

NEWSLETTER

QUARTELY WFF MEMBERS UPDATE 02&03:2011



To ensure that ongoing process address issues faced by small scale fishers, the WFF ensured that a fisher folk representative participate in the ongoing international decision making processes, the WFF has been represented in various international foras where important decisions concerning small scale food producers are being discussed. Among others, WFF is currently engaging in the processes explained below;



Message from the Co-Presidents.

Dear Members!

Greetings from the Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the WFF.

It is our pleasure writing to you once again and updating you on the progress of the WFF as well as news and information in the sector in the last six (6) months.

Growing from strength to strength, the WFF continues to be a unique platform that brings together artisanal fishers from the different parts of the globe, for improved livelihoods.

To strengthen our voice we need to be active in every process. We call upon each one of us to utilize any possible opportunities to raise the fisheries issues in all possible foras

Wishing you a good reading and will be fantastic to have your feedback on the various issues presented to you here!

*Margaret Nakato
Arthur Bogason*

1. Committee of World Food Security (CFS) led negotiations on Voluntary Guidelines for land and natural resources.

Ongoing consultations on the development of the voluntary guidelines for responsible governance of fisheries, forest and tenure of land are important for the small scale fisher due to the increasing vulnerability of the small scale fisher to displacement from traditional fishing grounds to give way for development initiatives, infrastructure development, tourism among others, destroying livelihoods for thousands of small scale fisher!

More than 60 member countries and 20 representatives of civil society, the private sector, as well as participants from international financial institutions and observers have been meeting at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome in July and October to review, discuss and negotiate the first draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance on Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

The July negotiations were adjourned and continued in October before the 37th session of the CFS.

WFF was represented in both the July and October meetings and we thank all those who were able to feed the representative with issues that affect small scale fisher.

A report “*Tourist Dream Fisher folks Nightmare*” from a fact finding mission in Srilanka in which a representative from WFF in India participated, highlights the plight of a thousand of small scale fisher folk on the brink of displacement from their traditional land to pave way for Tourism development project, demonstrates why the fisher movement should pay keen interest to the laws and events concerning land governance and tenure.

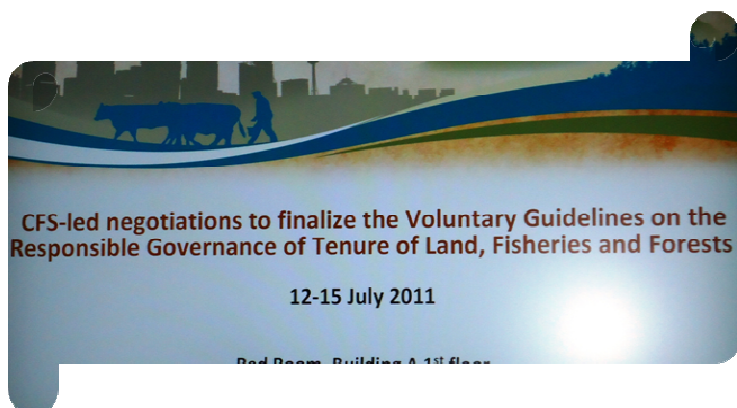
Details of where this report will be found will be provided to members as soon as it's available.

2. The Second Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the Programme in Support of the Implementation of the FAO Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

A representative of WFF attended the three-day Stakeholder Consultation Meeting that took place on the 12th – 14th July 2011 at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was jointly organized by FAO and the NEPAD's Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA).

The program in support of the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa will back the strategy promoted by the NEPAD's Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture and by the recent CAMFA recommendations.

The meeting reconfirmed the high relevance of the Programme and its three outcomes focusing on encouraging improved multi-level governance and regional integration, promoting responsible management and application of EAF and EAA, and the support to integrating climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and fisheries and aquaculture while taking the needs of communities into consideration.



WFF will continue pay key attention to regional process to enhance our participation and influence in of policies at regional level.

3. Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries [VG-SSF]

The 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in February 2011 recommended that an international instrument on small-scale fisheries be developed. This is based on the increasing recognition of small-scale fisheries as a principal contributor to poverty alleviation and food security and the guidance provided by a number of global and regional conferences and consultative meetings exploring how to better bring together responsible fisheries and social development in coastal and inland fishing communities.

