

# THE WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISH WORKERS (WFF)

## WFF GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT 2012



## WFF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

P.O. Box 33929 Kampala, Uganda

Tel/ Fax + 256 414 348 774

+ 256 772 748 774

[info@worldfisherforum.org](mailto:info@worldfisherforum.org)

[worldfisherforum@gmail.com](mailto:worldfisherforum@gmail.com)

[www.worldfisherforum.org](http://www.worldfisherforum.org)

## Contents

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....	ii
MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CO- PRESIDENTS 2004 – 2012 .....	1
BACKGROUND.....	3
METHODOLOGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAININGS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ....	4
INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL SCALE FISHERIES (IG SSF). ....	7
VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND FISHERIES AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (VGGT).....	9
THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS .....	10
THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) AND CIVIL SOCIETY MECHANISM (CSM). ....	11
REVIEW OF THE WFF’S PAST PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME 2012 - 2016. ....	12
WOMEN IN FISHERIES.....	12
CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE WORLD FISHERIES DAY AT GGABA BEACH .....	14
ELECTING NEW WFF LEADERS .....	15
WFF SMALL SCALE LABEL .....	16
REVIEW OF THE WFF CONSTITUTION.....	16
LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY AND THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA. ....	17
GENERAL OUTCOMES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE TRAINING .....	19

## List of abbreviations

BMU	Beach Management Unit
CC	Coordination Committee
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CSM	Civil Society Mechanism
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GSF	Global strategic framework
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fish Workers
IG SSF	International Guidelines for Small Scale Fisheries
IPC	International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty
IUU	Illegal unreported & unregulated
SSF	Small Scale Fisheries
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher People
WFP	World Food Program
rai	responsible agriculture investment



## **Message from the Outgoing Co- Presidents 2004 – 2012**

Dear Readers,

Warm greetings to you all, happy new-year wishes from World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF). We take this opportunity to share with you all the outcomes of the long awaited 2012 WFF General Assembly and training that at first seemed like an impossible dream!

Since the last General Assembly in 2004, the 2012 General Assembly was successfully conducted in Uganda, hosted by Katosi Women Development Trust, a member of the WFF. There is no doubt that this meeting could not be a success without the commitment of time, financial and other forms of resources to support us in this endeavour.

We thank (not in order of importance); the Civil Society Mechanism, Foundation Charles Leopold Mayer (FPH), Greenfields (U) Ltd in Entebbe, International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF), International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC), Karibu Foundation, MIVA/OneMen, FAO fisheries department, More and Better, and Oxfam Novib.

Special appreciation goes to our interpreters who volunteered their time to support this work, outgoing Executive Committee members of the WFF, the Board of Directors KWDT, KWDT Staff Association of Fishers and Lake Users of Uganda and Volunteers for their commitment to the preparation of the meeting.

For the European WFF members who were not able to join us for financial reasons, we pledge not to let this happen again and we thank you for standing with us from a distance.

To our resource person and guest participants, the fraternity of the WFF extends most sincere gratitude for accepting to join us. Your notes and inputs will definitely help us to find improved ways of collaboration between you and our office.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work of the WFF members and the successful contribution to the livelihood of fisher folk.

To the new Co-Presidents, we look forward to working with you to continue to strengthen our efforts for improved small-scale fisher folk livelihoods.

**Arthur Bogason**

**Iceland: Europe**

**Margaret Nakato**

**Uganda: Africa**

## INCOME

Funder	Currency	Amount	Amount in UG shs.
International Collective in Support of Fish Workers <sup>1</sup>	\$	12,000	31,031,040
Miva/OneMen	€	600	1,947,000
Oxfam Novib	€	10,000	34,300,000
Names withheld on request	\$	20,000	52,777,375
Karibu Foundation	€	10,000	34,400,000
More & Better	€	1000	3,325,000
Civil Society Mechanism of the CFS	\$	10,000	26,700,000
Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer	€	10,000	30,000,000
National Association of Small Boat Owners (NASBO) Iceland	\$	2,000	5,340,000
			<b>219,820,415</b>
			<b>€ 62,184</b>

<sup>1</sup> Funds obtained jointly by the CSOs coordination group for activities related to the IG SSF process and channeled through the ICSF to the WFF

## 1. BACKGROUND

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish workers (WFF) is an international organization that brings together small-scale fisher organizations with the objective of empowering small scale fisheries organizations to influence both national and international policies that affect their rights of access, use and control and sustainability of the fisheries resources for improved livelihoods.

