

WIF Workshop

Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for
Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities

Report

7-10 July 2010
Mahabalipuram, India



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
www.icsf.net

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Proceedings
October 2010

Published by
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27 College Road, Chennai 600 006, India
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Cover photo by
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Artisanal fishing community, Port Boué, Ivory Coast

Back cover photo by
John Kurien
ICSF Workshop 2010

Printed at
L.S. Graphic Prints
25 Swamy Naicken Street
Chindhadripet, Chennai 600 002

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ISBN 978-93-80802-05-3

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) would like to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the following organizations for the successful conduct of the workshop: AusAID, Commonwealth Foundation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Fund for Women. ICSF would also like to acknowledge the support of Norad, Hivos, Misereor, Comité Catholique Contre la Faim et pour le Développement (CCFD) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

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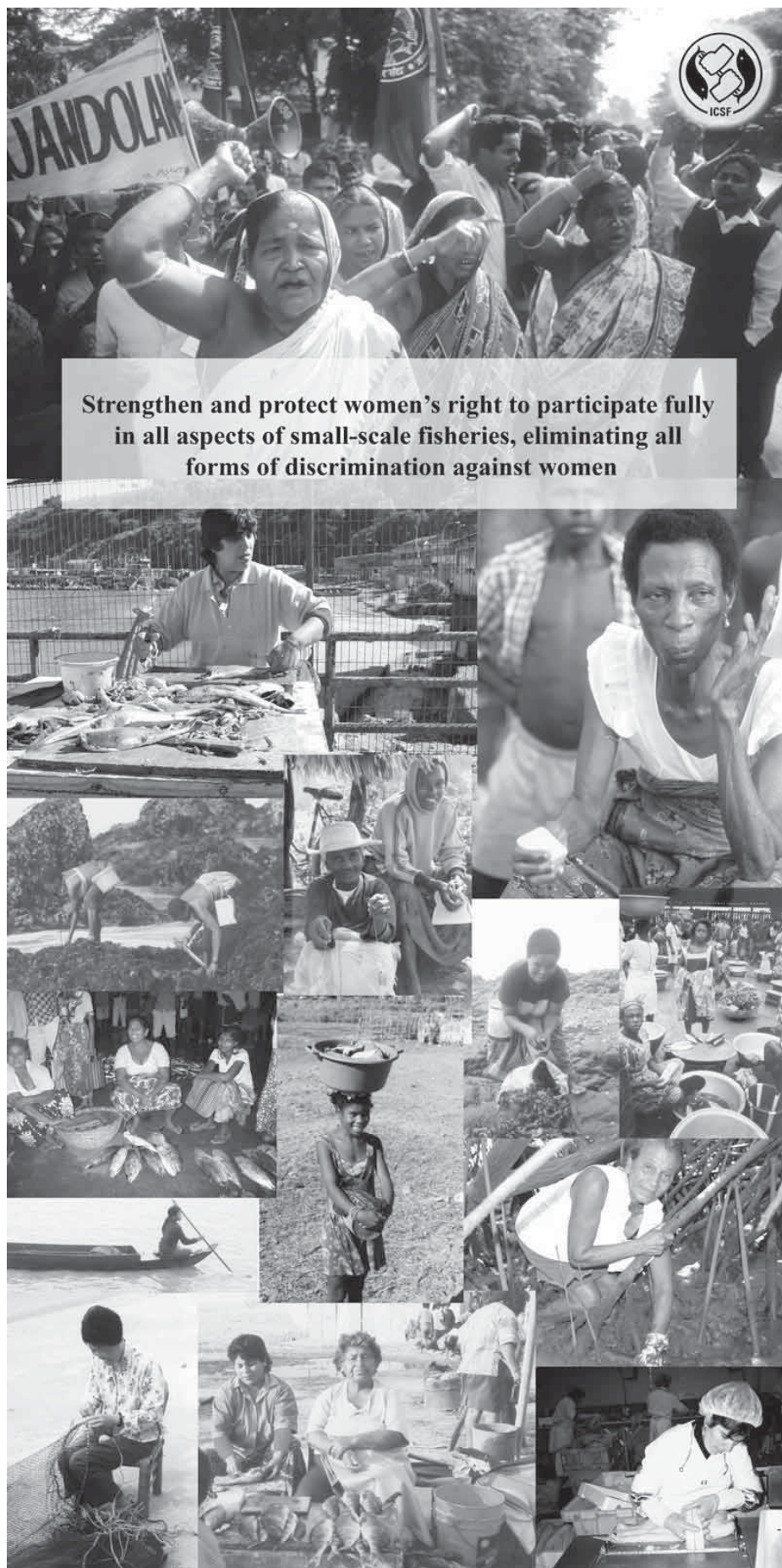
KESINEE KWAENJAROEN



Women cleaning crabs in a fishing village in Trang Province, Thailand

List of Abbreviations

4SSF	FAO Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries	ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
AFS	Asian Fisheries Society	ILO	International Labour Organization
AKTEA	European Network of Women's Organisations in Fisheries and Aquaculture	ITQ	individual transferable quota
ANP	National Articulation of Fisherwomen (Brazil)	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action	MFRMA	Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	MPA	marine protected area
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (of FAO)	NFF	National Fishworkers' Forum
CDU	Charles Darwin University (Australia)	NGO	non-governmental organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	PoA	plan of action
CERD	Center for Empowerment and Resource Development (Philippines)	SDF	Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand)
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (of FAO)	SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
CONAPACH	Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile	UNFFPG	Guinean National Union of Women Fish Smokers
CRZ	Coastal Regulation Zone	VinVis	Women in Fisheries Network of the Netherlands
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative	WFF	World Forum of Fishworkers and Fish Harvesters
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples



Preface

Thirty-nine people from 18 countries met at Mahabalipuram, India, during 7-10 July 2010 for the workshop “Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustainable Life and Livelihoods of Fishing Communities”, organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF). Participants included fishworkers, members of fishworker organizations, fisheries researchers, academicians, policymakers and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multilateral agencies.

The workshop aimed to analyze the impact of current developments in fisheries on the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities, specifically focusing on women’s experiences. It also sought to share local agendas and strategies of women’s organizations in fisheries, taking stock of achievements and obstacles; and attempted to define an agenda and strategies for sustaining life and livelihood in fisheries into the future. The Mahabalipuram workshop followed on national/regional workshops in the Philippines, India, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand, Europe and Canada, and a desk study on women in fisheries.

The presentations at the workshop captured organizational processes and concerns of women fishworkers from several countries, as well as the major shifts that have taken place over the last three decades in the dominant discourse on women in small-

scale fisheries. They also focused on international legal instruments relevant to women in fisheries, as well as processes underway through the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to support sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Participants agreed that though women are an integral part of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and fishing communities, their work and labour continue to remain invisible. Specific forms of discrimination cut across all aspects of women’s lives, undermining their dignity, sense of self-worth and self-confidence. There is need to systematically reverse this situation. There is also need to defend the role and contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to providing livelihood, employment and food security in a sustainable manner, into the future.

Active discussion, debate and analysis formed the basis of the “Shared Agenda” agreed on by workshop participants. This captured their “dreams for the future” as well as the “agenda for action” needed to realize these dreams, addressed to different sections of society.

This publication—the official proceedings of the workshop—will be a useful source of information for community organizers, fishworker organizations, women’s groups, government officials, multilateral organizations, researchers and donors, as well as all those interested in gender issues.



OLIVIER BARBAROUX/IFREMER NANTES



A scene from a sturgeon market in Bakou, Azerbaijan

Prospectus

Workshop on Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities Mahabalipuram, India

7 - 10 July 2010

Background and Rationale

Women play critical roles in fisheries around the world, particularly in the pre- and post-harvest sectors. Women are also known to engage, though to a lesser extent, in fish harvesting, primarily in inshore waters, and often for consumption purposes. In fishing communities, the household often functions as an economic unit, and roles of both men and women tend to be complementary, with women controlling land-based activities, such as net-weaving, processing and marketing fish, while men engage in fish harvesting. At the same time, women remain responsible for sustaining fishing households, and maintaining community networks and support structures.

Developments in technology and fisheries have, however, changed this division of labour and the nature of work undertaken by women. While some women have adapted to the changed situation, using it to their economic advantage, others have found it much more difficult. Many women are being eased out of fisheries, or are forced to continue within it at meagre profit levels, or as low-paid wage labour, with limited or no access to social security or decent conditions of work. This has had implications for their economic status within the household and the

community, and on food security and household well-being.

Systematic attention should be paid to the issues women face, both as workers in fisheries and as members of fishing communities. In this context, there is need to recognize the organizational initiatives of women themselves. They have organized themselves, as part of co-operatives and self-help groups, among others, to defend their economic interests. Women have also organized politically, as part of unions and community-based organizations, to raise issues such as the need for transportation, markets, access to fish, social security, and so on. They have raised issues that concern them as members of fishing communities, responsible for the well-being of the community—issues related to health, sanitation, education, displacement, pollution and climate change, among others. In many parts of the world, women have also been active in protecting and managing natural resources, as part of community-based organizations.

