatives and local community members during their visit to the Densu riverside.

## Workshop webpage!

Please checkout the ICSF Africa Workshop page here for regular updates:

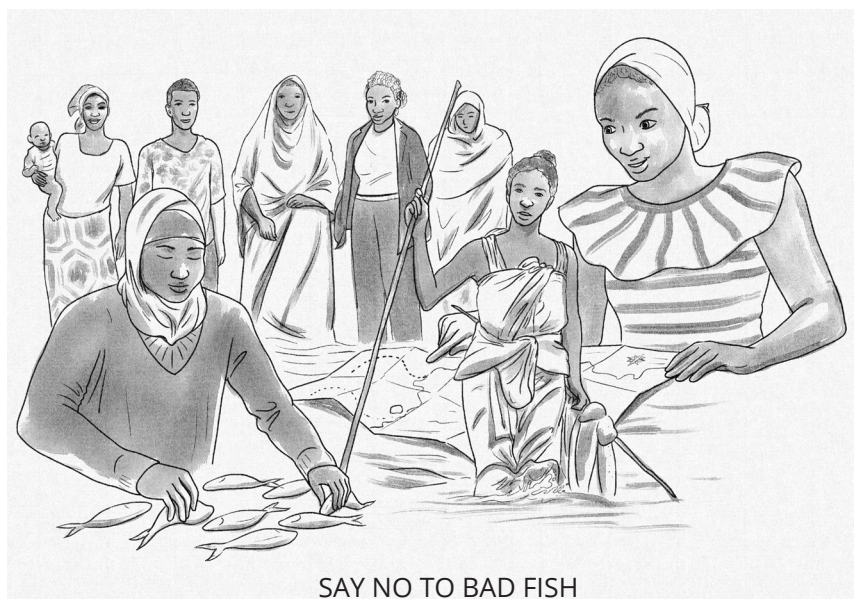
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## WHAT IS FOR TODAY

- Gender-Panel Discussion
- Photo sharing
- Action plan for gender equity
- Group discussions
- Social Development, employment and decent work



SAY NO TO BAD FISH



# SAMUDRA

pour Accra

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



## RÉSUMER

- Excursion sur le terrain à Tsokomey
- Partage d'expérience avec DOPA
- Femmes en SSF

## Prise du Jour

### Aliou Sawe, The Gambia

La véritable prise de la journée a été la visite sur le terrain de l'Association Densu Oyster Pickers à Tsokomey. Un grand merci aux organisateurs pour l'organisation de la visite. Nous avons pu voir la façon dont la communauté s'est mobilisée pour protéger ses ressources, assurer ses droits d'accès et ses moyens de subsistance. La vision des femmes se collectivisant pour sauvegarder et cogérer durablement leurs ressources était assez motivante. Il était rassurant de constater que les femmes étaient impliquées dans la récolte, la transformation et la commercialisation du produit en revendiquant leur place dans l'ensemble de la chaîne de valeur de la pêche. L'échange a été très instructif et la visite sur le terrain qui a suivi au bord de la rivière a donné une expérience de première main des lacunes et des défis rencontrés dans de telles entreprises. Je vais porter ce message à mon pays pour



## Atelier Afrique 2023

L'atelier régional de quatre jours pour l'Afrique a été inauguré le 15 février 2022, au Harajuku Hall, Erata Hotel



L'atelier régional africain célébrant la pêche durable et équitable a connu un démarrage dynamique à Accra. Peter Adjei a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants à l'atelier. Le discours de bienvenue des délégués a souligné la nécessité de la collectivisation, la vision à long terme de la durabilité, le développement social et la nécessité de donner la priorité à la mise en œuvre des directives SSF en mettant l'accent sur l'équité entre les sexes. L'allocution de l'invité d'honneur: Hon Moses Anim, le vice-ministre du développement de la pêche et de l'aquaculture a discuté de la pêche artisanale dans le cadre de la durabilité, de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition.

## BRISE-GLACE AU GHANA

- *Bon après-midi- Me ma mo ahä* (me-ma mö aha)
- *Bonne soirée- Me ma mo agyo* (Me-ma mö ajo)
- *Bonne nuit- Da yie* (Da yi-ay)

## QU'EST-CE QU'IL Y A À L'INTÉRIEUR

- Discussions
- Avis
- Surveillance SSF
- Voix de femmes
- Ressources

## Droits d'accès des travailleurs de la pêche maritime et continentale aux ressources et aux espaces

Le premier jour de l'atelier a déclenché une discussion sur les droits fonciers en mettant l'accent sur les pêches intérieures et marines. La session a commencé avec les contributions du professeur Francis Nunoo qui a parlé des droits d'accès dans les pêcheries maritimes. Il a offert une perspective historique sur les droits fonciers en termes d'accords nationaux, bilatéraux et internationaux en commençant par une discussion sur l'UNCLOS. Tout en réitérant la nécessité de préserver les biens communs, il a souligné l'importance de la protection des zones de pêche artisanale et de la lutte contre la pollution pour garantir le droit d'accès des pêcheurs artisanaux. La deuxième séance d'information sur les pêches continentales par

Margaret Nakato a utilisé une perspective de genre pour discuter des questions relatives aux droits d'accès dans les pêches continentales. Elle considère que l'avènement du tourisme, la pollution et les stratégies de développement non réglementées ont un impact sur les droits d'accès des pêcheurs de l'intérieur.

