

Too Big To Ignore Report
Number R-02/2019



Too Big To Ignore

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Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research

Strengthening collaborations on small-scale fisheries
research in Latin America and the Caribbean
Meeting report

February 3-5, 2019

Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Guayaquil, Ecuador

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RESEARCH

POLICY

MOBILIZATION

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List of Acronyms

CSO – Civil Society Organization

INP – National Ecuadorian Fisheries Institute

ISSF – Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries

LAC – Latin America and the Caribbean

MPA – Marine Protected Area

OCDE – The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PA – Protected Areas

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

SSF Guidelines – Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

SSF – Small-Scale Fisheries

TD – Transdisciplinary

TBTI – Too Big To Ignore research network

ZEPA – Zona Exclusiva de Pesca Artesanal

3WSFC – 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress

Summary

On February 3 to 5, 2019, several TBTI members met in Guayaquil, Ecuador, to discuss ways of building collaboration between government agencies, researchers, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to address issues and concerns affecting small-scale fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The meeting was hosted by the National Fisheries Institute (Instituto Nacional de Pesca - INP) and coordinated by María José Barragán Paladines, TBTI cluster coordinator, and Nikita Gaibor, Technical Scientific Subdirector of INP. The group exchanged experiences and lessons in small-scale fisheries management in Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico, and discussed the role of the Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF), research collaboration, and the transdisciplinary training in enhancing local and regional capacity to implement the SSF Guidelines and to improve the overall fisheries governance in the LAC region.

On February 5, TBTI also held a seminar at the INP. The seminar showcased the past and current activities in TBTI, in particular those in LAC, drawing lessons from the recent TBTI book on 'Viability and Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and The Caribbean' (Salas et al. 2018). The meeting concluded with a summary of the next steps to develop and implement projects of common interest seeking to have an impact in the viability and sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the LAC region.

Introduction

Background

Six years ago, the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) partnership was created as a joint initiative of more than 60 researchers, scholars, and institutions, with a clear intent and a great amount of commitment. The partnership aims to elevate the profile of small-scale fisheries sector on a global scale, and since its inception it has been able to deliver outcomes and outputs beyond its initial objectives. Now, the future of TBTI needs to be explored in terms of collaboration, commitments, and strategic plans.

The Guayaquil meeting was thus intended to provide time and space to share and discuss participants' ideas, suggestions, and commitments that will facilitate further implementation of partnership's activities, within the TBTI framework, particularly in LAC. The meeting consisted of two-and-half days of discussions, with TBTI representatives from Ecuador, Colombia and México. It took place at the National Ecuadorian Fisheries Institute in Guayaquil, Ecuador, that kindly accepted to host the meeting and has shown interest in collaborating with TBTI.

Objective

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss ways of building collaboration between government agencies, researchers, and civil society organizations to address issues and concerns affecting small-scale fisheries in LAC.

The meeting

The meeting was focused around

- exchanging experiences and lessons learned in small-scale fisheries assessment and management in Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico,
- discussing the role of the Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF), research collaboration, and the transdisciplinary training in enhancing local and regional capacity to implement the SSF Guidelines and to improve the overall fisheries governance within the region
- developing projects of common interest to support small-scale fisheries in the region.

The meeting attendees included individuals and organization representatives from Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico that have all been part of the TBTI partnership for several

years. The meeting also welcomed representatives of several Ecuadorian institutions who wanted to find out more about the partnership and wished to take part in the future TBTI activities within the region. The countries represented in the meeting are those where certain initiatives are currently taking place, based on the discussions about the 'next steps' in the LAC region, which were agreed upon at the 3rd World Small Scale Fisheries Conference (3WSFC) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October 2018.

Issues and challenges in small-scale fisheries in some LAC countries

One of the main outcomes of the 3WSFC was to promote and conduct regional-based meetings (i.e., Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Oceania, and Africa) where TBTI members and other key actors in these regions would interact, discuss, and identify specific, key aspects that could be the stepping stone on which to build cooperation and base future collaboration.