The voluntary Guidelines will focus on the needs of developing countries, and relevant to small-scale fisheries in marine and inland waters covering fishing as well as related post-harvest and upstream activities. They will be in support of national, regional and international initiatives for poverty alleviation and equitable social and economic development, for improving governance of fisheries and promoting sustainable resource utilization.

Their objective is to provide advice and recommendations, establish principles and criteria, and information to assist States and stakeholders to achieve secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries and related livelihoods.

The Guidelines will be developed through a consultative process involving governments, regional organizations, civil society organizations, and small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities.

WFF through the civil society organizations (CSOs) welcome the proposed FAO guidelines on small-scale fisheries (SSF), considering this as an attempt to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries as the model for fisheries development. The CSOs commit to engage with the process.

Funding has been secured from FAO to support facilitation of consultation in the following 5 countries, with more effort in place to fundraise and enable more countries to carry out national consultations.

Countries have been proposed taking into consideration those they are the least to attract donor funding outside FAO.

Africa	Asia	Latin America
1. Uganda	1. India	1. Chile
	2. Srilanka	2. Brazil

Consultations have been carried out successfully in India. Uganda will hold the consultations on the 14th to 15th November 2011. The second list of proposed countries for the national consultation is

Africa	Asia	Latin America
1. Tanzania	1 Pakistan	1 Honduras
2. South Africa	2 Thailand	2. Guatamara
	3 Philippines	3. El Salvador
		4. Nicaragua
		5. Panama
		6. Costa Rica

WFF, WFFP, IPC and ICSF are leading this process through the contact focal persons of either organization in the respective countries. Where two or all organizations have contact persons in the target country, these then coordinate to organize the consultations together.

4. Rio+20

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)/ Rio+20 Conference will take place in Brazil on 4-6 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document.

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges

The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Why is Rio 2012 important to us?

The conference gives us a good opportunity to put the importance of, policies for and support of small scale sustainable food production especially fisheries in the core of the political debate about sustainable development. Thousands of organizations will be in Rio. Efforts are being made for WFF to be there, be visible and active.

The Preparatory Process

A number of preparatory meetings have taken place. The purpose of these preparatory meetings is to discuss substantive and procedural issues in preparation for the Conference.

An inclusive preparatory process has started to take place involving various stakeholders at different levels. This process is geared towards achieving an outcome that will make notable contributions in advancing the goal of sustainable development.

Member organizations of WFF can find more information about the Rio+20 and how they can participate on the official website of the conference; <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

A stakeholder forum has set up a site as an information hub to provide updates, background information and analysis towards Rio+20. It is intended this site will also act as a platform to connect organizations and stakeholders interested in engaging in the preparatory process. Here you will find ways to get involved in the lead up to the Summit and support global efforts towards achieving sustainable development.

<http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

You can find a “roadmap” from Stakeholder forum at

<http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/The%20FINAL%20VERSION%20The%20Road%20Map%20to%20Rio.pdf>

Below are some Regional UN-conferences on Rio2012 that have taken place

- [*Regional Preparatory Meeting for ECE Region, ECE, Geneva, Switzerland, 1 Dec 2011 - 2 Dec 2011*](#)
- [*2nd Intersessional Meeting of UNCSD, UN Secretariat, New York, USA, 15 Dec 2011 - 16 Dec 2011.*](#)
- [*3rd Intersessional Meeting of UNCSD, UN Secretariat, New York, USA, 5 Mar 2012 - 7 Mar 2012*](#)
- [*3rd Preparatory Committee Meeting UN Conference on Sustainable Development,*](#)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 28 May 2012 - 30 May 2012

- *Open forum with seminars etc, maybe thematic days, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, May 31st – June 3rd 2012*
- *[United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20](#) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 4-6 June 2012*

Join Margaret Nakato on face book so as to be joined on the WFF members group on face book and WFF fan page.

5. WFF General Assembly

Efforts are in place to hold a General Assembly in January/February 2012 and information will be provided to the members as soon as a final decision is taken.

Other relevant resources

The United Nations webpage for the conference: www.uncsd2012.org/

Stakeholder forum (coalition of civil society organizations): www.earthsummit2012.org

Brazilian civil society committee for the conference: www.Rio2012.org.br

UNEP website about green economy: www.unep.org/greeneconomy

Lastly, we encourage members to share with us every 3 months progress on the issues you are working on with pictures to include in our newsletter and to inform other WFF members of what you are doing in your regions.

Let us know what is going on with you and your struggles, by posting regularly on the WFF members group your daily challenges and success.