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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EMEDO	Environmental Management and Economic Development Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IBAR	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fish workers
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable Small Scale Fisheries
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
KWDT	Katosi Women Development Trust
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
SSF	Small Scale Fisheries
UFFCA	Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher People

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African Regional capacity building workshop towards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) was hosted by Katosi Women Development Trust in Uganda. The workshop was attended by a total of 38 participants from over 11 African countries including members of CSOs, governmental officers, and representatives of inter-governmental bodies including FAO and IFAD.

Among others, the workshop intended to; (1) Promote awareness about the SSF Guidelines, and its implications for the small scale fisher people, as well as gender equality and social development, (2) Identify and discuss how Africa fisheries policies and regulations at various levels can be influenced by the SSF Guidelines so as to further improve the live hoods of small scale fisheries, and (3) To identify possible further steps of implementing the guidelines at the various levels in the region.

22 organisations and institutions representatives, learnt its content, received booklets, posters, video presentation of SSF guidelines and committed to further disseminate them and make attempts to mainstream the guidelines in their work.

Recommendations and possible actions were identified and categorized into actions to; (1) Improving Knowledge, Information and Communication, (2) Research and Development and finally (3) Improved access to services



Discussion on “Responsible fisheries and sustainable development was enriched by Panellist; Mr. Charles Brown Chairman, Association of Fishers and Lake Users of Uganda, Ms. Daisy Olyeza from Min. of Agriculture and Animal Fisheries and Mr. Romulus Mulambi the District Fisheries Officer, Mukono.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The African Regional capacity building workshop towards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for small scale fisheries took place between the 19th to 21st of December 2016. The workshop offered a unique opportunity for the various actors in fisheries in Africa to meet and discuss fisheries issues pertinent to them, in light of the Guidelines for small scale fisheries.

The workshop follows the recognition of the important role played by the small-scale fisheries sector, during the 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Rome 2012, where the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that will secure and sustain small scale fisheries was agreed upon.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) were developed through a consultative and participatory process. The process has directly involved FAO and its Member States through representatives of governments and civil society organizations (CSOs). The engagement of CSOs was through a platform of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) comprised of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish workers (WFF), the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC), and the International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF).

In December 2015, the CSO consortium applied and received support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, to promote awareness about the SSF Guidelines and to mobilize support for their implementation across countries of the Global South. Through this project, several regional and national meetings and workshops have been conducted to engage the fisher folk, not only in understanding but in implementing and advocating for the implementation of the international guidelines, to secure the lives of small scale fisheries across the globe.

The African Regional workshop therefore was attended by a total of 40 participants representing 22 institutions, from 11 countries, government representatives and representatives from Inter-governmental bodies including FAO and IFAD

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER

COUNTRY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Algeria	1		1
Burundi	1		1
Gambia	1		1
Ghana		1	1
Kenya	1	1	2
Nigeria	1	1	2
South Africa	1		1
Tanzania		1	1
Tunisia		1	1
Uganda	16	12	28
Zambia		1	1
TOTAL	20	18	40



OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- Promote all-round awareness about the SSF Guidelines, and its implications for the small-scale fisher people, as well as gender equality and social development
- Identify and discuss how Africa fisheries policies and regulations at various levels can be influenced by the SSF Guidelines so as to further improve the live hoods of small scale fisheries.
- To identify possible further steps of implementing the guidelines at the various levels in the region.

The report below highlights the proceedings, outcomes and action points for the African Regional workshop.



Representative from IFAD, Mr. Muhwezi Pontian, KWDT Board Chairperson Ms. Harriet Najjemba and the Dr. Rukunya Edward AG. Director of Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries made their remarks at the beginning of the workshop.

WORKSHOP DAY ONE

OPENING CEREMONY

- I. **KWDT COORDINATOR.** Ms Margaret Nakato welcomed participants and took them through a moment of reflection by watching a video on small scale fisheries, that helped to set the stage. She introduced KWDT staff to all participants and thereafter took lead in participants' self-introductions.