During the last day of the congress, participants presented main recommendations (i.e. next steps) that were agreed upon during the five regional round tables. These ideas were suggested as strategic ways to continue promoting the regional representations within the TBTI partnership. During the 3WSFC, two important concepts, among many others, were brought up as 'working concepts', around which initiatives around the world could be built upon:

- 1) 'Blue Justice': created as a response to the inequalities and unfair conditions that could arise from the 'blue growth' initiative.
- 2) The 'Human rights' approach, to be applied in accomplishing the 'Implementation of the SSF Guidelines' and within the 'development' agenda promoted by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework.

These two concepts will be important transversal axis for small-scale fisheries research initiatives that will be fostered by the TBTI network and its members. Therefore, the departure point of this meeting was the notion of [Blue Justice](#) and how to get it inserted and promoted within the current initiatives that are being planned and implemented by the participant institutions and representatives at this meeting.

Some key reflection points for the region:

- Is it a knowledge gap problem?
- Is it a governability problem?

- What can we do with what we now know?

The issues of interest were first addressed through a case-by-case format, detailing the current situation for each country represented in the meeting. This included, among others, sharing information about specific challenges in small-scale fisheries on each of the three countries as well as discussion on shared commonalities. Additionally, some general findings of the discussions were negotiated and set within a regional perspective; these could subsequently be developed into planned activities to be conducted between the countries of Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico.

Broadening the knowledge

1) Fisheries in interior waters (coastal and Amazonian region)

Management effects and policy implications are different in the coastal inland fisheries and the interior inland fisheries. The consequences of governance interventions are differently felt and the challenges vary as we move along a scale.

Ecuador

- Biological aspects of commercial fishing species (Los Rios province): bans and regulations were modified based on new knowledge (+ Guayas province). It is unknown what happens in Esmeraldas, Amazonian region, as only some Napo River fisheries have been partially assessed.
- Funding for the monitoring and evaluation of small-scale fisheries resources is scarce or is not available
- Since 2018, INP and the Regional Amazon University Ikiam are collaborating in the Amazon region.
- There is little biological knowledge available on certain small-scale fishing resources; there is much less socio-economic information available.
- Limited knowledge on current conservation status about most of economically significant fishing resources.
- Invasive species incidence or its potential risks are unknown.
- Use of pesticides in agriculture activities and sodium metabisulfite as a preservative in shrimp farms could be influencing the current low population status of fishing resources.
- Waste waters are being disposed in the fishing grounds.
- Fishing in dams is prohibited. A document is currently being prepared to document 'fishing in river basins' that is taking place (by day and night with different gear).
- Limits of mangrove concessions by independent fishers are not respected.

Colombia

- Information is neither continuously nor systematically collected. Just few years ago, SEPEC (National Fisheries Statistics System) was established but it gets information from few landing places and not all main rivers are covered.
- Studies have documented environmental problems affecting the quality of the fishery resources as well as their ecosystems due to the economic development

prioritized by the government. For instances, legal and illegal mining, dams, and deforestation.

Mexico

- Pollution is as important as the pressure over the resource.
- Urban development has displaced fishing communities, often due to the presence of industries (e.g., tourism, paper factories). Currently, in some cases fishing practices are just portrayed as tourist attractions (showing how it was in the past) due to the decline of the populations.
- IUCN Red list is also used to regulate the marketing of products.
- Dams for hydropower have seriously affected fisheries in several zones.
- “Cenotes” (water-filled sinkholes) are getting affected with pollutants (water levels are affected).
- Fishing in dams is regulated.
- Mining is seriously affecting inland fishing in some areas.
- More information is needed on inland fisheries.

2) Legislation and rules that are preventing the small-scale fishing sector to overcome the lack of access, marginalization, displacement plus other, even greater issues

The common issues in all three countries are related to drug trafficking, including violence that could cause community displacement as in the case of Colombia and risk of food insecurity. The possible negative impact of markets on food security, as two sides of the same coin, was also recognized. Other country-specific issues are as follows.