It has become clear that the struggle of women in fisheries needs to be at various levels. It is necessary to challenge inequitable and patriarchal gender relations within, and outside, the household, and within organizations. There is also need to acknowledge the paid and unpaid labour of women, which goes towards sustaining fisheries

and fishing communities. The right of women to participate in fisheries decisionmaking needs to be upheld as well.

At the same time, and equally importantly, there is need to link with the struggle for sustainable small-scale fisheries. In this context, it is necessary to analyze and challenge issues such as:

- forms of fisheries development that jeopardize and overexploit resources;
- unregulated developments in the coastal zone that threaten to take over spaces traditionally occupied and used by fishing communities, while destroying resources;
- patterns of trade that bring few benefits to small-scale communities even as they make their livelihoods more vulnerable; and
- models of aquaculture that impose high social, environmental and economic costs on these communities.

There is a need, as well, to challenge fisheries management and conservation approaches that lead to privatization of resources, denying access to sustainable small-scale fisheries. While co-management approaches to fisheries management appear to present opportunities for women's participation in fisheries-related activities, they constitute new sites of struggle for many women as they are often imposed top-down by government agencies through artificially created institutions that protect elite interests, or work through existing gender-oppressive community structures. In some countries, on the other hand, the introduction of co-management does appear to present women with an opportunity to deepen local democratic practices and to consolidate the linkages between community livelihoods and well-being, and the sustainability of the fisheries.

With growing awareness about the potential impact of climate change on fishing communities and livelihoods, there is also need to formulate responses, while challenging externally formulated strategies to deal with climate change, which has implications for fishing community livelihoods.

The workshop was organized against this backdrop to reflect on what needs to be done to develop a 'gender agenda' for sustaining lives and livelihoods in fisheries. It was also organized against the backdrop of the growing international recognition of small-scale fisheries and efforts to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty alleviation, as evidenced in the deliberations of the the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This is partly the outcome of sustained advocacy by small-scale fishworker organizations and NGOs over the past several years, and their active participation at the FAO Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries (4SSF), held in October 2008.

Reviewing the outcomes of 4SSF, the 28th session of COFI agreed that action to support small-scale fisheries was essential. Following this, the FAO, in partnership with various organizations, has initiated the process of developing a Global Programme to ensure that responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources makes an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation. Small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are stated to be central to this programme, as is the integration of a gender approach. The ICSF workshop on women in fisheries and processes preparatory to it sought to provide proposals for further programme elaboration

and implementation and to inform an eventual small-scale fisheries international instrument proposed by COFI, from a gender perspective, drawing on a human-rights-based approach to development in fisheries and fishing communities.

Objectives

The workshop was organized back-to-back with the General Body meeting of ICSF, with the following specific objectives:

1. analyze the impact of current developments within, and outside, fisheries on lives and livelihoods in fishing communities, locating women's experiences in the context of these developments;
2. share local agendas and strategies of women's organizations in fisheries, taking stock of achievements and obstacles; and
3. define an agenda and strategies for sustaining lives and livelihoods in fisheries into the future.

Preparatory processes

Several preparatory processes took place prior to the workshop itself, during 2009-10. These included the following:

1. national/sub-national/regional-level preparatory workshops were held in South Africa, India, Europe, Thailand, Philippines, Brazil, Tanzania, and, depending on the situation, in Guinea Conakry;
2. a background desk study, analyzing research on women in fisheries, was undertaken, keeping in mind the key themes for the workshop;
3. articles on the key themes for the workshop and on the preparatory workshops were published in *Yemaya*; and
4. case studies and documentation on the role of women in fisheries were compiled.

Participants

The workshop brought together a group of 39 people, which included researchers, scientists, union leaders, policymakers, activists and NGO representatives from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe.

Venue

The workshop was organized at Indeco Hotels, Mahabalipuram, India. <http://www.indecohotels.com/mahabalipuram.html>



OLIVIER BARBAROUX/IFREMER NANTES



A girl selling smoked and dried fish in a market in Pusan, South Korea

A Shared Agenda

The process

Thirty-nine participants from 18 countries, including women fishworkers, representatives of fishworker organizations and NGOs, activists and researchers, met at Mahabalipuram, India, during 7-10 July 2010, to discuss the theme *Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities*.

Informed by reports of national and regional workshops and consultations held in preparation for the workshop—from India, Thailand, the Philippines, South Africa, Brazil, Europe and Canada—and by experiences from Guinea Conakry, Chile and Tanzania, participants discussed and analyzed key issues facing women fishworkers and small-scale and artisanal fishing communities, as well as the strategies being adopted by them to assert their rights and defend their interests.

A presentation, based on a review of literature, analyzed the major shifts that have taken place over the last three decades in the dominant discourse on women in the small-scale fisheries. The first was a shift in focus from political economy to political ecology, which, while allowing a significant critique of the industrial model of development to emerge, obscured, over time, the analysis of women's labour in the sector. The second was the shift from opposition to women's oppression to an individual-centric gender-empowerment agenda, which dissociated gender from other structures of power. The third was the increasing emphasis on a human-rights framework, which obscured both community and women's rights. Finally,

there has been a growing dependence on donor aid for both social action and research. Given that destructive industrial fishing practices have been introduced in the South chiefly through aid tied to structural adjustment policies, and given further that donor aid is increasingly aligning itself with the imperatives of globalization, this dependence is problematic.

Participants at the workshop also discussed international legal instruments of relevance to women in fisheries, with a special focus on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, and deplored their poor implementation. They heard presentations on the Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security of the FAO and the proposal for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that may be considered by COFI.

Participants worked in groups to consolidate their “dreams” about fisheries that would sustain lives and livelihoods in fishing communities, and to define an agenda for action to realize these dreams. They agreed on the analysis and shared agenda detailed below.

A shared agenda for sustaining life and livelihoods in fishing communities

Women are an integral part of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and fishing communities. Yet, their work

and labour continue to remain invisible. Specific forms of discrimination cut across all aspects of women's lives—their labour, sexuality and their fertility—undermining their dignity, sense of self-worth and self-confidence. It is women's labour, unpaid or poorly paid, which sustains the existing model of development.

The existing model of development is also based on the unsustainable extraction of natural resources. This is leading to environmental degradation and the poisoning of waters and lands, eroding the very basis of the lives and livelihoods of inland and coastal fishing communities, including indigenous communities, while increasing women's burden of unremunerated work. Fishing communities today increasingly face displacement from their lands and their fishing grounds due to, among other things, mega-projects related to oil and gas exploration, wind farms, tourism, commercial aquaculture and port development, which are being promoted by large corporations and some national governments. Displaced communities are forced to migrate in search of livelihood, facing heightened insecurity and vulnerability.

We are fully aware that if the logic of such development is not questioned and indiscriminate capital investment is not regulated, fishing communities and small-scale and artisanal fisheries will cease to exist. We are also fully aware of the need to defend the role and contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to providing livelihood, employment and food security in a sustainable manner, into the future.

Our dreams for the future

We dream of a future in which:

- aquatic ecosystems are free of pollution, retaining their ability to regenerate living resources,

sustain livelihoods and meet food security;

- interactions with natural resources are based on principles of sustainability and a respect for the rhythms and limits of nature;
- interactions within communities and with society are based on principles of equality, social justice and mutuality;
- there is respect for the diversity of ecosystems and communities and the recognition that this diversity is the basis for sustaining life and livelihoods;
- fishing communities, including women and children, are able to live their lives in peace and dignity, free of violence, and to enjoy decent living and working conditions;
- people have the right to work and to choose the work that they prefer, irrespective of the sexual division of labour, and all work, including reproductive work, is valued;
- the rights of fishing communities to their coastal lands, as well as the preferential access of small-scale and artisanal fishworkers and indigenous peoples to coastal and inland fisheries resources, are recognized;
- small-scale and artisanal fisheries are recognized for producing high-quality fish in a sustainable manner;
- fishing communities retain ownership and control over economic assets employed in fishing and fish processing and marketing operations;
- fishing communities have strong organizations, including producer organizations, enabling them to negotiate from positions of power, and in these organizations, women have central roles in decisionmaking;

- women engaged in fisheries activities have the first right to access the fish that is landed, and the marketing chain is restructured in equitable ways to privilege and valorize small-scale and artisanal fisheries and fishworkers;
- power to manage coastal and fishery resources is devolved to local and indigenous communities, and their capacity to do so is strengthened;
- planning for small-scale and artisanal fisheries takes into consideration broader aquatic and coastal management issues, and where traditional and local knowledge, together with scientific knowledge, form the basis of fisheries management systems;
- the choice of fisheries conservation and management mechanisms and instruments are sensitive to principles of equity, social justice and solidarity;
- fisheries conservation and management mechanisms and instruments promote community based management and incorporate approaches other than market-driven quota management systems;
- fishing communities have access to the information they need to participate in decisionmaking in an informed way; and
- basic economic, social, cultural and political rights are guaranteed by the State through a range of instruments, including the provision of social security, education and health facilities and a range of social and infrastructure assets for fishing communities.

