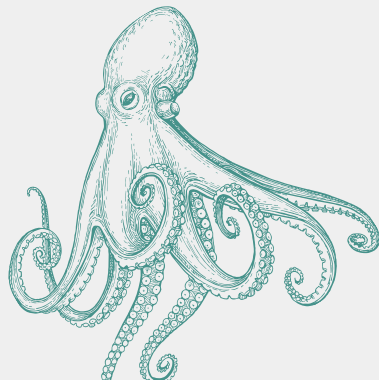




SSF PEOPLE CENTRED
METHODOLOGY TO
ASSESS THE VOLUNTARY
GUIDELINES FOR
SECURING SUSTAINABLE
SMALL SCALL FISHERIES
IN THE CONTEXT OF
FOOD SECURITY AND
POVERTY ERADICATION

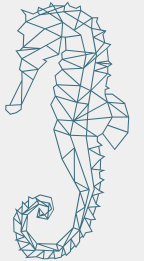




INDEX

Table of contents:

<u>Introduction</u>	2
<u>1. Why monitor the implementation of the SSF guidelines?</u>	4
<u>2. Who should monitor?</u>	5
<u>3. How to assess?</u>	5
<u>4. What will come out of the assessment?</u>	6
<u>5. The activities and steps of the methodology.</u>	7
<u>6. What are the indicators for the SSF people-centered assessment?</u>	9
<u>7. Initial guiding questions to collect qualitative information with local communities</u>	10





INTRODUCTION

In recognition of the lack of an international UN instrument to protect and promote the human rights of small-scale fisher peoples, the two global fisher movements (World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers – WFF; and the World Forum of Fisher Peoples – WFFP) decided to advocate for the development of such an instrument. This should be the beginning of a long process starting in 2008 and culminating with the endorsement of the UN Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Sustainable Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in 2014.

More than 4000 voices from fishers, fish workers, and others in over 120 countries have articulated views and positions and given shape to the contents of the SSF Guidelines. The final text of the Guidelines was negotiated by FAO members and endorsed by Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014, confirming the government’s commitment to bring about positive change in small-scale fisheries.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) create an international legal framework recognizing the small-scale fisheries as essential actors for the economic, social, and sustainable development. Within this framework, the SSF Guidelines promote the rights of small-scale fisheries and policies that enable their practices through a human-rights-based approach. The SSF Guidelines are considered a fundamental tool to secure food security and eradicate poverty. They take a holistic approach towards securing sustainable small-scale fisheries based on principles including **human rights and dignity, respect of cultures, non-discrimination, gender equity and equality, consultation and participation, the rule of law, transparency, accountability, economic, social, and environmental sustainability, holistic and integrated approaches, social responsibility, feasibility, and social and financial viability.**

In 2016, COFI endorsed the Global Strategic Framework to implement the SSF Guidelines (SSF-GSF). The SSF-GSF, as an institutional mechanism situated within the FAO, is steered by an Advisory Group (movement leaders from WFF, WFFP, La via Campesina - LVC and International Indian Treaty Council – IITC together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - OHCHR and the International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD) together with the FAO and supported by the Friends of the Guidelines (supportive COFI member countries) and the Knowledge Sharing Platform (KSP).

The movement leaders of the Advisory Group (AG SSF-GSF) have decided to develop the SSF People Centred Methodology to Assess the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the national, regional, and global levels. The SSF People Centred mechanism aims to **assess from the communities and with the communities the progress of the SSF Guidelines implementation and examine the human rights violations of small-scale fisher people worldwide.**

The SSF People Centred Methodology aims to be a guiding document for local communities to gather relevant qualitative information on the status of the SSF people concerning the human-rights principles endorsed by the SSF Guidelines.

The methodology builds on the work of the Working Group on small-scale fisheries of the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC WG on Fisheries). More concretely, the methodology builds on the outcomes of a global IPC Fisheries WG workshop convened with the support of FAO in 2018, numerous IPC WG on Fisheries meetings, and the IPC Fisheries WG Guide to Action endorsed by the four global movements in 2021.

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an autonomous and self-organized global platform of small-scale food producers and rural workers organizations and grassroots/community-based social movements to advance the **Food Sovereignty Agenda** at the **global** and the **regional level**.

The Working Group on Fisheries of the IPC is a space of alliance, solidarity, and coordination; it is the major global civil society network representing small-scale fisheries joining together to bring the voice of their communities to international political decision-making bodies.

Movements from the IPC WG on Fisheries participate in **the Advisory Group of the SSF-GSF (AG SSF-GSF)** to provide recommendations and ensure a coherent and participatory implementation and monitoring the SSF Guidelines, in accordance with international Human Rights standards



1. WHY MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES?

The SSF Guidelines are global in scope, and implementation shall occur at the local and national levels. It is the only international instrument specifically aiming to protect and promote the human rights of fisher peoples and their communities.

