

Pan African workshop on small-scale fisheries and climate change



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Report by:
Baruti B Amisi & Iona Eberle

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1. General Information

1.1. 1.1 Background Information

Over the past 7 years Masifundise has participated in a number of workshops in Southern Africa and outside the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region addressing issues affecting small-scale fisheries (SSF). Through these workshops the need for a strong network of small-scale fishers emerged and with the development of Voluntary Guidelines for SSF, as part of the Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, on the horizon, Masifundise took on the task of initiating a Pan-African Programme for SSF as an opportunity to increase networking, sharing and capacity-building within and between community-based organisations across the African continent.

The aim of the programme is to build a strong network of organisations; to share our understanding of the challenges that fishing communities in Africa face, as well as the solutions available; and to enable fishing communities to become better organised and mobilised to address these challenges effectively. The objective is not to establish a secretariat to manage the network, or certainly not initially, but rather for SSF organisations to share the responsibilities collectively and give guidance to the programme themselves. If in the future SSF organisations feel the need to have a formal structure then this must be pursued.

Enabling SSF representatives from around the continent to participate in civil society actions at the COP17 climate change summit provided the rationale for scheduling the workshop to coincide with this international event, which also took place in Durban, South Africa.

1.2 Workshop Objectives

- To share information on the difficulties and successes experienced in the participant countries in order to broaden the perspectives and consciousness of participants, challenging their thinking and injecting fresh ideas around key issues relating to small-scale fisheries.
- To develop a plan of how future cooperation among the participants can contribute towards increased mobilisation and organisation of fishing communities.
- To produce both written and video documentation of the key discussions and outcomes of the workshop with a particular focus on the way forward.
- To make the voice of the small-scale fisher heard at COP17 as part of civil society activities.

1.3 Donors

- The Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW), a project of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)
- The Commonwealth Foundation
- Multi-Agency Grants Initiative (MAGI)

2. 2. Format and summary of discussions

2.1. Participation and format of the workshop

Thirty people from 9 countries (including the Philippines) met in a three-day workshop to discuss the challenges facing SSF, to share how their organisation is addressing these challenges and to develop a collective plan to take the Pan African Programme for SSF forward.

Three of the delegates, namely Ms Nedwa Nech from Mauritania 2000 (Mauritania), Mr Felix Saitoti from El Molo Forum (Kenya) and Mr Athman Seif from Malindi Marine Association (Kenya) were

unfortunately not able to attend due to logistical and visa problems. Each of these participants was due to present on a key theme and their presentations were replaced by a presentation/group discussion delivered/led by another of the participants.

For each of the themed sessions the presenter gave the background of their organisation, highlighted the challenges they face in relation to the particular issue and made suggestions on how this issue might be tackled more effectively (see Annex: Organisation background and presentation summaries). This was followed by one or two questions to guide the group discussions. After a short round of questions to the presenter and answers the participants broke into two groups (with equal representation in terms of region and gender as far as possible) for breakaway discussions. Feedback from the two groups was shared before moving onto the next theme. The evaluations for each day and the workshop as a whole were done by the participants, who expressed their views on the topics, discussions and shortcomings.

2.2 Summary of Session One group discussion (Day 1)

Theme: How do we limit overexploitation of marine resources in the context of foreign access and IUU (Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated) fishing? (Presentation by Alfred Kawreh - President of Liberia Artisanal Fishermen Association (LAFA) – Liberia).

Question 1: What measures can be taken to reduce over-exploitation of marine resources?

The participants agreed that IUU fishing could be reduced through:

- Demarcating catching zones reserved for small-scale fishers;
- Promoting responsible fishing;
- Policy changes that result in stricter controls of industrial fishing;
- Increased regulation of fishing in commercial zones;
- Penalties imposed on transgressors are generally inadequate to discourage illegal fishing and should be more severe.
- Increased Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) capacity;
- Effective use of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)

Question 2: Which management system and control measures is/are the most appropriate in the development and sustainable management of marine resources in developing countries?