Les discussions de groupe qui ont suivi ont divulgué des questions telles que la dépénalisation des associations de pêcheurs, le besoin d'une plateforme de partage d'informations, le besoin d'approches consultatives et participatives et la cartographie des zones SSF en tant que stratégies qui doivent être adaptées pour garantir le droit d'accès des SSF à leurs ressources.

### Le Forum Culturel

*Une chanson populaire Twi, chantée par les pêcheurs pour démontrer l'énergie et les compétences nécessaires pour pagayer un canot*

*"TSisi mbom, tabon mbom  
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom  
Eyi yw adzea nEyw a aa  
Eyi yw adzea nEyw a aa  
Efarmyi kwan tabon Ennfa nko  
nekyir oo  
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom  
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom"*



**Nana Kweigyah Isaac, Ghana**

**Que veut dire la chanson :**

C'est ce qu'on fait, un pêcheur pagaie la pirogue pour avancer et non reculer



Pêchuses de la communauté korkorbite tissant une natte en utilisant des feuilles de sari pendant leur temps libre. Les pêcheuses de ces communautés engagées dans la récolte des huîtres se livrent à une deuxième activité génératrice de revenus comme le tissage de nattes pendant la saison fermée de cinq mois de novembre à avril.

### Avis



Un domaine qui doit être renforcé dans la pêche dans le cadre de l'approche des 3 A (Sensibilisation, Alliance et Action). Beaucoup a été fait pour la sensibilisation et la création d'alliances

et nous avons construit de nombreuses alliances aux niveaux local, national et régional. Maintenant, ce dont nous avons besoin, c'est d'une action forte, et nous devons discuter beaucoup plus des actions concrètes qui doivent être entreprises

**Margaret Nakato, Uganda**



Les présentations étaient intéressantes et ont partagé de nouvelles idées et expériences, c'était une expérience éducative. Ce que j'ai le plus aimé la veille, ce sont

les questions qui ont été partagées pour guider la discussion. Cela a vraiment déclenché des discussions fructueuses et nous avons également pu écouter différentes perspectives d'autres groupes. Je crois que la chose la plus importante est de s'organiser dans leurs contextes locaux et de nouer des alliances avec des organisations partageant les mêmes idées afin d'exiger avec force leurs avantages.

**Ramzi Hamrit, Tunisia**

Les discussions ont été très intenses



et intéressantes. J'attends avec impatience la visite sur le terrain et je m'attends à ce qu'elle soit intéressante, car il s'agit de mettre les femmes au premier

plan. Aux Seychelles, nous ne sommes pas aux prises avec le défi des inégalités entre les sexes comme discuté par les autres pays, il serait donc intéressant de noter comment ces différences fonctionnent dans les contextes locaux. Les pêcheurs doivent se rassembler et travailler ensemble sur un front uni pour assurer leurs propres avantages.

**Nancy Marchia Onginjo, Seychelles**



## Voix de femmes

### Lucyphine Julius Kilanga, Tanzania



Il est intéressant de noter que nous avons ici des représentants des représentants du gouvernement, car ce sont eux les décideurs finaux et l'un des plus grands défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés dans notre travail est d'atteindre les représentants du gouvernement. Ce que je considère comme un défi majeur pour les femmes est leur manque d'accès aux intrants technologiques liés à la pêche. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de technologies de transformation ou de commercialisation du poisson, mais aussi de technologies de l'information qui limitent leur accès aux ressources disponibles. Par exemple, il existe de nombreux prêts disponibles pour les femmes, mais elles ne peuvent pas y accéder en

raison du processus technologique impliqué dans leur accès, comme la numérisation des formulaires de demande et l'exigence de connectivité Internet. Il existe des facteurs économiques et sociaux qui limitent l'accès des femmes à ces technologies. Ce dont nous avons besoin, c'est d'une évaluation des besoins sur l'adoption de technologies qui soit sensible au genre et sensible au genre. L'adoption de la technologie ne devrait pas se transformer en un autre outil de marginalisation des femmes. En ce qui concerne l'atelier, ma suggestion est que cela aurait été mieux, si nous pouvions attirer l'attention des médias.

### LA MONTRE SSF

**Tunisie:** En 2018, la SSF a contribué à 7 % de la production totale de poisson, soit environ 6 200 tonnes. Le secteur emploie environ 6,000 pêcheurs qui utilisent principalement des bateaux en bois, dont des felouques et des esquifs pour la pêche. Les engins traditionnels comprennent des pièges, tels que la nasse et les karfas, ainsi que des filets maillants et des palangres. Les engins plus modernes comprennent les lignes à main et les chaluts à petites mailles. De nombreux petits pêcheurs tunisiens utilisent également des sennes de plage.

