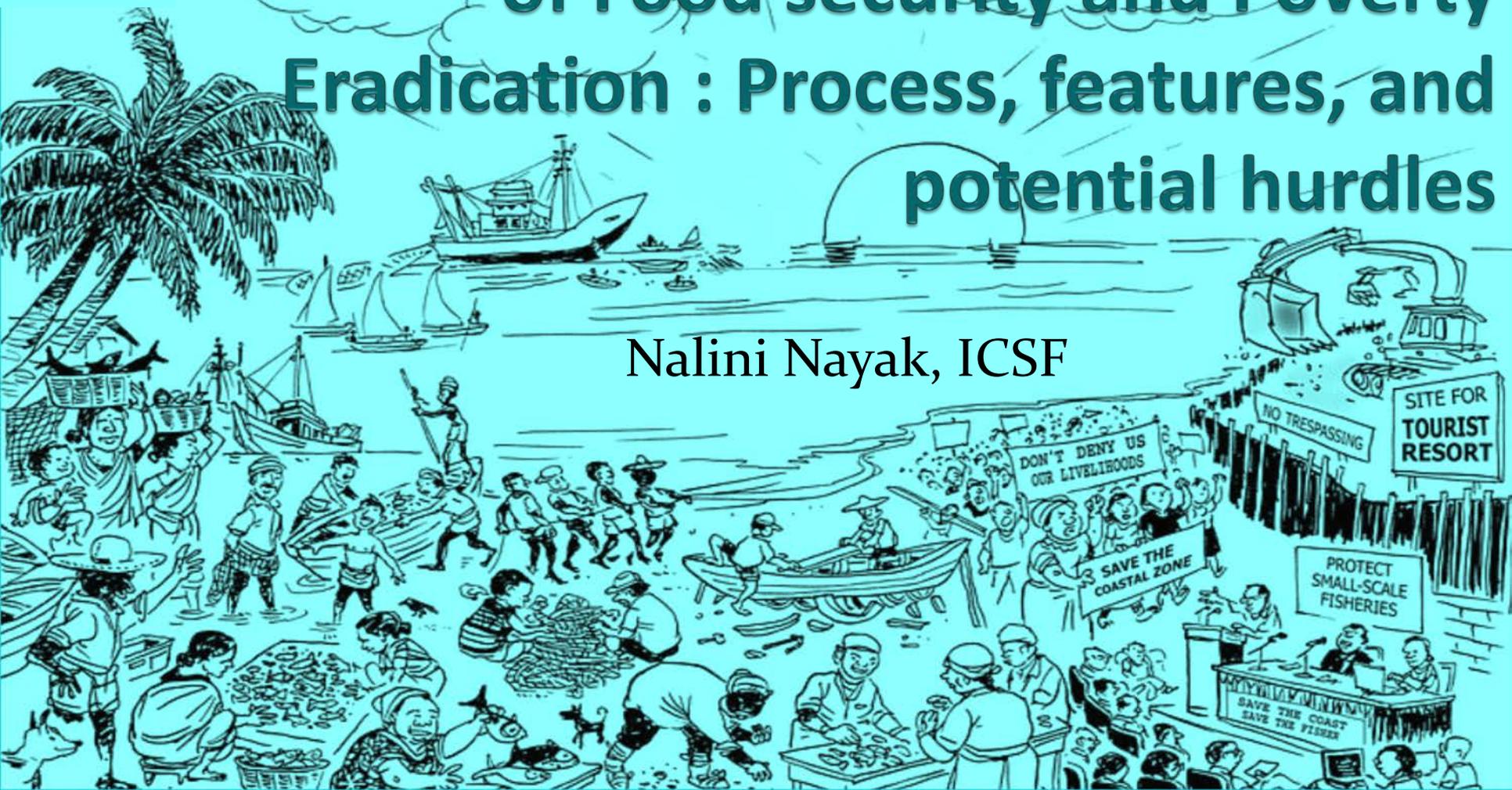


Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Small Scale Fisheries in the context of Food security and Poverty Eradication : Process, features, and potential hurdles



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Based on

- international human rights standards,
- sustainable development standards and practices as per the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document ‘The future we want’,
- Responsible fisheries based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Triple Focus

- Enhancing the contribution to food security
- Sustainable SSF
- Human Rights of fishing communities, economic development, adequate food, social security

This triple focus is based on the understanding that responsible and sustainable fisheries can be achieved only if the human rights of fishworkers and their communities are recognized and respected.