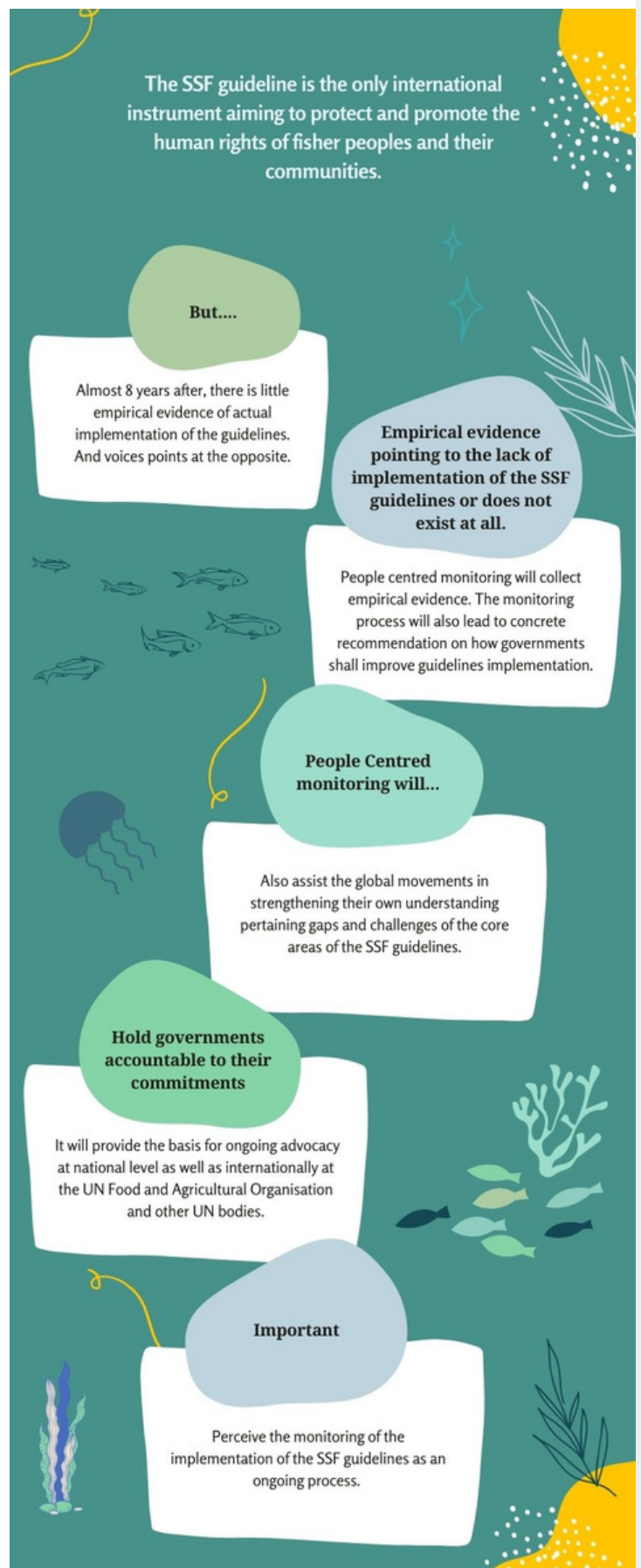
Yet, almost eight years after the endorsement of the guidelines, there is little empirical evidence of actual implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Voices articulated from the member organizations of the four global movements (WFFP, WFF, IITC, LVC) point to the opposite with references to the expropriation of fisher peoples from their lands and territories and loss of access inland and marine fisheries resources.

Empirical evidence backing the views of the movements at the local and national level and pointing at the lack of implementation of the SSF Guidelines is unfortunately sparse or missing altogether. In this context, the SSF People Centred Methodology will collect empirical evidence and assess how the SSF Guidelines are implemented at national and local levels. On the basis hereof, the assessing process will also lead to concrete recommendations on how governments shall improve SSF Guidelines implementation.

The assessment will also assist the global movements in strengthening their understanding of gaps and challenges of the core areas of the SSF Guidelines and paving the way for continued and improved collaboration between the global movements and the FAO (through the AG SSF-GSF).

The assessment also serves to hold governments accountable for their commitments. It will provide the basis for ongoing advocacy at the national level and regional and international at the FAO and other UN bodies.

As political and economic developments are taking new forms and directions continuously, it is crucial also to perceive the assessment of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines as an ongoing process that will bring to a monitoring system with regular assessment and reports.



2. WHO SHOULD MONITOR?

The methodology is developed by and for the members of the IPC WG on Fisheries. The assessment and monitoring should first and foremost be conducted by the national and local level members of the four global movements (LVC, IITC, WFFP, WFF) with support from their allies.

Other movements and organizations are also encouraged to use the methodology for assessing the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and other UN instruments.



3. HOW TO ASSESS?

The methodology contains a series of **steps**. Movements can prioritize the appropriate steps in the local context by considering the time, financial and human resources of the implementing movement. In other words, some movements might decide to apply the full methodology, whereas others might find it more appropriate to use parts of the method.

The methodology is based on the following principles (all of which are part of the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines):

- Non-discrimination
- Respect for all cultures and religions
- Participation of all People
- Equal participation of all genders
- Transparency
- Protection of Human Rights



WHO SHOULD MONITOR?

The methodology is developed by and for the members of the IPC WG on Fisheries. The assessment and monitoring should first and foremost be conducted by the national and local level members of the four global movements (LVC, IITC, WFFP, WFF) with support from their allies.

Other movements and organizations are also encouraged to use the methodology for assessing the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and other UN instruments.