Since the last General Assembly in 2004, the organization had been loosely coordinated until 2010 when the Executive Committee made a decision to transfer the secretariat to Uganda under the coordination of Margaret Nakato who has been one of the Co-Presidents.

The WFF have since made significant progress in strengthening its membership, with the development and updating of the website ([www.worldfisherforum.org](http://www.worldfisherforum.org)), creation of emailing lists, and production of a newsletter on a quarterly basis, recruiting new members, enhancing coordination of the existing members, and informing them on the important international fisheries policies and processes. The network currently brings together 38 organizations from 37 countries from all over the world.

The implementation of the WFF Executive Committee decision taken in February 2012 in Paris to hold a General Assembly between 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in Africa-Uganda, not only aimed to offer an opportunity for small scale fisher organizations to have a common position on various fisheries issues, but also to include seminar/trainings on policy issues to strengthen the skills and knowledge of small scale fisher organizations' leaders to mobilize and organize small scale fisher communities.

Seminars/Trainings on policy included:

1. International Guidelines for securing sustainable small –scale fisheries
2. Working of the Civil Society Mechanism of the reformed Committee of the World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
3. Global strategic Framework and principles of responsible agricultural investment.
4. Process of development and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for responsible tenure of land fisheries and forests.

The General Assembly and training thus built the capacity of WFF members to follow up on international processes and to take part in making important decisions especially those that affect food security of fisher communities.

The report will provide the main points discussed during the plenary and working groups' sessions as well as the outcomes of the 4 days' meetings and training, and the issues for follow up.

## **2. METHODOLOGY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The meeting was attended by a total number of 26 international participants and 30 national participants, supported by 4 interpreters and 7 volunteers bringing together a total of 67 people. It took a total of 4 days; 13 sessions were conducted and a number of presentations made. Parallel group sessions followed most of the presentations and these allowed participants to further digest the issue being discussed, and relate it to their own continent. The parallel sessions were divided according to language, grouping people from the same continent so that they could also communicate more easily. Group recommendations were presented and discussed in the plenary.

Two field visits were conducted during the meetings. One presented an opportunity for members to see the practical situation and life of small-scale fisheries, using the case study of Kasenyi landing site and a visit to the fish processing factory Greenfields Uganda limited, while the other aimed at celebrating the World Fisheries day of 21<sup>st</sup> November together with the fisher people on Ggaba beach.

## **3. Reporting Back on Sessions**

### **DAY ONE SESSIONS**

#### **3.1. Opening Session**

##### **3.1.1. Opening Ceremony**

The opening ceremony was an exciting moment, a grand entrance of participants by continents and countries in alphabetical order, each holding their country's flag amidst traditional dances, gave momentum to the workshop.

A presentation of the workshop objectives by the Conference facilitator highlighted the aim of the assembly, that of creating awareness among WFF members of the existence and importance of some new international food security instruments.

##### **3.1.2. Speech by the Hon. Minister of State for Urban Development**

Hon. Rose Mary Najjemba, Minister of State for Urban Development noted that Uganda's natural water bodies cover a total of 42 000 km<sup>2</sup>, or about 18% of Uganda's total area, and fisheries play a very important role as a foundation of subsistence and commercial livelihoods.

She noted that fish has historically been Uganda's second major non-agricultural foreign exchange earner, after coffee. It's a source of cheap protein, employment and incomes for millions of Ugandans that work in fishing and fishing-related activities.

She further explained that Uganda seeks to maximize production from its waters for the major fisheries on Lake Victoria, while ensuring effective and sustainable management of the fisheries resources.

