

**THE WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS & FISH WORKERS (WFF)**

**FORUM MONDIAL DES PECHEURS ET TRAVAILLEURS DE LA PECHE**

**FORO MUNDIAL DE PESCADORES Y TRABAJADORES DE LA PESCA**



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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2010**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) is an international network of 28 civil society national organizations of traditional small-scale artisanal fishers, whose livelihoods depend directly on the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

This year we welcomed three new member organizations bringing the total number of WFF members to 31.

The WFF is the response to increasing small scale fisher voice in decision making process.

In spite of the small scale fishers' contribution to economic and social development, nutritional well-being, societal and cultural values, small-scale fisher communities often face uncertain and vulnerable living and working conditions, due to a range of factors, including insecure rights to land and fishery resources, unfair and unsafe working conditions, and inadequate or absent health and educational services and social safety nets.

If provided with the right kind of support, the small-scale fisheries sector has tremendous potential to significantly contribute to sustainable development and to the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) dealing with eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and ensuring environmental sustainability.

It is in this connection that World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) was formed to raise

awareness of the plight of small scale fishers amidst the effects of neoliberal policies; establish a global network of fishers' organizations to fight for their rights and also seek international collaboration and support in building value systems rooted in a democratic principle and ensures the concerns of the most vulnerable.

## 2. STRUCTURE

WFF is undergoing registration in Uganda after shifting the office from Canada where the organizational secretariat was based and registered.

The member organizations of small scale fishers come from the 5 regions of the world including Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America.

### General Assembly

The organizational structure of WFF includes the General Assembly where all member organizations are represented. It is the highest decision making body and meets every 3 years.

### Executive Committee

WFF has an Executive Committee of 4 members elected by the General Assembly. The Coordination committee members are elected 1 male and 1 female representative from each of the 5 continents. Both committees are elected every 3 years.

### Executive Committee

- |    |                   |                     |
|----|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Arthur Bogason    | - Co president      |
| 2. | Margaret Nakato   | - Co President      |
| 3. | Francois Poulaine | - Secretary General |
| 4. | Ujjaini Halim     | - Treasurer         |

## Secretariat

The secretariat in Uganda supports the core activities of WFF.

### 3. ACTIVITIES IN 2010

The activities that have been carried out last year have focused on strengthening the secretariat of WFF in Uganda so as to be able to coordinate the members as well as the work and of WFF in all the 5 continents, increasing visibility and importance of the small scale fisher through attending international meetings and conferences in the sector.

#### 1. Meetings.

➤ **Executive Committee meeting.** This year, a complete Executive Committee meeting took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in Paris. The meeting that was facilitated by Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer made strategic future plans for the WFF and we convey our sincere appreciation to the FPH for supporting it.

Important decisions were made in this meeting, and plans for the future development of WFF were discussed.

Although the WFF has been loosely networked for the past 6 years since its last General Assembly in 2004 a few members of the organization have been active in representation of the fisher folk in foras where issues of small scale fishing are discussed; the following are some of them;

➤ **FAO & Civil society consultative meetings on land and natural resource**

**management guidelines.** Representatives of WFF attended the FAO civil society consultative meetings on Land and Natural resource management in Addis Ababa Ethiopia and in Nyeleni Mali in December 2009 and September 2010 respectively. The events were supported by the FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the civil society organizations respectively.

The objective of these Voluntary Guidelines is to assist countries and their institutions in: improving the governance of land and natural resource tenure; expanding the administration's capacity to alleviating hunger and poverty; enhancing the environment; supporting national and local economic development; and reforming public administration. As soon as it's available, the draft document of the guidelines will be uploaded on the WFF website.

➤ **26<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional conference in Angola.** This took place in May 2010 in Luanda to deliberate on issues affecting food security in Africa. The objective of civil society's engagement in this process was to contribute critically and provide own perspectives informed by social organizations and communities experiences in their efforts to achieve food security and food sovereignty.

In this regional conference, members called upon FAO and African governments present, to consider issues regarding the committee on World Food security, land reform, land grabbing and Agro fuel, access, control and ownership of natural resources as well as infrastructure and investment.