Our Agenda for Action

Based on these dreams, we propose the following action agenda for different sections of society:

Households and communities

- Strengthen the capacity of women to participate in fishworker movements and organizations.
- Challenge men's resistance to women's participation in organizations, where it exists, and ensure the sharing of household work.
- Enhance the capacity of communities, including through literacy programmes, information on aquatic ecology and access to appropriate technology.
- Secure an environment of safety and freedom from violence and sexual abuse within the household and community.
- Ensure that community-based organizations guarantee women's participation in decision-making processes and their access to resources such as fish and fish products.
- Recognize and assert the value of traditional and local knowledge, including that of women, as an important component in decision-making processes.

Fishworker organizations

- Develop a culture in which all forms of discrimination are eliminated.
- Guarantee space and support for women to participate in decision-making processes, including those related to conservation and fisheries management.
- Address women's issues within organizations, and create separate spaces for women to organize autonomously at local, regional, national and international levels.
- Promote exchanges between women fishworkers and their organizations across different contexts.
- Raise awareness about, and participate actively in monitoring

- implementation of, international instruments, such as CEDAW.
- Challenge liberalization of global trade and the decisions of the World Trade Organization on patenting of food products, in particular, fish and fish products.
- Promote equitable and sustainable alternatives to existing models of development.

Civil society organizations (including NGOs, media, consumers and environmental organizations)

- Promote awareness of the socioeconomic conditions and basic needs of fishing communities, especially of women and other marginalized groups.
- Respect and value traditional and local knowledge, and support efforts of fishing communities towards sustainable and equitable fisheries.

Research organizations

Taking cognizance of the shifts in the dominant discourse on women in fisheries, undertake research and analysis on:

- the conditions and contributions of women in small-scale and artisanal fisheries and fishing communities, and make the findings widely accessible;
- the impact of development and conservation projects on the lives of men, women and children in fishing communities; and
- the impact of fisheries conservation and management measures on the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities.

The State

- Guarantee access and control over resources by small-scale and artisanal fishers and their communities, with particular attention to women.

- Recognize and protect collective rights to the resources and territories on which fishing communities, including indigenous communities, have traditionally depended on for their food security and livelihoods.
- Guarantee universal health and social security and the socialization of housework, and protect existing systems of social security that have proven to be adequate.
- Guarantee safety, and assure freedom from violence and sexual abuse.
- Regulate markets, discouraging the concentration of capital, and promote local markets.
- Build the capacity of, and empower, fishing communities to manage their resources.
- Promote education and capacity-building of fishing communities based on local realities and a culture of non-discrimination.
- Ratify and fully implement human-rights instruments, in particular CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, by adopting specific measures to address discrimination against women, while creating spaces for civil society organizations, in particular for women fishworkers and their organizations, to participate in monitoring their implementation.
- Support and protect coastal and inland communities, with particular attention to women, in relation to natural disasters and pandemics such as HIV/AIDS.
- Protect coastal communities from displacement or forced migration.
- Guarantee that both men and women of fishing communities

are consulted and enabled to participate in decisionmaking, including in relation to fisheries conservation and management.

- Recognize and value traditional and local knowledge as an integral part of information required for fisheries conservation and management.
- Promote sustainable fisheries, mitigate pollution and reduce the impact of extractive industries such as oil and natural gas.
- Recognize workers in the informal sector, in particular, women, including as collaborative spouses, and guarantee their labour rights and their rights to decent work.
- Generate sex-disaggregated data on those who work in all aspects of fisheries, through census operations.

International organizations

- Integrate an understanding of gender that shapes fisheries policies at various levels towards sustaining life and livelihoods in fishing communities.
- Desist from funding projects that are environmentally destructive and socially unjust, and that impose structural adjustment conditionalities (poverty reduction and growth facilities) on recipient States.

We resolve to work together to ensure that this agenda is widely disseminated, incorporated and implemented at all levels, including in an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that may be considered by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the FAO. 



Women and children heading to the Tul market in Madagascar with the day's catch of fish

Un Programme Commun

Le Processus

Du 7 au 10 juillet 2010, trente-neuf personnes (femmes de la pêche, représentants d'organisations de pêcheurs et d'Ong, militants, chercheurs) venues de 18 pays se sont réunies à Mahabalipuram, Inde, afin de débattre du thème *Changer la donne : définir un agenda/programme commun sur les questions de genre pour soutenir la vie et les moyens de subsistance dans les communautés de pêcheurs*.

Sur la base des comptes-rendus des ateliers nationaux et régionaux et des consultations qui ont eu lieu en Inde, en Thaïlande, aux Philippines, en Afrique du Sud, au Brésil, en Europe et au Canada en vue de préparer cet atelier, et également à partir des expériences de la Guinée Conakry, du Chili et de la Tanzanie, les participants ont procédé à une discussion et une analyse des principaux problèmes auxquels sont confrontées les femmes de la pêche et les communautés de la pêche artisanale et à petite échelle et des stratégies qu'elles mettent en œuvre pour assurer leurs droits et défendre leurs intérêts.

Ils ont entendu une communication qui, à partir de la documentation disponible, analyse les évolutions majeures perceptibles au cours des trente dernières années sur la façon d'appréhender la situation des femmes de la petite pêche dans le discours dominant. Premier point, on est passé de l'économie politique à l'écologie politique, ce qui a sans doute permis de faire apparaître une critique significative du modèle industriel du développement mais qui a aussi obscurci au fil du temps l'analyse du

travail des femmes dans ce secteur. Deuxième point, on est passé d'une opposition à l'oppression des femmes à des programmes de renforcement des capacités des femmes sur une base individualiste, ce qui a dissocié les relations de genre des autres structures de pouvoir.

Troisième point, il est de plus en plus question de l'approche fondée sur les droits humains, ce qui tend aussi à obscurcir les droits des communautés et des femmes. Quatrièmement, on constate une dépendance croissante par rapport à l'aide des donateurs en matière d'action sociale et de recherche. Or cette dépendance génère un réel problème car les modes de pêche industrielle destructeurs ont été introduits dans les pays du Sud surtout dans le cadre d'aides liées à des politiques d'ajustement structurels ; et les donateurs s'alignent également de plus en plus sur les impératifs de la mondialisation.

Les participants ont ensuite débattu des instruments juridiques internationaux qui peuvent concerner les femmes de la pêche, notamment la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes (CEDAW) et la Déclaration et le Programme d'action de Beijing. Ils ont déploré les insuffisances de leur mise en œuvre. Puis ils ont écouté des exposés sur le Programme de la FAO pour faire participer davantage la pêche et l'aquaculture à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à la sécurité alimentaire, et sur l'idée d'un instrument international relatif à la pêche artisanale qui pourrait être examinée par le Comité des pêches (COFI) de la FAO.

Les participants se sont répartis en groupes afin de consolider « leurs rêves » pour une pêche capable d'assurer la vie et les moyens de subsistance au sein des communautés, afin de définir un agenda/programme d'action pour donner corps à ces rêves. Ils se sont accordés sur les analyses et le programme commun que l'on va détailler ci-dessous.

Programme commun pour soutenir la vie et les moyens de subsistance dans les communautés de pêcheurs

Les femmes sont une partie intégrante de la pêche artisanale et à petite échelle, des communautés de pêcheurs. Et pourtant leur travail et les diverses tâches qu'elles accomplissent demeurent comme invisibles. Tous les aspects de leur existence (travail, sexualité, fécondité...) sont affectés par des formes particulières de discrimination qui portent atteinte à leur dignité, à l'estime de soi, à la confiance en soi. C'est pourtant le travail des femmes, non rémunéré ou mal rémunéré, qui maintient le modèle de développement en cours.

Ce modèle est également basé sur une extraction non soutenable des ressources naturelles, ce qui entraîne une dégradation de l'environnement, une pollution des eaux et des terres, une déstabilisation de la vie et des moyens de subsistance dans les populations qui pratiquent une pêche côtière ou intérieure (y compris les groupes autochtones), et ce qui alourdit encore plus la charge de travail non rémunéré des femmes.

Aujourd'hui, les communautés de pêcheurs sont de plus en plus obligées de quitter leur lieu de vie et leurs zones de pêche pour diverses

raisons : projets d'exploration pétrolière et gazière, parcs éoliens, activités touristiques, aquaculture commerciale, développement portuaire, qui sont le fait de grosses sociétés ou de certains gouvernements nationaux. Les communautés ainsi affectées sont forcées de partir ailleurs à la recherche d'un travail et souffrent d'une insécurité et d'une vulnérabilité accrues.

Si la logique de ce mode de développement n'est pas remise en cause, si ces gros investissements ne sont pas encadrés, nous sommes pleinement conscients que les communautés de pêcheurs et la pêche artisanale et à petite échelle cesseront d'exister. Mais nous sommes également pleinement conscients de la nécessité de défendre le rôle et la contribution de cette pêche artisanale et à petite échelle pour assurer à l'avenir la vie, l'emploi et la sécurité alimentaire de manière durable.