Regrettably however, she noted that until recently, most fisher communities in Uganda have been poor people, living in undesirable conditions! "We desire however, to move from situations where fisher people are the most vulnerable, poor, uneducated, with high HIV rates, and facing all kinds of problems, to situations where they are respected, empowered and their livelihoods improved"

Being the chairperson of the parliamentary committee on HIV, the State Minister also noted that fishing communities have higher rates of HIV than other communities in Uganda.

The State Minister in conclusion called upon all participants to renew their commitment especially to improve the lives of fisher people and their communities.

#### **3.1.3. *Speech by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Country Representative***

The FAO Country Director for Uganda, Mr. Alhaji M. Jallow graced the function on the first day of the meeting. He emphasized the importance of implementing global policies to achieve sustainable management of food systems even at local level. Mr. Jallow mentioned that there is also an increased need for international cooperation, and therefore thanked the WFF for this initiative of bringing together various actors from all levels to discuss issues of management of sustainable fisheries.

The FAO Country Director mentioned the importance of mainstreaming gender in food security issues including fisheries. He emphasized that there is a need to improve the livelihoods of people that depend on fisheries, especially for women and children.

He noted that the Food and Agricultural Organization is committed to providing technical and financial assistance to its member states, in order to so improve food security.

### **3.2. Field Visit to Kasenye Landing site and Greenfields**

The visit was intended to give an overview for the delegates and members of the life in fishing communities and the fishing business in Uganda, using Kasenye landing site and Greenfields Fish Processing Factory as examples.



## DAY TWO SESSIONS

### 3.2.1 Reporting back on Experience from the field visit

Following the field visit, participants had the opportunity to exchange their views and observations. Participants noted that poverty was so pronounced in this community and urged all stakeholders for concerted efforts.

The experience that was described as “Very fulfilling” by some and generated discussions on challenges faced by small-scale fishers similar to those in other parts of Africa. The participants were therefore able to observe that:

- Middlemen buy at low prices and sell at high; thus fishermen have very low wages from their hard work. A participant from Tunisia noted; *“What I found very interesting is that we are in the middle of Africa, we met with a few freshwater fishermen and the problems they are facing are the same as ours. This convinces me of the need to continue working together. It is possible to address our challenges through collaboration”*.
- The problems in the fishing sector were also similar even on other continents. Participants from Latin America noted: *“In America we see the same problems, people risk their lives and they receive very little for the work that they do”*.
- The prices for fish were high in all areas outside the landing site, yet most of the money goes to the middlemen, as the fishermen are paid very low prices from the fish that they catch.
- The women were involved in the fish-processing activities especially smoking and the selling of fish.
- There was something to learn at the end of the day. The participant from Sierra Leone however noted; *“The way the fish is transported, I want to ask for help, we do not have boxes for transporting fish in our country. It is difficult to get the fish to the points of consumption in a timely and hygienic manner”*
- Child labour was a common phenomenon that needs to be addressed.
- In some ways, the Uganda fishing sector was better than in many of their countries. The sanitation situation, especially in the factory was better than in some of their countries.

The participants wondered why the trip was not made to Katosi landing site where the host organization Katosi Women Development Trust works. Margaret Nakato, the former

Co-President of the WFF, informed the participants that what they saw in Kasenyi landing site was similar to what was in Katosi, including all the activities related to fishing and the trading activities around the lake. Lack of time to travel to Katosi with the tightly packed program made the trip to Katosi impractical.

- Margaret continued to explain more about the women at the landing site: “You saw the self-employment of the women in the fishing communities and their work environment; we want to support the women to do this work in better conditions”. The other activities they (KWDT) are engaged in are: silver fish processing production, empowering women to address other basic social needs in fisher communities, access to credit, diversification of activities, addressing health issues among others to improve livelihoods of women in fisher communities.

The sharing of experiences during the visit to the fisher communities prepared members to discuss the new international guidelines on small scale fisheries.

### **3.3 INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES (IG SSF)**

**The objectives of this session were to:**

1. Inform, update and engage members in the process of developing the IG SSF.
2. Come up with possible strategies of implementing the guidelines after their adoption.
3. Discuss the various forms and examples of child labour that exists in fishing communities.