Learning during the workshop was enriched with the viewing of the SSF guidelines videos, videos from other workshops and videos on the work on the civil society in fisheries

- II. **KWDT Board chairperson.** Ms. Harriet Najjemba welcomed participants, and expressed gratitude for KWDT to host this important workshop. She thanked the government representatives and inter-governmental institutions: IFAD and FAO for making it to the meeting as well. She offered special thanks to FAO for ensuring that the guidelines are developed, and the CSOs for the participation all through the process. She conveyed her sincere best wishes to the participants and declared the workshop open.





KWDT Board Chairperson applauded the civil society and thanked IFAD and FAO for their support to the civil society towards implementing the SSF guidelines.

- III. **IFAD Representative.** Mr. Pontian Muhwezi also welcomed all participants. He pointed out the important role played by small scale fisheries in addressing poverty and hunger. Mr. Muhwezi noted that a large proportion of the fish processing is occupied by women, and therefore commended them for the good job done in the sector. He emphasized the fact that the fisheries sector is very relevant to the development of IFAD objectives including nutrition, gender, youth and sustainable resources. In his words, Mr Muhwezi noted that; the need for collaboration and better management of fishery resources. He emphasized the support that IFAD has continued to offer to the fisheries sector and particularly in the process of developing these fisheries guidelines.

- IV. **AG. Director of Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.** Dr. Rukunya Edward from fisheries department in Uganda, **welcomed participants and emphasized the role of fisheries in Uganda specifically.** “Fishing is in the second position to bring in foreign income to the country and holds a 12th position in the contribution of the GDP, Uganda fishing is on small scale and harvesting technologies are still less advanced” he continued by appreciating KWDT for being very supportive to the fisheries sector in Uganda and particularly appreciated the role played by women.

Sad news; *‘it is so sad, I have received information that there is a boat that has drowned and all the fishermen on it have died, so I call upon all of us to observe silence for our colleagues in Tunisia we have lost the fishermen on the boat’.* **Asma from Tunisia**

- V. **FAO Representative Mr. Jacob Olwo**, who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Alhaji Jallow welcomed all participants and also expressed his gratitude and acknowledgement for the contribution of fisheries to the country revenues and development. “2/3 of the

revenue from fisheries is got from the small-scale fisheries and 90% of the fish globally comes from the small-scale fisheries, so there is no way we can run away from that. FAO exists to look at malnutrition and sustainability of food and eradication of hunger, and this make small scale fisheries so important to us". He appreciated the active role of CSOs in the development of the guidelines, which he said were complimenting the Code of Conduct for sustainable fisheries. He noted the sad fact that fishing communities are still suffering with high disease rates especially HIV. He noted that the head of the various FAO departments should know and make use of these guidelines, and thus recommended that the guidelines be shared more.

- VI. **Representative from GIZ Uganda Office.** Ms. Maria Winkler expressed her gratitude for being part of this important meeting. She informed participants that Responsible Fisheries Business Chains (RFBC) Project will start next year and it will be bilateral between German and Uganda along with Tanzania and Kenya. She encouraged participants who might be interested in this project, to consult her for further information.

- VII. **Representative from World Forum of fisher People (WFFP). Mr. Christian Adams expressed his great sympathies for** the loss of 14 colleagues in Tunisia. He noted that such challenges reveal further that we need to implement the guidelines. Picking from the earlier speakers, Adams noted that it is not only in Uganda that women are leading in the sector but it is worldwide and this should continue. He reminded participants also that the guidelines were an initiative that came from CSOs demands. And the struggle to demand for their implementation therefore should go on.

- VIII. **Representative from Word Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF).** Ms. Editrudith Lukanga also thanked all the earlier speakers, and welcomed all participants. She informed participants about the work of the WFF, as an international platform of organizations that brings together small scale fisheries in the world and since the reform in 2010 WFF secretariat is hosted in Uganda by Katosi Women Development Trust. WFF has 41 partners from across the world. On behalf of the WFF leadership she thanked the government of Uganda, and KWDT for hosting this important workshop. She recognized the support of IFAD and to FAO for leading the process.

SESSION 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL SCALE FISHERIES by EDITRUTH LUKANGA

This session took participants through the content of the guidelines as well as the process of developing them, with the objective of promoting proper understanding, interpretation and thereafter implementation of the guidelines.