**International Collective in support of Fish workers (ICSF).** The workshop on 'Re-casting the net: Defining a gender agenda for sustaining life and livelihood in fishing communities' took place in Chennai India July 2010. The workshop aimed to analyze the impact of current developments in fisheries on the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities specifically focusing on women's experiences. It was agreed that though women are an integral part of small scale and artisanal fisheries, they are often left out of the major decisions in the sector that affects their lives. It was realized therefore that there is need to put women high on the agenda and their issues prioritized.

➤ **FAO Regional Workshops.** The FAO Secretariat convened three regional workshops for Africa in Maputo, Mozambique, Asia in Bangkok Thailand, Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean in San Jose Costa Rica October 2010. The workshops were a means to consult with national and regional stakeholders, to identify good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries. The Regional Workshops also addressed the application of ecosystem approach for fisheries as well as disaster risk management to reduce vulnerability of communities to natural disasters and climate change. Stakeholders contributed to the scope and contents of a possible international instrument on sustainable small-scale fisheries development, as well as Priorities and implementation modalities of a global assistance programme.

From the above meetings, the role of the WFF secretariat is ;

- To update its members on the ongoing processes and ensure that their views are reflected in the decisions that directly affect them.
- Organize meetings for members whenever it's appropriate so as to discuss the major issues and collect their views to be forwarded in international foras.
- Produce a bi-annual newsletter to guide members on the way forward and on how they can influence the ongoing processes.
- Guide members on how they can transform such decisions into action at their levels.

**2. Establish and strengthen the Secretariat in Uganda.** A secretariat has been established in Uganda to aid the coordination and collaboration among the WFF members and to run all programs of WFF. . The WFF currently employs two people on full time basis while 2 staff of Katosi Women Development Trust which shares the office space with the WFF offer additional support to the secretariat as need arises.

### **3. Website development.**

A web site which will be a major tool of communication among WFF members and the world, fundraising as well as sharing any important events, information and news in the sector is under construction. The secretariat is in the process of compiling information for the website both for the members and other people.

## WFF website under construction



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

### 4. Communication with members.

Mailing lists have been created so as to facilitate communication between the secretariat and the members, and also among the members themselves. A list has been created for the members of the Executive Committee, the Coordination Committee, and another list for all the members of WFF. Since the creation of these channels there has been increased communication among the members as well as discussions on various issues.

### 5. Challenges

- **Inadequate resources.** Since its last General Assembly in 2004 the World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers has not held another GA or Coordination Committee meeting as constituted in its constitutional due to financial constraints.
- Communication among members is still a challenge especially for members who have got limited access to the internet.

### 6. Way forward, Future plans and upcoming activities.

✓ Bi-annual newsletters. WFF plans to embark on publishing a bi-annual newsletter. This newsletter will capture the best practices in the sector as well as bad practices among small scale fisheries for learning among members. The newsletter would also reflect the upcoming events, important international agreements that have an influence on small scale fishers, stories and good practices from members, as well as any news from the sector in general.

✓ Using the website to keep members updated and engaged in any important events in the fisheries sector, both international and in various countries.

✓ The WFF intends to establish a coordination office in each of the 5 continents with the availability of resources. The coordination offices may be hosted by one of the members, and its role would be to coordinate activities on behalf of the secretariat in that region.

✓ Holding meetings is another important activity that WFF needs to revive. It's proposed that 1 Executive meeting and 1 Coordination meeting be held every year, as well as 1 General Assembly every 3 years.

✓ The secretariat is now set to embark on fundraising and resource mobilization, for the implementation of all planned activities, and to revive the glory of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF)

- ✓ Celebration of world fisheries day celebrations 21<sup>st</sup> November

WFF with gratitude wishes to thank her donor agencies and individuals who have continuously supported our cause all year round; enhancing the capacity of small scale fishers to voice out issues that affect their lives and will contribute to improved livelihoods in fishing communities.

We appreciate the contribution of the following organizations.

1. Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer
2. Comité Catholique Contre la faim et pour le développement who have accepted to support our activities with €5,000.

**Partners and Member to :**

The WFF has well established working relationship with other international nongovernmental organizations working on issues of small scale fishery and is invited to

participate and consulted at various levels. The WFF works closely with the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty, the Responsible Fishing Alliance and International Collective in Support of Small Scale Fisher all working for improved conditions for small scale food producers.

