

REPORT

for

**The National Consultative Workshop for Small-Scale Fisheries:
Towards FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries**

Organized by

Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT)



**A member of WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISH
WORKERS (WFF)**

In Collaboration with

Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA)



A member of WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLE (WFFP)

14th & 15th November 2011

Kampala, Uganda

December 2011

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ACRONYMS

AFALU	Association of Fishers and Lake Users
BMU	Beach Management Unit
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fisher
IPC	International Planning Committee of Food Sovereignty
KWDT	Katosi Women Development Trust
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
UFFCA	Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association
VG-SSF	Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Small-Scale Fisheries
WFF	World Forum of Fishworkers and Fish Harvesters
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher People

Introduction

The Ugandan National Consultative Workshop as part of the civil society process to influence the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF) was held on the 14th and the 15th of November, 2011 at Pope Paul Memorial Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop provided an opportunity for the civil society organisation (CSO) fraternity in Uganda to build consensus on what they would like to see in, clear and concrete terms, in the VG-SSF so as to enhance the visibility of small-scale fisheries and the role the sector plays in respective economies. The process not only acted as an avenue for CSOs to strengthen their representation but also as a channel of engaging with the State. It drew participation from a cross section of fisheries stakeholders ranging from fishworker organizations, NGOs, policy makers, researchers and managers, boat owners, fishers, fishmongers, small scale processors, boat-builders, and leaders of Beach Management Units (BMUs). Full list of participants is available under *Appendix 1*.

The workshop follows the recommendation from the 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome (January-February 2011), that agreed on the important role played by the small-scale fisheries sector, in the context of food security and poverty alleviation and approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that will secure and sustain small scale fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Small Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF).

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), together with other civil society organizations; World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), International Collective in Support of Fish-Workers (ICSF) and International Planning Committee for food Sovereignty (IPC) through their national members have agreed to work together to enable the civil society engage in the development of guidelines through organizing national consultation workshops in various countries.

The Workshop Objectives

General Objective of this workshop: to contribute to the international civil society initiative to develop guidelines within the framework of a human rights approach for the proposed FAO international guidelines on marine and inland small scale fisheries.

Specific Objectives:

- 1) To make the role of small-scale fisheries and fish workers more visible in the context of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of fishery resources;
- 2) To expose fishery and non-fishery factors that threaten inland fishery-based livelihoods; and
- 3) To draw attention to the specific human development needs of small-scale fishing communities such as education, health, organizational development, social services.

Workshop Outputs:

- 1) Proposals on policies and actions needed to support inland small-scale fisheries in Uganda addressed to national and local governments;
- 2) Proposals to be fed into the VG-SSF process;
- 3) Proposals addressed to the SSF sector itself (how the sector can play a role in using resources in a sustainable way);
- 4) All participants take responsibility to safeguard the fisheries diversity and critical habitat;
- 5) Government policies and legal framework for fisheries management and research will support capture and aquaculture fisheries with utmost financial and governance care to prevent their collapse in support of sustainable small scale fisheries.

The workshop group discussions were guided by specified themes as provided for in the national workshops guidance document sheet. These were: what constitutes small scale fisheries in the Ugandan context; reasons why small-scale fishing in Uganda should be supported and given priority; key issues affecting the sector and how to address them; the quality of life of those involved and dependent on small scale fisheries; and good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries, with a focus on rights-based approaches. In so doing, the participants' views were sought after on all the given themes.

Workshop Methodology and Approach

To achieve the workshop objectives for the national-level consultations, a participatory methodology was adopted. The two day workshop was devoted to presentations as well as group and plenary discussions.

The approach used was such that key-note presentations were made prior to the group discussions to provide background information and generate momentum for further workshop discussions on pertinent issues relevant to small-scale fisheries. Following the key-note presentations, the participants were divided into three groups ranging between 10 to 12 people to reflect on the given themes for further elaboration on key issues and make proposals. The reports from the discussion groups were then presented in the plenary thereafter the issues, proposals and strategies were adopted. All the three groups tackled the same concerns at the same time, had a facilitator and were provided with an aid to group discussions in form of a checklist of issues relevant to the SSF sector in order to ensure that participant's views are sought on all issues important within the Ugandan context.