**Togo:** La pêche artisanale au Togo se caractérise principalement par des pêcheurs utilisant des engins traditionnels tels que des pirogues, des casiers et des filets. Environ 22 000 personnes, dont des pêcheurs, des transformateurs et des commerçants, sont employées dans ce secteur. Malgré son importance, le secteur de la pêche artisanale au Togo est confronté à des défis, notamment la surpêche, des cadres réglementaires faibles et un accès limité au crédit et aux marchés.

**Sénégal:** SSF représente environ 3% du PIB du pays et emploie plus de 600 000 personnes. Les pêcheurs utilisent des techniques traditionnelles et de petits bateaux, tels que des pirogues, des canoës ou des pirogues et utilisent des filets, des lignes, des hameçons et des pièges pour cibler une variété d'espèces, notamment les sardines, le maquereau, le poulpe, les crevettes et d'autres poissons démersaux et pélagiques.

**Seychelles:** Il y a environ 1 500 petits pêcheurs, qui contribuent à environ 10% de la production totale de poisson du pays. Le gouvernement a mis en place un système de licences pour les petits pêcheurs afin de gérer l'effort de pêche et soutient la recherche scientifique pour mieux comprendre les populations de poissons et éclairer les pratiques de gestion durable.



Densu Oyster Picking Association (DOPA) partage ses expériences avec les participants à l'atelier

## L'EXPÉRIENCE !

L'accueil chaleureux offert par les membres de la DOPA a aidé les participants à vaincre la chaleur et à se casser une jambe en se rendant au lieu de rencontre. L'exposition photo sur les activités du groupe a détaillé les activités de DOPA en lien avec l'ostréiculture. Dans les échanges qui ont suivi, les femmes ont détaillé la manière dont elles s'organisaient pour assurer leur subsistance, leur avancement économique et la gestion durable de leurs ressources.

Les principaux défis partagés étaient la nécessité de générer des revenus alternatifs pendant la saison fermée et le besoin d'assistance technique pour utiliser les sous-produits comme les coquilles d'huîtres.

## Quand la théorie rencontre la pratique !

Les sessions sur le genre ont été un véritable amalgame de théorie et de pratique lorsque les personnes ressources ont fait un effort pour intégrer les défis auxquels sont confrontées les femmes dans la pêche dans les domaines des théories féministes sur les réalités de genre. L'effet de cela s'est reflété dans les présentations qui ont suivi et qui ont approfondi les réflexions sur les questions relatives aux femmes.

## The Photo sharing

The photo sharing celebrating women in fisheries portrayed women's roles in various processes along the fisheries value chain. The participants then discuss various challenges faced by women all through these processes in their national context.

For more information on the photos shared, please visit the ICSF webpage on Africa workshop

## VISITE GUIDÉE À TSOKOMEY



Les participants interagissent avec les représentants de la DOPA et les membres de la communauté locale lors de leur visite au bord de la rivière Densu.

### Page Web de l'Atelier!

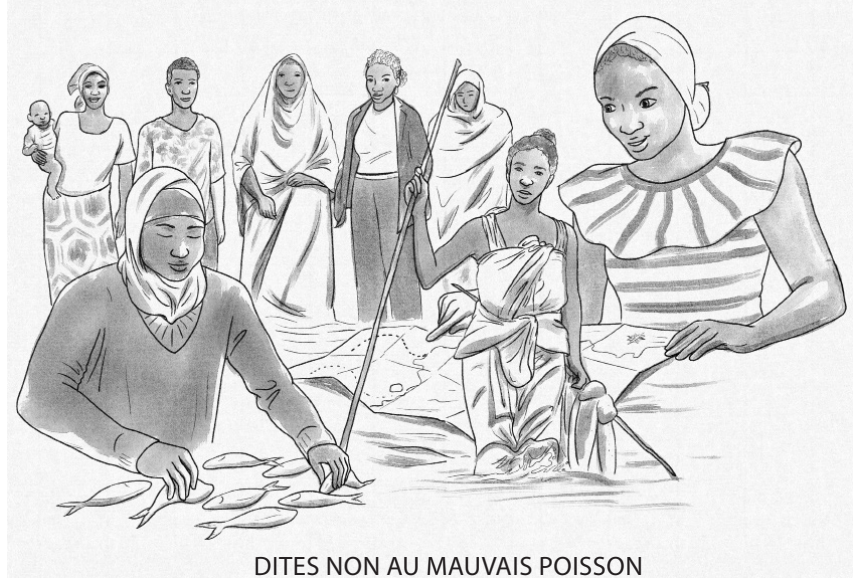
Veuillez consulter la page de l'atelier ICSF Afrique ici pour des mises à jour régulières:

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

Suis nous sur Instagram:  
[https://instagram.com/icsf\\_fish?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=](https://instagram.com/icsf_fish?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)

### QU'EST-CE QU'IL Y A AUJOURD'HUI

- Table ronde sur le genre
- Partage de photos
- Plan d'action pour l'équité entre les sexes
- Discussions de groupe
- Développement social, emploi





# SAMUDRA

for Accra

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



## The Accra statement 2023

The four day Africa regional workshop concluded on 18 February 2022, with the adoption of Africa Statement 2023

**RECAP**

- Photo Sharing
- Towards a gender plan of action
- Social Development



Presentation of the Africa Workshop statement

The adoption of the Africa statement at Accra marked the conclusion of the African regional workshop. The statement, acknowledging the existing and newer challenges grappling the small scale fisheries in the region called upon the African national governments, regional fisheries bodies and FAO to protect the rights of fishers, ensure the sustainability of resources and safeguard the sound implementation of policies. The statement also reaffirmed the need to promote gender justice and social development and protect the traditional rights and knowledge of the small scale fishing communities

“To go fishing is one of the most pleasurable experiences I can imagine.”

Fennel Hudson



**ICE BREAKERS IN GHANA**

- How are you- Ete sɛn? (Ete sern?)
- I am fine- me ho yɛ? (Meho ye)
- How is the meeting- Nhyiamu no ɛɛk4 sɛn?
- Goodbye- Bye

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

- Discussions
- Opinion
- SSF Watch
- Voices of Women
- Resources

## Social Development, Employment and Decent work

The session started with presentations by Benjamin Campion and the Mwambao Coastal Community network. Benjamin gave a historical overview on the development of discourses on decent work and detailed the ways in which it is being adopted in the policy spaces and offered a reality check on the adoption of the same. The second presentation focused on the ways to address these challenges. The detailed presentations thereafter guided by questions focusing on various social development

policies and strategies made clear of the availability of various policies at the national level. The major challenges identified by the participants were that of implementation gaps and access gaps that denies them the reach to these. The participants also reinstated the need to have differentiated policies for SSF considering their differential vulnerability.

### The Cultural Forum

An original French song written by the participant

*“Ho L’Afrique  
Soyons Tous unis  
A la protection de nos  
Resources Afois  
Vive L’Afrique # ensemble*

**What the song means:**

Unite Africa to protect our natural resources.



**Daitta Bassirou, Senegal**

“Forward ever, Backward never”



**Salem Mohammad Gaffar, Djibouti**

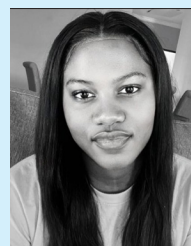
**What it means :**

I yearn to see the school of fish in the sea  
we are the clouds of the sea,  
casting our shadows in the waters  
and the sand at the beach shares our feeling

*“abeb Albah Albasir  
Nah alhawm  
Waramail fi se bilak  
yeshad fi me nishki”*

An arabic song sung by fisherman during their voyage to the sea. The singing is accompanied with rhythmic drumming.

## Opinion



**Sibongiseni  
Candy Gwebani  
South Africa**

Platforms like this is incredibly good in building collective

understanding, collective experiences and collective solutions. The component of gender discussions were very interesting, but I believe that spaces for women shouldn't be just limited to discussions on gender, we should be prioritized in all discussions since they are an integral part of all steps in SSF. I am going to take a lot of these learnings to our workplans in South Africa on a national level. I think the language in the statement had to be more strong and straight forward, so that it will offer a firm approach towards gender transformations.



**Sid'Ahmed  
Abeid,  
Mauritania**

The workshop gave opportunities for great exchanges. The statement was the best part of the workshop for me. It had components of all the discussions we have discussed, it was augmented further with the discussions the participants had on the draft. I see it as a tool that can be taken to the governments for concrete actions. Transportation of fish across countries in Africa, sanitation issues, intrusion of trawlers, lack of financial resources and gender challenges are the major issues in my region. I think the statement is touching upon all of these issues, I am going to take it to the associations and ministry for action.

## Voices of Women



**Rose Adjoavi Togbenou, Togo**

It was an interesting experience to be a part of this workshop, to have an opportunity to come together and discuss our common challenges. I think the major challenge for women in SSF is the depletion of resources that are pushing them out of SSF and forcing them to take up alternate income generation activities whereas SSF is where they are born to. We are also not sure how to deal with these issues in a contextual level, we are also planning to have a closed season like that of Ghana, so that it will replenish our resources. The statement also looks interesting to me, however it would have been better if it were little shorter and in a simpler language. When I go back home, I have to take this to our people, our associations and the ministry; I am little concerned about of the language in this regard and I would

also like us to have concrete actions defined in the statement. My message to women is to **be courageous and preseverent, because we are in difficult times.**

### THE SSF WATCH

**Gambia:**The SSF account for about 75% of the country's total fish production and employ over 200,000 people, including fishers, processors, and traders. The country also has "Traditional management systems", in many parts of The Gambia, small-scale fisheries are managed using traditional systems that are based on community participation and cooperation