During this presentation, Editrudith highlighted important aspects such as;

Background of SSF guideline. The process of developing the guidelines that started in 2008 during the Bangkok Global Conference on SSF, and subsequent recognition of the need for international instrument by COFI 28 in 2009 a committee on fisheries and it is a subsidiary body of the FAO council. It is also the leading global intergovernmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined and recommendations made to responsible bodies. Thereafter an extensive consultation process involved more than 4000 representatives from more than 120 countries and more than 20 civil-society organization-led national consultative meetings. Two inter technical consultations organized, in May 2013 and in February 2014 were convened by FAO and the guidelines subsequently adopted by COFI 31 in June 2014.

The guidelines are thus a product of extensive consultations and the first draft of the SSF involved more than 4000 representatives of small scale fishing communities and have been negotiated internationally. They were developed for small scale fisheries in a process facilitated by FAO and they are directed at all those involved in the sector and intended to guide and encourage governments and other stake holders from more than 120 countries to work together and ensure sustainable small scale fisheries.

The guidelines are divided into sections; part one, two and three.

Part 1. Introduces the guidelines, and highlights important human rights principles like accountability, transparency, gender equality and equity among others.

Part 2. Concerns the responsible fisheries and sustainable development. This section provides guidance for specific topics like responsible governance of tenure, and sustainable resources management as well as cross cutting issues such as social development, employment value chain and climate change.

Part 3. Ensuring an enabling environment and support implementation through capacity development, information research, communication, and monitoring.

The role of the guidelines

- 1. The guidelines place small fisheries in the context of human rights, because fisheries sectors differ from each other so it provides the frame work for action for all stake holders.**
- 2. Empower SSF communities in decision making processes and assume responsibility for sustainable use and more so for vulnerable groups.**
- 3. Sets out principles and guidance for sustainable small scale fishing, so they need this to transform lives of women and small scale fisheries to achieve a common level of understanding.**

Implementation of the guidelines; Ms. Lukanga emphasized the role of different actors at different levels; it is not the role of the government only, but also other stake holder, including regional organizations, private sector and NGOs. She emphasized the importance of supporting each other in the effort to implement the guidelines and the need to relate them to the SDGs. “Guidelines are a powerful tool for all internationally agreed framework of principles since they have been globally discussed and have in them the concept of human rights. Rights and responsibilities come together as they unite fishing and human rights to eradicate poverty and promote sustainability. For more information about this you can use this website www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines”

The role of civil society towards implementation. The workshop reflected on the shared journey of the development of the guidelines; the Bangkok process, the consultation process, and the negotiation process, in which many civil society organizations participated at all different levels and the work of CSOs is remarkable. “What brings us here now is promoting SSF guidelines as relatively sustainable way of life, which contributes to food, defending for rights to life and livelihoods, right to access to food, access to fish supplies and markets, right to decent working and living conditions for all fish workers and fish communities, right to equality and non-discrimination and that’s why all the actors need to have them at heart”.

Implementation. The purpose of the various implementation conferences, including this particular conference, is to ensure that there is inclusion through this process of implementation, specifically to ensure that;

- The guidelines are adopted as laws, policies, and there is need to include other stakeholders who didn’t attend the consultations.**
- Strengthening of national, regional organizations, it is only when we are organized that we can contribute to the meaningful change**

- **Developing of national plans of action for SSF and this can only be achieved by developing a budget line for it and collaboration with regional organizations.**

The workshop at this point called upon government agencies to allocate funds in their budgets for the guidelines as they cannot be implemented without a budget.



DISCUSSION ON THE GUIDELINES.

The discussion after the presentation included concerns of; inadequate voice of indigenous peoples including their rights and culture, insufficient attention to women, and lack of guidance in the guidelines on how to ensure their implementation. Participants especially the state actors also questioned why the guidelines put emphasis on states for their implementation. There were enormous requests for the guidelines to be translated in local languages too, to ensure proper understanding, interpretation and use.

Responses from those who have been following the processes informed and referred the participants to the section of the SSF guidelines with reference to gender, vulnerable people including indigenous as well as informing the meeting that gender was mainstreamed in the guidelines. The guidelines speak to the state are they are key player and the role of CSO was emphasized to lobby states to implement and provide budgets for their implementation, as well as ensuring all including indigenous peoples in implementation of the SSF guidelines.



