



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Introduction to the SSF Guidelines

Nicole Franz , Fishery Planning Analyst

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Negotiated international instrument entirely dedicated to SSF |

→ A global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development



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Bring together social development and responsible fisheries |

→ beyond fisheries: sustainable livelihoods, social stability, food security and sustainable social and economic development



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Bring together social development and responsible fisheries |

→ beyond fisheries: sustainable livelihoods, social stability, food security and sustainable social and economic development

Complement other international instruments |

→ Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; Right to Food Guidelines; Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

→ Common grounding in **human rights principles**



# Key milestones in the history of the SSF Guidelines

2008

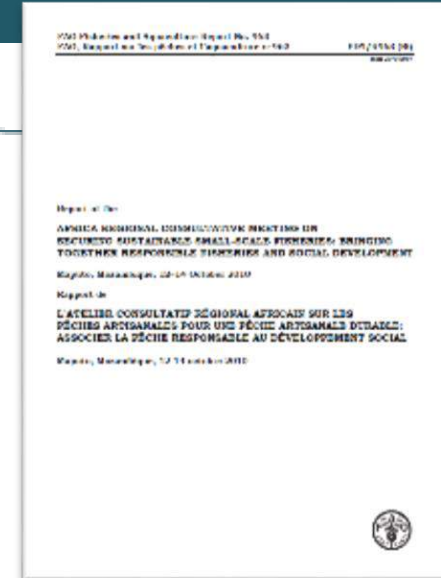
First Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries – Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development, Bangkok, reaffirmed that human rights are critical to achieving sustainable development and called for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries.

2009

28<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and create a monitoring framework.

2010

FAO convened three regional workshops for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean to consult with national and regional stakeholders, to identify good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries, and to provide their views on how small-scale artisanal fisheries can be best supported and enabled to fulfil their potential.



# Key milestones in the history of the SSF Guidelines

2011

Based on the conclusions and recommendations of the regional workshops, the **29<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI** approved the development of guidelines on small-scale fisheries that would draw on existing instruments and complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

2012

2013

2014

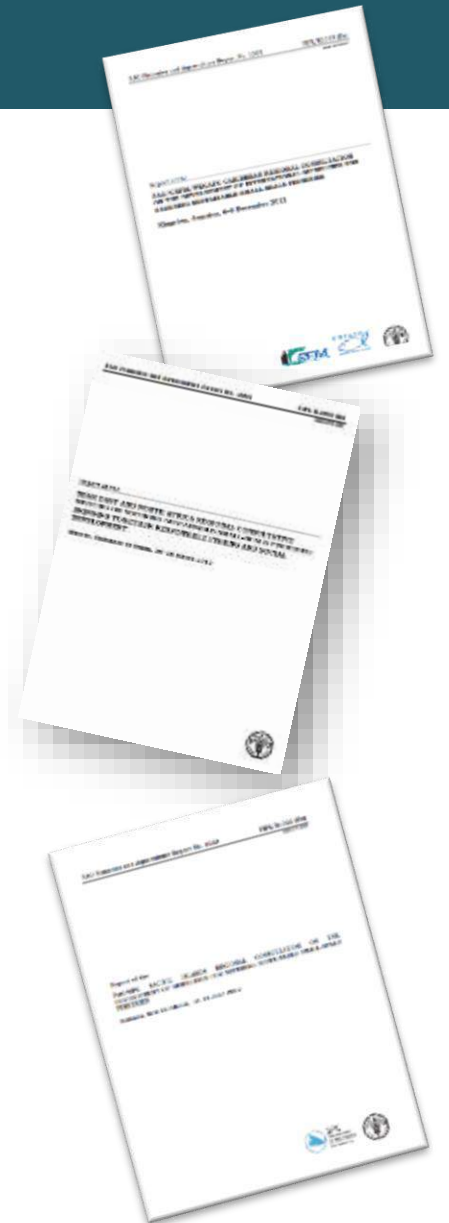
The **31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI** endorsed the SSF Guidelines and welcomed FAO's proposal for a Global Assistance Programme (GAP) to support their implementation.