Workshop Proceedings

What constitutes small-scale fisheries in Uganda and why SSF should be supported and given priority?

Session one involved three group sessions in which participants discussed what constitutes small-scale fisheries in Uganda and why this small-scale fishing sector should be supported and given priority. Results of the group discussions were presented and discussed in the plenary. It was noted that small-scale fisheries in Uganda are diverse in nature. However, they are can be characterized by the following:

- Size of fishing craft/vessel
- Usually non-motorized
- Low investment/capital
- Fishing effort
- Owner operated
- Fishing unit (lone operators, or family, or community group)
- Catch is mainly for home consumption and/or occasional sales
- Inadequate access to social services such as education, health services, credit facilities etc.

A summary of issues highlighted on why small-scale fisheries need support and priority is given below.

- Food and nutritional security - fish provides 50% of nutritional protein
- Employment - employs 1.2 million people directly and supports another 1.4 million livelihoods

- National revenue - number one foreign exchange earner from non-agricultural products
- Way of life for some people
- Vulnerability and risk to natural disaster and climate change is high
- Marginalized sector with limited access to resources
- Sustainable way of fishing
- Medicinal purposes.

Key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries sector in Uganda

The key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries sector in Uganda were discussed during session two of the group discussions. Following these group discussions, each group presented its results in the plenary where it was noted that the small-scale fisheries and their communities face a myriad of issues as highlighted in the summary below.

- Vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change that has resulted into increased risk for fishing vessels capsizing causing death and loss of properties
- High tax levies on fishing equipments, alongside fees for fishing vessel licenses and fish movement permits
- High level of illiteracy among the fisher folk communities due to non-school attendance, school dropout and the high rate of migration
- Lack of sense of ownership of the fisheries resources hence leading to persistent use of illegal fishing practices
- SSF workers have little bargaining power when their fish is destined for industrial processing and export. At the same time, SSF workers, particularly women that supply local and regional markets face disproportionately high tax burdens (and increasingly equipment burdens) that make it difficult for them to profit, and at times even break even from their work.
- Open access to the available fisheries resources due to weak regulations and control, coupled with unemployment and high population growth on landing sites has increased pressures on aquatic habitats
- Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities are not well coordinated leading to corruption and victimization small scale fishers

- The national fisheries policy (2004) governing the development and management of fisheries resources including the pillars supporting the policy are weak and poor
- Outside forces, including tourism, hospitality, agricultural and industrial development on land adjacent to water bodies have increased pressure on fisheries resources
- SSF communities have less access to infrastructure such as; education, health services, savings opportunities and quality roads in comparison to communities with land-based livelihoods
- Overexploitation of small-scale fishers by middle men in the fisheries industry
- Environmental degradation caused by point and non point sources
- High fees charges by BMU from the SSF workers
- Gender inequality, equality and marginalization of women.

Key recommendations

These key recommendations were proposed during session two of the workshop in which the group presentations in the plenary included recommendations to the identified key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries sector in Uganda. Here below is a synthesis of the key recommendations made:

a) On securing small-scale fisheries

1. Provide capacity-building support to small-scale fishing communities to enhance their participation in governance of their fisheries resources
2. There is need to ensure the equal participation of small-scale fishing communities in fisheries management decision-making, ensuring their free, prior and informed consent to all management decisions
3. Establish and support institutional mechanisms to link Beach Management Units and their Local Governments in the management of shared water bodies
4. Improve institutional coordination at all levels to enhance the well-being of the small-scale fishing communities

5. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities should be well coordinated and mainstreamed to curtail the rampant corruption levels and victimization of small-scale fishers
6. There is great need to pay particular attention to actors traditionally external to fisheries, specifically those influencing the status and future of the shoreline and water quality and ensure their activities are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable
7. Government should support the formation of a stronger primary producer organization that will protect and promote the interests of the small-scale fisher
8. Revise and update the National Fisheries Policy (2004) in a participatory manner
9. Need to focus all small-scale fisheries development efforts on the local and regional supply chain for instance provide incentives for the use of more energy efficient kilns and stoves for smoking and frying fish
10. Commission research into the feasibility of species and establish specific closed seasons in view of supporting sustainable fisheries initiatives
11. Provide weather forecast information support services to small-scale fishers through SMS messages
12. Recognize and support the crucial role and contribution of fish folk organizations, Non Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations in the effective implementation and sustainability of fisheries
13. Regulate access to fisheries resources by instituting a thorough registration and licensing process of fishing vessels whereby the BMUs and the department of fisheries play a greater role in the vetting exercise
14. All those responsible for enforcing fisheries regulations must have clearly legal and approved identification badges and Identity Cards at all times during duty
15. Government should protect the access rights of small-scale fishing communities to territories, lands and water on which they have traditionally depended for their life and livelihood

16. Governments should provide modern fish handling facilities at each landing site
17. Provision of credit at affordable rates, appropriate technology and infrastructure at landing sites and markets to improve access of women to fish markets
18. Institutional arrangements should be put in place that gives priority to fish for local consumption over fish for export
19. Prioritize the provision of basic services such as clean water, sanitation, education, health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services to the fishing communities
20. Before undertaking any development project that may adversely affect the life and livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities the free, prior and informed consent should be sought
21. Promote awareness of user rights and responsibilities through sponsoring fisheries-related rights awareness campaigns in partnership with the civil society
22. Mobilize fishers to form cooperatives and marketing associations so as to alleviate their socio-economic status
23. Avenues for mandatory insurance of fisher properties and lives in the face of climate change should be provided
24. Financial support initiatives for poorer, marginalized fisheries stakeholders through Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOS)
25. Provide special education programmes for the children of small-scale fishers and promote functional adult literacy amongst adults
26. Local knowledge should be integrated in the fisheries management decision making
27. Protect all fisheries resources from all forms of pollution, and reclamation
28. Subsidize taxes on fishing equipments
29. Increase efforts to curtail the importation and use of monofilament nets

b) How organizations can strengthen the process of developing the guidelines and in securing their implementation at the national level, once adopted:

1. All concerned parties should continue to lobby state institutions at multiple levels to encourage the initial adoption and implementation of the guidelines
2. Once voluntary guidelines are adopted globally, fisheries-interrelated organizations should work together to compile and disseminate simplified versions of the guidelines for the benefit of those working in small-scale fisheries (SSF). In addition, popularized versions should be translated into local language/s
3. There is need for continued consultative meetings with the key stakeholders in the small-scale fisheries sector
4. There will be a need for continued dissemination of information in form of brochures, public awareness through; media workshops, meetings, brochures during the implementation of these guidelines
5. Annual reviews on implementing the guidelines should be conducted by CSOs, NGOs, and CBOs.

Good Practices/Lessons learnt in relation to small-scale fisheries development, conservation and management

During session three, group discussions were held on the good practices in relation to small-scale fisheries development, conservation and management and the following issues below came out very prominently during the plenary presentations.

- Actors traditionally external to fisheries management, specifically those influencing the status and future of the shoreline and water quality, are indeed relevant to the health of SSF and their management
- NGOs and CBOs are critical for effective implementation and sustainability of BMUs
- It is difficult to convince SSF workers that they own fisheries resources when they rarely own the means of their production, and even more rarely the land on which they live
- SSF workers must be actively involved in the formation of decisions that influence their activities, and not simply enforcement

- Civil society organizations like; KWDT, UFFCA, AFALU and others working with fisheries societies are very instrumental in better service delivery and hence should be supported
- Cost sharing initiatives are laudable since they led to improved sense of ownership and enhance responsibility of community facilities for instance management of pit latrines.