Nos rêves pour l'avenir

Nous rêvons d'un avenir où les éléments suivants seront présents :

- Les écosystèmes aquatiques sont exempts de pollution, capables de reconstituer les ressources vivantes, d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire, les moyens d'existence ;
- L'interaction des humains avec les ressources naturelles est fondée sur le principe de la durabilité, sur le respect des rythmes et des limites de la nature ;
- Les interactions au sein des communautés et avec la société en général s'inspirent des principes d'égalité, de justice sociale et de mutualité ;
- La diversité des écosystèmes et des communautés est respectée, et cette diversité est considérée comme indispensable pour assurer la vie et les moyens de subsistance ;

- Les communautés de pêcheurs (y compris les femmes et les enfants) peuvent vivre en paix et dans la dignité, à l'abri des violences, dans des conditions d'existence et de travail décentes ;
- Les individus ont droit à un travail, dans l'activité qui a leur préférence, quelle que soit la division sexuelle du travail, et tout travail (y compris les tâches reproductives) doit être reconnu à sa juste valeur ;
- On reconnaît officiellement le droit des communautés de pêcheurs sur leur partie du littoral, de même que l'accès préférentiel des pêcheurs artisans et à petite échelle et des populations autochtones aux ressources halieutiques côtières ou intérieures ;
- Il est reconnu que les pêcheries artisanales et à petite échelle produisent de manière durable du poisson de haute qualité ;
- Les communautés de pêcheurs conservent la propriété et le contrôle des actifs économiques qui entrent dans la capture, la transformation et la commercialisation du poisson ;
- Les communautés de pêcheurs sont dotées d'organisations solides (groupements de producteurs notamment) qui leur permettent de négocier en position de force, et les femmes occupent une position essentielle dans les processus décisionnels au sein de ces structures ;
- Les femmes engagées dans des activités de pêche ont le premier droit d'accès au poisson débarqué, et les circuits de commercialisation sont restructurés de façon équitable afin de privilégier et de valoriser la pêche artisanale et à petite échelle et ceux qui la pratiquent ;
- Le pouvoir de gérer les ressources côtières et halieutiques est confié aux communautés locales et autochtones et leur capacité à remplir cette tâche est renforcée ;
- Les plans relatifs aux pêcheries artisanales et à petite échelle prennent en considération les aspects plus larges de la gestion des ressources aquatiques et côtières, et le savoir traditionnel et local s'ajoute aux connaissances scientifiques pour former la base des systèmes de gestion des pêches ;
- Le choix des mécanismes et des instruments de conservation et de gestion des pêcheries s'inspire des principes d'équité, de justice sociale et de solidarité ;
- Les mécanismes et instruments de conservation et de gestion des pêcheries privilégient une gestion communautaire et incorporent des démarches autres que les systèmes de quotas régis par les forces du marché ;
- Les communautés de pêcheurs ont accès à l'information dont elles ont besoin pour pouvoir participer en toute connaissance de cause aux processus décisionnels ;
- Les droits économiques, sociaux, culturels et politiques fondamentaux sont garantis par l'État via divers instruments appropriés, en mettant notamment à la disposition des communautés de pêcheurs des services de protection sociale, d'éducation et de santé, des équipements sociaux et diverses autres infrastructures.

Notre programme d'action

À partir de ces rêves, nous proposons le programme d'action suivant pour les différentes sections de la société :

La famille et la communauté

- Renforcer les capacités des femmes afin qu'elles puissent participer à la vie des mouvements et organisations des pêcheurs ;
- Là où c'est le cas, contester l'attitude hostile des hommes à une participation des femmes aux organisations de la pêche, et veiller au partage des tâches domestiques ;
- Renforcer les capacités des communautés, par des programmes d'alphabétisation, par l'information sur les questions d'écologie aquatique et l'accès à des technologies appropriées ;
- Assurer un environnement sûr, exempt de violences et d'abus sexuels au sein des familles et des communautés ;
- Veiller à ce que les organisations communautaires garantissent la participation des femmes aux processus décisionnels et leur accès aux ressources (poisson, produits dérivés du poisson...) ;
- Reconnaître et affirmer la valeur du savoir traditionnel et local (notamment celui des femmes) en tant qu'élément important des processus décisionnels.

Les organisations de pêcheurs

- Développer une culture exempte de toute forme de discrimination ;
- Garantir l'espace et l'appui nécessaires pour que les femmes puissent participer aux processus décisionnels, notamment pour ce qui concerne la conservation et la gestion des pêcheries ;
- Traiter les problèmes des femmes au sein des organisations, et créer des espaces séparés afin qu'elles puissent s'organiser de manière autonome au niveau local, régional, national et international ;

- Faciliter les échanges entre des femmes de la pêche et leurs organisations qui se trouvent dans des contextes différents ;
- Faire mieux connaître certains instruments internationaux comme la CEDAW et participer activement au suivi de leur mise en œuvre ;
- Contester la libéralisation du commerce international et les décisions de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce sur le brevetage de la filière alimentaire, en particulier pour le poisson et ses produits dérivés ;
- Promouvoir des alternatives équitables et durables aux modèles de développement en cours.

Les organisations de la société civile (Ong, médias, mouvements de consommateurs, groupes écologistes...)

- Faire mieux connaître les conditions socio-économiques et les besoins essentiels des communautés de pêcheurs, tout particulièrement en ce qui concerne les femmes et autres groupes marginalisés ;
- Respecter et valoriser le savoir traditionnel et local, et soutenir les efforts des communautés sur le chemin d'une pêche durable et équitable.

Les organismes de recherche

Ayant pris connaissance de l'évolution du discours dominant concernant les femmes de la pêche, entreprendre des études, réaliser des analyses sur les points suivants :

- La situation et la contribution des femmes de la pêche artisanale et à petite échelle et des communautés de pêcheurs, en s'efforçant de diffuser le plus largement possible les conclusions de ces travaux ;

- Les répercussions des projets de développement et de conservation sur l'existence des hommes, des femmes et des enfants dans les communautés de pêcheurs ;
- Les répercussions des mesures de conservation et de gestion des pêcheries sur la vie et les moyens de subsistance des communautés de pêcheurs.

L'État

- Garantir aux pêcheurs artisans et à petite échelle et à leurs communautés (tout particulièrement aux femmes) l'accès aux ressources et le contrôle de ces ressources ;
- Reconnaître et protéger les droits collectifs sur les ressources et territoires qui ont traditionnellement assuré la sécurité alimentaire et les moyens d'existence des communautés de pêcheurs, y compris des populations autochtones ;
- Garantir une couverture sanitaire et sociale pour tous et la socialisation du travail domestique, et protéger les systèmes de sécurité sociale existants qui ont fait leurs preuves ;
- Garantir la sécurité et préserver de la violence et des abus sexuels ;
- Réglementer les marchés, décourager la concentration du capital et favoriser les marchés locaux ;
- Construire les capacités des communautés de pêcheurs et leur confier la charge de la gestion des ressources dont elles disposent ;
- Encourager la formation et l'autonomisation des communautés de pêcheurs en tenant compte des réalités locales et dans un esprit de non discrimination ;
- Ratifier et appliquer pleinement les instruments relatifs aux droits humains, en particulier la CEDAW et la Déclaration et le Programme d'action de Beijing, en adoptant des mesures spécifiques pour combattre la discrimination à l'égard des femmes, en créant des espaces pour les organisations de la société civile (notamment pour les travailleuses de la pêche et leurs groupements) afin qu'elles puissent participer au suivi de leur mise en œuvre effective ;
- Soutenir et protéger les communautés de pêche côtière et intérieure (avec une attention particulière pour les femmes) en matière de catastrophe naturelle et de pandémie comme le VIH/sida ;
- Protéger les communautés côtières contre les menaces de déguerpissement ou de migration forcée ;
- Garantir que les hommes et les femmes des communautés de pêcheurs soient consultés et puissent participer aux prises de décisions, notamment en matière de conservation et de gestion des pêches ;
- Reconnaître et valoriser le savoir traditionnel et local en tant que partie intégrante de l'information indispensable à une bonne conservation et gestion des pêcheries ;
- Encourager une pêche durable, lutter contre la pollution et réduire l'impact des industries extractives (exploitation du pétrole, du gaz naturel...) ;
- Reconnaître officiellement les travailleurs du secteur informel (en particulier les femmes, y compris en tant que conjointes collaboratrices), et garantir leur droit à des conditions de travail décentes ;
- Produire dans le cadre d'opérations de recensement des données ventilées par sexe sur les personnes qui travaillent dans tous les aspects de la filière pêche.

Les organisations internationales

- Intégrer une compréhension de la problématique de genre qui façonne les politiques des pêches à divers niveaux afin de soutenir la vie et les moyens de subsistance dans les communautés de pêcheurs ;
- S'abstenir de financer des projets qui seront destructeurs d'un point de vue écologique et injustes sur le plan social, et qui imposent

des conditionnalités d'ajustement structurel (réduction de la pauvreté et croissance) aux États bénéficiaires.

Nous nous engageons à travailler ensemble pour faire en sorte que ce programme soit largement diffusé, intégré et appliqué à tous les niveaux, notamment dans un instrument international relatif à la pêche artisanale qui pourrait être envisagé par le Comité des pêches (COFI) de la FAO.