Ecuador

- Fishing communities are suffering from bad practices in aquaculture that prevent local fishers to continue with their livelihood, due to pollution from aquaculture – the latter is promoted by the ‘blue growth’ discourse.
- Piracy and its linkages to the social justice (issue of ‘safety at sea’).
- Fishing organizations may need to be strengthened to increase their role and usefulness (from the governance perspective) as a fundamental factor for improving the governability of the system. However, a reflection is needed in terms of “do small-scale fishing people want to organize? And why do we want to ‘impose’ one organizational format (i.e., cooperatives) on them?” Responses to

this question would give a better understanding of the situation, on a case-by-case approach.

- The 'incentives' format, understood as 'good intentions with bad consequences' needs to be examined. There is a lack of alternatives for small-scale fishers to maintain their livelihoods when they obey these bans.
- Identify and integrate common elements between the fisheries sectors involved in their governability (indicators, reference points).

Colombia

- A contradiction exists between claims about the lack of legislation and the unwillingness to fulfill them. Fishers ask for regulation but, if the law exists, there is not compliance. The law needs to be updated and respond to the actual hazards.
- In the last two decades, there have been six fishery authorities in different periods of time, affecting the stability of the sector since it responds to the change of government and this harms any processes since they start in the short and not the long term. It's difficult to create trust with users.
- The tragedy of the commons issue - there is no census among fishermen on fishing effort. There are no limits or boundaries of the fishing grounds by community or fishers.
- Fisheries organizations or cooperatives are weak and do not empower communities. Fishers get organize only to obtain subsidies or economic support.
- Most fishers work under conditions without a social security, and lack the conditions of a decent job.

Mexico

- The usual strategies used to improve the condition of the sector (e.g., subsidies) are not helping. In the current Mexican Government (2018-2024), some fishers have stopped (e.g. the Upper Gulf of California) receiving subsidies and are protesting.
- Capacities within fishing communities should be built and/or strengthened.
- Access to the resources has differentiated levels. There is no certainty on how they are allocated.
- Each community has their own right to access, use and manage their resources.
- Before (1947 to 1992), the cooperatives were given exclusive access rights to specific resources. At that point some organized themselves only to be able to obtain the permits of access or other benefits (e.g., subsidies).

- “Programas de empleo temporal” (i.e., Temporary Employment Program) was used as a strategy to access to money by fishers who respect the regulations.
- Subsidies are often the wrong incentives. For instance, during the closed season (e.g., of grouper fishers) are paid to comply with regulations. Fishers now request that support. Compliance is part of co-responsibility.

3) *Some reflections*

- The problems vary from case to case.
- The level of sophistication is higher due to involvement of new players.
- Interest/attention to inland fisheries: limited in (almost) all regions.
- Only those fisheries economically important are paid attention to by the policy sector. Generally, the approach to facing fisheries challenges is more reactive than proactive/preventative.
- There are still lot of issues common to different countries that demand attention
- Science/policy interface still needs strategies and innovative actions to be successful.
- Cooperative actions at different levels can facilitate the process leading towards sustainable fisheries (fishers, researchers, government agencies, SCOs)
- Remaining questions about organizations are whether there is an appeal for being organized and why fishers need to be organized.
- From the governability perspective, innovation and long-term approaches are needed (research plan, strategic plan).
- Some collective actions include populate the ISSF on a permanent basis, promote the use of the system and link it to the planned regional assessment system and pay more attention to fisheries that are not economically important but are relevant, due to livelihood, cultural and social dimensions.

Moving forward

The group agreed on several driving questions for the discussion about moving forward. Below is the summary of this discussion, with actions, suggestions and ideas, presented by country and also broadly for the region.

1) Who are the partners you would like to see engaged in this process?