**Kenya:** According to the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, small-scale fisheries account for over 80% of Kenya's total fish production and employ over 100,000 people. Despite their importance, small-scale fishers face various challenges face economic challenges, with limited access to markets, inadequate infrastructure, and low prices for their catch

**Senegal:** The SSF sector employs over 100,000 people in the country, The sector contributes approximately 34% of the country's total marine fish production. One of the most notable aspects of the sector is its history and the role it has played in the country's struggle against apartheid

**Seychelles:** The sector provides employment and income for more than 1 million people, In 2018, it produced a total of 1,272,232 metric tons of fish, which accounted for approximately 80% of the total fish production in the country and contributes significantly to the country's food security.



A glimpse from the Photo sharing session detailing role of women in the SSF



## OU SONT NOS DES POISSONS !



The most important thing we need to do is to support the least

privileged. I think the discussions here were very supportive in this regard. Especially, in the case of women, their needs to be prioritised.

While talking about Senegal, we have many policies and legislations, the recent one Local Small-scale fishing Councils (CLPA) is very idealistic but when it comes to implementation part, there is a huge gap. We have around 81 CLPAs in Senegal, but communities still doesn't have any decision making power. Our sea safety issues are gruesome, we have many casualties at sea, there are projects on geolocation of SSF fishing boats, but we don't see that in action. Many fishers go missing too for weeks but we are unable to track them down. Many of the SSF boats are not registered and licenced from 2018, because of which we are not considered legal.

## WOMEN IN SMALL SCALE FISHERIES

The women's exchanges discussed the role, challenges and opportunities for women in the African region. The panel discussions brought fresh perspectives on women in SSF. Female representatives talked about the impact of blue economy, pollution, and digital exclusion on the livelihood of female fishworkers and demanded specific measures addressing the needs of women in SSF



A panel of women discussing the major challenges and opportunities for women in SSF in the African region.

### Workshop webpage!

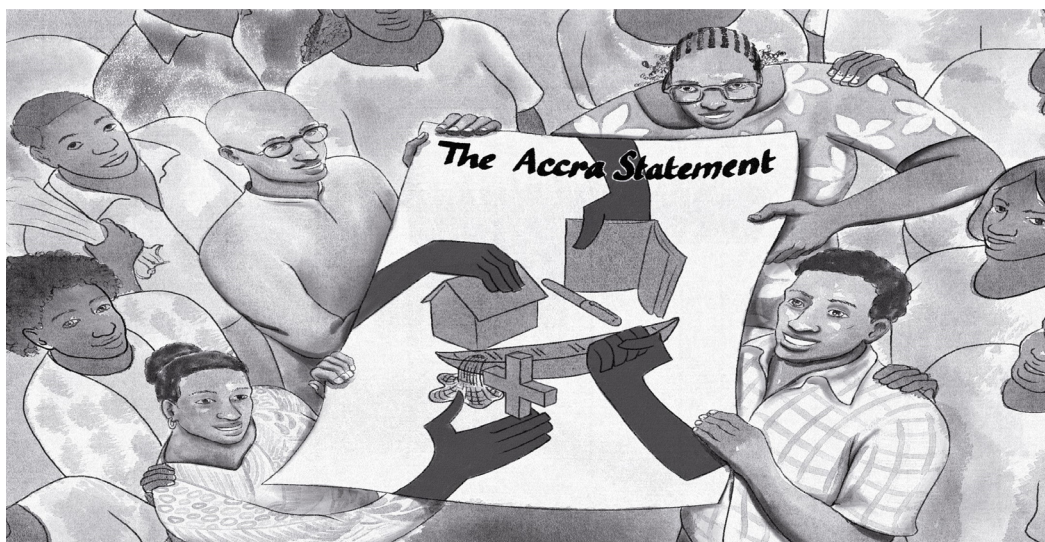
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### WHAT IS FOR TODAY

- Social Development -Group presentation
- Group discussions
- Workshop statement adoption





## CLOSING REMARKS



The IYAFA workshop (2023) has been a valuable experience, as expressed by the different participants in attendance. This workshop has offered an important moment of reflection of SSF in the continent. We took stock of the challenges but also used the moment to collectively strategize around national and regional solutions (Sibongiseni Gwebani, South Africa). It has been a platform for sharing ideas, networking and learning from each other better ways for sustainable resource management, including collaborative governance between

(Bassirou Diatta, Senegal); We have also shared how women's agency and mobilization have made a difference to women participation in the fisheries and SSF economies and homes, strategies which were worth emulating (Hadija Malibiche, Tanzania). Workshops such as these will remain immensely important as the continent shapes itself to be an important player and agent in the SSF global platform. Thank you for your active participation and valuable contributions and it is our expectation that the learnings from this workshop will be relevant and applicable to you in your national contexts. Let the spirit of sharing continue....

