

Supporting the application of the principles of the SSF Guidelines

Guidance for case study proposals in the context of the FAO SSF Guidelines Umbrella project

Background

In 2014, the 31st Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). FAO is supporting the application of the SSF Guidelines in collaboration with stakeholders and partners and established the *FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines – Enhancing the Contribution of Small-scale Fisheries to Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods* (the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme).

One of the programme components is *Strengthening the science-policy interface: sharing of knowledge and supporting policy reform* in order to ensure that national and regional policies embrace the principles of the SSF Guidelines and that relevant information guides strategies and interventions for the sustainable use of aquatic resources and secure livelihoods. This requires improving capacities of governments and other stakeholders to develop, strengthen and implement legal and policy frameworks for the application of the principles of the SSF Guidelines and also includes key activities in relation to identifying, documenting and generating good practices and scientific knowledge.

It is within this context that case studies are suggested to investigate and share good practices as well as to promote participatory research¹.

Case study focus and scope

The case studies should address concerns of small-scale fishers, fish workers and/or their communities and link to the [contents and thematic areas of the SSF Guidelines](#) (Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management; Social development, employment and decent work; Value chains, post-harvest and trade; Gender equality; Disaster risks and climate change) and their guiding principles. They should:

- Document an existing good practice that can be shared and implemented elsewhere, providing an analysis of enabling conditions and other reasons for why they are good practices, as well as discussing related challenges and opportunities, and/or
- Investigate a particular issue, improving the understanding of the problem and suggesting solutions and required actions. The good practice element of this type of case study would consist in documenting how the analysis has been carried out.

The case study scope could be local, national or regional.

The case studies should promote increased interaction between research and fishing communities, including the use of traditional knowledge and participatory research. The case study teams should hence be multi-stakeholder based and explicitly include collaboration with

¹ See also FAO 'Good practices template' available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-as547e.pdf>.

small-scale fisheries organizations or their representatives. The case study results should be able to inform policy and policy processes.

The case studies should preferably be part of and support ongoing initiatives and hence complement existing resources and efforts and aim to create synergies. They are intended to provide an opportunity to examine and analyze a particular issue in more detail in a way that provides new knowledge and insights that are useful to the activities that are already being undertaken.

The case studies should also provide analyses that are of interest to a broader international audience. The intention is to publish the case study results in an FAO Technical Paper that can be distributed and presented widely.

WHAT IS A GOOD PRACTICE?

A good practice is not only a practice that is good, but a practice that has been proven to work well and produce good results, and is therefore recommended as a model. It is a successful experience, which has been tested and validated, in the broad sense, which has been repeated and deserves to be shared so that a greater number of people can adopt it.

Expected outputs

In addition to contributing to an existing initiative (as mentioned above) and producing the necessary outputs in this respect, the expected outputs of the case studies are:

- A report describing the case study rationale, activities undertaken, results and how they will or could be used.
- A journal style article that can be included as a chapter in an FAO technical paper on good practices in the context of SSF Guidelines implementation. A draft proposed outline for these articles is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

Selection criteria

Case studies will be selected based on their relevance according to the criteria outlined above with regard to focus and scope. The selection will also take geographic and thematic scope into consideration with a view to provide a diverse selection of cases to be included in the planned technical paper. The FAO SSF Secretariat, supported by the FAO SSF Task Force, will approve case study proposals. An outline for preparing a case study proposal is included in [Appendix 2](#).

The maximum amount available for each case study is approximately USD 20,000 and a total of approximately five case studies can be funded.

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Appendix 1: Documenting good practices – proposed article outline

(maximum 10 pages + references)

TITLE	What is the name that best describes the good practice?
AUTHORS AND AFFILIATION	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / ABSTRACT	½ page
KEYWORDS	What are the key words and/or tags that best describe the issues being addressed and processes applied in the case study and by the good practice?
INTRODUCTION	Case study background and context including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geographic scope (location)• Why good practice was selected or what problem/issue the case study addressed and why this is important
METHODOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How was the case study carried out and who participated (with details on participatory research elements)?• How did men and women participate and contribute?
DISCUSSION ON RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the results achieved through the case study and what is the likely impact of the good practice that it involves (from an institutional, economic, social and environmental perspective, respectively, as appropriate)?• What is the innovative element of the case study/good practice?• What are the conditions (institutional, economic, social and environmental) that need to be in place for the good practice to be replicated?• What are the challenges for applying the good practice?• What are the key lessons learnt? <p><i>A gender perspective should be applied in all of the above, specifying how men and women are concerned differently (or not).</i></p>
CONCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does the case study and the good practice support SSF Guidelines implementation?• What are the possibilities of extending the good practice more widely (why valuable to share globally)?• Are there any recommendations for follow-up or similar work?
REFERENCES	

Appendix 2: Suggested case study proposal outline

(maximum 4 pages)

BASIC INFORMATION

Title

Lead case study organisation/individual

Other case study team members/collaborators

Geographic scope (location)

Expected duration (ETA/EOD)

Total budget requested

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Brief case study background and context (including of the ongoing initiative/project that it supports/complements)

Problem/issue the case study will address why this is important

EXPECTED RESULTS AND STRATEGY

Expected results of case study:

- Description of how the case study supports SSF Guidelines implementation and why its results will be valuable to share globally
- Description of how the case study results will be important to the ongoing initiative/project

Implementation strategy and roles of stakeholders and collaborators

Planned activities

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Planned activities and tentative timeline

Budget