May 2013 & Feb 2014

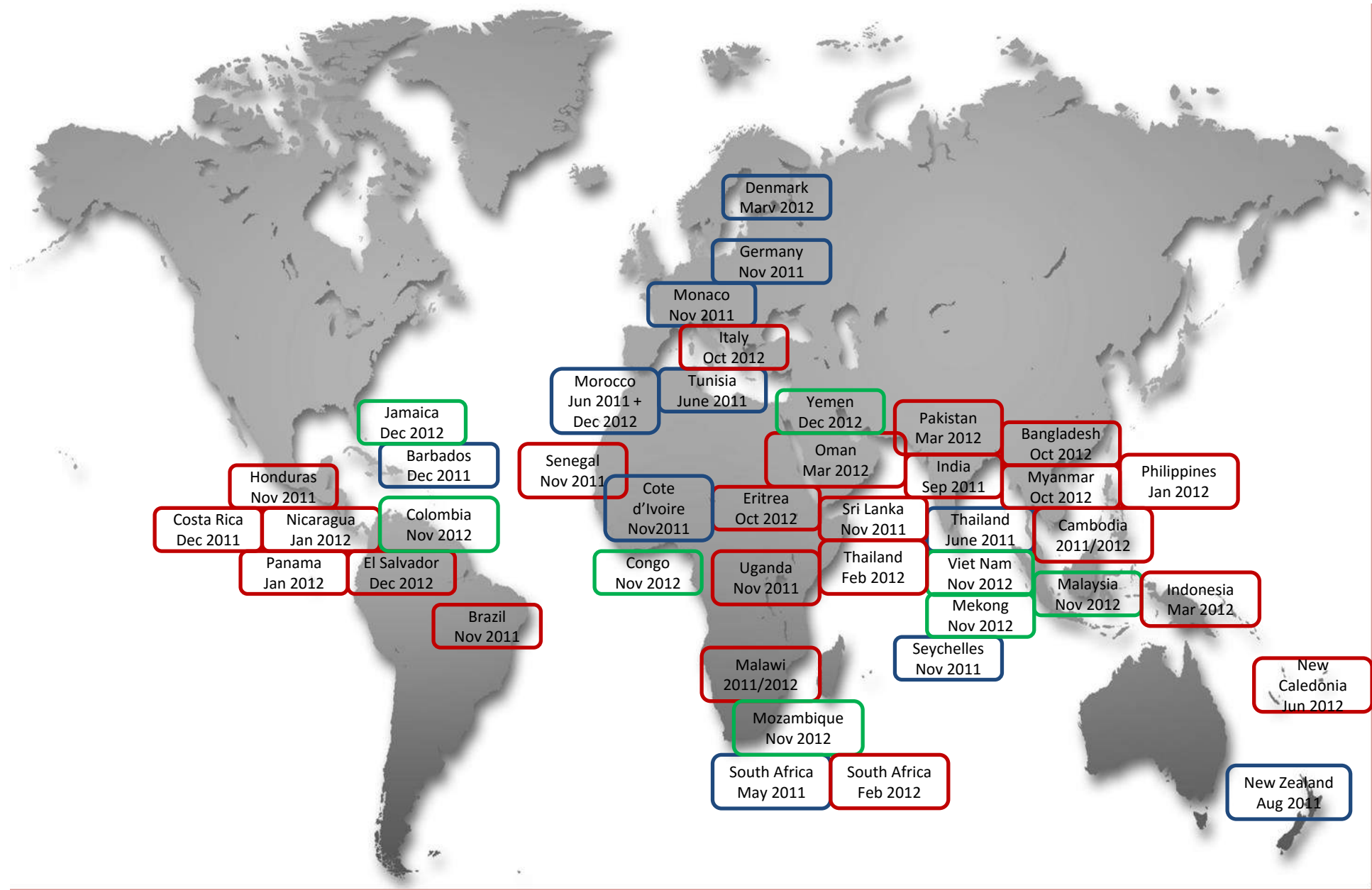
88 FAO Members, 4 international NGOs, 11 governmental organizations as well as 59 representatives from civil society organizations met for a **Technical Consultation** to agree on the final text of the SSF Guidelines.