## THANK YOU NOTE



The Interpretation team.



The Photography team



Audio and Videography team



The Kitchen Team

# SAMUDRA

pour Accra

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

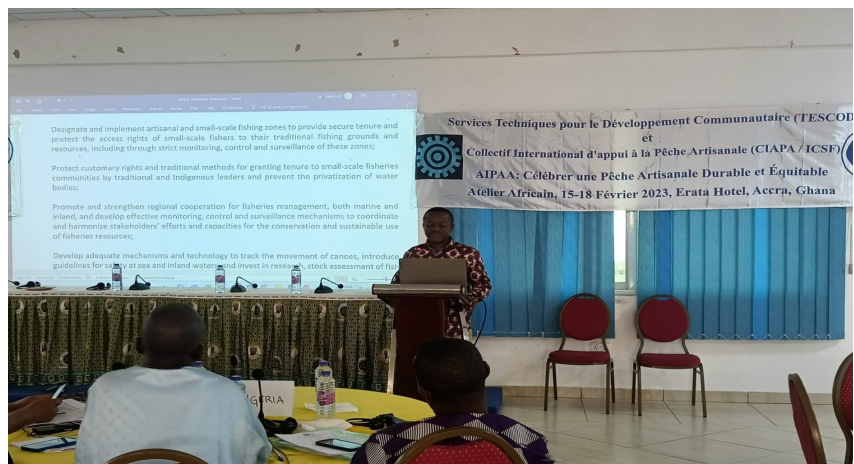


## The Accra statement 2023

L'atelier régional de quatre jours sur l'Afrique s'est terminé le 18 février 2022, avec l'adoption de la Déclaration de l'Afrique 2023

### RÉSUMER

- Photo Sharing
- Towards a gender plan of action
- Social Development



Présentation de la déclaration de l'atelier Afrique

“Aller à la pêche est l'un des le plus agréable expériences je peux imaginer.”

Fennel Hudson



L'adoption de la déclaration africaine à Accra a marqué la conclusion de l'atelier régional africain. La déclaration, reconnaissant les défis existants et nouveaux auxquels est confrontée la pêche artisanale dans la région, a appelé les gouvernements nationaux africains, les organismes régionaux de pêche et la FAO à protéger les droits des pêcheurs, à assurer la durabilité des ressources et à sauvegarder la bonne mise en œuvre des politiques. La déclaration a également réaffirmé la nécessité de promouvoir la justice entre les sexes et le développement social et de protéger les droits traditionnels et les connaissances des communautés de pêcheurs à petite échelle.

### BRISE-GLACE AU GHANA

- Comment allez-vous- !te s1n? (Ete sern?)
- Je vais bien- me ho yɛ? (Meho ye)
- Comment se passe la rencontre- Nhyiamu no ɛɛkɔ sɛn?

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Discussions
- Opinion
- SSF Watch
- Voices of Women
- Resources

## Développement social, emploi et travail décent

La session a commencé par des présentations de Benjamin Campion et du réseau de la communauté côtière de Mwambao. Benjamin a donné un aperçu historique de l'évolution des discours sur le travail décent et a détaillé les manières dont il est adopté dans les espaces politiques et a offert une vérification de la réalité sur l'adoption de la même chose. La deuxième présentation a porté sur les moyens de relever ces défis. Les présentations détaillées par la suite guidées par des questions portant sur

les différentes politiques et stratégies de développement social ont mis en évidence la disponibilité des différentes politiques au niveau national. Les principaux défis identifiés par les participants étaient ceux des lacunes de mise en œuvre et des lacunes d'accès qui les en privent. Les participants ont également réaffirmé la nécessité d'avoir des politiques différenciées pour l'ESS compte tenu de leur vulnérabilité différentielle.

### LE FORUM CULTUREL

Une chanson française originale écrite par le participant

*“Ho L’Afrique  
Soyons Tous unis  
A la protection de nos  
Resources Afois  
Vive L’Afrique # ensemble*

**Que veut dire la chanson :**

Unir l’Afrique pour protéger nos ressources naturelles.



**Daita Bassirou, Senegal**

“En avant toujours, en arrière jamais”



*“abeb Albah Albasir  
Nab alhawm  
Waramail fi se bilak  
yeshad fi me nishki”*

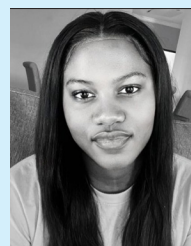
Une chanson arabe chantée par les pêcheurs lors de leur voyage vers la mer. Le chant est accompagné de percussions rythmiques.