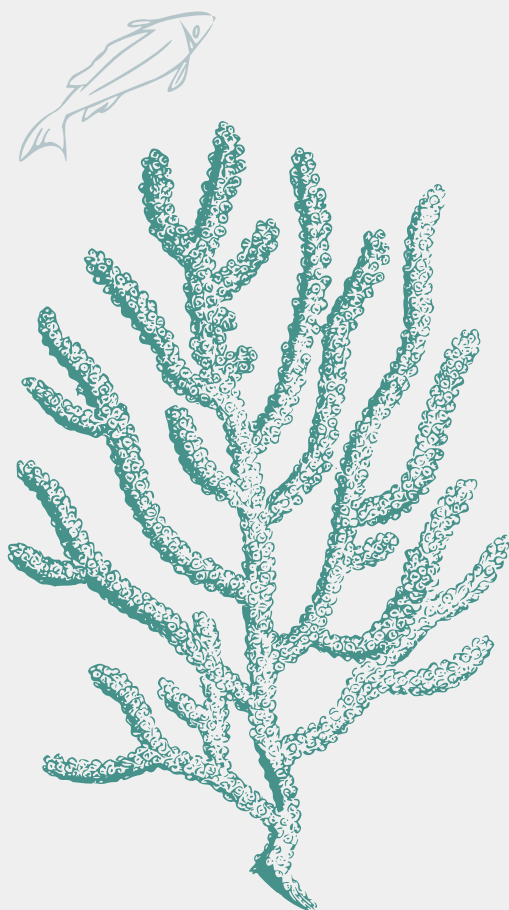


HOW TO ASSESS?

The methodology contains a series of **steps**. Movements can prioritize the appropriate steps in the local context by considering the time, financial and human resources of the implementing movement. In other words, some movements might decide to apply the full methodology, whereas others might find it more appropriate to use parts of the method.

The methodology is based on the following principles (all of which are part of the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines):

- Non-discrimination
- Respect for all cultures and religions
- Participation of all People
- Equal participation of all genders
- Transparency
- Protection of Human Rights



4. WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THE ASSESSMENT?

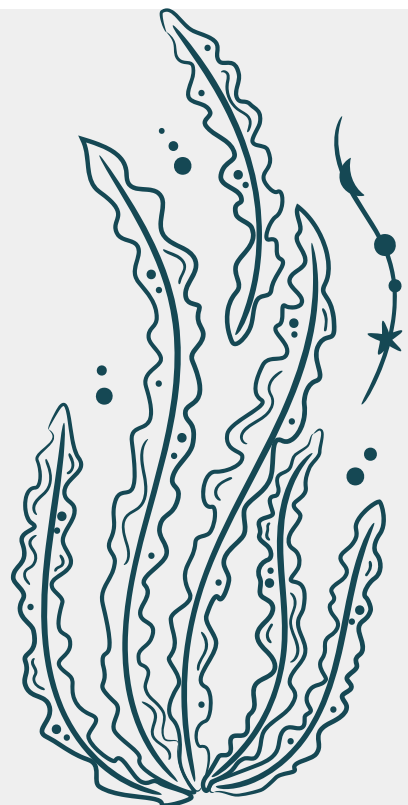
The assessing process will produce valuable information about the state of implementation of the SSF Guidelines, national-level policies and laws relevant to small-scale fishing, threats and challenges to small-scale fishing communities, and, importantly, empirical evidence from people with direct or indirect dependency on small-scale fisheries.

The information will be captured in a repository. It will be used for conducting analysis and documenting the state of implementation of the SSF Guidelines. It will provide the basis for reporting and providing recommendations to governments, the UN Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and other relevant institutions and authorities. It will provide significant evidence for fishers' movements to use in their advocacy work and campaigns at the national, regional, and global levels.

Among others, the SSF Peoples Centred Methodology will allow communities to gain a better understanding of the components and the drivers and actors of the ocean economy and will allow building solidarity across communities (national level) and between organizations (regional and international levels)

What is the role of the Regional Advisory Groups of the SSF-GSF?

1. The Regional Advisory Groups are the regional bodies of the AG SSF-GSF. They mandate to take guidelines implementation forward at the regional level (movements and regional FAO bodies).
2. Their role is to support members in the Region to apply the assessing methodology and bring outcomes to the regional FAO bodies, to inform the AG SSF-GSF on the regional priorities thus to inform COFI, and other relevant stakeholders.



5. THE ACTIVITIES AND STEPS OF THE METHODOLOGY

This overview contains a series of steps to be undertaken for a “full” assessing process. However, the methodology is developed in a way that makes it possible to adapt the assessment to the local circumstances and consider the human and financial resources available.

Step one: Form a steering group with overall responsibility for developing a plan adapted to the local and national contexts. The steering group is composed of representatives of the respective fisher movements’ organizations. The steering group might decide on getting support from allies, but the autonomy of the fisher movements and organizations cannot be compromised.

Step two: Form a research team/study group with the mandate of reviewing laws and policies relevant in small-scale fishing and doing research on crucial actors of the ocean economy. The information will be captured in the repository, and case reports will be produced. The research team/study group can be comprised of movements representatives with or without support from allies.



Step three: Develop and implement a plan for collecting empirical evidence from fishing communities. The program will cover three essential actions: **adapt and develop a set of questions/ indicators** (use the questions suggested and adjust them to your local context and based on the study report and on national priorities); **develop the methodology for fieldwork (interview techniques); and decide on data storage / capturing of empirical evidence (repository/database/other).**

The steering group can complete this step with or without support from allies.

Methodology for collection should be adapted locally, for example story-telling, photos, videos, musics, and interviews.

Step four: Conducting meeting(s) and/or workshop(s) to consolidate and analyse information from previous steps (country case reports and empirical evidence).