2011–2012–2013

The first draft of the SSF Guidelines was developed through a **participatory and consultative process**, that directly involved more than 4 000 representatives of small-scale fishing communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, regional organizations and other stakeholders from more than 120 countries. To support this process, a CSO platform organized more than 20 national and regional stakeholder consultations. FAO held three more regional stakeholder consultations for the Near East and North Africa, for the Pacific Islands and for the Caribbean.



# SSF Guidelines stakeholder consultations 2011-13



# What do the SSF Guidelines say?

## Part I: Introduction

1. Objectives
2. Nature and scope
3. Guiding principles
4. Relationship with other international instruments



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## **Part II: Responsible fisheries and sustainable development**

5. Governance of tenure in SSF and resource management
6. Social development, employment and decent work
7. Value chain, post-harvest and trade
8. Gender equality
9. Disaster risks and climate change

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## **Part III: 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

# SSF Guidelines: Guiding principles

Non-discrimination



Respect of cultures



Social and economic viability



Gender equality and equity



Equity and equality



Transparency



Rule of law



Consultation and participation



Accountability



Economic, social and environmental sustainability



Holistic and integrated approaches



Social responsibility and feasibility



# The role of the SSF Guidelines



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Place small-scale fisheries in the context of human rights

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Set out principles and guidance for sustainable SSF development: framework for action for all stakeholders

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Empower SSF communities to participate in decision-making processes and to assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fisheries resources

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Emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized groups

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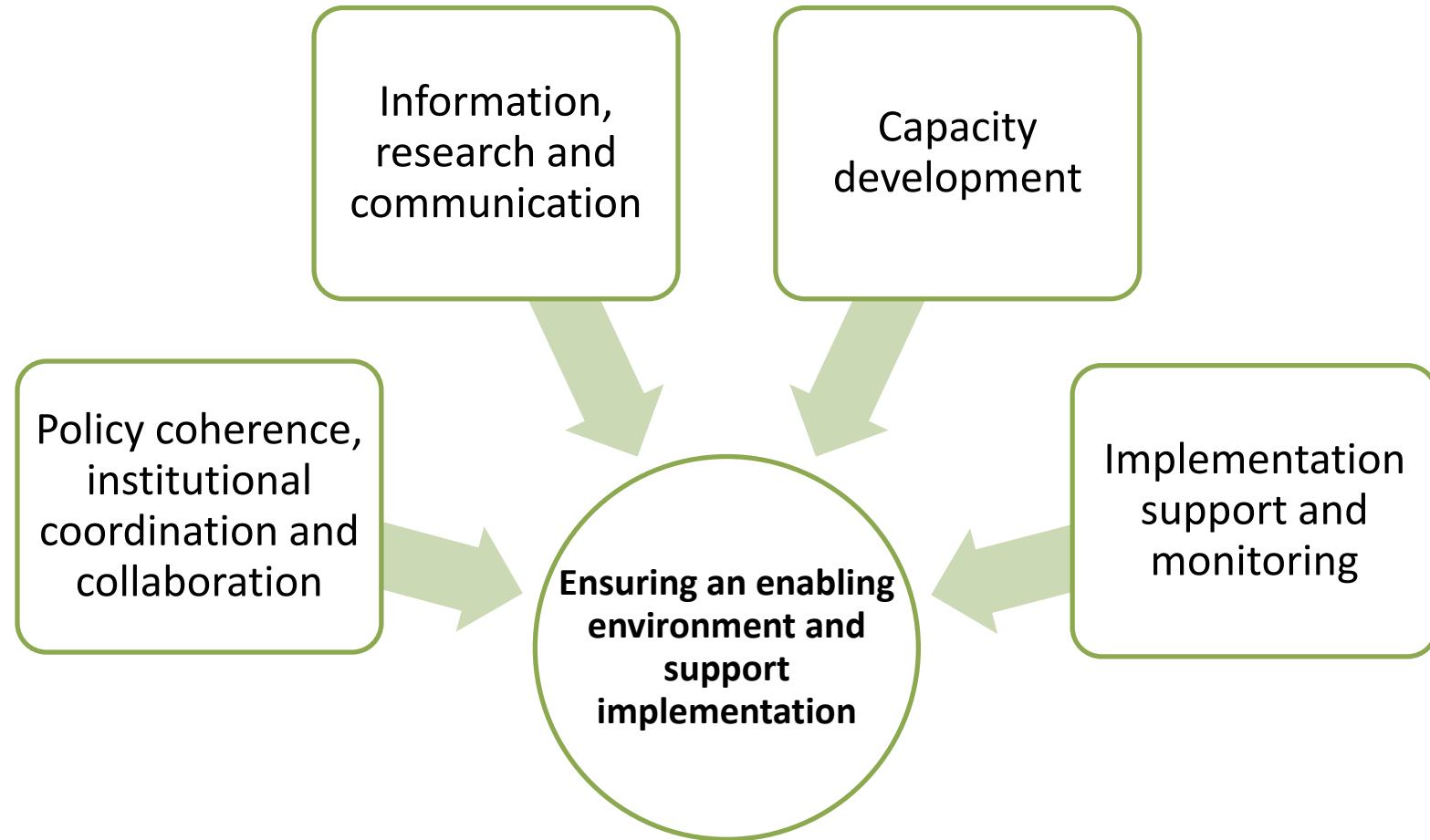
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Emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized groups