Milestones

March 2007 Committee On Fisheries (COFI) 27:

- Third time SSF included as a separate agenda item in COFI
- First time CSOs made a joint statement on an agenda item
- First time CSOs spoke ahead of the discussion on an agenda item

COFI Agenda Paper on Social Issues in SSF emphasizes that combining fisheries management and social development, within a human rights framework is pre requisite to achieve responsible small scale fisheries

COFI Outcomes:

- recognition and adoption of human rights principles can help achieve poverty eradication and facilitate the adoption of responsible fisheries practices.
- expressed support for a strategy of action that brought together responsible fisheries and social development
- Norway proposes convening a broad-based international conference on SSF

The process

- A shared journey between the FAO and Civil society organizations representing fishworkers, academics and other organizations working on food security
- In 2008: The Bangkok Process – leading to the 4SSF Conference
- COFI 29, 2009, expresses need for an international instrument on SSF, and
- tasks the COFI Secretariat to examine options
- 2013-2014: The Guidelines process – leading up to their adoption in COFI 31 in June 2

The process.....

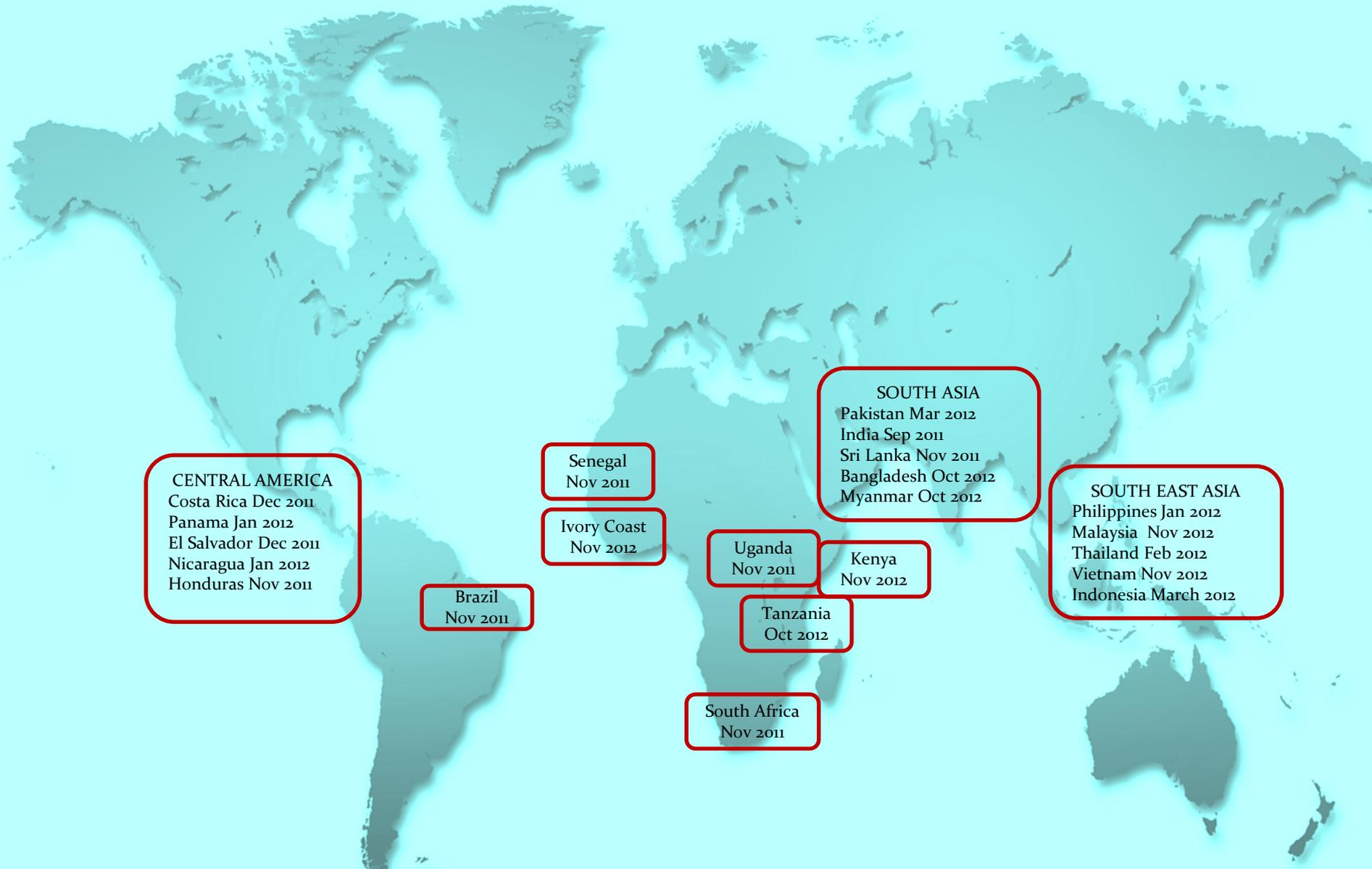
- FAO Organizes Regional Consultations in 7 Regions between 2010 and 2012
- COFI 30 2012 agrees to develop new international instrument on SSF
- complementing the Code.
- in the form of international guidelines,
- voluntary in nature,
- addressing both inland and marine fisheries and
- focus on the needs of developing countries

CSO process

- August 2011 – WFF, WFFP, ICSF and IPC establish “CSO Platform”
- Up to December 2012 organized some 20 national workshops across Latin America, Africa and Asia, two regional workshops in Africa (with participants from 16 African countries), and some discussions in Europe.
- Around 3,000 fishworkers and others participated in these workshops
- National-level workshops aimed to:
 - highlight what CSOs would like to see in the VG-SSF
 - enable CSOs to influence the proposed FAO guidelines through a bottom-up consultative process.