**This interactive session covered among others:**

- The background leading to the development of the guidelines for small-scale fisheries.
- The ongoing process of developing the guidelines and how the civil society, is actively involved.
- The key issues concerning small-scale fisheries that the guidelines intend to address.
- The outcomes from various national and regional consultations that have been conducted as laid out in the synthesis documents as well as the existing gaps that still need consensus.
- Experience-sharing by Roy Anunciacion from the People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty helped to re-emphasize the challenges being faced by the small-scale fisheries from the various countries.

Breaking into groups, participants discussed:

- “What is your vision for small scale fisheries in the next 20 years?”

- Choose one or more key issues from the gray areas that arise from the civil society synthesis document, and provide answers to that.
- What are the possible implementation strategies for the IGSSF?



***Parallel group sessions were followed by plenary discussions***

After a thorough discussion of the guidelines, their content, and what WFF members would like to see included in the guidelines, participants went on to discuss possible implementation strategies. The following were identified:

***Proposals for implementation of the IGSSF***

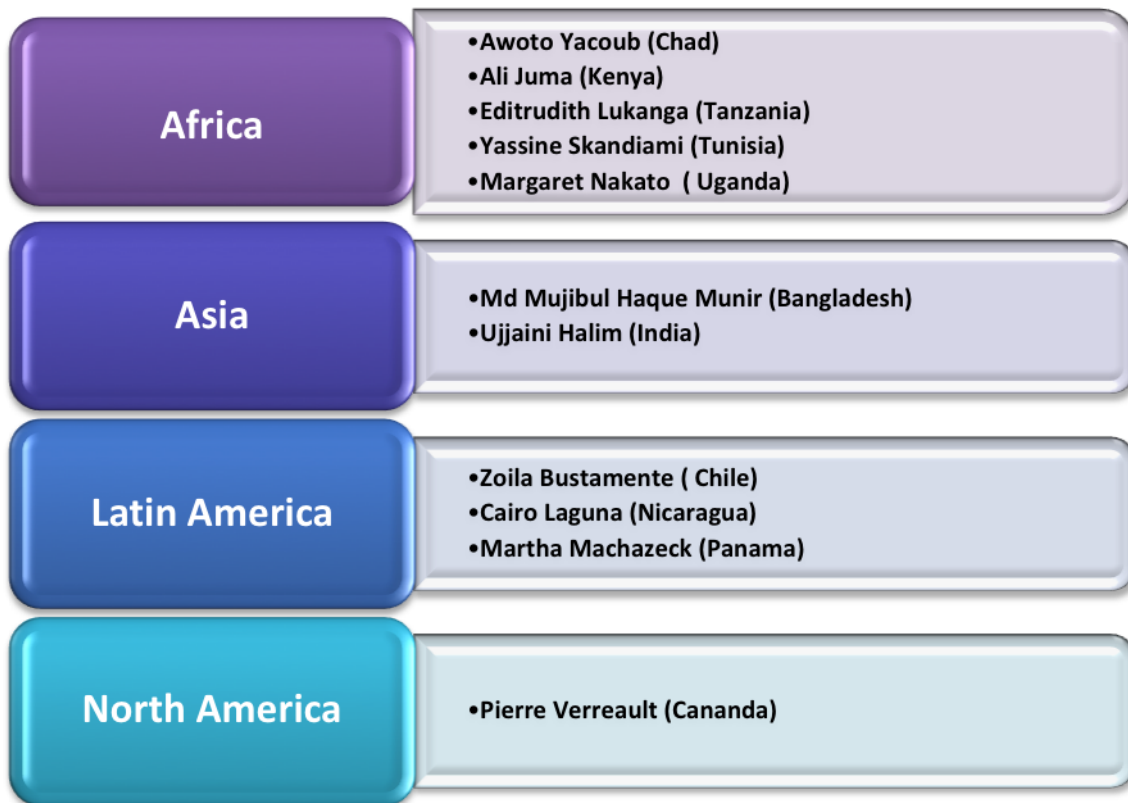
- ✓ WFF members and social movements should ensure that the guidelines are accepted and lobby for their implementation at national level.
- ✓ National steering committees for the implementation of the guidelines should be created, and small-scale fisheries should be part of these committees.
- ✓ National policies and laws should integrate the guidelines to ensure that they are mainstreamed at the national level.
- ✓ There should be massive dissemination of the guidelines from national to grass-root levels.
- ✓ At the national level, the guidelines should be translated into languages that SSF in various countries can understand, to meaningfully participate in the implementation
- ✓ Partnerships should be created with the various actors to mobilize resources for implementation of the guidelines.
- ✓ There is a need for strong participation of CSOs to ensure the implementation of the guidelines.
- ✓ Strong networking and collaboration among the key stakeholders at the national level.