This step can be completed by the steering group with or without allies. It should lead to the production and publication of a monitoring report.

Analyzing the SSF policy and economic framework: Describe the main socio-economic, environmental, and demographic characteristics and policy contexts of the countries selected by SSF. It includes a description of the enabling (or disabling) environment for Small Scale Fisheries at higher scales than the communities assessed (e.g., provincial or national). For example, inventory of relevant policies for SSF (favoring or limiting), institutional and legal framework, marketing structures for various types of products, socio-cultural, environmental, and historical drivers. Existing constraints such as access to natural resources (land and water in particular) or capital, the impact of climate change, and the existence (or not) of adequate policies to address these constraints are also part of the context description.

You can use:

Primary Data Collection

Community or territorial level with a variety of actors (e.g., government agents, community leaders, farmers’ cooperatives, NGO agents, extension agents, etc.) through field visits and focus groups with key informants/respondents.

Secondary data analysis

- Analysis of policies, legislation, and other institutional frameworks, development of the national plan, national blue agenda: understand the different legislation forms adopted in a different region, with political economy, ecology, and customary tenure perspectives to violations in SSF
- Analysis of Fishery sector at national level
- Analysis of various regional specific secondary documents
- Assessment of direct and indirect sources: books, World Bank project documents, research articles, reports, newspapers, and public documents on the SSF Guidelines

Step five: Applying the findings. The steering group will discuss how to use the results, including the assessment report, for advocacy purposes. Advocacy should be aimed at local to global levels and will require collaboration with the regional Advisory Groups of the SSF-GSF, the IPC WG on Fisheries group, and FAO.

Use the assessed information:

- To engage with the national government, local officers, and the fisheries department to advocate for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines,
- To develop a vision and campaign toward Food Sovereignty for coastal and inland fishing communities
- To advocate for policy change and policy implementation,
- To serve and complement the national monitoring process and to open to a “community review” of current coastal and inland governance,
- To use the findings as our core messages in different events and spaces,
- To build alliances and solidarity with other working people and fisher people
- As SSF demands and advocacy toward COFI.



6. WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS FOR THE SSF PEOPLE CENTRED METHODOLOGY?

Part of step three in the assessment process is to gather relevant qualitative information and indicators adapted to the local and national contexts. In developing the indicators, the principles, and the contents of the SSF guidelines should be carefully considered.

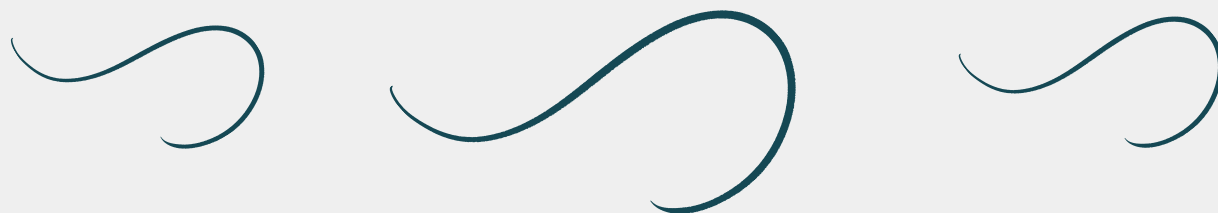
Some relevant aspects to take into consideration:

- The respect and promotion of Food Sovereignty and the protection of the Right to Food and Nutrition
- The contribution of small-scale fishers, fish workers, and Indigenous Peoples to the sustainable use and management of resources as well as to poverty eradication and equitable development
- The recognition of SSF (food, livelihoods, nature protection, e.g.)
- The participation of SSF and Indigenous Peoples' communities and organizations in decision-making processes and decision-making power
- The respect, protection, and promotion of women's rights
- The promotion of Youth
- The social dimensions in the SSF value chain (social development, employment, and decent work) consider the entire value chain and ensure priority and development in pre and post-harvest activities
- The respect, protection, and promotion of fishing and Indigenous Peoples' communities' rights to their territories, land, livelihoods, and resources
- The respect, protection, and promotion of the collective and customary rights of fishing communities and Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge and culture
- The disasters risks and climate change
- Information, research, and communication (this also addresses questions about what type(s) of knowledge _Local, Indigenous, Traditional, Scientific)
- The respect for the right to autonomy if receiving support and capacity development from organs of the state or non-state actors
- Implementation support and monitoring



Few tips to start:

- Prioritize existing issues, struggles, and challenges of the fisherfolk people at the country level
- Ensure meaningful participation of SSF, with adequate support at all levels to reach the most marginalized people
- The assessment starts with defining nationally who SSF are. Each country determines its SSF (as per SSF Guidelines)
- Organize regional/national workshops to capacitate on SSF Guidelines and the SSF People Centred methodology
- Build national level alliances to take the work together on the consensus of SSF people



7. INITIAL GUIDING QUESTIONS TO COLLECT QUALITATIVE INFORMATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Identification of indicators also lays the foundation for the formulation of assessing questions. See below for a set of guiding question.

Setting the local framework:

The SSF Guidelines

Are you aware of the existence of the SSF Guidelines? Are you in possession of any communication/information material on the SSF Guidelines? If yes, please list them and indicate if those are in your local languages or a vehicular/colonial language (if applicable). Are you aware of a Global Strategic Framework for implementing the SSF Guidelines (SSF-GSF) in which civil society has a prominent role?

