



# Advances towards recognition of women's work in SSF

**The example of the women mollusk  
gatherers  
in Costa Rica**

# The situation

- Women mollusk gatherers in Costa Rica would only have their rights recognized if a management plan says that mollusk population is in good condition.
- In the Pacific coast, more than 7000 families and principally women and their families live of this work.
- They are “illegal” “non formal” and have no rights for the access of a traditional work since the biological studies have not been done as the law mentions.



# Women mollusk gatherers

- Are located in a very vulnerable situation from the environmental, social, and economic perspective. Have no access rights.
- Have been marginalized as third class Costa Ricans, still some of this communities lack potable water, electricity and have very deficient health and education services.

# Serious effects to livelihoods

- o One of the consequences of informality, very common in fisheries work is the negative access to social security policies. Collective security options are a good option but strengthening of organization efforts of fishers should be provided first .
- o Fishers (men and women) believe they work with dignity but recognized that their labor, independent conditions and lack of resources make them stay in poverty and lack of hope.



# The study brought to life:

- National recognition of the women and their situation
- The start of coordination between government and civil society to resolve the situation
- A human rights approach to conservation
- Participatory work towards sustainable use of the resource.

# They have started a process to be recognized

- o A photo exhibition showing their effort and work
- o The political incidence to arrive to the presidential house and to the Congress
- o The initiation of activities to improve the condition of the mangrove
- o The initiation of participative research that will give as a result a management plan for the mollusk.





# Presenting ourselves and our problems

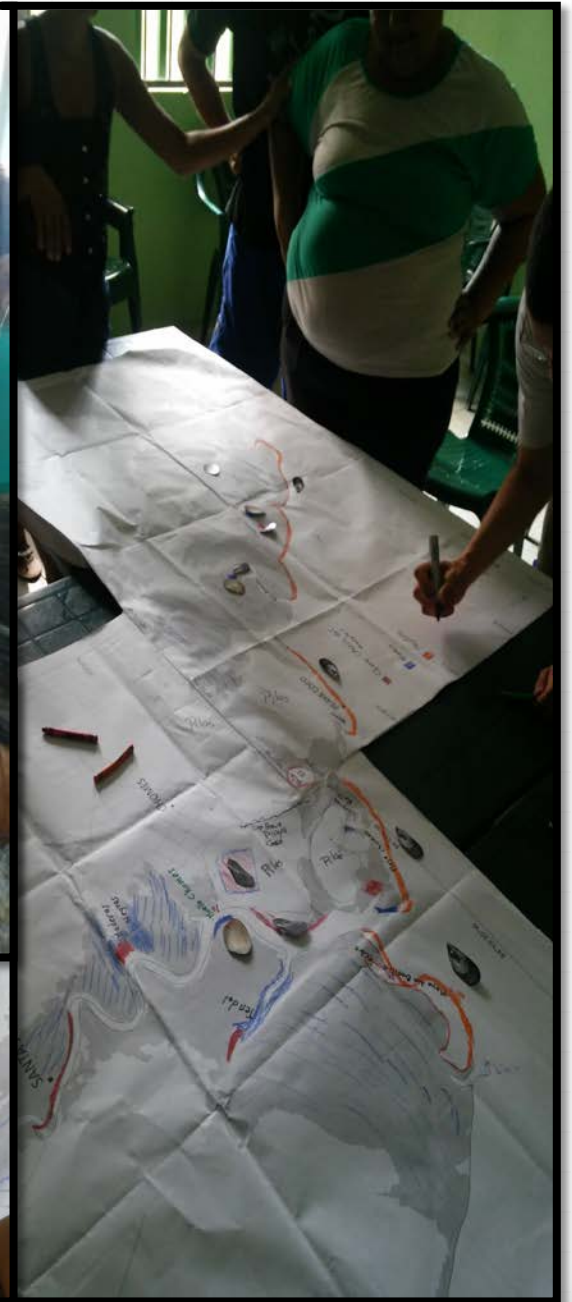


# Organizing ourselves



# Participatory research





# Towards a better community and livelihood!



# Thank you!