The session was concluded by showing the linkage of the IG SSF to the right to food, the work of the UN special Rapporteur on the right to food and the need to lobby CFS to pay attention to the IG SSF.

### What now and what next?

As a way forward, a WFF working group on IG SSF was established to ensure that small-scale fishers use the international guidelines to secure sustainable small-scale fishers' livelihoods.

*The terms of reference for the WFF working groups are available on the WFF website [www.worldfisherforum.org](http://www.worldfisherforum.org) or upon request from the WFF secretariat.*



### 3.4. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND FISHERIES AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (VGGT)

This session was intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. Create awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of land, fisheries and forests.
2. Demonstrate the relevance of the guidelines to the fisheries sector.
3. Come up with possible implementation strategies and the roles of WFF members in implementing the guidelines.

It was facilitated by Ms Namaganda Rehema from the WFF secretariat in Uganda, Ujjaini Halim, the WFF Treasurer presented the context and contents of the VGGT as well as the inclusive process that led to the endorsement of the VGGT by the 38th (Special) Session of the CFS on 11 May 2012.

Emphasis was put on the role of States, courts and government agencies, individuals and communities, civil society, investors, academics, making use of the guidelines.



#### ***What now and what next?***

The discussion was concluded by formation of the WFF working Group to follow up on the implementation of the guidelines.

Africa	Asia	Latin America
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Ali Juma (Kenya)</li><li>•Editrudith Lukanga (Tanzania)</li><li>•Margaret Nakato (Uganda)</li><li>•Rehema Namaganda (Uganda)</li><li>•David Eli (Ghana)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ujjaini Halim (India)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Cairo Laguna (Nicaragua)</li></ul>

### **3.5. Thematic Presentations**

The Objectives of this session included to:

1. Promote understanding, share and develop a common position on issues affecting fisher communities.



2. Exchange information among members on the work done by each member in their own country.

### **3.5.1 Climate change and land-grabbing in small-scale fisheries**

The land-grabbing topic was discussed in the context of the Commons and how it affects fishing communities. The presentation highlighted the people most affected by land-grabbing, with a case study from West Bengal that was shared by Ujjaini.

It was specifically highlighted that the land-grabbing practice greatly denies the communities' right to food. Other issues discussed during this session included the marine protected areas.

It was resolved that WFF should focus on the issue of land-grabbing in the forthcoming programs, and make use of the various food security instruments and guidelines as discussed above, in order to reduce the practice and impact of the land-grabbing.

## **DAY THREE SESSIONS**

### **3.6. THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) AND CIVIL SOCIETY MECHANISM (CSM)**

This session intended to:

1. Introduce, create awareness about the CFS and the CSM, the Global Strategic Framework (GSF) and responsible agriculture investment.

It was facilitated by Margaret Nakato, the outgoing WFF female Co-President and CSM Coordination Committee member representing the fisher constituency, supported by Judith Anne Hitchman, Ujjaini Halim and Rehema Namaganda. The team explained the background to the reform and formation of the CFS, CSM.

In addition, presentations were made on the Global Strategic (GSF) Framework and the principles of responsible agricultural investment (rai), the role of the CSOs in the processes, status of the processes and concluded by highlighting the opportunities for the participation of the fisher constituency in processes and the relevance of their contribution to the fisheries sector.



### ***What now and what next?***

The discussion was followed by formation of the WFF working Group to follow up on the issues of the CFS under the CSM.