Each country will need to identify which topics are important and implement the SSF Guidelines differently

# Implementation: we all have a role to play!



# What is already happening - examples

## International

FAO Umbrella Programme to support implementation

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries questionnaire: new section on SSF (first reporting during 2016 FAO Committee on Fisheries)



## Regional

FAO regional consultations

Inclusion in regional policies and initiatives (e.g. in Central America - OSPESCA, Africa – AU/IBAR/NEPAD, Southeast Asia – SEAFDEC, Mediterranean – GFCM)

## National

Executive Decree in Costa Rica

National Action Plan in Indonesia

Local language versions of SSF Guidelines

# Conclusions

- SSF Guidelines are a powerful tool for all: **internationally agreed framework of principles and guidance** for integrated development
- **Rights and responsibilities** come together
- SSF Guidelines implementation key to **linking fishing rights and human rights** to foster participation and empowerment for improved food security and poverty eradication
- Different roles for different players



# THANK YOU!

SSF Guidelines:

[www.fao.org/3/a-i4356e/index.html](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4356e/index.html)

Development process key documents:

[www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en#container](http://www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en#container)

CSO documents:

<https://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/>

<http://igssf.icsf.net/>

TBTI Cluster on SSF Guidelines:

<http://toobigtoignore.net/research-cluster/ssf-guidelines/>



# Too BIG To IGNORE

*Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research*



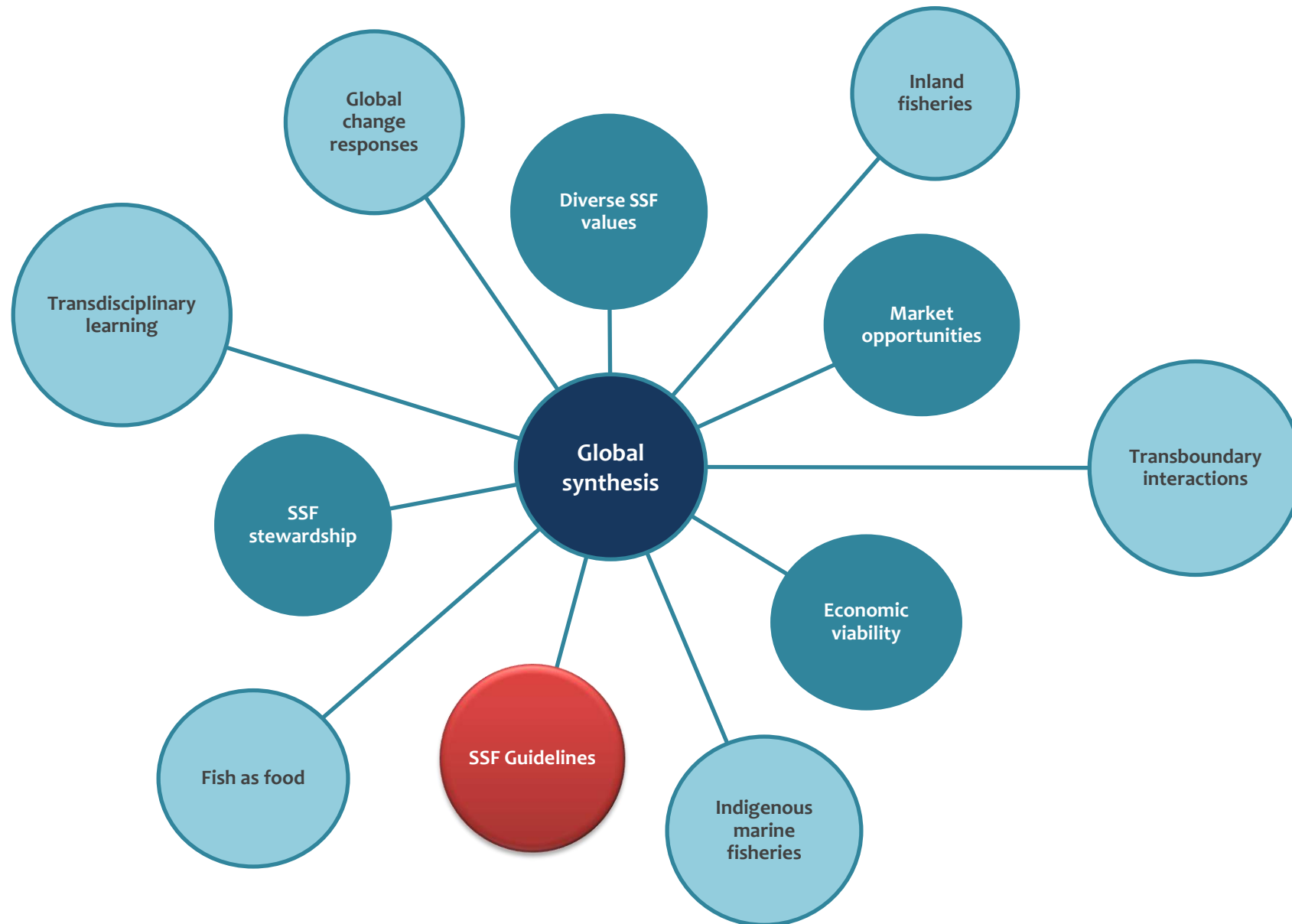
**Too Big To Ignore**

[www.toobigtoignore.net](http://www.toobigtoignore.net)

**Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research**

A six-year project (March 2012 - Feb 2018), with \$2.5 million funding from  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
and \$2.5 million matching contributions

# TBTI new research clusters



## SSF Guidelines



The **SSF Guidelines** were endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014 after a long participatory consultation process. The process involved more than 4,000 stakeholders from about 120 countries including government representatives, small-scale fisher organizations, civil society groups, researchers, and other interest groups. The endorsement of the SSF Guidelines by COFI members was indeed a landmark achievement, but now the challenge of implementation lies ahead.