Define the priorities among the themes covered by the SSF Guidelines¹ in your country for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries? Explain why and which are the most relevant problems? What main actions should be taken to ensure sustainable small-scale fisheries and influence local governments? What geographical scale should we operate to advance progress: local, national, regional, or global?

1) <http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/guidelines/en/>: Responsible governance of tenure, Sustainable resource management, Social development, employment and decent work, Value chains, post-harvest and trade, Gender equality, Disaster risks and climate change, A human right-based approach, Indigenous Peoples, Food security and nutrition in small scale fisheries.

Governance and policies

Are there national policies specifically referring to small-scale fisheries? If yes, what do they say? Which are the prominent national and local governmental institutions responsible for the governance of the SSF activities (oceans, coast and inland fisheries management, workers and commercialization, processing and trade) and the development of programs/projects associated with them?

What are governments' SSF-related programs implemented locally?

What are the government's priorities on SSF and which are its main partners?

Does the government allocate funds for implementing the provisions contained in the SSF Guidelines? Are there relevant institutions, processes and frameworks (national or regional) in which it might be useful to engage to advocate for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines (as for example governments' actions in support of Sustainable Development Goal¹ implementation, regional fisheries commissions, etc...)?

Do you have any contact with officers from any above-cited national and regional ministries/institutions/processes/frameworks? If yes, please list them.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local actors

Are there any CSOs networks/movements (regional or national) that may be of interest for advocating on sustainable SSF (e.g. Right to food movements, etc...)? If yes, please list them.

List relevant CSOs or local actors in your county/province that can play a crucial role in implementing the SSF Guidelines.

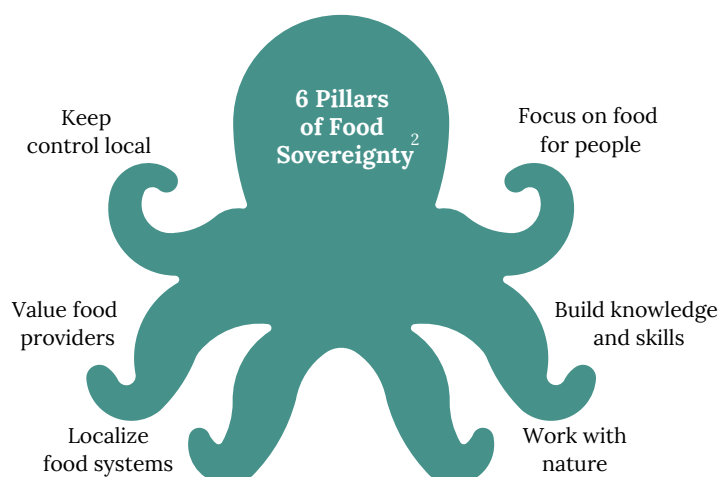
List relevant case studies/good practices/projects undertaken by your national and local communities/CSOs that may help to implement the SSF Guidelines.

Are there any events, or gatherings (governmental, development or cultural/traditional events) in your region on SSF, or should SSF be included? If yes, list them.

Have you received the invitation from NGOs and international development agencies to participate in projects/training courses related to implementing the SSF Guidelines? If yes, please list them and indicate if a participatory approach was used to define the project and the priorities.

Assessing the SSF Guidelines Implementation and the status of SSF People:

- **The respect and promotion of food sovereignty and the protection of the right to food and nutrition**



1) This can be done using for example the platform <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/>

2) https://www.foodsovereignty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/IPC_Handbook_EN.pdf

- **Focus on Food for People**

“Food Sovereignty puts people...at the center of food, agriculture, livestock, and fisheries policies, ensuring sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all individuals, peoples, and communities....”.

Are fisherfolks at the center of food, agriculture, livestock, and fisheries policies?

Do you feel you have access to healthy and culturally appropriate food?

Do you think your local/national governments are promoting policies pro-fisherfolks? Is there a fisherfolks-centered development strategy?

- **Value Food Provider**

“Food Sovereignty values and support the contributions and respect the rights of women and men, peasants and small-scale family farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk, forest dwellers, Indigenous Peoples and agricultural and fisheries workers...”.

Do you feel that the local authorities recognize your small-scale fishers' communities?

Is there a gender perspective in policies?

Is your work condition decent for your health and culturally appropriate?

Do you feel your income allows you to leave decently?

- **Localize Food System**

“Food Sovereignty brings food providers and consumers closer together...; protect consumers from poor quality and unhealthy food, inappropriate food and food tainted with genetically modified organism....”.

Are there any traditional products you don't find anymore at the local market?

Can you still prepare traditional dishes as you were used to when you were a child?

Are there products that do not explicitly come from your area at the local market?

Do you know where the products you buy or see at the markets come from?

Do SSF people have easy and free of charge access to all the fish markets (local, national, regional)? Is access to the market equitable and non-discriminatory? Do SSF people have enough bargaining power over the fish price? Are SSF communities' fish treated differently from LSF industrial fish in the market (price level)?

- **Keep Control Local**

“Food sovereignty places control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock, and fish population on local food providers and respects their rights.

They can use and share them socially and environmentally sustainable way.....”

Are you or your community members conducting any type of contracted fisher farming?

Do your fisher people depend on any external actors from the communities?

Is there any reform planned for your inland or coastal and ocean territory? Do you perceive any change around you in your capacity to control your resources?