**Salem Mohammad Gaffar, Djibouti**

**Ce que cela veut dire :**

J’ai hâte de voir le banc de poissons dans la mer nous sommes les nuages de la mer, jetant nos ombres dans les eaux et le sable de la plage partage notre sentiment

### Avis



**Sibongiseni  
Candy Gwebani**

**South Africa**

Des plateformes comme celle-ci sont incroyablement bonnes pour construire

une compréhension collective, des expériences collectives et des solutions collectives. La composante des discussions sur le genre était très intéressante, mais je crois que les espaces pour les femmes ne devraient pas se limiter aux discussions sur le genre, nous devrions être prioritaires dans toutes les discussions car elles font partie intégrante de toutes les étapes de SSF. Je vais intégrer une grande partie de ces enseignements dans nos plans de travail en Afrique du Sud au niveau national. Je pense que le langage de la déclaration devait être plus fort et direct, afin qu’il offre une approche ferme des transformations de genre.



**Sid’Ahmed  
Abeid,  
Mauritania**

L’atelier a été l’occasion de grands échanges. La déclaration a été la meilleure partie de l’atelier

pour moi. Il comportait des éléments de toutes les discussions dont nous avons discuté, il a été encore augmenté avec les discussions que les participants ont eues sur le projet. Je le vois comme un outil qui peut être apporté aux gouvernements pour des actions concrètes. Le transport du poisson à travers les pays d’Afrique, les problèmes d’assainissement, l’intrusion des chalutiers, le manque de ressources financières et les défis liés au genre sont les principaux problèmes dans ma région. Je pense que la déclaration touche à toutes ces questions, je vais la transmettre aux associations et au ministère pour action.



## Voix de femmes



### Rose Adjoavi Togbenou, Togo

Ce fut une expérience intéressante de faire partie de cet atelier, d'avoir l'occasion de se réunir et de discuter de nos défis communs. Je pense que le défi majeur pour les femmes en SSF est l'épuisement des ressources qui les pousse hors de SSF et les oblige à adopter des activités génératrices de revenus alternatives alors que SSF est l'endroit où elles sont nées. Nous ne savons pas non plus comment traiter ces problèmes au niveau contextuel, nous prévoyons également d'avoir une saison fermée comme celle du Ghana, afin qu'elle reconstitue nos ressources. La déclaration me semble également intéressante, mais il aurait été préférable qu'elle soit un peu plus courte et dans un langage plus simple. Quand je rentre chez moi, je dois porter cela à nos gens, à nos associations et au ministère; Je suis peu préoccupé par le langage à cet égard et j'aimerais aussi qu'on ait des actions concrètes définies dans

l'énoncé. Mon message aux femmes est d'être courageuses et persévérantes, car nous traversons des moments difficiles.

### THE SSF WATCH

**Gambia:** La pêche artisanale représente environ 75% de la production totale de poisson du pays et emploie plus de 200 000 personnes, dont des pêcheurs, des transformateurs et des commerçants. Le pays dispose également de «systèmes de gestion traditionnels», dans de nombreuses régions de la Gambie, la pêche à petite échelle est gérée à l'aide de systèmes traditionnels basés sur la participation et la coopération communautaires.

**Kenya:** Selon le Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, la pêche artisanale représente plus de 80% de la production totale de poisson du Kenya et emploie plus de 100 000 personnes. Malgré leur importance, les petits pêcheurs sont confrontés à divers défis face à des défis économiques, avec un accès limité aux marchés, des infrastructures inadéquates et des prix bas pour leurs prises

**Senegal:** Le secteur SSF emploie plus de 100 000 personnes dans le pays. Le secteur contribue à environ 34% de la production totale de poissons marins du pays. L'un des aspects les plus remarquables du secteur est son histoire et le rôle qu'il a joué dans la lutte du pays contre l'apartheid

**Seychelles:** Le secteur fournit des emplois et des revenus à plus d'un million de personnes. En 2018, il a produit un total de 1 272 232 tonnes métriques de poisson, ce qui représente environ 80 % de la production totale de poisson du pays et contribue de manière significative à la sécurité alimentaire du pays.



Un aperçu de la session de partage de photos détaillant le rôle des femmes dans la SSF



## OU SONT NOS DES POISSONS !



La chose la plus importante que nous devons faire est de soutenir les moins privilégiés.

Je pense que les discussions ici ont été très encourageantes à cet égard. Surtout, dans le cas des femmes, leurs besoins doivent être prioritaires.

En parlant du Sénégal, nous avons de nombreuses politiques et législations, la récente Conseils locaux de la pêche artisanale (CLPA) est très idéaliste mais en ce qui concerne la partie mise en œuvre, il y a un énorme fossé. Nous avons environ 81 CLPA au Sénégal, mais les communautés n'ont toujours aucun pouvoir de décision. Nos problèmes de sécurité en mer sont horribles, nous avons de nombreuses victimes en mer, il y a des projets sur la géolocalisation des bateaux de pêche SSF, mais nous ne voyons pas cela en action. De nombreux pêcheurs disparaissent également pendant des semaines, mais nous sommes incapables de les retrouver. De nombreux bateaux SSF ne sont pas immatriculés et licenciés depuis 2018, raison pour laquelle nous ne sommes pas considérés comme légaux.