The SSF Guidelines aim at providing guidance for the governance and development of small-scale fisheries in the context of global and national efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. The SSF Guidelines are broad in scope, and their implementation will necessarily engage a wide range of government agencies, civil society organizations, and small-scale fisheries stakeholders, along the entire chain from harvest to markets. FAO is helping to create awareness and to facilitate the implementation process of the SSF Guidelines around the world, but the success or failure in their implementation relies first and foremost on the states and civil society organizations – particularly fisher and fishworker organizations – to whom the SSF Guidelines are primarily addressed.

More information and guidance about the cluster and the SSF Guidelines can be found in the ***“Concept Note”***.

## Cluster coordinators

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# Walking the talk for the SSF Guidelines: Role of research

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RESEARCH

Open Access

# Walking the talk: implementing the international voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

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## Abstract

On June 9, 2014 the Committee of Fisheries (COFI) of FAO adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF-Guidelines). For millions of small-scale fisheries people around the world, this was no doubt a historic event and a potential turning point. The challenge now is to make sure that they will be implemented. As the SSF-Guidelines address issues that are politically contentious, there are reasons to expect that they will be met both with enthusiastic acclamation and criticism, as already happened in the negotiations of the text. This paper discusses the opportunities and obstacles for their implementation.

**Keywords:** FAO; Small-scale fisheries guidelines; Human rights approach; Implementation; Interactive governance

Figure 1: Implementation Model

*Top-down/  
Trickle-down*

**Global**

**National**

**Regional**

**Local**

*Bottom-up/  
Trickle-up*

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Trickle-down*



**Global**



**National**



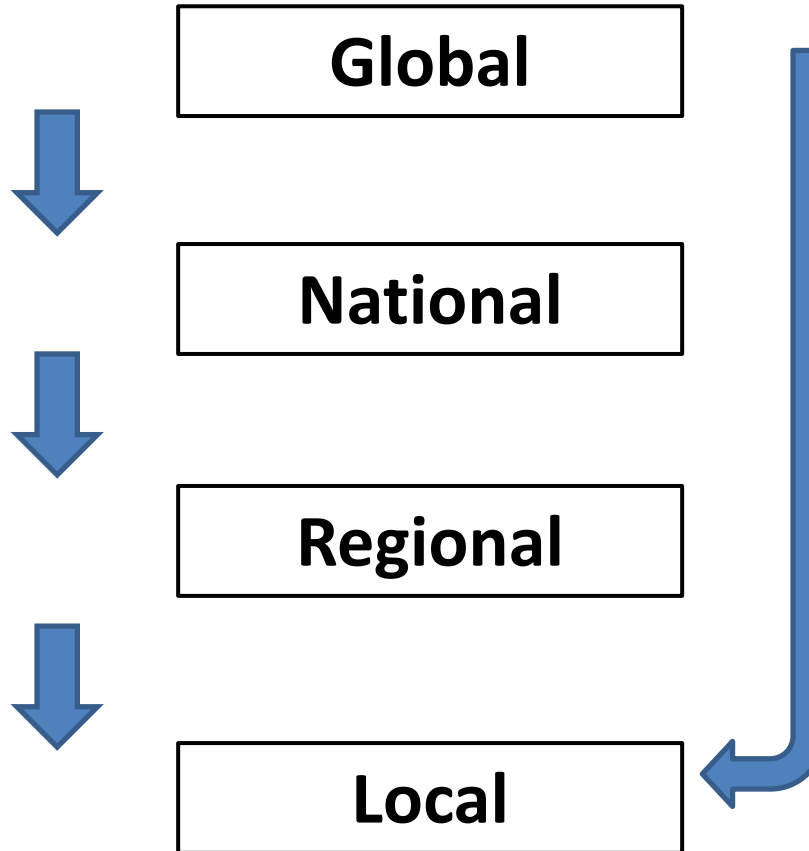
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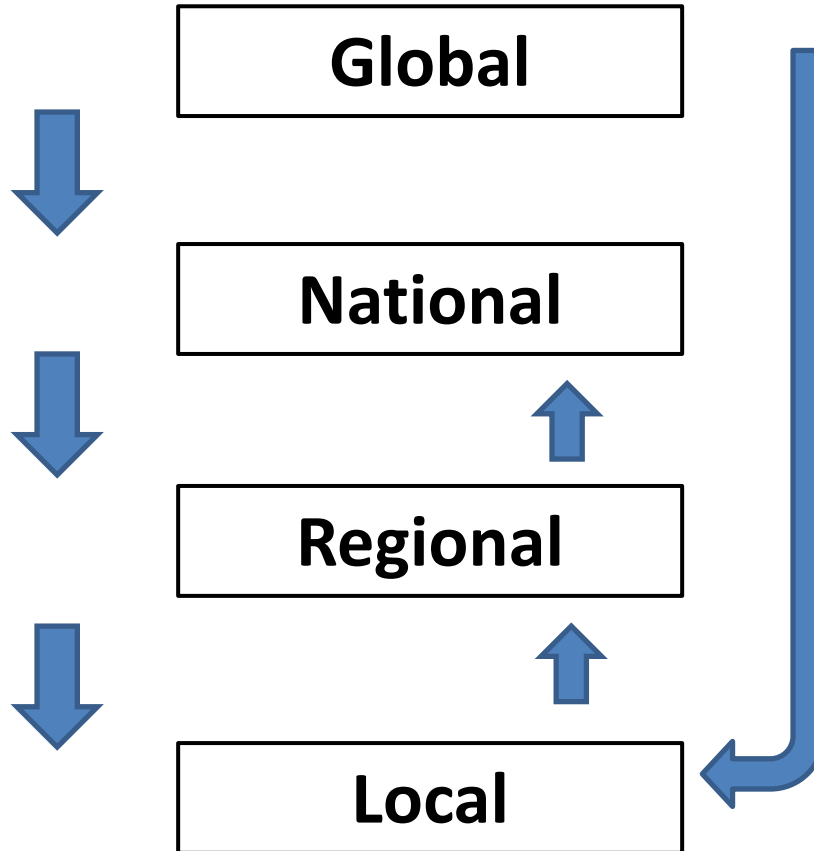
*Top-down/  
Trickle-down*