3

Una Agenda Común

El Proceso

Del 7 al 10 de julio de 2010 se celebró en la ciudad india de Mahabalipuram un encuentro bajo el lema “Volvamos a lanzar las redes: Una nueva agenda de género para mantener la vida y los medios de sustento de la pesca”, al que asistieron 39 participantes de dieciocho países, mujeres pescadoras, representantes de organizaciones de pescadores y de organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG), activistas e investigadores.

Después de escuchar los informes de los seminarios y consultas nacionales y regionales celebrados previamente en la India, Tailandia, Filipinas, Sudáfrica, Brasil, Europa y Canadá, amén de las experiencias de Guinea Conakry, Chile y Tanzania, los participantes discutieron y analizaron los principales problemas de la mujer pescadora y de las comunidades pesqueras artesanales, así como las estrategias que deben adoptar a fin de reivindicar sus derechos y defender sus intereses.

Una revisión de la literatura sobre el tema permitió analizar los principales cambios experimentados en los últimos treinta años en el discurso dominante en torno a la mujer en la pesca artesanal. El primero consiste en el paso de la economía política a la ecología política, que por una parte propicia una crítica sustancial del modelo industrial de desarrollo, aunque por otra oculta en última instancia el análisis del trabajo femenino en el sector. El segundo parte de la oposición a la opresión de la mujer para orientarse hacia una agenda centrada en los individuos

y en el empoderamiento de género, que distancia el género de otras estructuras de poder. El tercero gravita en torno al interés que suscita el marco de derechos humanos, que relega a segundo plano los derechos comunitarios y los derechos de la mujer. Por último, se destaca que la acción social y la investigación dependen cada vez más de la ayuda de los donantes. Esta dependencia resulta problemática si se piensa que la ayuda vinculada a los planes de ajuste estructural ha permitido la introducción de prácticas de pesca destructiva en el hemisferio sur y que la ayuda al desarrollo sigue cada vez más el compás de los imperativos de la globalización.

La asamblea discutió igualmente los tratados internacionales aplicables a la mujer en la pesca, con especial hincapié en la Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer (CEDAW) y en la Declaración y Plataforma de Acción de Pekín, deplorando su escasa aplicación en la práctica. Escuchó asimismo ponencias sobre el Programa de pesca y acuicultura para el alivio de la pobreza y la seguridad alimentaria de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) y la posibilidad de que el Comité de Pesca (COFI) de la FAO estudie la preparación de un instrumento internacional dedicado a la pesca artesanal.

Los participantes se dividieron en grupos a fin de plantear su “sueño” de un sector pesquero que mantenga la vida y los medios de vida de las comunidades pesqueras y definir una agenda común

de acción que permita alcanzar ese sueño. A continuación detallamos la agenda convenida.

Una agenda común para mantener la vida y los medios de sustento de las comunidades pesqueras

Las mujeres forman parte integrante de la pesca y de las comunidades artesanales y de pequeña escala. Sin embargo, su trabajo y sus esfuerzos siguen siendo invisibles. Todos los aspectos de la vida de la mujer, su trabajo, su sexualidad y su fertilidad, son objeto de formas de discriminación que menoscaban su dignidad, su autoestima y la confianza en sí mismas. El trabajo femenino, no remunerado o mal remunerado, constituye el sostén del modelo de desarrollo actual.

El modelo actual de desarrollo arraiga asimismo en la extracción insostenible de recursos naturales, con la consecuente degradación medioambiental y el envenenamiento de las tierras y las aguas, que a su vez minan los cimientos de los medios de vida y de sustento de las comunidades pesqueras marítimas y continentales y de las comunidades indígenas, al tiempo que aumentan la carga de trabajo no remunerado de la mujer. Las comunidades pesqueras de hoy en día son expulsadas a menudo de sus tierras y de sus caladeros por culpa de megaproyectos de explotación de petróleo y gas, parques eólicos, turismo, acuicultura comercial y desarrollo portuario, entre otros muchos, propiciados por grandes empresas y por algunos gobiernos. Las comunidades desalojadas se ven obligadas a emigrar en busca del sustento, colocándose en una situación de gran inseguridad y vulnerabilidad.

Somos plenamente conscientes de que si no se desafía esta lógica ni

se regulan las inversiones masivas de capital, las comunidades pesqueras y la pesca artesanal y de pequeña escala dejarán de existir. Somos igualmente conscientes de la necesidad de defender el papel y la contribución de la pesca artesanal y de pequeña escala a la provisión sostenible y duradera de medios de sustento, empleo y seguridad alimentaria.

Nuestro sueño de futuro

Soñamos con un futuro en el cual:

- Los ecosistemas acuáticos están libres de contaminación y conservan su capacidad de regenerar recursos vivos, sostener medios de vida y ofrecer seguridad alimentaria;
- La relación con los recursos naturales se basa en principios de sostenibilidad y respeto de los ritmos y límites de la naturaleza;
- Las relaciones entre los miembros de las comunidades y de la sociedad se basan en principios de igualdad, justicia social y reciprocidad;
- Se respeta la diversidad de los ecosistemas y de las comunidades y se reconoce que esta diversidad constituye la base de la sostenibilidad de la vida y los medios de vida;
- Las comunidades pesqueras, incluidas las mujeres y los niños, pueden vivir en paz y dignidad, sin violencia y disfrutar de condiciones de vida y de trabajo decentes;
- Las personas tienen el derecho a trabajar y escoger el trabajo que desean desempeñar, independientemente del reparto sexual del trabajo, y todos los trabajos son valorados, incluido el reproductivo;
- Se reconocen los derechos de las comunidades pesqueras a sus tierras costeras y el acceso preferente de los pescadores artesanales y de pequeña escala y

de las poblaciones indígenas a los recursos de las aguas marítimas y continentales;

- Se reconoce que la pesca artesanal y de pequeña escala produce pescado de gran calidad de forma sostenible;
- Las comunidades pesqueras mantienen la propiedad y el control de los activos económicos que utilizan para las operaciones de pesca y comercialización;
- Las comunidades pesqueras cuentan con organizaciones sólidas, como organizaciones de productores, que les permiten negociar desde una posición de poder y en las cuales las mujeres intervienen significativamente en la toma de decisiones;
- Las mujeres del sector tienen derecho preferente de acceso al pescado desembarcado y la cadena de comercialización se reestructura de forma equitativa a fin de dar preferencia y valor a la pesca y a los pescadores artesanales y de pequeña escala;
- Se delegan competencias a las comunidades indígenas y locales para la gestión de recursos costeros y pesqueros, y se refuerza su capacidad de gestión;
- La planificación de la pesca artesanal y de pequeña escala tiene en cuenta el contexto más amplio de la gestión costera y acuática y los regímenes de gestión pesquera se apoyan en acervos tradicionales y locales, así como en los conocimientos científicos;
- La elección de los instrumentos y mecanismos de gestión y conservación pesquera respetan principios de equidad, justicia social y solidaridad;
- Los instrumentos y mecanismos de gestión y conservación pesquera promueven la gestión comunitaria e incorporan enfoques alternativos a los sistemas de

cuotas con orientación mercantilista;

- Las comunidades pesqueras acceden a la información necesaria para participar en la toma de decisiones con conocimiento de causa; y
- El Estado garantiza los derechos fundamentales económicos, sociales, políticos y culturales mediante instrumentos como la provisión de servicios de seguridad social, educación y salud o infraestructuras sociales destinadas a las comunidades pesqueras.

Programa De Acción

Para hacer nuestros sueños realidad, proponemos la siguiente agenda de acciones destinadas a diferentes sectores sociales:

Familias y comunidades

- Reforzar la capacidad de la mujer de participar en las organizaciones y movimientos de pescadores.
- Vencer, cuando la haya, la resistencia de los hombres a la participación de la mujer en las organizaciones y garantizar el reparto de las labores domésticas.
- Robustecer la capacidad de las comunidades facilitando programas de alfabetización, información relativa a la ecología acuática y acceso a tecnologías adecuadas.
- Garantizar un entorno seguro y libre de violencia y de abuso sexual en las familias y las comunidades.
- Asegurar que las organizaciones comunitarias propicien la participación femenina en los procesos de toma de decisiones y el acceso a los recursos como el pescado y los productos de la pesca.
- Reconocer y afirmar el valor de los conocimientos tradicionales

y locales, incluidos los de las mujeres, como elemento fundamental en los procesos de toma de decisiones.

Organizaciones de pescadores

- Desarrollar una cultura que elimine toda forma de discriminación.
- Garantizar espacio y apoyo para la participación de la mujer en los procesos de toma de decisiones, incluidos los relativos a la gestión y conservación de recursos.
- Abordar los problemas femeninos dentro de las organizaciones y crear espacios separados para que las mujeres se organicen autónomamente a escala local, regional, nacional e internacional.
- Promover intercambios entre mujeres pescadoras y sus organizaciones a diversos niveles.
- Dar a conocer tratados internacionales como la CEDAW y participar plenamente en la vigilancia de su aplicación.
- Plantar cara a la liberalización del comercio mundial y a las decisiones de la Organización Mundial del Comercio sobre patentes relativas a alimentos y productos pesqueros.
- Fomentar alternativas equitativas y sostenibles a los modelos actuales de desarrollo.