Do SSF communities have free access to the fishing areas and grounds during the fishing season? Are SSF needs to access fishing areas and grounds considered by fishing law and policies? Are SSF communities being denied or limited access to the fishing grounds and the right to fish specific species in favour of industrial fisheries?

- **Build Knowledge and Skills**

“Food sovereignty builds on the skills and local knowledge of food providers and their organizations that conserve, develop, and manage localized food production and harvesting system....”

Are SSF people free to use their traditional fishing techniques? Do SSF communities have access to adequate local facilities to transform the fish?

Do you feel you and your communities can build political and practical changes? If not, which are the main barriers?

- **Work with Nature**

“Food sovereignty uses the contributions of nature in diverse, low external input agroecological production and harvesting methods that maximize the contribution of the ecosystem and improve resilience and adaptation”....”.

What is the status of the place where you live? Do you feel your ocean, sea, or river is healthy or sick? How do you recognize the quality of your resources? If yes, why? Are there any industrial activities around your communities?

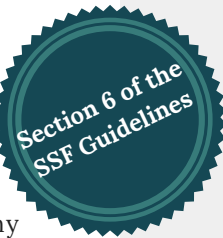


The contribution of small-scale fishers, fish workers, and Indigenous Peoples to the sustainable use and management of resources as well as to poverty eradication and equitable development.

Are SSF included in governments' national security systems/social schemes? Are SSF people effectively able to access these national security systems/social plans? Which services are covered by these systems/schemes (education, health, etc.....)?

Do SSF communities access bank services (credit, saving schemes)? Is this access free from any form of discrimination? Do SSF people have access to additional income-generating activities? Is the essential living condition ensured for SSF people and communities? Do they have access to basic public services (education, health, drinking water, adequate housing, electricity, etc..)? Is this access free from any form of discrimination? Is the price for these services fair? Is the quality of these services adequate?

Are there any policies/programs/laws to avoid discrimination against essential public services? Have SSF communities access electricity and energy?



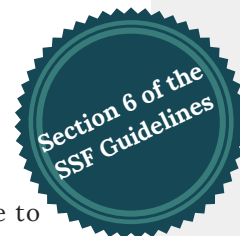
The recognition of SSF (food, livelihoods, nature protection etc).

Do national policies, development programs, and laws recognize and include the role of SSF and its contribution to the national economy?

Are there national laws, programs, or policies specifically and clearly defined for the SSF sectors (fishers, fish workers, fish laborers, etc..)

Are SSF included in governments' national security systems? Are SSF people effectively able to have access to these national security systems? Which services are covered by these systems (education, health, etc....)?

How do you perceive your livelihoods? In your opinion, what is your livelihood? Which elements are you recognize as vital and part of your daily life in your communities?



The participation of SSF and Indigenous Peoples' communities and organizations in decision-making processes and decision-making power

Are SSF people and communities involved in decision-making processes? Have they been previously informed on the issue/law under discussion and the reasons for their involvement?

How often have they been involved in local authorities and government decision-making processes? Are their concerns adequately considered in policies and practices?

Is access to information on decision-making processes for the SSF sector and communities easy, open, and free of charge? Do SSF communities know where to go to get the necessary information on decision-making processes? Have SSF communities and representatives been denied access to this kind of information by the Government or local public entities?

Have SSF women been equally involved in decision-making processes? Have they ever experienced gender discrimination and harassment during decision-making processes?

Do the government and local public entities organize public hearings with the communities affected by development projects before implementation? Have governments and local public entities respected and applied a free, prior, informed consent when dealing with SSF communities?



- **On tenure**

Does a state recognize secure, equitable, and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources (marine and inland) and small-scale fishing areas and adjacent land?

Does a state recognize, respect, and protect customary rights of SSF to aquatic resources and land and small-scale fishing areas? Is there legislation to this effect?

Does a state recognize, respect, and protect local norms and practices and customary or otherwise preferential access to fishery resources and land by SSF communities, IPs, and ethnic minorities?

Does a state identify, record, and respect legitimate tenure right holders and their rights?

Does a state accommodate changes in the customary tenure systems where legal reforms have conferred women's rights?

Does a state recognize the role of SSF communities and IPs to restore, conserve, protect and co-manage local aquatic and coastal ecosystems?

In state-own or state control water (also fishery resources) and land resources, does a state determine these resources' use and tenure rights considering social, economic, and environmental objectives? Does a state recognize and safeguard publically owned resources that are collectively used and managed, particularly by SSF communities?

Does a state grant preferential access to SSF to fish in waters under national jurisdiction to achieve equitable outcomes for different groups of people, particularly vulnerable groups (e.g., exclusive zones for SSF)? Does a state ensure that SSF is given due consideration before entering into agreements on resource access with 3rd countries and 3rd parties?

Does a state adopt measures to facilitate equitable access to fishery resources for SSF communities by implementing redistributive reform?