The development and sustainable management of marine resources require:

- Dialogue and consultation between stakeholders (relating to the formulation of policies and issuing of permits for example);
- Effective implementation of policies;
- Improved Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS);
- Information, Education and Communication;
- Memoranda of Understanding between women and men (relating to post-harvest activities);
- Needs analyses (on infrastructure for example);

Question 3: What role can small-scale fishers specifically play in combating IUU and foreign fishing in their waters?

SSF can contribute to the fight against IUU fishing in their waters through:

- Supplementing scientific research with traditional knowledge;

- Creating awareness in fishing communities around IUU fishing and what can be done about it;
- Creation of a continental database & a website;
- Resource data capturing.

2.3 Summary of Session Two group discussion (Day 1)

Theme: How do we ensure that the infrastructure and marketing needs of small-scale fisheries are better met? (Presentation by Vaal Namugga – Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) - Lake Victoria, Uganda)

Question 1: How best do we address infrastructure and marketing challenges as SSF?

SSF needs to (amongst others):

- Establish economic systems (cooperatives);
- Increase networking between fishers and fishing communities; and maximise the use of the available resources and skills within fishing communities
- Mobilise communities to identify and address problems;
- Advocate for policy changes, for instance in relation to EU fisheries agreements; and lobby for policy coherence;
- Advocate for improved service delivery;
- Pressurise governments to adhere to international agreements relating to fisheries;
- Increase capacity-building around financial management within fishing communities - ensure that fishers/communities have financial resources outside the fishing season and for emergency purposes;
- Improve information dissemination and sharing, education, and communication;
- Increase knowledge of export mechanisms, markets and regulations; skills development;
- Conduct needs analyses to determine infrastructure needs;
- Establish credit schemes (with support from local and foreign donors)

2.4 Summary of Session Three group discussion (Day 1)

Theme: How do we address resource conflict between small-scale and large-scale fishing? (Presentation by Athman Seif - Malindi Marine Association, Kenya) Dawda Saine, from CAOPA, West Africa, led a plenary discussion in place of the absent presenter.

Question 1: How do we limit conflict between industrial fishing and SSF?

Conflicts can be addressed through the following:

- Demarcation of extended catching zones for SSF;
- Involving SSF in co-management committees relating to the governance of fisheries;
- Increased transparency between governments and companies and access to information for civil society/fishers;
- Policy changes which accommodate and protect SSF;
- Better regulation regarding catches in the commercial sector;
- Improved Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

Finally it was noted that fisher representatives need to communicate more in order to share information and be able to help each other, since issues in the different communities and countries are similar. Secondly, information needs to 'used' and translated into practical steps.

2.5 Summary of Session Four group discussion (Day2)

Theme: How do we address policy environments that discriminate against women? (Presentation by Nedwa Neche – M2000, Mauritania) Dinna Umengan (Tambuyog Development Centre, Philippines) replaced the absent presenter

Question 1: Identify and explain major issues in your country related to discrimination of women at the family/household level; fishing and other economic activities; participation and governance in community organisations and other institutions (including existing policies/ laws).

Family/ household level

There were three opposing views related to discrimination of women at the household level. The first position contends that women are victims of discrimination at home, because there is no price or monetary value put on women's work. People often say, and women agree, that women are unemployed when they are engaged in self-employment even if women work day and night. In addition to this, women generally carry the bulk of the responsibility for doing the housework. The second position asserted is that discrimination of women does exist, but traditional gender roles and cultural norms are imposed to both women and men. Others however argued that in some cases, outside of very traditional communities, there is a 50/50 share of work at home.