CONCLUSION

The workshop participants extensively discussed the key issues affecting the small-scale fisheries and human development within the framework of a rights-based approach to fisheries and made recommendations for action with regard to the proposed FAO VG-SSF guidelines. Discussions during the workshop were organized around three groups for the three scheduled workshop sessions. Results of the group discussions were presented and discussed in the plenary sessions.

The consultative workshop reaffirmed the crucial global importance of the small-scale fisheries from an economic, social and cultural point of view and considering the problems they face.

The closing remarks were made by the State Minister for Fisheries Hon. Ruth Nakabirwa who reiterated government's commitment to support the small-scale fisheries and their communities efforts towards achieving sustainable livelihoods.

Appendix 1: List of participants

**NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR SMALL SCALE FISHERIES LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL SCALE FISHERIES
14TH & 15TH NOVEMBER 2011
POPE PAUL MEMORIAL HOTEL KAMPALA UGANDA**

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Appendix 2: Workshop programme

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR SMALL SCALE FISHERIES, LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SMALL SCALE FISHERIES.

14TH & 15TH NOVEMBER 2011

POPE PAUL MEMORIAL HOTEL

KAMPALA UGANDA

Organized by

Katosi Women Development Trust

And

Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association

with Support from FAO

		Day One Monday 14th November 2011	Responsible
08:30	09:00	Registration	KWDT secretariat
09:00	09:30	Prayer, Anthem ; Self introduction	
09:30	10:00	Objectives of the workshop (Facilitators)	Mr. F.X.M Kizza
10:00	10:40	Update on small scale fisheries from: 10 Minutes 1 Commissioner of Fisheries "Institutional arrangements in support of small-scale fisheries in Uganda" 2. Director for NaFIRI Jinja "Sustainability practices / issues in relation to small-scale fisheries in Uganda" 3. Principle Aquaculture Research Officer Kajansi "Aquaculture: opportunities for the small scale fisheries sector in Uganda" 4. Executive Director LVFO "How small-scale fisheries are embraced with the EAC framework"	
10:40	10:50	Tea break	
11:00	11:10	Challenges from small scale UFFCA	Mr. Kamaturaki Seremos
11:10	11:30	Reactions from the Audience	
11:00	12:00	Background on the VG SSF and their relevance to small scale fisheries (KWDT / WFF)	Margaret Nakato
11:45	12:30	Remarks from the FAO representative	
12:15	01:15	Official Opening	Chairperson KWDT Board
01:15	02:15	Lunch / Break	
02:15	02:30	Introduce mode of operation	Mr.F.X.M Kizza
02:30	04:00	Session one What constitutes small-scale fisheries in Uganda? Why small-scale fisheries in Uganda need to be supported and given priority?	Mr.F.X.M Kizza

04:00	05:00	Presenting group discussion I plenary	
05:00	05:15	Tea, Networking and Closure of Day 1	
		Day Two Tuesday 15th November 2011	
08:30	09:00	Registration and recap on the previous day's events	
09:00	10:30	Session two Issues affecting small-scale fisheries, quality of life of those dependent on the small scale fisheries and their recommendations.	Mr. George Kyaboona
10:30	10:45	Tea break	
10:45	11:45	Presenting group discussion in plenary	
11:45	01:15	Session three Lesson learnt/ good practices in relation to small scale fisheries and recommendations Discussion on how organizations engaging with small-scale fisheries and human development can strengthen the process of developing guidelines and in securing their implementation at the national level, once adopted	Mr. George Kyaboona
01:15	02:15	Lunch / Break	
02:15	03:15	Presenting group discussion in plenary	
03:15	04:00	Presentation of the synthesis report	
04:00	05:00	Keynote Address from the Guest of Honor and official closure	Guest of Honor Minister of State for Fisheries
05:00	05:15	Departure at Leisure	

Appendix 3: Workshop photograph