### **3. 7. REVIEW OF THE WFF’S PAST AND THE PROGRAMME 2012 - 2016**

This session was facilitated by the outgoing WFF male Co-President, Arthur Bogason. He explained the past organizational challenges and presented the new strategies that have been put in place to improve the WFF administration and management.

A draft of the proposed WFF programs was presented to the members for discussion in parallel group sessions. As resources become available, the WFF will focus on the defined priority areas for the next 4 years with particular attention to facilitating regional initiatives as requested by the WFF members.

**A copy of the WFF Programs for 2012 – 2016 is available upon request, or can be downloaded from the WFF website.**

### **3.8. WOMEN IN FISHERIES**

The objectives of this session were to:

1. Identify the key issues affecting women in the sector.
2. Develop the rationale for the establishment of the gender and women’s working group of the WFF.

Chandrika congratulated the WFF for identifying this as an important issue because it is often sidelined. And after a thorough discussion on the issues affecting women in the fishing communities, a working group was formed to follow up on this and come up with strategies to address it.

*Margaret shares her experience on the lives of women in fishing communities in Uganda*

“With improved handling of fish after harvest, there is less and less fish rejected by processing factories, thus less fish for women to smoke/process. Some factories are also operating below capacity. Competition for the fish and fish bi-products is high. Many women do not have enough capital to enable them to stay in the processing industry. Women are gradually being pushed out of the fishing sector. When you go to the fishing communities, there are 2 main kinds of population; one is women and you will see up to like 5 women for one man. Another one is children; you will see 10 children in one family. There is a great need for specific attention to be paid to these two categories of people in fishing communities”

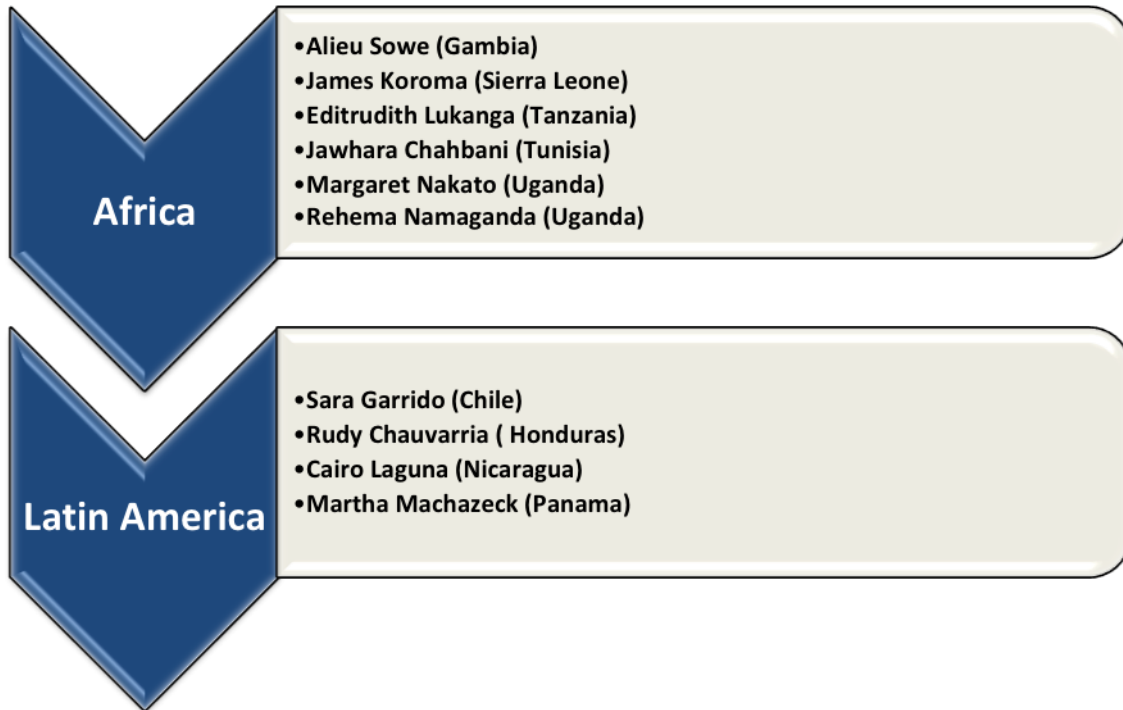
Participants suggested that it is important that we encourage group formation among women in fishing communities, to make it easier for them to coordinate on various opportunities, and also to enable them become more organized and take part in decision-making processes and their voices heard effectively.