Participants followed the presentation on SSF Guidelines with booklets provided by FAO for the workshop and the workshop was used to disseminate 583 SSF Guidelines booklets.



Mr. Seremos Kamuturaki of Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association validates the relevance of the SSF guidelines to small scale fisheries.

SESSION 2. WORKING GROUPS



This session intended to engage participants into deeper understanding contemplate implementation as well as making attempts to apply them in the various settings. Groups were divided along the various thematic areas of the guidelines as follows:

Group 1: Governance and social development, employment and decent work.

Group 2: Value chains, disaster risk and climate change

Group 3: Raising awareness and providing policy support

Group 4: (French speaking group): Empowering stakeholders, Capacity development and institutional strengthening.

Each of the above 4 groups were to discuss the above sections of the guidelines, in light of the questions below as guiding questions:

1. Identify the challenges facing small scale fisheries in your community that can be addressed by the IG SSF
2. What opportunities exist that can facilitate the implementation of the IGSSF?
3. Identify 3-5 practical action steps that you can take in your organizations to implement the guidelines

Gender was a cross cutting theme and all the groups had to look at it. The action steps had to be specific concrete and applicable to the context of the African continent.



FEED BACK FROM THE GROUP SESSIONS

The feedback from the groups below is reported as presented.

GROUP 1: Governance and social development, employment and decent work.



Challenges facing SSF that can be addressed by IGSSF

- ❖ Cultural beliefs prevailing in the fishing communities
- ❖ Lack of access to finance and credit by the fisher people
- ❖ Poor or lack of infrastructures and social services in the fishing communities
- ❖ Gender disparities where women are still marginalized in fisheries communities
- ❖ Insecurity in many of the fishing communities, security of lives and property is not ensured.
- ❖ Open access policies, where everyone has access to fish, making fishing communities densely populated.

- ❖ Lack of empowerment of fishers, lack of knowledge on how and why fish should be preserved.
- ❖ Bad politics characterized by corruption, that divide the people in fishing communities
- ❖ Poor living and working conditions of fisher workers and women.

Existing opportunities

- ✓ used as an opportunity where it exists.
- ✓ **Institutional frame work.** In countries where we have ministries directly in charge of fisheries for example, this provides a platform to start lobbying for improvements.
- ✓ **Political good will** where it exists.
- ✓ **Presence of civil organizations and other development organizations** that can support for improved services in fishing communities.

Actions that should be taken (practical actions)

- **Ascertaining the number of fishers on water bodies for successful management strategies**
- **Incorporation of traditional knowledge, practices and by-laws in fisheries management**
- **Traditional knowledge should be used in addressing fisheries problems.**
- **National policy review.** National policies need to be reviewed so as to include SSF guidelines
- **There is need for social protection systems to cover fisher folk**
- **there is need to lobby that agriculture credit should cover fisher, or setting up separate institutional credit for fisher people.**
- **Physical planning of fisher communities and enhance secure tenure of land**

Group 2: Value chains, disaster risk and climate change



Challenges

- ❖ Poor methods of fishing still exist in many fishing communities
- ❖ Denial of local access to fish in preference of fish export

- ❖ Commercialization of fish processing. Women are losing access to the fish, in favour of factories
- ❖ Lack of standards and identification for artisanal processed fish
- ❖ Lack of sufficient market information, making fisher people sell their fish while still on the lake
- ❖ Middle men determining the price of fish thus determining the fate of fisher people
- ❖ Lack of government certification for the products of small scale fisher people.
- ❖ Changes in the rain patterns, causing changes in water levels
- ❖ Water pollution, the waste dumped into the water, kills the fish Other non-fishing activities, especially sand mining, tree cutting, all contributing to environmental degradation in fishing communities

Opportunities

- ✓ The market is readily available, if information could be availed
- ✓ More processing plants have been made available, which can give better prices to the fisher people
- ✓ Countries that have already signed international instruments such as the guidelines, should come up with a plan for implementing, with budget lines committed.