Ecuador

Small-scale fisheries sector - fishers work either individually or within organized groups

Members of the network work with different groups locally and that can help to initiate some actions

- ✓ Cojimíes and Pedernales Cooperatives
- ✓ Instituto Nacional de Pesca
- ✓ Crab-gatherers organizations (Buena Vista, Balao, 6 de Julio, Nuevo Porvenir)
- ✓ JUMACOMP
- ✓ Fundación Charles Darwin
- ✓ Parque Nacional Galápagos

Colombia

- ✓ Universidad del Magdalena
- ✓ Research groups working on SSF at the national level from different research institutes and universities. Colciencias
- ✓ Mesa Nacional de Pesca – Luca Romero, Nodos de Pesca, and local leaders by communities
- ✓ Institutos de Investigación
- ✓ Corporaciones Ambientales Departamentos
- ✓ WWF
- ✓ Conservation International
- ✓ Marviva
- ✓ Tropenbos
- ✓ Fundación Humedales
- ✓ AUNAP (Fisheries Institute)

- ✓ Ministries with institutions that have responsibilities directly over the fishing sector
- ✓ FAO Colombia
- ✓ Programa Ecogourmet
- ✓ Procuraduria y Fiscalia (oficinas asuntos ambientales)
- ✓ NGO's involved in legal cases that are affecting fishers (De Justicia, Tierra Digna, and others).

Mexico

COBI has a network of community partners (fishing organizations) that could be invited to collaborate. Other groups can be invited to collaborate, e.g.

- Fisheries Commission of the Executives and Congress
- Research Institutes (CICIMAR, CINVESTAV, Universidad Marista, UNAM, ECOSUR , EPOMEX, INAPESCA, UADY)

Regional Scale

At the regional scale several groups were identified, including:

- OSPESCA
- Red ANADARA (Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Peru)
- Asociación Tripartita (Mexico, Cuba, USA + EDF International)
- Red de Pesquerías Sustentables del Arrecife Mesoamericano –Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras (Sustainable Fisheries Network of the Mesoamerican Reef)

2) What should be the lead efforts within the region?

What to do?	Who is going to do it?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the momentum and continue the visibility (e.g., Blue Justice) • Define and make concrete actions toward 'outreach outcomes' • Involve the communities to define what they want to see from TBTI • Engage into transdisciplinary research (TD) • Target 2022 (the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture) 	<p style="text-align: center;">TBTI</p>

<p>Ecuador (mainland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the Platform for assessing the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in LAC • Multisector Public Forum on small-scale fisheries (INP) • INP staff being trained in TD (capacity building) (by INP and TBTI) • Fishers being trained in marketing and management (by INP) • Next ANADARA network (introducing TBTI by Nikita Gaibor) – Chile or Ecuador meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INP (Nikita Gaibor + W. Revelo + team) • Juan Carlos Murillo + Fishers Associations de Cojimés
<p>Ecuador (Galapagos)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the Platform for assessing the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in LAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundación Charles Darwin (M.J.Barragán + Jorge Ramírez)
<p>Colombia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Small-scale Fishing Communities being empowered’: good stories along the region – TBD. Case Studies from other LAC countries – Lina Saavedra + others (e-Book) (e.g., a) Mexico - Prize for Fishers (M.J.Espinosa); b) Ecuador - Crab Fisheries story)(Nikita Gaibor + team) • Training in TD (for researchers) (with support of Ana Marquez, Adriana Santos) (by TBTI) • Training TD (for fishers) (by TBTI) • Approaching government officials (by Lina + support from others) • Write a proposal to implement SSF Guidelines in Colombia (find institutions to collaborate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Studies Book (peer reviewed book) (Colombia) - Lina Saavedra • Case Studies from other LAC countries – Lina Saavedra + others (e-Book) (e.g., a) Mexico - Prize for Fishers (M.J.Espinosa) b) Ecuador - Crab Fisheries story)(Nikita Gaibor + team)

<p>Mexico</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the development of a ‘Platform for assessing the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in LAC’ • Government organizations being trained in TD (by TBTI-COBI) • A Graduate course on TD for Small-scale fisheries (ECOSUR’s graduate program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maria José Espinosa b) Minerva Arce Ibarra c) Silvia Salas
<p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAC networking tool • Government organizations being trained in TD (by TBTI + others) • Next ANADARA network (introducing TBTI by Nikita Gaibor) – Chile or Ecuador meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAC Communication Network (‘traffic network’) – Silvia Salas

3) *What are specific policy elements you would like to see undertaken?*

The discussion about specific policies that should be taken in each country involved some listing of positive and negative policies that have been experienced in the country and the region. Below is the summary of the discussion.

