

# NEWSLETTER

QUARTELY WFF MEMBERS UPDATE 01 :2012



## Coming soon!!

Information on the international Label of Responsible Fishing for artisanal, coastal, small-scale fisheries: an initiative of the WFF in collaboration with Responsible Fishing Alliance and Eurofins Certification

Check [www.worldfisherforum.org](http://www.worldfisherforum.org) for the brochure on the small scale label

## *Message from the Co-Presidents*

*Dear Members!*

*As this is the first newsletter in the year 2012, please accept Happy New year greetings to you all from the Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the WFF.*

*It is always our pleasure to keep you updated on what is happening within the WFF network as well as in the fisheries sector as a whole.*

*We call upon all members of the WFF to learn about all the ongoing processes in the sector and follow up on their implementation at the national and local community levels.*

*Wishing you good reading and looking forward to receiving your feedback on the various issues presented to you here!*

Margaret Nakato  
Arthur Bogason

**The Farmers Forum: Learn more about it from Ujjaini Halim, member of the WFF Executive Committee.**



“As perhaps you are aware, I attended the Farmers Forum and the steering Committee meeting in Rome between 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2012 on behalf of WFF.

It was a very good experience for me to get to know other small food producers and also to encourage them to know more about WFF. I met a few fishers’ groups from Africa and Asia and shared WFF’s contact with them.

The good news from this year’s Farmers Forum is that the next Forum will have small scale artisanal fishery as the theme or core issue. This year it was youth. Fishery got a lot of attention this time and we managed to get this commitment. We had some discussion on VG-SSF also. Moreover, there was general discussion about Rio+20 and how we could make most of it.

Important information for everyone: IFAD will soon start a round of evaluation and project mapping (among CSOs under the Direct Support programme), for the new project phase that will start in 2013. So please do keep in touch with your country IFAD head, or keep an eye on the IFAD homepage. As IFAD has taken fishery very seriously, we can expect some support from IFAD at their country level and regional structured project/programme.

Finally in the concluding meeting of the Farmer’s Forum it was decided that an initiative would be taken to facilitate further communication among steering committee

members. This year no new organization has been granted membership of the steering committee, despite several requests.

We will share the report of the Forum from IFAD; with all of you when we receive it. I wish you all the best in your work”.

**Meeting on the right to food.** Ms. Margaret Nakato represented the WFF in the 2-day expert round table convened by the Special Rapporteur in cooperation with the office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 2nd to 3rd April 2012. The broad purpose of the roundtable was to solicit the perspectives of experts across various disciplines on the impacts of current fisheries policies and practices on the right to adequate food.

Civil society organizations are requested to submit information to the Rapporteur by early June for inclusion in the report being prepared.

**FAO Regional Meetings; WFF members participation.**

Arthur Bogason, the Co-President of WFF attended the FAO Regional Consultation with Civil Society organizations from Europe and Central Asia Region that was held in Baku, 14th-15th April, as the only fisher representative. Arthur also participated by liaising with other CSM members and contributed to the FAO paper on fisheries in the FAO Ministerial Conference. Some of the key issues raised by Arthur were the important contribution of small-scale artisanal fishers to feeding the world, and that of,

coastal communities in sustainable local development pollution and its effects on oceans and fish stocks, “sea-grabbing” that needs to be fought as much as land-grabbing, the negative effects of inappropriate fishing gear used by industrial fisheries on fish stocks, the lower fossil fuel use by small coastal fisheries, the importance of sustainable aquaculture, working conditions and finally the problems of the new proposed transferable concessions and banning of dumping of by-catch. As he said “you might as well ban rain between 10 and 12 am”. His contributions were greatly appreciated by FAO members who work on fisheries.

**FAO Regional meeting in Africa**

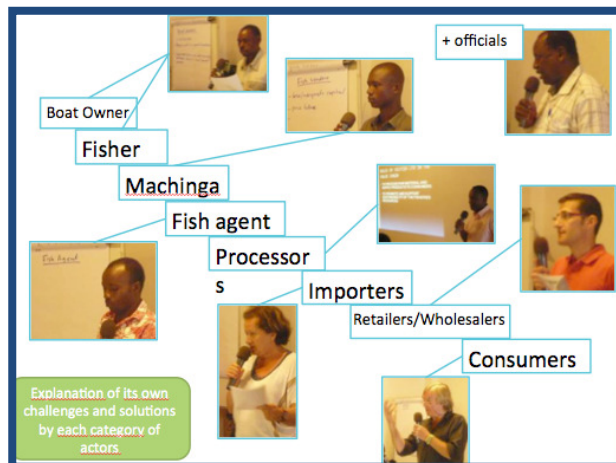
Ms. Rehema represented the WFF during the Civil Society Organizations’ consultation meeting between 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April that was preceded by the FAO regional conference in Congo Brazzaville between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April. Rehema was not only a participant but also a facilitator for the Global Strategic Framework during the civil society meeting, participated in the team that drafted the civil society statement and was a spokesperson for the CSO group during one of the regional meeting sessions.

**WFF on facebook.** WFF has a facebook page and a group, where exchanges about issues of small scale fisheries can be made. WFF members are always welcome to use the facebook to popularise your actions on small scale fisheries.



**1st Nile perch fish chain and Nile perch fishery workshop**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Nile perch stakeholders workshop to mobilize and engage Nile perch actors in a sustainable development approach was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 during the field visit of the Responsible Fishing Alliances members to the Lake Victoria project.



This approach promotes interactions and decision-making among the stakeholders. It aims to implement practice in favour of this sector and for local communities. Hosted by WFF member EMEDO from Tanzania. The meeting brought together WFF members KENAFI from Kenya and KWDT from Uganda and Nile perch stakeholders “from the hook to the plate”. The objectives were to get to know one another, to build a common vision, and to discuss and select sustainable factors of improvement at each others’ stakeholder level. The meeting made and signed an action plan called the “Declaration of Mwanza”. It will be uploaded soon on the WFF website.

to follow WFF on facebook, please see;

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/World-Forum-of-Fish-Harvesters-Fish-Workers/205434759510446?ref=ts>

**Executive Committee Meeting.** The Executive committee of the WFF that took place 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> February in Paris (France) decided that the General Assembly of the WFF should be held in November 2012 in Africa. As the WFF secretariat is endeavoring to fundraise for the meeting, members are urged to fundraise for participation in the meeting that will also include policy seminar training. Information on the general assembly will be uploaded on the WFF website.

**Other upcoming events**

- The Committee of Fisheries (COFI) 30<sup>th</sup> session will take place in July 9 – 13<sup>th</sup> in Rome (Italy).

- **RIO+20 will take place in Rio da Janeiro Brazil in June 2012.** For those members of WFF who have obtained funding from other sources to attend the RIO +20 meeting, kindly let us know so that we can involve you in ongoing preparations that focus on fisheries.

For more information about these organizations, please check their profiles on the WFF website; [www.worldfisherforum.org](http://www.worldfisherforum.org).

*We encourage as much as possible, all members to send us their profiles and logos.*