### ***What now and what next?***

The WFF working group on women in fisheries was formed. It aims to specifically look at the issues that do affect women in small-scale fisheries.



### **3.9. Celebrations to Mark the World Fisheries Day at Ggaba beach**

The World Fisheries Day was marked and celebrated at Ggaba landing site. Fisheries officers and fishermen from islands and other community members working and living in these fishing communities joined the WFF in this event restating the importance of fisheries to eradicate of poverty, and as a source of food and livelihoods for small-scale fishers.



### 3.10. Electing new WFF leaders

The election of new leaders for the WFF presided over by an independent electoral committee made up of volunteers and non-WFF members followed a democratic process. The committee consisted of;

1. Chandrika Sharma from the ICSF India
2. Mr. Kizza Francis- Independent consultant in fisheries (Uganda)
3. Capt. Esau Tisasira- Uganda Farmers Federation (Uganda)

All Regions nominated their candidates who expressed their interest to occupy the 5 available leadership positions of 2 Co-Presidents, 1 Treasurer, 1 Secretary and 1 Committee Member on the Executive Committee.

The voting process followed the secret ballot method with one vote for each of the member organizations to elect members of the Executive Committee.

#### The new WFF Coordination Committee 2012 - 2016

	Continent	Female	Male
1	Africa	Editrudith Lukanga Tanzania	Yassine Skandrani Tunisia
2	Asia	Ujjaini Halim India	Md Mujibul Haque Munir Bangladesh
3	Europe		Arthur Bogason Iceland
4	Latin America	Zoila Soledad Bustamante Chile	Cairo Laguna Nicaragua
5	North America		Pierre Verreault Canada

#### The new WFF Executive Committee 2012 - 2016

	Position	Female	Male
1	Co-Presidents	Editrudith Lukanga Tanzania	Cairo Laguna Nicaragua
2	Treasurer	Ujjain Halim India	
3	Secretary General		Pierre Verreault Canada
4	Member of the EC	Arthur Bogason Iceland	Margaret Nakato Uganda

### **3.11. WFF small-scale label**

Arthur Bogason the former WFF Co-President introduced the small-scale fisheries label that was being developed. He noted that the objective of the label is to identify the small-scale fisheries products from those of other fisheries such as the industrial fisheries on the market. He mentioned that this is the only label in the world that is going to distinguish small-scale fisheries products from those of industrial fisheries.

The label is developed by the WFF, in partnership with the Responsible Fisheries Alliance (RFA).

Members appreciated WFF leadership and specifically Arthur who had championed the process. They noted that this was very much needed in the sector and that they would give their support whenever required in the development of the label.

It is expected that the label will help to control the behavior in the management of fisheries resources even among the artisanal fishers.

After its development, the WFF Executive Committee together with the secretariat will proceed to ensure that the label is certified as well as being publicized in the various fishing communities.

### **3. 12. Review of the WFF constitution**

The objective of this session was to ensure that the WFF constitution addresses the current needs of the Network.

The discussion kick-started the process of amending the WFF constitution until the next GA for approval of amendments. The comments made have been compiled in a separate document and will form the basis of future analysis and review of the WFF constitution.

#### **What now and what next?**

It was resolved that a working group on the constitution be established to continue the discussions within their regions through virtual means.



### 3.13. Lobbying and advocacy and the use of Social Media

The objective of this session was to equip members with knowledge on how to use social media to promote their work and the rights of small-scale fisheries in their various communities.

The presentation on lobbying and advocacy and use of social media was made by Skandrane Yassine of Tunisia.

Given that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; all individuals have a right to information and free expression of opinion, the presenter highlighted the various forms of media that can be used to give and receive information such as posters, bill boards, press magazines, classical media, cinema, internet and all media is aimed at attracting people's attention to the particular issue or event.