Fishing and other activities

The participants agreed that there is discrimination of women because of culturally imposed and accepted norms at work. This is reflected in SSF communities, where work tasks typically are gender defined. Fishing is seen as 'men's work', whereas women are assigned to post-harvest activities. In general with equal qualifications and doing the same amount of work, women earn less than men. Women are also denied promotion and are often victims of sexual harassment. Women have no ownership of resources and they are less involved in economic activities. The situation prevails that women find themselves obliged to accept their fate and believe that it is normal because of lack of other options.

Community Organisations

There is no discrimination in community organisations. Most organisations try to comply with government policies in terms gender equality and equal representation of men and women in leadership and recruitment.

Policies

Discrimination is a policy issue. It is then important to use appropriate policies to address discrimination and to promote gender equality at local, national, and international levels to empower women. It is important that civil society in different countries lobbies national and regional bodies to comply with international guidelines relating to gender equality.

These issues represent challenges for attaining equal representation of men and women in the SSF sector. In addition, these issues violate government policies as well as regional and international treaties around gender equality and the rights of women.

In view of the discussions that took place it is quite apparent that perceptions around gender in SSF need to be addressed, not only within fishing communities but within the organisations who serve/represent those communities.

Question 2: Propose actions to address the issues/problems identified.

The following actions are needed:

- Education on gender-related issues;
- Unequal pay between women and men needs to be addressed;
- Advocacy for both women and men to be involved in domestic work;
- The negative impacts of some traditional gender roles and limitations imposed on women must be addressed.

Discrimination should be understood through the lens of the challenges that all components of society and particularly the minorities face. The discrimination against gay/ lesbians and not allowing women to go to sea to fish – on assumption that they bring bad luck - should also be seen as gender discrimination, and needs to be challenged.

2.6 Summary of Session Five group discussion (Day 2)

Theme: How do we increase political representation of fishers in countries where it is limited or non-existent? (Presentation by Felix Saitoti – El Molo Forum, Kenya) Albert Napier from the Apostleship of the Sea, Seychelles led a plenary discussion in place of the absent presenter.

Question 1: Do we need political representation? Which kinds of political representation do we need? Have politicians delivered on their promises to the fishing communities?

It was agreed that political representation in local, provincial and national governments are very much needed in order to bring the issues of fisher people to the attention of the government.

Participants noted that promises made by politicians rarely materialised. In the Western Cape (South Africa) for instance, where people rely strongly on fishing, politicians have made promises to grant fishers rights and provide open access. Yet, these promises were made only to attract votes from fishing communities. In Liberia there were promises to maintain the marine waters and yet the government has done little to this end. In Malawi the promises of free boats and engines never materialised.

Question 2: What steps are you taking to influence/ claim your rights as fisher representatives in decision-making at the political level?

Some of the steps being taken by participant organisations to claim their rights as small-scale fishers are:

- Western Cape/ South Africa: Organising and mobilising communities, holding protest marches calling for the recognition of their rights; took the Minister of Environmental Affairs to court and won a court order which recognises the rights of small-scale fishers;
- Liberia: organising and mobilising, writing petitions to the government to legalise fishing in the inshore waters and to take decisive actions against illegal fishing;
- Philippines: Advocacy for fishing rights;
- Malawi: Awareness campaigns to Parliament

The participants agreed on the fact that politicians make unrealistic promises around electoral campaigns in order to get votes. They then forget and isolate themselves from the masses as soon as they are elected. Secondly, some politicians do not have the political will to address the challenges that fishing communities face on a day-to-day basis. As a result, the participants should use the media to create awareness around the struggles of fishermen and the need for urgent and decisive actions. Political education should be organised where the beneficiaries live rather than taking them outside their communities.

Question 3: What do you think we can do to increase fishers' influence on political representatives?

SSF should seek to enter into a direct dialogue with politicians, government officials, and other stakeholders, including mainstream and alternative media in order to assert their right to fish and highlight the challenges facing fishing communities.

2.7 Summary of Session Six group discussion (Day 2)

Theme: How do we organise and mobilise fishing communities more effectively? (Presentation by Christian Adams - Coastal Links, South Africa)

Question 1: How do we organise and mobilise communities more effectively?