## WOMEN IN SMALL SCALE FISHERIES

Les échanges de femmes ont discuté du rôle, des défis et des opportunités pour les femmes dans la région africaine. Les tables rondes ont apporté de nouvelles perspectives sur les femmes en SSF. Les représentantes ont parlé de l'impact de l'économie bleue, de la pollution et de l'exclusion numérique sur les moyens de subsistance des travailleuses de la pêche et ont exigé des mesures spécifiques répondant aux besoins des femmes en pêche artisanale



Un panel de femmes discutant des principaux défis et opportunités pour les femmes en SSF dans la région africaine.

### Page web de l'atelier !

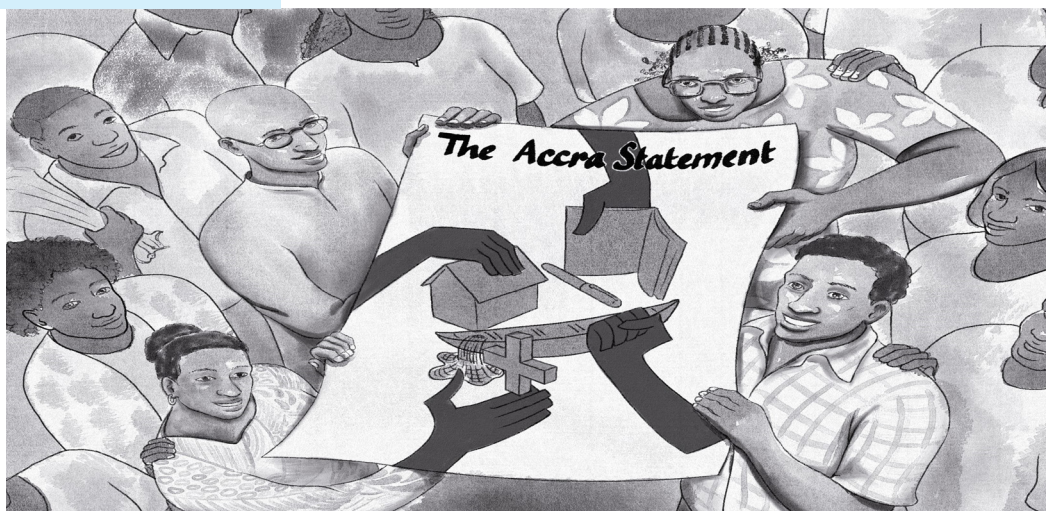
Veuillez consulter la page ICSF Africa Workshop ici pour des mises à jour régulières :

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

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### QU'EST-CE QU'IL Y A AUJOURD'HUI

- Développement social
- Groupe présentation
- Discussions de groupe
- Adoption de la déclaration de l'atelier



## MOT DE LA FIN



L'atelier IYafa (2023) a été une expérience précieuse, comme l'ont exprimé les différents participants présents. Cet atelier a offert un moment important de réflexion sur SSF dans le continent. Nous avons fait le point sur les défis mais avons également profité du moment pour élaborer collectivement des stratégies autour de solutions nationales et régionales (Sibongiseni Gwebani, Afrique du Sud). Il a été une plate-forme pour partager des idées, réseauter et apprendre les uns des autres de meilleures façons de gérer durablement les ressources, y compris la gouvernance collaborative entre

(Bassirou Diatta, Senegal); Nous avons également partagé comment l'agence et la mobilisation des femmes ont fait une différence pour la participation des femmes dans les économies et les foyers de la pêche et des SSF, des stratégies qui valaient la peine d'être imitées (Hadija Malibiche, Tanzanie). Des ateliers comme ceux-ci resteront extrêmement importants alors que le continent se façonne pour devenir un acteur et un agent important de la plate-forme mondiale SSF. Merci pour votre participation active et vos précieuses contributions et nous espérons que les enseignements tirés de cet atelier seront pertinents et applicables pour vous dans vos contextes nationaux. **Que l'esprit de partage continue....**

## NOTE DE REMERCIEMENT



L'équipe d'interprétation.



L'équipe Photographique



Equipe Audio et Vidéographie



L'équipe de cuisine







Organized by



**International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)**  
and  
**Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD)**



## **Africa Workshop – IYAFA**

### **Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-Scale Fisheries**

International collective in support of fishworkers (ICSF) in partnership with Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD), Ghana had organized an International Workshop titled “IYAFA -Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries: Africa” from 15 to 18 February 2023 at Accra, Ghana. The Africa workshop was the third in the series of four regional workshops planned by ICSF in connection with the proclamation of 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) by the United Nations. The workshop revolved around discussions on the SSF Guidelines implementation and monitoring and specifically focused on the themes of tenure rights, social development and gender and women in fisheries. The workshop had a diverse group of 50 participants from CSOs, CBOs and FWOs from 16 participating countries namely- Tunisia, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti and Seychelles. The discussions of four day workshop resulted in the formulation of a ‘The African regional action plan: Women and gender in fisheries’ and the ‘ The IYAFA Africa statement’.

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