Organizaciones de la sociedad civil (OSC), como ONG, medios de comunicación, asociaciones de consumidores y organizaciones ecologistas

- Dar a conocer las condiciones socioeconómicas y las necesidades fundamentales de las comunidades pesqueras, especialmente de las mujeres y otros grupos marginales.
- Respetar y valorar los

conocimientos tradicionales y locales y respaldar los esfuerzos de las comunidades pesqueras a favor de una pesca sostenible y equitativa.

Instituciones de investigación

Teniendo en cuenta los cambios de tendencia en el discurso dominante sobre la mujer en la pesca, conviene investigar y analizar los siguientes temas, procurando divulgar ampliamente los resultados:

- Las condiciones y la contribución de la mujer a la pesca artesanal y de pequeña escala y las comunidades pesqueras;
- El impacto de los proyectos de desarrollo y conservación sobre las vidas de los hombres, las mujeres y los niños de las comunidades pesqueras; y
- El impacto de las medidas de conservación y gestión pesquera sobre la vida y los medios de vida de las comunidades pesqueras.

El Estado

- Garantizar el acceso y el control de los recursos a los pescadores y las comunidades artesanales y de pequeña escala, y especialmente a las mujeres.
- Reconocer y proteger los derechos colectivos a los recursos y a los territorios de los que dependen tradicionalmente los medios de sustento y la seguridad alimentaria de las comunidades pesqueras y de las comunidades indígenas.
- Garantizar servicios universales de salud y de seguridad social y la socialización de las labores domésticas, amén de proteger los sistemas ya existentes de seguridad social que hayan demostrado su idoneidad.
- Garantizar un entorno seguro y libre de violencia y de abusos sexuales.

- Regular los mercados, desincentivar la concentración de capital y promover los mercados locales.
- Reforzar la capacidad y la autonomía de las comunidades pesqueras en el manejo de recursos.
- Fomentar la educación y el refuerzo de capacidades de las comunidades pesqueras basada en el contexto local y en una cultura de no discriminación.
- Ratificar y aplicar plenamente los tratados internacionales de derechos humanos, especialmente la CEDAW y la Declaración y Plataforma de Acción de Pekín, adoptando medidas concretas para luchar contra la discriminación de las mujeres y abriendo espacios para que las OSC, y muy especialmente las organizaciones de mujeres pescadoras, puedan participar en la vigilancia de su aplicación.
- Apoyar y amparar a las comunidades de pesca marítima y continental, especialmente a las mujeres, de los desastres naturales y de pandemias como la de VIH/SIDA.
- Proteger a las comunidades costeras del desplazamiento y de la emigración forzada.
- Garantizar que las mujeres y los hombres de las comunidades pesqueras estén capacitados para participar en la toma de decisiones, incluidas las relativas a gestión y conservación pesquera, y son consultados en dichos procesos.
- Reconocer y valorar los conocimientos tradicionales como parte integrante de la información necesaria para la conservación y la gestión pesqueras.
- Fomentar la pesca sostenible, reducir la contaminación y el impacto de industrias extractivas como las prospecciones de petróleo y de gas natural.
- Reconocer a los trabajadores del sector informal, especialmente a las mujeres, incluidas las cónyuges colaboradoras y garantizar sus derechos laborales y su derecho al trabajo decente.
- Recabar datos desagregados por sexo relativos a todos los aspectos de la pesca mediante la realización de censos.

Organizaciones internacionales

- Asumir una perspectiva de género que dé forma a las políticas que a todos los niveles persigan mantener la vida y los medios de sustento de las comunidades pesqueras.
- Renunciar a financiar proyectos destructivos ecológicamente e injustos socialmente, que imponen condicionantes de ajuste estructural (reducción de la pobreza y estrategias de crecimiento) a los Estados receptores.

Nos comprometemos a colaborar para que esta agenda sea ampliamente divulgada y se incorpore y aplique a todos los niveles posibles, incluida su integración en un instrumento internacional dedicado específicamente a la pesca artesanal que el COFI podría considerar en el futuro.



JOHN KURIEN



Traditional Indian ceremony of lighting the lamp to inaugurate the Mahabalipuram Workshop

Report of the Workshop

Inaugural Session

*Oh Great Spirit, Creator of all
Faiths and all of life,
We the women involved in the
fisheries worldwide
Offer our Thanks for allowing us to
gather here in beautiful Chennai,
India
and for all of those who are with us
in spirit.*

*We humbly ask you to guide our
discussions over the next few days
with strength, compassion and
perseverance and wisdom, and may
our conclusions be transformed into
action for all women in the fisheries
and their families.*

*We also wish to honour all
fisherfolk and their loved ones who
have passed on from this life, by
remembering our good comrade
and friend, Harekrishna Debnath
and the very source of our life, the
fish in the seas, rivers, oceans and
lakes
May we carry the heartbeat of all
Mother Earth in our hearts, our
work and in our relations with each
other.*

*Thank You
All of My Relations*

—Sherry Pictou, Co-chair, World
Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP),
Canada

The inaugural session began with an invocation (see above) read out by Rosetta Ferreira, a woman fisher from South Africa and a member of Coastal Links, on behalf of Sherry Pictou of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF, welcomed the participants of the workshop, pointing out that this was not a one-off event—it was part of a much longer process

of work with women in fisheries. Sharma went on to speak about the preparatory regional/national workshops held prior to this in the Philippines, India, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand, Europe and Canada.

Nalini Nayak, Member, ICSF, elaborated on ICSF's work in support of fishing communities since 1984. As the fishery modernized, she said, two things happened. First, women found themselves increasingly marginalized from the fisheries and second, the pressure on resources on land and in the sea increased. In 1991 ICSF initiated a programme to support women to organize to protect their spaces in fisheries. This was executed through fishworker organizations that existed at that time. Over the years, ICSF has also undertaken documentation, studies and training programmes to make visible the important role of women in fisheries. ICSF also brings out a triannual newsletter, *Yemaya*, on gender and fisheries, with the same objective. Nayak noted that over the last 25 years, women's organizations have emerged in several countries, as have several networks of women researchers and activists. The body of literature on women in fisheries has also increased. ICSF's background study prepared for the workshop explores the approaches, gaps and trends in this literature, she noted.

Nayak pointed out that the mixed group at the workshop—women who directly earn their livelihoods from fisheries-related activities, people who work in fishworker organizations, researchers, people from international organizations and policy-makers—represent a global reality, each with

a different role to play. One of the aims of the workshop was to critically assess developments in fisheries and to discuss how to go ahead, through developing a shared gender agenda that will sustain lives and livelihoods of fishing communities.

Ria Fitriana, on behalf of Natasha Stacey of the School for Environmental Research, Charles Darwin University (CDU), Australia, introduced the work of CDU, a co-sponsor of the workshop. Research at the CDU, she noted, seeks to develop knowledge and provides practical governance and management solutions to an array of environmental challenges, working in partnership with indigenous and local peoples, environmental and development agencies, within the university and

government. CDU has expanded its existing coastal and marine livelihoods research activities and collaborations through new partnerships that aim to balance the social sciences with the natural sciences. Key research areas include poverty alleviation, improving livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and improved market mechanisms; impacts of marine protected areas, fisheries management and conservation and development initiatives; and the role of small-scale fisheries in economic development and food security across the Asia-Pacific region. Gender and fisheries is a key area for research development, and it is hoped that this workshop will lead to a shared research agenda on gender and fisheries, she concluded.

Presentation of National Reports

Chair: Cornelia Quist, Member, ICSF

South Africa

Presenter: Rosetta Marina Ferreira, Coastal Links, South Africa

Rosetta Ferreira said that she is a member of Coastal Links, a network of community-based organizations on the west coast of South Africa, formed in 2004. Coastal Links has a membership of over 2,000, which includes fishers, women and youth. Ferreira reported on the women-in-fisheries workshop held in February 2010 at Lambertsbaai, a small, traditional fishing town on the west coast of South Africa. That, she said, had provided a platform for women fishers to share their stories as well as discuss and identify key areas of exclusion and marginalization.

Women fishers in South Africa take on many roles in the fisheries and in fishing communities such as collecting mussels and seaweed, catching crayfish, mending nets, marketing fish and fish products, working in fish-processing plants as well as looking after the household. Ferreira pointed out that many women risk their lives every day and work under dangerous circumstances to put food on the table for their families. Women, as part of Coastal Links, have been fighting for the rights of fishing communities. Through litigation, they have secured the government's commitment for a policy on small-scale fisheries, pending which fishers have been granted interim relief in the form of temporary permits to access selected fisheries resources. However, this has not benefitted women much as the fish is still being sold to big companies. "We were so busy helping

men get their rights that we forgot ourselves. The new policy process has left women out. Men have not supported us in ensuring that there are livelihoods for women," said Ferreira. "Our priority now is to ensure that the new policy recognizes women's rights and the important role they play in the fishery and the community, and protects their livelihoods." Ferreira also dwelt on how the current quota system in South Africa has divided communities by introducing an individualistic ethic.