Organising SSF communities

- As fisher representatives - develop a personal connection with fishers through active listening and maintain good relationships;
- Utilise the media to gain public support;
- Develop strong leadership structures;

Mobilising SSF communities

- The entire community must be mobilised to generate positive change;
- Capacity-building to equip fishers with the necessary skills to organise themselves;
- Resources mobilisation;
- Identification of key people to take on leadership roles;
- Increasing access to relevant information;
- Create awareness to help develop critical thinking;
- Radical actions are sometimes necessary to bring about change

2.8 Summary of Session Seven group discussion (Day 3)

Theme: How can we share what we have learnt with our constituency?

Question 1: What have we learnt during the workshop?

The following subject areas were highlighted as key issues:

- The negative impacts of industrial fishing and overfishing, pollution and climate change;
- The negative impacts of poor political representation;
- The need to organise and mobilise our communities effectively and networking for positive change;

- The importance of communication and information sharing;
- The need for capacity-building to empower fishers with necessary skills to voice their concerns and seek political representation;
- The need for effective management of marine and other resources for present and future generations

Question 2: How will the participants share this information?

It was underlined that the strategies used to share information amongst their constituency will depend on the nature of the problems and the level of civic literacy of the constituency. Issues such as poor management of resources, lack of capacity, climate change, and/ or depletion of fish stocks will require cross-cutting approaches to common issues and continental networking with other relevant organisations facing the same challenges. Local, national, regional and continental meetings should be called to share and exchange experiences rather than trying to reinvent the wheel. It was also noted that mainstream and social media are effective tools for information dissemination and sharing.

Question 3: Whom should SSF reach out to?

The information should be shared with

- Other stakeholders in the fishing sector. Certain problems affecting SSF may also impact on other actors, e.g industrial fishers and non-fishing communities. For instance, depletion of fish stocks, a key issue for SSF, may also affect the supply chain of industrial fishing. It also impacts on people involved in processing and marketing of fish and related products. The consumers will also be affected through subsequent price changes. We therefore need to spread the message to the broader population;
- Other relevant stakeholders including government officials, political and religious leaders, multinational corporations, civil society and transnational networks;
- Other companies could get involved in SSF campaigns, carrying out specific roles and/or providing support and donations. For instance in West Africa mobile phone companies sponsored and distributed T-Shirts with specific messages for a local SSF campaign.

2.10 Summary of Session Eight group discussion (Day 3)

Theme: What organisations/ stakeholders should we engage/ bring into the network?

Dawda Saine briefly introduced the mandate and background of CAOPA, a confederation consisting of different professional organisations in West Africa working on small-scale fisheries issues. CAOPA was formed as a response to the issue of donor funding never reaching the people on the ground. CAOPA works together with government officials and directly implements development projects. CAOPA also works closely with journalists in the West African region.

It was highlighted that the Pan-African network should not compete with CAOPA, but the experiences of CAOPA could feed into the network, and compliment CAOPA, e.g providing linkages to countries where CAOPA currently does not have any partner organisations.

The future set-up of the Pan-African network was further discussed. It was agreed that the network:

- Must include/ represent fishers;

- Must include actors involved in post-harvesting activities, and other marine resource harvesting activities (such as bait collecting), as part of the SSF sector;
- Be community-based;
- Must actively involve women.

When identifying new partner organisations, preference should be given to countries without any representations in the network currently.

2.11 Summary of Session Nine group discussion (Day 3)

Theme: The way forward and priority actions for 2012

It was agreed that the Pan African Network should begin by stimulating conversations and information sharing between countries and organisations. The initiative will require financial and human resources and for the moment will rely on the active (voluntary) involvement of the participating organisations.