Ecuador

- Administration of fisheries is based on an old policy (1972) but work is currently being done on new Fisheries and Aquaculture law. It is going to be discussed by the National Assembly. This will be a new law would embrace the notion of ‘concession’ that is currently in place.
- The concept of small-scale fisheries is being discussed/analyzed. This will help to better address the conflicts between large-scale fisheries and small-scale fisheries and their own definitions of these sectors.
- Marine resources are managed through bans (seasonal, spatial, gear type, gear size, catch weight), biology (reproductive characteristics), and are generally well received. Fishers are also playing the ‘ally’ role in the socialization processes for the bans implementation. The idea of looking at the SSF Guidelines before implementing regulations, through participative process, could be ideal.

- Specific cases (communities' concessions / custody of mangrove ecosystems) were provided by the Ministry of the Environment to the small scale fishing organizations since April 2000. In this sense, it has granted 44 Agreements of Sustainable Use and Custody of Mangrove to, totaling 55,222.74 hectares of mangrove in the whole country. INP carries out researches related to the mangrove cockle's resource (*A. tuberculosa* and *A. similis*) through the "Mangrove Cockle Resource" Program. In general, the program focuses its efforts on a monitoring program that INP carries out in two coastal provinces. INP is also working with researchers from the University of Rhode Island in a socio-economic and socio-ecology project, to understand perceptions on management, fishing resources, climate change, fishing organization and user rights.
- Crab-gatherers associations (8) are part of the monitoring initiative carried out by INP.
- Special condition allows fishers to engage in ancestral fishing and subsistence to fish within the 1 mile along the coast. However, artisanal or small-scale commercial fisheries are allowed to fish within the 8 miles.
- The existence of the "Seguro campesino" (i.e., social security for fishers) was a great advantage from the human rights and job's dignity perspective.
- There are National Action Plans for the Conservation and Management of mahi mahi, shark and the pomada shrimp.
- Some of the negative aspects of the current policies include gas/fuel subsidies, policies characterized by 'paternalism' and 'assistentialism', lack of gender-sensitive policy, urban planning policy causing displacement/marginalizing of small-scale fishing communities, and lack of regulations in recreational fisheries.

Colombia

- The 'Law 13' (Fisheries Law 1993) is a powerful instrument. It includes human rights, holistically conceived but have not being implemented and the fishing activity continues being an informal activity.
- There is a new instrument (Politica Integral para la Pesca Sostenible 2015, <http://www.aunap.gov.co/2018/politica-integral-para-el-desarrollo-de-la-pesca-sostenible-en-colombia.pdf>) looking at the sustainability of fisheries. It includes 'participation' and 'ethnic approach' however it does recognize the SSF Guidelines principles and these are not involved in the policy It was only fulfilling as a requirement to the government desire that Colombia gets included in the OCDE. It is a document with good intentions but it is not clear how it is effectively implemented.
- New 'discourse' in the fisheries context.

- ZEPAs was motivated by fishers (2, 5 miles) and was implemented in 2008. It was extended from one spot to the Colombian Pacific (more locations).
- Bans that are implemented are differently accepted/respected. Unawareness of regulations.
- MPAs on the Pacific side: fishers propose zones where to fish (DMRIs). Meanwhile on the Caribbean coast there are many conflicts among fishers and MPA.
- Pacific coast communities (Afro descendants) have access and right to fish (ancestral right) BUT not in the Caribbean side.
- Some of the negative policies are similar to Ecuador, such as policies characterized by 'paternalism' and 'assistentialism', and lack of regulations in recreational fisheries.
- Another problem with the existing policies is related to the establishment of MPAs in the Caribbean side + other areas, which prohibit fishing activities (only subsistence fishing). This has raised conflicts in MPAs and puts at risk the livelihood of many fishers and the integrity of the marine ecosystems.
- Further, badly invested financial support (useless gears, tools, boats) are provided without paying attention to their actual needs and without sharing responsibilities.
- Finally, aquaculture and productive policy aims only at food production interest (authorities involved in the sector).