The use of destructive fishing gears such as trap nets and trawl nets are destroying the sea bed and marine life, she explained. The establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) is also affecting fishing communities. MPAs, which cover 21 per cent of South Africa's coastline, have been established without consulting local fishing communities, and large no-take zones have had negative impacts on their livelihoods, pointed out Ferreira. There is need, rather, for a community-based approach to management and provision of social security to all.

Following the women-in-fisheries workshop in February, there is a new awareness amongst women. Women must build their strength in Coastal Links and develop solidarity on issues that affect the whole fishing community, not just women—a campaign to 'take back our communities'. At the international level, solidarity among women in the small-scale fisheries sector must be strengthened and international fisheries management instruments should recognize women's rights as integral to fisheries, she concluded.

Brazil

Presenter: *Mario Do Livramento Santos, National Articulation of Fisherwomen (ANP), Brazil, and Naina Pierri, Federal University of Parana, Brazil*

Santos and Pierri reported on the two workshops that took place at Brazil in 2010—the first in Belem in northern Brazil and the second, a national-level workshop, organized in the State of Ceara. Women fishworkers in Brazil are engaged in a number of fisheries-related activities, including in pre-capture (making and mending nets), capture (shellfish gathering and estuarine and near-shore fishing) and post-capture (processing and trade) fisheries, either as self-employed entrepreneurs or in low-paid jobs.

Women of fishing communities are active in different organizations, including in traditional fishermen's organizations (*colonias*), community-based and economic solidarity associations, as well as in the National Articulation of Fisherwomen (ANP) and in the Brazilian Movement of Artisanal Fishermen and Fisherwomen, established in 2009, which has taken on board the demands of the ANP. The main issues that concern women fishworkers are: securing their rights as workers, including to social security; securing land rights and access to fishery resources in the face of large-scale tourism, aquaculture, and infrastructure projects; environmental degradation; and access to education and healthcare.

Through organizational initiatives and broad alliances, the work of women in fisheries is formally recognized in Brazilian fisheries legislation. Stronger leadership is emerging among women, and they are better represented in the *colonias*. Fisherwomen's issues are gaining ground, especially with regard to autonomous fishworker movements,

revitalized in 2009. However, there are several challenges ahead. These include ensuring the autonomy and financial sustainability of their organizations, improving communication among members, and creating greater awareness about problems like domestic violence.

To a query on whether women organizing autonomously outside fishworker organizations could undermine the fishworker movement as a whole, it was noted that in Brazil there is some degree of integration. There is, however, resistance among fishermen to women's participation, particularly at the *colonia* level. Fishermen should recognize that fisherwomen share the same concerns, and should create spaces for women to participate in organizational work, it was asserted.

Guinea Conakry

Presenter: *Mamayawa Sandouno, ADEPEG-CPA, Guinea Conakry*

Mamayawa Sandouno provided information about women fish smokers in Guinea, their activities and their organizations. Prior to independence in 1958, only about 10 per cent of the total artisanal fisheries production went for fish smoking. This increased in the subsequent period, with about 70 per cent of the catch now being smoked, almost all of which enter national or regional trade. The technology has also changed, and improved stoves, such as the 'chorker oven', have been introduced, and a wider variety of species are smoked. Smoking and trading activities are mainly undertaken by women from fishing families. Women have organized themselves into co-operatives and have recently established a co-operative union, the Guinean National Union of Women Fish Smokers (UNFFPG). From being a family-based subsistence activity, fish smoking has become an organized commercial activity,

with various kinds of support and training being provided through the co-operatives. Fish-smoking centres, health centres, schools and drinking water facilities have been established. Women fish smokers also participate in national, regional and international meetings.

There have been some notable improvements in the lives of women fish smokers, as regards health, nutrition, education, working conditions and so on. However, women still have to cope with many problems, including high rates of illiteracy; unsafe, unhygienic and difficult working conditions; and HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. They have to struggle to finance household expenditure and children's education. There are also significant barriers to trade in fish and fish products, including hygiene standards in export markets and customs barriers for regional trade, including ad hoc checkpoints and extortion. These issues are being taken up at the co-operative and union (UNFFPG) levels, supported by the NGO ADEPEG-CPA. The support work of ADEPEG-CPA has included helping to launch UNFFPG in 2008, and in providing training in basic literacy and numeracy, leadership, savings and credit, and related issues.

A participant drew attention to the role of women processors in Guinea in financing fishing trips to secure access to fish supplies. Another participant from Uganda reflected on her own context, in the fisheries of Lake Victoria. As much of the finance for fishing trips and for inputs is provided by processors, fishers are obliged to sell fish to them to service their debts. In such a context, women, with little access to organized credit, find it difficult to access fish. Also, as the operational costs of fishing have gone up, fishermen naturally look for those that pay highest prices. Again,

this puts small-scale women fish processors at a disadvantage.

India

Presenters: Purnima Meher and Ujwala Patil, National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), India

Purnima Meher and Ujwala Patil started by recalling the important role played by Harekrishna Debnath, chairperson of the National Fishworker's Forum (NFF) and a driving force of the fishworker movement in India, who passed away on 30 December 2009. Meher reported on the women-in-fisheries workshop held in Mumbai in February 2010. This served as a platform for women from different States in the country to share their concerns, agendas and strategies. It also created awareness about key policies and developments relevant to women in fishing communities, such as the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008 and the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, as well as the Draft Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act (MFRMA) 2009 and the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991. It sought to enhance the capacity of women fishworkers to participate in, and influence, decision-making processes.

Meher noted that over the past 30 years women fishworkers in India have organized for their rights as part of larger fishworker movements and unions. Their struggles have met with some success—for example, women have gained access to public transportation in some areas, as well as to savings-cum-relief schemes in some States. However, various problems persist, including lack of access to credit, poor sanitation and healthcare facilities, lack of land titles, alcoholism, increase in dowry demands, declining access to fish for

processing and marketing (due to both stock depletion and exports), poor facilities at markets and landing centres, displacement and pollution. Where the fisheries are export-oriented, women's access to fish for local markets has been affected since fishermen prefer to sell their fish to the highest bidder, she noted. Leadership, particularly amongst women, has not grown over the last few decades and women's issues are not reflected in the broader agenda of the fishworker movement, noted Meher. There is need for women fishworkers to advocate for their recognition as workers and to influence more strongly the perspective within the movement in favour of women, life and livelihoods, concluded Meher.

Canada

Presenter: Nalini Nayak, on behalf of Sherry Pictou, Coastal Learning Communities Network and World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)

The presentation on the consultation organized by the Coastal Learning Communities Network in Canada was made by Nalini Nayak, as Sherry Pictou was unable to participate in the workshop. The vision of the Network is to revitalize communities and their adjacent resources, and embrace indigenous stewardship and self-determination as a model for communities everywhere in Canada. The consultation, in the form of a teleconference, included aboriginal and non-aboriginal representatives of fishing communities. Broadly, there are three types of fisheries in Canada—large-scale commercial, small-scale commercial and small-scale indigenous food fisheries. Women in Canadian fisheries are involved in harvesting (especially shellfish), drying, processing and trading fish, and in land-based fishing activities

like preparing gear, bookkeeping and looking after family and community. The consultation noted that women often go beyond catching fish and think in terms of the good of the community, its stability and the role of children, food security, and issues that relate to the family. Women see the big picture. Among the major challenges facing fishing communities today are the privatization of fisheries resources, the inability to commercially sell fish caught in traditional fisheries, and environmental degradation. Industrial aquaculture represents another challenge. Privatization has led to the loss of licences and access to resources. All these developments have led to higher levels of stress and violence within families. During the teleconference, the women agreed that they have less voice in the fishery today than they did in the recent past. Women who were once invited to participate in the meetings of male fisher organizations no longer feel welcome, and women fisheries organizations have faded away. The consultation also noted the impact of climate change and globalization.

Europe

Presenter: Marja Bekendam, AKTEA, the European Network of Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture

The presentation on the workshop held in Europe was made by Marja Bekendam, the chair of AKTEA and a member of VINVIS, the women-in-fisheries network of the Netherlands. A questionnaire circulated before the workshop in Europe received responses from women-in-fisheries organizations from seven countries in Europe. The workshop focused on four themes: work and changes in the gender division of labour; women and decisionmaking; rights to coastal and fisheries resources and fisheries management; and women organizing in fisheries.

The following were among the issues considered important for an agenda for a sustainable fisheries: promotion of a development model based on small-scale, community-based, responsible fisheries; ensuring that fishers—men and women—are involved with decisionmaking; awareness raising and sensitization of women and men on gender (in)equality and (in)equity; and, as part of a concrete action plan, inclusion of gender as an integral component of all policies, with proper monitoring of implementation, and capacity building.

Bekendam noted that women's organizations are seeking a legal status to women's unrecognized work (including as 'collaborative spouses'), better working conditions, equal opportunities and representation in decisionmaking at all levels—in household enterprises, community fisheries organizations, national organizations and at the European level. Women-in-fisheries organizations have multiplied in Europe since the mid-1990s to defend the future of the sector and the communities dependent on fisheries. AKTEA has helped facilitate this process, by functioning as a "hatchery" for women's leadership. Since its inception, AKTEA has been campaigning to make women's role in fisheries visible and to formally recognize their role by providing them legal status. Challenges for the future include expanding membership and leadership and obtaining the support of fishermen's organizations and the government.