WFF is on the coordination committee of More & Better an international network for support of food, agriculture and rural development to eradicate hunger and poverty.

**Secretariat**

**World Forum Of Fish Harvesters & Fish workers**

**Forum Mondial Des Pêcheurs Et Travailleurs De La Pêche**

**Foro Mundial De Pescadores Y Trabajadores De La Pesca**

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<b>OVERVIEW INCOME</b>	<b>Euros</b>	<b>Uganda shs.</b>
Support from Foundation Charles Leopold Mayer	€ 70,000.00	Ug. shs 219,450,000
<b>Total</b>	€ 70,000.00	Ug. Shs 219,450,000
<b>OVERVIEW EXPENDITURE</b>		
Construction of website	€ 2,250.00	Ug. Shs 7,055,400
Communication	€ 225.55	Ug. Shs 707,100
Office, office supplies and expenses	€ 888.38	Ug. Shs 2,785,050
Personnel	€ 3,761.32	Ug. Shs 11,791,750
Office furniture	€ 1248.80	Ug. Shs 3,915,000
Computer	€ 701.75	Ug. Shs 2,200,000
Bank charges	€ 79.74	Ug. Shs 250,000
<b>Total expenditure</b>	€ 9,155.55	Ug. shs 28,704,300
	€ 60,844.45	Ug. shs 190,745,700

The difference between income and expenditure € 60,844.45 is for the WFF ongoing activities which include construction of the website and holding African fisher organization meeting.

## MEMBERS

Organization	Country	Website
<b>Africa</b>		
Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council	Ghana	No website
Union Nationale des Pêcheurs Artisans de Guinée (UNPAG)	Guinea	No website
Fédération Nationale de Pêche	Mauritania	No website
Katosi Women Development Trust	Uganda	<a href="http://www.katosi.org">www.katosi.org</a>
Environment Management and Economic Development Organization	Tanzania	
National Coordinating Organization for Farmer Association ( NACOFAG)	Gambia	No website
Kenya National Fisherfolk Association ( KENAFSA)	Kenya	
<b>Asia</b>		
School of Administration of Jiangsu	China	No website
East Coast Fish Workers' Union	India	No website
<b>Europe</b>		
Meginfelag Útrodrarmanna	Faroe Islands	No website
Branche Française du Forum Mondial	France	No website
Kalaallit Nunaanni Aalisartut Piniartullu Kattuffiat (KNAPK)	Greenland	No website
National Association of Small Boat Owners (NASBO)	Iceland	<a href="http://www.smabatar.is">www.smabatar.is</a>
Norges Kystfiskeri (The Norwegian Coastal Fishermen's Union)	Norway	No website
Federação dos Sindicatos do Sector da Pesca	Portugal	No website
Sindicato Livre dos Pescadores e Profissionais Afins	Portugal	No website
<b>Latin America</b>		
Sociedad Nacional de Pescadores/Cooperativa Lanchas Amarillas	Argentina	No website
Movimento Nacional dos Pescadores (MONAPE)	Brazil	No website
Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH)	Chile	No website
Confederación de Cooperativas Pesqueras de Costa Rica (COOPETARCOLES)	Costa Rica	<a href="http://www.coopetacoles.org">www.coopetacoles.org</a>
Federación Nacional de Cooperativas Pesqueras del Ecuador (FENACOPEC)	Ecuador	No website
Federación de Asociaciones Cooperativas Pesqueras Artesanales de El Salvador (FACOPADES)	El Salvador	No website
Federación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Guatemala (FENAPESCA)	Guatemala	No website
Federación Nacional de Pescadores de Honduras (FENAPESCAH)	Honduras	No website
Federación Nicaragüense de Pescadores Artesanales (FENICPESCA)	Nicaragua	No website
Federación Nacional de Organizaciones de Pescadores Artesanales de la Republica de Panama (FENAPESCA)	Panama	No website
Federación de Integración y Unificación de los Pescadores Artesanales del Perú (FIUPAP)	Peru	No website
Federación Venezolana de Pescadores y Trabajadores de la Industria Pesquera (FETRAPESCA)	Venezuela	No website
<b>North America</b>		
Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters (CCPFH)	Canada	No website
Frente Estatal de Pescadores, A.C	Mexico	No website
Louisiana Shrimp Association	USA	No website