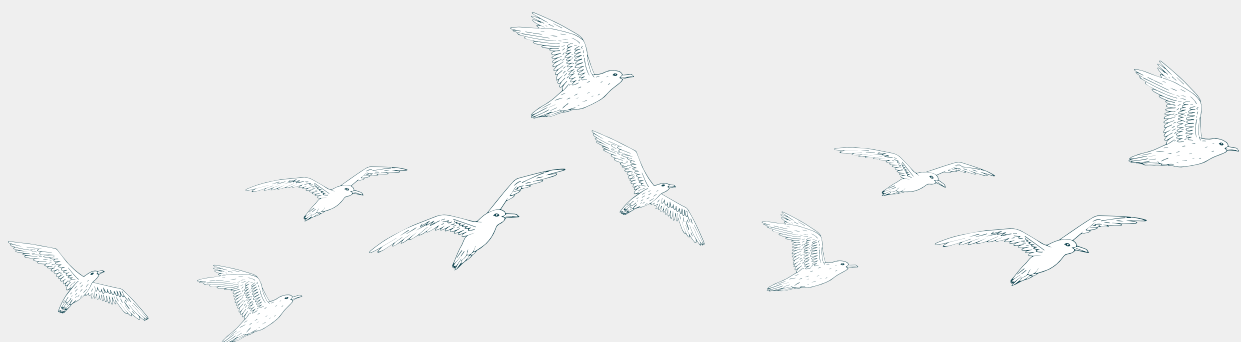
Before implementing large-scale development projects that might impact SSF communities, does a state consider the social, economic, and environmental impacts through impact studies and hold effective and meaningful consultations with these communities?

Does a state provide SSF access to convenient, affordable, and effective ways of resolving tenure rights disputes following national legislation? Does a state provide and enforce effective remedies, including entitlement to appeal, restitution, indemnity, just compensation, and reparation?

In situations of displacements due to natural disasters/armed conflict, does a state take active measures to restore access of SSF to traditional fishing grounds and coastal lands, considering the sustainability of fisheries resources?

Does a state take active steps to eliminate discrimination against women in tenure practices in case of natural disasters and armed conflict?

Does a state establish mechanisms to support fishing communities affected by grave human rights violations to rebuild their lives and livelihoods?



- **The social dimensions in the SSF value chain (social development, employment, and decent work) and the capacity to ensure priority and development in pre-and post-harvest activities.**

Is the power relationship between value chain actors equal and balanced? Are women equally included and their gender needs adequately addressed?

Does the local post-harvest sector have access to adequate and gender-appropriate infrastructures? Are sanitation facilities and hygiene systems available and appropriate to ensure the quality and safety of the fish? Do these measures and facilities reduce post-harvest losses and waste?

Are local and traditional forms of associations of fishers and fisher workers recognized and supported by the State? How many Fishers and fish workers associations/organizations/cooperatives are active locally? What is the state of these organizations? Are they fully functioning? Do they have economic or administrative issues putting their existence at risk?

Are waste-reducing technologies available? Are these technologies culturally and gender-appropriate and easy to learn for local fisher people? Do SSF fishers, and fish workers have access to repair services and spare parts at a fair price?

Are fish trade agreements fair for SSF communities? Are the benefits equally distributed? Are policies to ensure responsible and sustainable fishing and post-harvest practices in place? Do Small-scale fisheries stakeholders access relevant and accurate market information? Is this information easily accessible and free of charge? Is this information available in local languages? Is this information available in an understanding form (not too many technical terms)?

Section 7 of the
SSF Guidelines

- **The respect, protection, and promotion of women's rights.**

Are any visible attempts to involve women in the decision-making process for policies directed towards SSF?

Are there any tangible tools provided/ measures taken to address discrimination against the participation of women in general, specifically in their involvement in the work of small-scale fisheries? Do the women have equal access to extension and technical services, including legal support related to fisheries?

Section 8 of the
SSF Guidelines

Disaster risks and climate change.

Does the existing national DRR management system cover SSF communities adequately? Has this system been developed with the participation of SSF people and communities? Are SSF people and communities aware of this system?


Has the SSF communities, rights, access, and control to natural resources have been ensured?

Have SSF communities been included and involved in decision-making processes regarding natural resource management? How many times? Have their concerns been taken into consideration?

Are there any climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in place? Are SSF communities involved in these measures?

Are there any rehabilitation programs and subventions for climate change disasters in place? Are they accessible to SSF-damaged communities?

Section 9 of the
SSF Guidelines



- **Information, research, and communication (This also addresses questions about what type(s) of knowledge Local, Indigenous, Traditional, Scientific)**

Is there any evidence of countries where instances of recognition/practices of traditional knowledge (local/indigenous) are being used in the fisheries Management Process? Ex: Case studies

What are the instances where the adaptation and promotion of traditional wisdom of Women on post-harvest techniques, conservation, and management in coastal areas have been used?

Are the Fisher Communities involved in the regular, periodic updating of Statistics on Small scale Fisheries (bio-ecological, social, cultural& economic data) compiled by States?

Is any Periodic Community-led Research carried out on the knowledge, culture, traditions, and practices of SSF Communities, including Indigenous Peoples (with Academia, Institutions, and Universities)?

Has the State taken any steps to Documentation and sharing(communication) of knowledge from generation to generation (sponsored by the State & Ngo sector)?



Section 11 of
the SSF
Guidelines

- **The respect for the right to autonomy if receiving support and capacity development from organs of the state or non-state actors**

What are the state's structures, opportunities, platforms, and forums for the small-scale fishers and communities' participation in the policy formulation decision-making process? Both at the local and National Levels.

Are there regular training programs conducted by the Government at local and national levels to enhance the capacities of SSF in the production and marketing of fishery products? How often? Does the government allocate Budgets for such training?

Is there a viable mechanism of sharing updated information and data by the Government/state Institutions with SSF concerning weather forecasts, fish density areas, a potential disaster in coastal areas, etc.?

Does Government initiate any collaborative efforts or programs with SSF in coastal, environmental management, and disaster risk management?