Actions to be taken

- Fisher communities need to form groups such as cooperatives so as to access support and resources.
- Market information should be made available for the local fisher people
- Needs assessment and training of locals in issues like hygiene, quality improvement for the fish is important.
- There is need for a holistic approach by all stake holders to mitigate climate change
- Metrological centers are focused much more in the cities and not in villages there is need to adequately provide information about climate change. Fisher people knew when to go fishing and when not to. They could study and understand their climate.
- There is need to advocate for improved infrastructure in fishing communities, such as roads, women processing facilities and water.
- As the fisher folk, we also need to give back to the lake, to take care of it. An example in Japan, where once a year, people gather around the lake and dance as they throw bread in the lake to show their appreciation.

Group 3: Raising awareness and providing policy support



Challenges

- ❖ Language barriers. Most of the water bodies are shared by different tribes and in countries like Uganda that shares most of the lakes with other countries, Nigeria shares with Chad and Cameroon. It becomes difficult to address these communities using the same language.
- ❖ High illiteracy level among people in the fishing communities. Many of the children have no opportunity to access education due to the remote nature of the fishing communities.
- ❖ Lack of adequate funding to implement awareness campaigns take an example of the funds invested to transport us for this workshop which without external funding, fisher folk organizations could be left out.
- ❖ Non-availability of data and evidence to inform policy formulation and implementation
- ❖ Limited research and communities interface, during research, and in addition, the research agenda is not set by communities but by big companies that have the money.
- ❖ Governments do not listen to the fisher folk especially women and there is no clear platform for the fisher folk to engage their governments.

Opportunities

- ✓ Existence of the fisheries policies like the guidelines
- ✓ Willingness of the governmental, and inter-governmental bodies, both at regional,

national and international levels. For instance, the support of FAO and AU summits and it is a big opportunity in the efforts to implement the guidelines

- ✓ Existence of research institutions in our countries. In almost every country there are research institutions
- ✓ Organisation and capacity building of small scale fisher organizations
- ✓ To provide subsidies to small scale fisher people.

Actions to be taken

- Formation of information communication and outreach centers in the communities to disseminate information
- Knowledge management and communication plans at all levels
- Create physical information exchange platforms, make use of seminars or workshops, or national fisheries days and electronic platforms such as websites.
- Strengthen science and policy interface, sharing of knowledge and support policy reform
- There is need to increase dialogue between government and the local people
- We need inter-governmental relationships, so that governments can learn from each other

Group 4: (French speaking group): Empowering stakeholders, Capacity development and institutional strengthening.

Challenges

- ❖ The lack of access to access credit.
- ❖ Lack of information exchange among different institutions. The fisher folk together should have a website, platform to have the information shared.
- ❖ Integrated governance of fishing e.g. Burundi fish is managed by two ministries and a committee is needed to take charge so as to have good management

Actions

- To take into account the fisheries sector during budget formulation
- The private sector should provide credit to the fishers
- We need to create a website to share relevant information

The discussion that followed the group presentations brought out concerns such as the redundant and unused infrastructure for example roads constructed by the government, the lack of people involvement in planning and executing government programs and the need for the fisher folk to engage in fish value addition through processing. Participants were also informed that the website about the guidelines by CSOs is already running and could be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/> for posters and infographic video.



Local leaders from the fisher communities; Ms Namaganda and Mrs. Muwanga

WORKSHOP DAY TWO

SESSION 3. AU/NEPAD POLICY FRAMEWORK AND REFORM STRATEGY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURES IN AFRICA; AU-IBAR

By Editrudith Lukanga

The session was intended to inform participants on the African Union Policy Framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa to capitalize on, towards the implementation of the guidelines. The presenter was not doing this on behalf of AU, neither did she intend to provide information about the whole policy, but simply to create awareness among the participants of the fact that there is a process going on.