CSO Consultations 2011 to 2012



The collaboration: FAO and the CSO Platform

- May 2012 FAO produced 1st Zero Draft of the Guidelines for comments
- December 2012 EEU of Cape Town University produced “Synthesis Document” providing a synthesis of the statements and reports emanating from the CSO workshops.
- January 2013, CSOs met in Rome to provide inputs to the Zero Draft
- May 2013 FAO released Draft Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication – incorporating most of the proposals from the CSOs

May 2013 FAO convened Technical Consultation (TC)

- attended by:
 - delegates from 68 countries and the EU
 - CSO delegation of 37 delegates from 18 countries
- TC unable to complete task in June 2014. “Sticky issues” included:
 - ‘governance’ and the recognition of customary right,
 - disagreement on ‘vulnerable, marginalized’ groups
 - ‘Informal sector’ in small-scale fisheries
- February 2014 FAO convened resumed round of TC. Sticky issues resolved, text produced for COFI

The CSO Platform at FAO



2014, COFI 31 adopts VG SSF:

- 116 Members (out of a total of 143) approved the adoption of the first international instrument dedicated to small scale fisheries
- COFI agreed to honour Chandrika Sharma in the SSF Guidelines for her invaluable contribution to small-scale fisheries
- COFI highlighted the critical role of small scale fisheries in contributing to livelihoods and to food and nutritional security

SSF Guidelines Dedicated to Chandrika Sharma



KEEPING QUIET

by Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fisherman in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.
Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

Part 1. Introduction

1. OBJECTIVES
2. NATURE AND SCOPE
3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES
4. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

PART 2: RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 5. GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 - 5A. *Responsible governance of tenure*
 - 5B. *Sustainable resource management*
- 6. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK
- 7. VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST AND TRADE
- 8. GENDER EQUALITY
- 9. DISASTER RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PART 3: ENSURING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

- 10. POLICY COHERENCE, INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION
- 11. INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION
- 12. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
- 13. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT AND MONITORING

Cross cutting themes

- Gender justice-safeguarding the rights of women in fisheries
- Participation of communities
- Rights of indigenous people
- Attention to marginalized and vulnerable groups
- Traditional knowledge and customary rights

A comprehensive and integrated document

It calls for

A multi disciplinary approach

Integration between various departments

Looks at the whole value chain

It necessitates a monitoring and implementation mechanism

Opportunities and Threats

While the Guidelines provide opportunities for SSF to stake a claim for the recognition of their customary rights, traditional knowledge, the management of the resources together with the recognition of their human rights to development and food security, they also open up the space for other players to enter the arena of the SSF, with a different agenda and different priorities

Some New Players

taking an interest in small scale fisheries

- Organizations like the World Bank, Global Environmental Facility threaten to manipulate the implementation of the Guidelines according to their ideals and policies
- There are new actors entering who are both funders and policy advocates, including big US NGOs like Pew, EDF, and Rare, and foundations like Oak and Rockefeller.
- These actors have huge political influence and vast wealth at their disposal. They have the potential to divide and rule the small scale fishery sector by cherry picking partners, and to buy influence at the highest level.

A Potential Clash of Agendas?

- A Human Rights Based Approach to develop small scale fishing communities
- A Property Rights or Wealth Based Approach to generate profits
- A conservationist approach to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems

Rights-Based Approaches

- A “human rights-based approach” to development: respect for human rights is integral to achieving development outcomes and responsible fisheries
- A “property rights based approach”: restricts access by allocating individual transferable fishing rights to generate profits and create a market for fishing rights

The CSOs insist

that the implementation of the guidelines is conducted in "the spirit" with which they were developed, i.e. through a process that is inclusive, participative, democratic, respectful of the role of women in fisheries and with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups

The challenge

- These Guidelines are 25 years too late
- The CSO platform operated reasonably successfully in developing the Guidelines
- Will the WFF and WFFP as representatives of the SSF, have a common strategy while implementing the Guidelines or will they be divided/used by the funders and larger policy making bodies ??



As a larger group of fisheries related people understand these guidelines from a fisher people's perspective, their true realization is enhanced.



Thank You