Five themes were identified as initial focal points for the Network:

- Mobilisation/ organisation of fishing communities and political representation;
- Gender issues and women in SSF;
- Foreign access agreement and IUU fishing;
- Conflict between SSF and industrial fisheries;
- Infrastructure capacity, market development for SSF.

Each organisation/country will ultimately have a coordinator. However, as a start, Coastal Links (South Africa) will coordinate the conversations around theme 1: Mobilisation of fishing communities and political representation; Katosi Women Development Trust (Uganda) will coordinate the conversations around theme 2: Gender issues and women in SSF; and the Liberia Artisanal Fishermen Association (Liberia) will coordinate the conversations around theme 3: Foreign access agreement and IUU fishing.

Additional themes may be added as work progresses. Each of the theme coordinators will also be responsible for assisting the Programme Developer in identifying additional partner organisations to approach in their respective regions according to the criteria agreed upon at the workshop. Together they will also plan a follow-up workshop within the next 12-18 months, with greater representation in terms of both gender and region. Partner organisations in the network must give thought to and begin discussions on how to lift the conversations on SSF levels to a higher plane. Regional and international structures, such as Nepad and the African Union (AU) for example, must be brought into the discussions and it is up to the partner organisations to consider how this step can be made.

3. Conclusions and workshop evaluation

3.1. Conclusions and recommendations

Discussions during the three day workshop revealed that SSF communities on the continent, and the organisations working with them, are dealing with similar issues, which furthermore highlights the need for concerted efforts and collaboration across regions, countries and organisations on the continent in order to address the challenges facing SSF.

Coastal communities and small-scale fishers are increasingly at risk due to the continuously declining productivity of coastal and marine ecosystems, heightening conflicts over access to and use of marine

and coastal resources. Over-exploitation and IUU fishing appeared as central issues, undermining the livelihoods of fishers and the sustainability of marine resources. In many countries and communities the implementation of fisheries policies moreover remain largely ineffective due to the absence of enabling local policies and the lack of capacity and resources, both at the national and local level, to manage fisheries. During the discussions it was stressed that regional networking and continental exchanges coupled with active involvement of fishers and the inclusion of indigenous knowledge in marine resource management, could have the potential to reduce IUU fishing and over-exploitation. It was mentioned that the activities of commercial fishers often undermine the livelihoods of small-scale fishers through depletion of fish stocks, habitat damage, and destruction of fishing gear as well as through the over-supply of fish, causing fish prices at local markets to drop. Moreover, few countries provide access to information on fishing agreements made with foreign countries and with commercial fishing companies. There is a lack of transparency on licensing processes, requirements, as well as revenues from these agreements.

Lack of access to information and lack of capacity of fishers to organise themselves were highlighted as key challenges, reducing their bargaining power. Participants noted that governments tend to protect commercial fishers at the expense of SSF communities, despite the former employing destructive and unsustainable fishing practices and driving resource degradation. Commercial fishers however are usually well-organised, financially strong and politically well-connected, whereas SSF in many instances are poorly organised, poorly connected and financially weak. Moreover, SSF has often been structurally impoverished by economic policies and neglected in service delivery (access to education and health care, infrastructures and access to markets), increasing their vulnerability. Civil society and SSF often have few legal resources to challenge their governments, for instance in relation to the question of fisheries agreements and marine resource management (few countries have ratified regional and international treaties on marine resource management).

As experience from Liberia and South Africa (and elsewhere) shows, the mobilisation of fishing communities and the active use of mainstream media and continued lobbying activities can address the plight of SSF and can be effective in pushing governments to intervene in conflicts between small-scale and commercial fishers. Conflicts could also be addressed through policies and regulations, dialogue and consultation among different stakeholders, together with improved control/surveillance tools and mechanisms. It was generally noted that it is vital for small-scale fishers to mobilise and organise themselves and have political representation at both the local and national level to create awareness on the challenges faced by SSF and to be able to engage in decision-making processes and induce changes in policies and regulations.