The overall purpose of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture is to facilitate transformation of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture for food, livelihoods and wealth. Accordingly, the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy is intended to:

1. Elaborate and make explicit essential guiding principles for good governance of Africa's fisheries for increased coherence and coordination of the sector
2. Assist AU Member States, RECs and RFBs to develop realistic fisheries and aquaculture policies by suggesting standards and best practices to the sector's benefits to AU member states, in terms of food security, employment and income
3. Help facilitate regional collaboration and integration in shared fisheries and aquaculture resources management
4. Provide appropriate guidance on how to implement reforms for fisheries and aquaculture development
5. Facilitate ratification and /or adoption of appropriate provisions in international fisheries management instruments

6. Facilitate advocacy for increased investment in the fisheries and aquaculture sector

Each of the policy objective has strategic actions proposed for it, but a few selected strategic actions include;

1. Creating an enabling environment for sustainable management and for generating the potential of the fisheries resources
2. Design and apply appropriate users' rights-based systems
3. Conduct fisheries within enforceable regulatory frameworks
4. Strengthen the scientific and socio- economic basis for fisheries management and aquaculture development
5. Enhance effective bilateral and regional cooperation in the management of shared resources
6. Promote, support and coordinate sustainable pro-poor development
7. Improve fisheries governance through participatory management
8. Build on traditional fisheries management systems, promotion of selective and location-specific fishing gear
9. Create an African Centre of Excellence for Aquaculture
10. Mainstream aquaculture strategies and plans into national development plans especially CAADP

DISCUSSION AND RESPONSES;

The discussion that followed highlighted the lack of emphasis on the human rights and promoting profits at the expense of human rights. Reference was made to the agreement between the European and Asian countries that promotes the export of fish to European countries. Participants also emphasized the importance of involving grass root organisations in this process, as Government is not the major actor in fisheries but simply the custodians of law.

Participants further called upon the AU to get on ground and teach people for example what are the acceptable methods of smoking fish for the international markets. These noted that many of the fisher people will not be able to benefit from the policies developed on paper, but from physical interactions with those that are knowledgeable about such areas in the sector.

African starvation was blamed on exportation of fish to EU and the participants called for increased trade among the African region countries, if poverty is to be alleviated. One participant gave an example that this day of the workshop was a market day in Mukono district in Uganda (which is a district dominated by fishing) but only one commodity was missing on the market, and that was fish. The meeting commended the good policies in Africa, but lacking proper implementation and urged AU to put emphasis on implementation of the already existing policies.

SESSION 4. PANELS

The panel sessions were intended to engage government and CSO representatives to share their views on the implementation particular sections of the guidelines. Panel one focusing on Part two of the guidelines; *Responsible Fisheries and sustainable development* and panel two focusing on part three of the guidelines; *Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation*.

PANEL 1: Responsible Fisheries and sustainable development

Panel one included the following people;

1	Charles Brown	Chairman AFALU (WFF Member), Uganda
2	Dr. Edward Rukunya, represented by Ms. Daisy Olyeza	Min of Agriculture and Animal Fisheries
3	Christina Louwa	WFFP
4	Romulus Mulambi	District Fisheries Officer Mukono

The purpose of this panel was: to know how several African governments and communities promote responsible and sustainable fisheries, and what remains to be done to implement the guidelines through responsible fisheries and sustainable development.

Discussion questions

1. What issues threaten the sustainability of fisheries resources in Africa?
2. With the current levels of depletion of fish, how can we ensure that we sustain the resource, and at the same time have enough fish for local communities (as their source of livelihood)
3. Amidst the fisheries resource conflicts between small scale fisheries, and investors in the fishing communities, how can sustainability be achieved?

Mr. Charles Brown: A member of Association of Fishers and Lake Users of Uganda highlighted the poor implementation of policies, lack of involvement of the grassroots; local ownership of policies by the people because they have not been involved; corruption, eminent in the people that should enforce law as threats to sustainability of fisheries resource in Africa. He further stressed that at the community level, there is lack of commitment from the fisher folk, and if they work together and not allow the irregularities, we can see a change.

The lack of alternative income generating activities for fisher man, that forces them to continue fishing even when fish becomes extinct, uncontrolled rate of industrialization especially near fishing areas which affects fish breeding as challenges. Nonetheless at the international level, there is a lot of declarations made at the UN level and they are left for countries to implement, yet they are not followed up to see that the countries have implemented or not all threaten sustainability of resources

Mr. Brown recommended Fisher folk should use legal fishing gears and stop selling immature fish. As a representative of the fisher association he called for training the fishermen, in forms of aquaculture, to improve standards for improved market value, engage fisher in research on

the problems affecting fisheries to come up with some appropriate strategies. He emphasized need for continuous dialogue between the fishers and policy makers, to support fish folk to form groups to make negotiations easier and possibly more efficient.