Mexico

- The existence and presence of fisheries representatives at a local level is important as it provides opportunity to interact and increases their visibility and representativeness.
- Fisheries sector has a heavier weight at the federal scale.
- Current Fisheries Law ("General Law for Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture"): includes the 'sustainability' term and aspects (opens opportunities). However, there is no definition or guideless for sustainability yet in the law. There is an ongoing effort of the Congress for its inclusion. In addition, CSOs are not recognized as a stakeholder in the law. Mechanisms for decentralization are included in the law.
- Concessions (up to 20 years for fishing and 50 years for aquaculture) and permits (5 years) operate currently, but the forms is under discussion with the new policies.

- Currently, there is not an exclusive fishing zone for small-scale fishers; a proposal to delimit an area of exclusive fishing to small-scale fishers would help in reducing clashes and problems between industrial (e.g., shrimp fishing) and coastal fishers.
- The notion of small-scale fisheries is not defined neither inserted within policies and the law. There used to be one. Scholars should work in devising a working definition of small-scale fishing to include it in policy and law.
- Current Law (2007) – it seems there is no urgency to replace this Law, at least not within the current year. However, the new president included a new fisheries law as part of the plan for the nation (2018-2024).

A range of the problems with the fisheries policies in Mexico has also been identified, which presumably need to be addressed in order to move forward. Some of the problems are similar to those found in Ecuador and Colombia.

- Gas/fuel subsidies are common in the region
- Paternalistic approach from government agencies and policies oriented mainly to assist immediate requirements of the fisheries sector without long-term plan (policies characterized by ‘assistentialism’).
- No gender-sensitive policies are in place.
- Differences between large-scale and small-scale fisheries are not made explicit within the current law.
- The ‘Access to markets’ driven policy (“Globalized Trade Policy”) should be assessed, can have unintended consequences.
- Conservation within protected areas (PAs): ‘Step Zero’ processes, conception, implementation of Pas, could affect the small-scale fishing activities.
- Agriculture and Production policies could have unintended consequences in fisheries, given the focus on extraction).
- Lack of regulations in recreational fisheries.

4) What would you like to see your government doing with regard to small-scale fisheries?

Regional

- The SSF Guidelines inserted within the National Fisheries Policies.
- Interactive governance approach employed to govern the fisheries.

- Transdisciplinary approach applied in the assessment and governance of fisheries (capacity building).
- Development of the 'Blue Justice' agenda.
- Keeping balance to the attention paid to the natural, social and economic systems within fisheries sector.
- Coordination among sectors to develop programs, actions, and policies.
- Looking for financial support and programs of extension, as well as to communicate and 'socialize' research and management programs, etc. to favour awareness, participation, and involvement of fishers.
- Fishers' ownership of the issues, problems, opportunities, etc. supported by government agencies (+ others) to secure the initiatives, establishing linkages and connections between researchers and fishers for long-term collaboration.

Ecuador

- Small-scale fisheries integrated in the food security agenda (locally and nationally) as a national priority.
- Promotion of the 'food systems' discourse (nationally) - integrating small-scale fisheries within it.
- Design and implementation of management plans for wide-ranging of small-scale fisheries under participative processes.
- 'Gender dimension' integrated within the fisheries discourse.
- Improve the funding for research and the involvement of fishers in the research projects.

Colombia

- Small-scale fisheries explicitly recognized within the 'food systems' discourse (nationally).
- Small-scale fisheries integrated in the food security agenda (locally and nationally) as a national priority.
- Design and implementation of management plans for varied small-scale fisheries under participative processes.

Mexico

- Small-scale fisheries explicitly recognized within the 'food systems' and 'food security' discourses (nationally).
- A policy oriented to address small-scale fisheries issues.
- Allocation of exclusive access rights to small-scale fisheries.

- Improvement in the implementation of management plans.
- Improvement in the updating of fisheries sector's statistical catch records.

5) What are specific science efforts you would like to see undertaken?