What are the steps taken by Government authorities and agencies at all levels to develop knowledge and skills to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries development and effective co-management?

Does the Government initiate any periodical/ ongoing Participatory Research with the involvement of academia, Universities, and departments to track the state of fisheries?

Any joint ventures (both state and fisher networks and organizations) in protecting and developing the fishery resources and ecosystems?



Section 12 of
the SSF
Guidelines

- **Implementation support and monitoring.**

What is the level of awareness of SSF Guidelines among government personnel, private, and other responsible organizations? Is there a simplified, adapted version of SSF Guidelines in the local language? Are there any materials developed (simplified version) on the role of women in small-scale fisheries? What policy do you have at present on SSF?



Section 13 of
the SSF
Guidelines

An example of an Assessment Report on the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines - Draft Structure

1) Introduction

What the report is about
Methodology for elaborating the report

2) Legal and policy framework for SSF

Coastal and inland SSF Policies

3) SSF and the impact of the Blue Economy on their Human Rights (main local/national SSF struggles and violations)

SSF (give an overview of any SSF definition present in law but also through SSF perception)
Brief information on main actors introduced policies and economic and touristic projects that affect SSF (

3.1) Case study 1

Brief information on main actors introduced policies, etc.

- Location
- History of the Case
- Actors (both government and private) involved – what happened? (acts and omission)
- Impact on SSF communities and their human rights

3.2) Case study 2

Brief information on main actors introduced policies, etc.

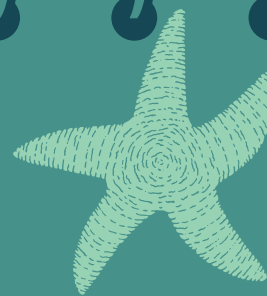
- Location
- History of the Case
- Actors (both government and private) involved – what happened? (acts and omission)
- Impact on SSF communities and their human rights

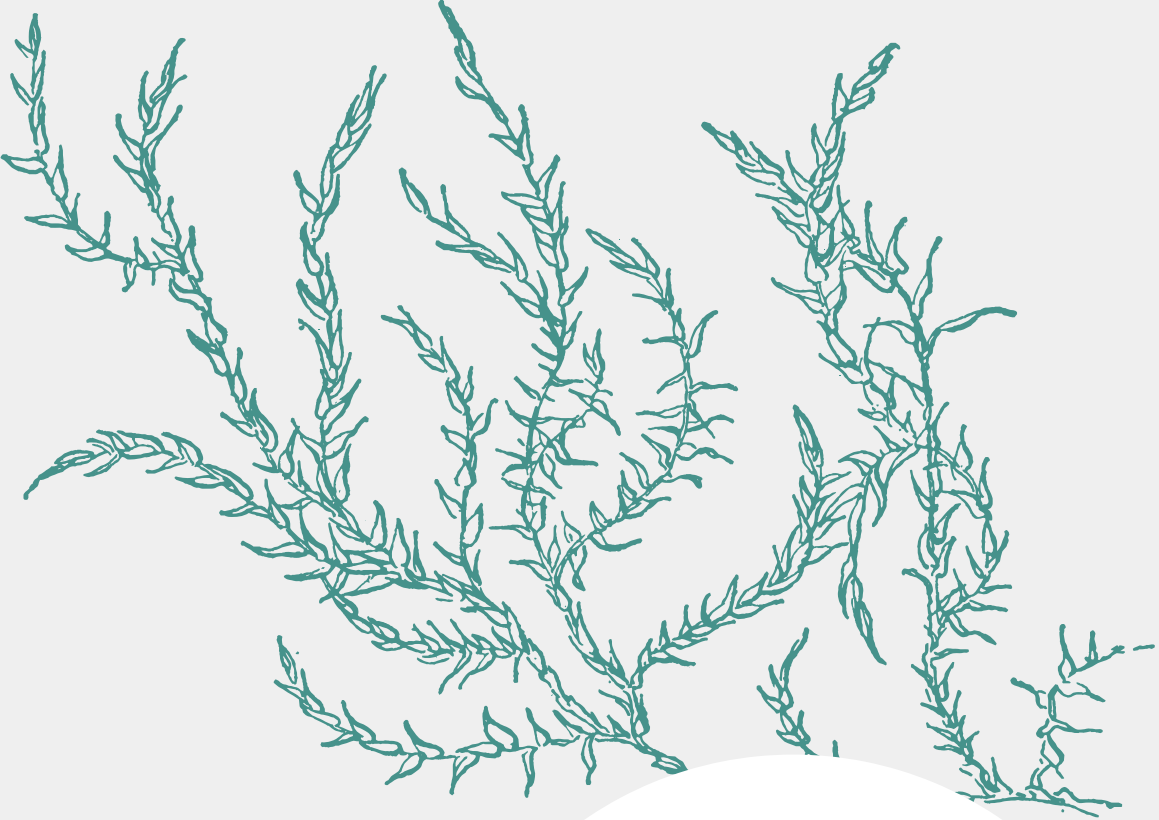
4) Analysis of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Report on primary qualitative data collected, consolidate a comparative study among the main challenges, information gathered, and the SSF Guidelines sections

5) Conclusion

6) Recommendations





PEOPLE'S FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

SOBERANÍA ALIMENTARIA DE LOS PUEBLOS

SOVRANITÀ ALIMENTARE DEI POPOLI