Ms. Daisy Olyeza: A representative of the government on the panel, pointed out illegal fishing among the fisher people, which she referred to as a “*moral*” issue. She also attributed the challenges in fishing communities to the high unemployment rates in the country, food insecurity that leads to over fishing, weak institutions and weak governance that fails to eliminate these challenges or adequately address these issues from the communities. Of a major concern to her was the fact that the fisheries department has for long been understaffed and under financed. Although a directorate now, Ms Olyeza notes that they still need more staff and increased funding for the department to be able to effectively execute its duties, additionally, she advocates for alternative sources of livelihood for the fisher communities, so as to reduce dependency on fishing.

Mr. Romulas Mulambi, the District Fisheries Officer from Mukono District, highlighted the challenges of over capacity as a result of having open access to the lake. He notes with concern too that the problem of poor governance hinders sustainability of the fisheries resources in fishing communities. He highlighted the fact that it is almost impossible to effectively plan for fishing communities whose numbers are not even known. He called upon the central government to establish the actual number of people in fishing communities through a census, and to review the policy on open access, introduce fishing holidays, as well as increase funding for fishing activities and communities.

Ms. Christina Louwa from the WFFP noted that fisher people are physically, morally and spiritually attached to the lake and thus knowledgeable on issues concerning fisheries, probably more than the policy makers are. He called upon government to utilize the traditional knowledge of fisher people, resorting to traditional ways of managing water bodies and conserving the fish.

Further comments, re-actions and discussions from the audience included an appeal to the governments that do not provide adequate basic services to the fisheries communities, yet takes taxes from them. Looking at this scenario and looking at the fisher people who takes a small/ young fish from the lake, challenges the moral actions of the actors in the sector. Participants also noted with great concern and enthusiasm that the government should stop forcing people to look for alternative sources of income, as fishing is part and partial of their lives. “*Fisher people do not only do fishing for money, but it is part of their culture and life*”. Lastly governments were called upon once again to acknowledge and utilize the traditional knowledge that is prevalent in these communities, so as to avoid the so-called sensitisations that may not yield much impact in fishing communities.

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

Panel two included the following people;

1	Asma	WFF, Tunisia
2	Seremos Kamuturaki	UFFCA, WFFP, Uganda
3	Joyce Ikwaput	Min. Agriculture and Fisheries, Uganda
4	Editrudith Lukanga	EMEDO, WFF, Tanzania

The purpose of this panel was: To discuss on how to create an enabling environment for the implementation of the guidelines.

Discussion questions;

1. what are the existing policy related challenges that might threaten the implementation of the voluntary guidelines?
2. What capacity needs do you anticipate, so as to have the guidelines effectively implemented among African countries and what be done to develop such capacities?
3. How can we monitor and evaluate the implementation of the guidelines to ensure the desired outcomes?

Mr. Seremos Kamuturaki, a representative of WFFP from UFFCA noted that one of the biggest hurdle to the implementation of the guidelines might be that some countries have already revised policies and laws without considering the guidelines and a case in point is Uganda, where the government may not have a lot of space to incorporate the guidelines in the existing policy framework. He expressed concern too about the governance in fishing communities, especially where government representatives are simply appointed and not elected. Mr Kamuturaki noted that these are often not respected by the people since they are not elected democratically, such as the BMUs. He went further to note that for the guidelines to be implemented, they need to be widely known and therefore further dissemination is still needed, as well as monitoring skills and tools for CSOs if they are to engage in effective monitoring of the guidelines.

Ms. Joyce Ikwaput, a representative of the government on this panel noted the fact that sometimes CSOs fail to involve government in such important processes like disseminating the guidelines. She acknowledged that her and her colleagues did not know about these guidelines yet they are expected to implement them, which she described as ‘impossible’. She noted that concerted efforts among CSOs as well as between CSOs and government is required to further support fishing communities. Citing examples of radio talk shows as possible mediums through which local communities can be reached with information to build their capacity and give them the knowledge that they require.