The issue of women in fisheries emerged as another key challenge in SSF. In many countries the implementation of laws and policies promoting gender equality and women's rights remains a challenge. In SSF women are marginalised due to a cultural notion of fishing as "men's work". Women are often not allowed to fish - they remain invisible and their roles and inputs are undervalued in the fisheries sector and within coastal and inland fishing communities.

Considering the contribution of marine resources to national economies in industrialised and developing countries and the importance of SSF in local communities, where often few alternatives to earn a living exist, the delegates recommend the following:

- Awareness campaigns on the consequences of IUU fishing and over-exploitation and the subsequent need to address these challenges at local, national, regional, and international levels;
- A need for indigenous knowledge/ research and scientific investigations to map and document changes over times in weather patterns and their impacts on fish stocks and ecosystems, and consequently on fishing activities;
- A need for an investigation of local fishing laws and policies in different countries participating in the Pan-African SSF Initiatives in order to advocate for national and transnational solidarity to protect SSF, address gender discrimination in artisanal fishing, and promote a fair distribution of marine resources;
- Civil society and SSF in particular should lobby Western developed countries to pressure developing countries to ratify and implement treaties and conventions on marine resources management and sustainability;
- Civil society and SSF in particular should lobby their governments to impose heavy fines on those engaged in IUU fishing;
- Lobbying and advocacy for (amongst others):
 - Protection and inclusion of indigenous species in the Lake Victoria;
 - Training to strengthen civic and economic literacy of fishers to increase their bargaining power in the negotiations with key stakeholders;
 - Transparency in contracts/ agreements signed between the governments of poor countries and fishing companies;
 - Translation of fishing laws and contracts signed into local languages;
 - Specific policies to protect fishers and women in the fishing sector in particular;
 - Political representation to bring forth the problems of SSF and women involved in artisanal fishing to policy-makers for appropriate policies; and
 - Inward fundraising in order to engender sustainability.

The delegates from participating organisations must share what they learnt in the workshop with those who remained behind i.e. their communities and other stakeholders. They will also exchange on the need and techniques to mobilise and organise fishing communities.

A clear plan to take the programme forward was developed with the responsibility to do so no longer resting entirely with Masifundise but being carried to a large degree by the three theme/regional coordinators appointed at the meeting. Increased flow of information and discussions around SSF issues and the extension of the network of additional organisations will help ensure that the network is strengthened and remains entirely relevant to the partner organisations and their constituencies. The 18-month time limit for the next workshop and the commitment to increase participation by both gender and region will help sustain the momentum of the programme and draw in new, valuable insights from additional organisations.

3.3 Evaluation of the Workshop

The participants all gave feedback on the workshop, some extracts of which are included below.

“The Pan-African Workshop on SSF invited many people from different countries. It is a good thing because it translates the Pan-African vision of the organisers and participating organisations. However, there should be more female delegates from SSF because of the specific challenges that women face in

this sector despite their multi-talented skills as spouses, mothers, housewives, and members of the communities. Secondly, it was important to hire translators to allow people to speak in their own languages and actively contribute to the meeting even though this could have financial implications.” (Vaal Namugga - Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda);

“The Conference of the parties (COP17) on climate change brought delegates and members of SSF communities together. The meeting was overdue because people involved in small fishing business across Africa and several other continents should be having regular meetings of this nature to exchange around the same challenges and share experiences since the root causes of their problems remain the same. In addition, the meeting should extend the invitations to several coastal countries in order to be representative and truly reflect the challenges of SSF. Lastly, the meeting should also include inland countries which are equally affected by water pollution, depletion of fish stock, and dispossession of their marine resources. The budget did not allow it.” (Christian Adams – Coastal Links, South Africa).

“It is a big pleasure to be invited to this important meeting. I learnt a lot that I will share with my organisation and other SSF at large back home. There is nothing to do differently in a similar meeting in the future.” (Macson Phiri - Kambindingu Fisheries Association, Malawi).