*Bottom-up/  
Trickle-up*

Figure 1: Implementation Model

*Top-down/  
Trickle-down*



*Bottom-up/  
Trickle-up*

# ***Governing orders***

Third (meta)–order

Values, principles, norms



Second order

Institutions, organisations, law



First order

Management process and practice

Legislative hurdle

Bureaucratic hurdle

Consensus hurdle

Implementation



Transformation

# Call for contribution: SSF Guidelines cluster

**Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries** are simply one of the most significant landmarks for small-scale fisheries around the world. They are comprehensive in terms of topics covered and very progressive with their foundation on human rights and other key principles. It can be anticipated that implementing the guidelines, whether at local, national or regional levels, will not be easy. Thus, research on implementation challenges in various contexts will be an important contribution from **TBTI SSF Guidelines Cluster**.





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Nicole Franz  
Maria Jose Barragan Paladines  
Ratana Chuenpagdee  
*Editors*

# Unpacking the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: From Rhetoric to Action



Too BIG To  
**IGNORE**

Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research

# Geographical coverage

- Pacific Islands
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Malta
- South Africa
- Norway
- Jamaica
- Spain
- India
- Australia
- Nicaragua
- Newfoundland
- Costa Rica
- Mexico

- Bangladesh
- Greenland
- Madagascar
- Southeast Asia
- Brazil
- Tanzania
- Caribbean
- Sweden
- Thailand
- Senegal
- Nigeria
- Bahamas
- Sri Lanka



## Next TBTI webinar

# Fisheries subsidies are a big obstacle to the economic viability of SSF

Rashid Sumaila and Anna Schuhbauer  
**April 1st, 2016**