He introduced all social media tools that include; Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and urged members to develop a strategy for the use of these social media.

He pointed out that Facebook is currently visible to almost every one and can make a lasting impression.

Among the advantages of using social media such as Facebook, the presenter noted that through it you meet people who may be important for your organization. You can initiate discussions among members on topics that are relevant for them, other people who are outside your network may join your discussions, share their experiences and advice that may be useful for you.

That when you have more people that "like" your page, many more people- even those that you do not know will get the message on your Facebook. It generally helps to bridge

communication gaps between you and the outside world and may also be a channel for fundraising if used appropriately.

For effective use of this and more social media, the presenter urged the members to: avoid repeating the same things, use lots of photos and videos to communicate their message, launch events on Facebook, keep people updated, be creative all the time, and remember that everything you post has an impact.

Participants shared other forms of technology and social networking; for example; fisher people who use mobile phones to know the prices while they are still on the lake and they decide whether and when to come back to the main land to sell their fish.

While the session and presentation was very much appreciated, various members were concerned about the many fisher organizations including members of the WFF that do not have even a single computer in their office, making it difficult and even impossible to use such social media that need constant updating.



### Concluding remarks

- ❖ Ujjaini Halim encouraged members to sign up to defend the rights of small-scale fisheries on the food sovereignty network; [www.foodsov-southasin.org](http://www.foodsov-southasin.org).
- ❖ Chandrika in her concluding remarks noted that although we are making a lot of strides at the international level, the local level is not keeping pace. She said that this was a challenge to all WFF members to ensure that the decisions that are made at the global level are translated into concrete actions that change lives at the local community level.
- ❖ The incoming WFF Executive members gave brief speeches thanking all members for entrusting them to lead the network, pledging their commitment to take the WFF to

greater heights, but also thanking the outgoing Executive Committee for their past dedicated leadership.

- ❖ The outgoing Executive members thanked all members for their contribution for having made this GA possible. They noted that the WFF has been and will continue to be close to their heart. They expressed hope that the WFF will have another smoother road ahead than it has had in the past.

#### **4. General outcomes of the GA and the Training**

The four days meeting that included both the international training and General Assembly had the following key outcomes:

- 4.1. It emerged as the first physical meeting for the WFF members since 2004, old members renewed commitment to the cause of the WFF, while giving the new members an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the network.
- 4.2. It strengthened the relationship between WFF and other actors in the sector, in both Uganda and other countries. These include the FAO country office, the department of fisheries in Uganda, Beach Management Units (BMUs), ICSF, WFFP members in Uganda among others.
- 4.3. The WFF performance for the past years was reviewed, gaps identified and a way forward to inform the WFF programs, was put in place.
- 4.4. Members gained knowledge and understanding on the international ongoing CFS processes such as the VGGT, IGSSF, GSF, and rai among others, and working groups formed to follow up.
- 4.5. Members learnt about the Civil Society Mechanism and strategies for increasing their participation in the Mechanism were put in place through the section of working groups from each of the regions that would follow up on the CFS /CSM processes.
- 4.6. WFF members gained knowledge in social networking and specifically on how to use Facebook.
- 4.7. New leadership for the WFF was put in place that will lead the network for the next four years until the next General Assembly that is expected to take place in the year 2016.





## 5. EXPENDITURE

Description of activity	Ug. Shs.	Total €	%
Air Tickets	116,387,504	32,924	53
Local Conveyance	9,693,800	2,742	4
Accommodation	15,560,702	4,402	7
Meals	22,945,700	6,491	10
Venue	3,775,000	1,068	2
Hire Of Equipment	8,143,899	2,304	4
Documentation, Audit	22,040,000	6,235	10
Translation Of Documents	9,534,430	2,697	4
Communication Internet, Postage	3,669,800	1,038	2
Stationery Requirements Photocopy	4,671,200	1,321	2
Other Expenses	3,456,350	978	2
Bank Transfer Fees	793,321	224	0.4
	<b>220,671,706</b>	<b>62,425</b>	<b>100</b>