- Find balance in the attention paid to the issues in natural, economic and social systems within fisheries sector (by scientists and researchers).
- Promote generation of technical capacity with a transdisciplinary training incorporated into the universities curriculums.
- Proper support from the government bodies to conduct research on both natural and social sciences within small-scale fisheries.
- Coordination and strength of the interactions between researchers within governmental bodies, and with research institutes, and universities.
- Updated research approaches under current urgencies, requirements, and priorities.
- Researchers' collaboration initiatives (concerning management, visual material to promote environment justice, etc.).
- Capacity building (within the TD training package).
- Scientific learning exchange, fisher-to-fisher learning examples.
- Approach and integrate other 'formats' and 'sources' of 'data' (i.e., alternative/'hidden' data) – Lina Saavedra's contact
- Integrate a research plan according to the national demands in fisheries (including issues demanded by fishers), making a better use of human capital and financial resources.

Conclusions and next steps

Some collaborative strategies considered critical for the successful progress have been identified, including:

- LAC platform for assessing 'SSF Guidelines implementation'
- LAC network, linked to TBTI network
- LAC 'Good Stories' to be shared

They could be achieved through regional and country contact points, as well as through scoping exercise and searching for alternative funding sources (e.g., BID Call – “Bienes Públicos Regionales”).

Several next steps have been suggested, as follows:

- Proposal Submission:
 - Common aim for the three countries: “Assess the advance of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines within Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador.
 - Initial step: ask the governments “What are you doing to support the implementation?” (by approaching the fisheries/technical agencies in each country).
 - Explore the needs, priorities and urgent constraints and concerns in the three countries.
 - Specific interest/requirement by each country.
- Design of indicators to assess impact of the SSF Guidelines implementation.
- Testing
 - Share/extend the initiative (good examples to follow, bad examples to be avoided, to the LAC region ('insert the chip')).
- Making it accessible to everyone (producers, fishers, researchers).

After a discussion about the appropriate format of collaboration in the near future, several ideas were outlined as 'tasks'. The following bullet-point shows the tasks and the person responsible for implementing them.

Immediate tasks

1. Regional: Maria Jose Espinosa will lead the proposal for the Inter American Development Bank on Regional Public Goods. Submission deadline is March 1, 2019.
2. Mexico: Maria Jose Espinosa will approach the governmental body to involve them.

3. Silvia will send the list of contacts for the regional group to create the LAC network and to define a platform of communication and exchange
4. Colombia: Lina Saavedra with the help of Nikita Gaibor will approach the governmental body to promote local actions and involve more people in the LAC network within the TBTI umbrella.
5. General: Determine the location and timing for the TD Regional Training within the LAC region.

List of participants



Figure 1. Participants of the meeting. Photo credit: Maria Jose Espinoza.

Participants

Name	Surname	Affiliation
Minerva	Arce Ibarra	ECOSUR, Mexico
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María José	Espinosa	COBI, Mexico
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Appendix

Agenda

Day 1: Sunday, February 3rd

Time	
15:00 – 18:00	Follow-up from the 3WSFC - Emphasis on 'Blue Justice' and the SSF Guidelines, as a follow-up from the 3 rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress. - Discussion around relevant issues associated to the topic above and other issues to be discussed at depth in the following session

Day 2: Monday, February 4th

Time	
09:00 – 13:00	TBTI next steps - reflective discussion on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building on strengths (what we are good at),• Filling the gaps (what we have not done enough, but should),• Envisioning the future (what we want to be or should be). How should we move forward? What should be our focus and strategies?
14:00 – 19:00	Reflective discussion on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do we want to see at the start of 2022 and how to get there?• Who should we partner with? Who will fund us?

Day 3: Tuesday, February 5th

Time	
09:00 – 12:00	Reflective discussion on the following question: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anything we can do now that does not require additional funding, to capitalize on the momentum (papers, books, research/policy briefs, videos)? Conferences/meeting opportunities (MARE, GCFI, others?).
14:00 – 17:00	About TBTI – presentation of the TBTI partnership to the attendees from INP and other institutions. Presentation of the TBTI LAC book.
15:30 – 19:30	Conclusion and next steps

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