Ms. Asma Ben Abda from WFF; Association Tunisienne pour le Developpement de la peche artisanale Tunisia brought out the importance of continuing to fight illegal fishing, which she referred to as the ‘biggest threat’ to fisheries. Establishing and strengthening networking of platforms so as to ensure that all CSOs are following ongoing processes in the region is urgent and lastly called upon all



CSOs to carry out voluntary monitoring in their countries and communities to know and document what is taking place there in relation to the guidelines and where possible share the good practices widely.

Ms. Editruth Lukanga, a member of WFF from EMEDO Tanzania also emphasized the great need for people to know and understand all relevant policies being developed in the region, citing the example of the AU policy framework that many of the participants were hearing of for the first time and said many more processes are going on. She brought out the need for coherence between policies and interaction between the fisheries sectors and other sectors so as not to work in isolation in the attempt to implement the guidelines. Taking an example of the AU policy framework indicators, Editruth further pointed out the need to develop indicators as CSOs on which to monitor and keep track on the implementation and impact of the guidelines in the region.

Other contributions from the audience to the issues raised in this panel included; the absence of a definition of who a small-scale fisher should be, and that this varies from country to country and from water body to water body, which might hinder or challenge the implementation for the guidelines if it is not clear who exactly should be targeted as a small-scale fisher.

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

The evaluation of the workshop engaged participants in the circle to spontaneously share what they have learnt from the workshop and what they think they will do differently when the ball was thrown to them. Below were some of the responses;

- Learnt about the guidelines and got ideas on how to possibly implement them in their communities.
- Government representative that took part in the evaluation exercise committed to disseminate the guidelines further to their fellow government workers and above all support and further collaborate with CSOs in fisheries.
- For quite many of the participants the workshop presented an opportunity for interacting with other stakeholders in fisheries and learn more about each other's work.
- Yet for many, they appreciated the diversity of the fishing communities from which participants came from and yet the need to implement the guidelines to suit all the different contexts.



Participatory evaluation of the workshop by the participants

MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

The African Regional workshop achieved a number of outcomes, but the following are worthy noting;

1. Understanding of the guidelines by people working in fisheries organizations from Africa. Targeting new actors, and following up on those prior engaged in the process to understand both the process and the content. Only 9 out of the 40 participants had taken part in discussions about the fisheries guidelines.
2. Understanding of the guidelines by government representatives from fisheries. 5 of the 7 government officials admitted that they were not aware of the existence of these guidelines
3. Insights on the possibility for further collaboration on issues of fisheries within Africa
4. Participants from the local fishing communities appreciated the existence of a tool that can potentially help them in their struggles
5. They requested for further dissemination of the guidelines in the local languages in their communities and translation of the information video on the SSF guidelines
6. Workshop provided a platform of interface between government representatives and actors in fishing communities. This though caused a bit of tension during some of the discussions
7. Dissemination of the SSF guidelines with 583 booklets and simple guides disseminated, out of the 900 booklets that were received from FAO. KWDT will continue with the dissemination of these booklets on all relevant events, meetings and contacts. 352 posters were distributed, while 48 were reserved for delivery to institutions that were not present but needed to be reached, making a total of 400 posters in sizes; A1, A2, A3 & A4 and infographic video on the guidelines accessed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqC9Bef-IwE was distributed on the CD including all presentations.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Among others, the following actions were identified as doable actions, by all the actors within at least between the next 5 to 10 years of learning about the guidelines. The action areas are divided into 3 major themes including; *Knowledge Information & Communication, Research & Development, as well as improved access to services.*

Improving Knowledge, Information and Communication

- Formation of information, communication and outreach centers in the communities for example through establishment of focal points in villages.
- Development of a knowledge management and communication plan at all levels e.g through development of an information exchange platform (physically or electronically)
- Conduct regular dialogues between government and fisheries communities at different levels, including AU level
- Provide market information to fisher people

Research and Development

- Support and promote inter-disciplinary research into small scale fisheries
- Disseminate the available research findings on fisheries issues

Improved access to services

- Lobby for institutional credit to fisher folk, prioritizing women and youths (gender equity)
- Lobby for extension of social protection system to include fishers
- Physical planning and increasing access, use and control (ownership) to community land as described in the guidelines on land (VGGT)
- Enforcing safety at sea
- Formation of self-organized groups such as cooperatives



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