To a query on the legal recognition accorded to shellfish gatherers (*mariscadoras*) and women working in ancillary jobs (notably as *redeiras* or gear riggers) in Galicia, Spain, it was noted that their gains have been because the Galician government has a sense of pride in its fisheries. One major struggle of the *mariscadoras* has been for social security and

pension, and benefits for work-related ailments.

The Philippines

Presenter: *Jovelyn Cleofe, Center for Empowerment and Resource Development (CERD), the Philippines*

Jovelyn Cleofe reported on discussions at the women-in-fisheries workshop held in the Philippines. The workshop explored perceptions and experiences of climate change among fishing communities and sought to document and come up with resolutions to meet the challenges of climate change, keeping in mind that women and men are differently affected by climate change. Other key issues concerning women in fisheries in the Philippines are: economic displacement of women due to resource depletion, gender-based violence in coastal communities, and lack of supportive policies and a policy environment for recognizing women in fisheries as major stakeholders in fisheries development and management. This has prompted women to organize at the village and national levels, including for advocacy work. There have been several achievements, like the Philippines Fisheries Code of 1998, which includes women under the definition of fishers, and the Magna Carta for women, approved in 2009. The Magna Carta has a separate section for women fishers, defined to include women in fishing, subsistence fishers and collectors.

Much remains to be done, though, including: ensuring the implementation of existing legislation; capacity building and strengthening women-in-fisheries organizations at various level; and improving the capacity of local communities to deal with climate change and natural disasters, taking note of specific impacts on women. Some of the strategies that need to


be adopted are: gender training for women and men fishers including paralegal courses on violence against women and children and other laws on gender; fisheries policy advocacy at the national level; gender-responsive climate change adaptation measures that will address the vulnerabilities of women; and increased protection measures for women in case of disasters.

Thailand

Presenters: Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) and Suphen Pantee, Fisherfolk Federation of Thailand

Reporting on the women-in-fisheries workshop in Thailand, Prasertcharoensuk and Pantee highlighted the main issues threatening fishing communities: insecure access to resources, depletion of fisheries resources and degradation of the coastal environment, and weak enforcement of legislation. As the livelihoods of

communities are rendered more vulnerable, there is additional work and financial burden on women. The recent Southern Region Development Plan envisages several major infrastructural, industrial and tourism projects that will pose fresh challenges to fishing communities. Climate change poses another major threat, particularly to poor women, given their limited access to resources, limited rights, limited mobility and marginal role in decisionmaking. Climate change could exacerbate existing patterns of inequality, including gender inequality, said Pantee.

Participants at the Thailand workshop decided to form the 'Women's Network for the Defence of Fisherfolk Rights' to protect their rights to access, use and manage natural resources and to advocate for appropriate policies. Participants, said Prasertcharoensuk, recognized that if change has to occur, it is women themselves who have to take the lead—no outside organization or agency can play such a role. 

Reflections from Other Contexts

Tanzania

Presenter: Rosemarie Mwaipopo, Member, ICSF

Rosemarie Mwaipopo, professor at the University of Dar es Salaam and member, ICSF, reflected on gender issues in the fisheries in Tanzania. Women have historically been active in all aspects of fisheries, particularly in processing and trading. In recent years, they are also entering new avenues such as seaweed farming and pearl culture, as well as retailing and trading on a larger scale, as for sardines. The overall context is fast-changing, with a large number of externally supported projects in small-scale fisheries and growth in large-scale aquaculture and tourism. While fisheries policies provide for organization at the community level, in practice, the ability to organize effectively is often restricted by low capacities and overlapping mandates regarding rights of access and management over the fisheries. Similarly, while there is recognition of gender issues, the focus is more on livelihood enhancement—women join organizations mainly to enhance their livelihood opportunities, not to claim their rights.

Poverty among fishing communities has led to destructive fisheries and declining catches. This has reduced capacity, especially among female-headed households, to sustain their families. Women also find themselves victims of insensitive applications of fisheries governance directives at the local level, which curtail women's rights to participate equally in decisionmaking and to resources, such as land, often due to corruption or simply discrimination. At the local level, illiteracy and lack of

exposure among coastal communities—particularly among women—is high, undermining their self-confidence. HIV/AIDS is also a real threat in Tanzania. There is urgent need to address these issues. Fisheries policy needs to incorporate gender in a more inclusive manner. Producing sex-disaggregated data in the fisheries, as well as conducting gender-based resource mapping, is important. It is also important to create platforms to raise awareness on the right to question and make demands, and to deepen the political engagement of fishworkers, concluded Mwaipopo.

Chile

Presenter: Zoila Bustamante, President of Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH), Chile

Zoila Bustamante introduced herself as coming from a fishing family in Estaquilla, a *caleta* in southern Chile. She began working as a diving assistant with her father, a shellfish diver, and now works with her brothers. There are 12,932 registered women fishers in Chile, she pointed out, and women are particularly active in seaweed collection. Women are better organized in the southern region of Chile. Many women, particularly those who work as filleters (*fileteadoras*) and baiters (*encarnadoras*), and those who rig nets and help land the catch (*auxiliares de caleta*) are now demanding formal recognition as workers, as well as access to official support.

A national meeting on women in Chile's artisanal fishing sector held in 2009, in which both women and men leaders participated, recognized

the fundamental role of women in the sector. There was, however, no proposal to consider a parallel organization of women in artisanal fisheries; rather, the need for fishermen and fisherwomen to work together for common objectives was stressed. Several areas of consensus were identified at the meeting. These included the following:

1. There should be a thorough evaluation of the individual transferable quota (ITQ) system when it comes up for review in 2012, reversing injustices against the artisanal sector.
2. There should be a complete reform of fishery institutions, including the research institutes, and the creation of a supervisory body for fisheries, which ensures that there is a proper implementation of rules for conserving the fisheries.
3. The five-mile limit reserved for artisanal fishing should be fully respected.
4. Women engaged in baiting hooks, filleting fish and helping at landing

centres should be recognized and supported.

5. Fishers who suffer from work-related ailments should benefit from social-security programmes.
6. The problem of pollution from power plants and industrial projects on the coast should be addressed.
7. Attention should be paid to work-related illnesses affecting women.

CONAPACH, said Bustamante, has succeeded in integrating women into the organization and in taking up their concerns. On being asked whether there was resistance to a woman taking over as the president of an organization whose members are mainly fishermen, Bustamante said that there was some initial resistance. Subsequently, however, there has been a change in the working culture of the organization, and the leadership functions as a team. Bustamante reiterated the need for fishermen and fisherwomen to work together, as part of the same organization, to achieve their common goals.

Summary of Key Issues and Concerns from Day One Presentations

Chair: Rosemarie Mwaipopo, Member, ICSF

Presenter: Meryl Williams, Specialist in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Natural Resource Management, Australia

Meryl Williams presented a synthesis of the presentations made on the first day—three from Asia, three from Africa, two from South America, one from Europe and one from North America.

The first part of the synthesis provided the context of small-scale fisheries as it relates to gender and women's issues, while the second part reflected on how people are organizing for change. The synthesis also raised some key questions. As an overall comment, Williams observed that the presentations had mainly been from a women's perspective rather than a gender perspective, reflecting that there is still a lack of agreement on what gender means in small-scale fisheries.

Williams noted that all the reports drew attention to serious social issues, such as poverty, drugs and domestic violence facing women and their communities. Nearly all the reports also highlighted the growing and multiple work burden and stress on women, particularly as resources were reported as becoming scarce. The growing burden on men was also noted—for example, men having to sell their fish to the highest bidder in order to repay loans. There is need for further studies on the work burden and pressure on men and women in communities that are increasingly export-oriented.

The tension between small-scale and large-scale fisheries through the supply chain represents a complex set of issues. In many countries, there appears to be a very strong policy bias towards large-scale operators, as in South Africa. Small-scale fisheries in several countries are now serving

urban and more distant export market, as in Guinea Conakry. Women workers face often poor working conditions and lack of social security in the industrial processing sector, as in India. There are, moreover, problems with low-paid illegal labour taking women's jobs as in Europe.

A fundamental issue is that even as fish rights are increasing, through, for example, licences and quotas, fishers' rights appear to be diminishing. Few of such rights benefit small-scale fishers or women, as seen in Chile, South Africa, Canada and Brazil; rather, they limit their access. Often, rights provided to small-scale fisheries are only on paper, as in Brazil and Tanzania. People in other parts of the supply chain, as in the pre- and post-harvest sectors are even less visible and have fewer rights.

In countries like India, women vendors and processors are losing their access to fish to high-value export markets, due to their poor access to capital and weak organization. Discussion on the issue of exports is not entertained, as it is not seen as a subject that women can comment on. Some positive cases—a consequence of collective action—were also highlighted. Williams noted, for example, the recognition to women shellfish gatherers in Spain to “collaborative spouses” in France, to the rights of fisherwomen in Chile, and to women fishworkers in the Philippines, through the Philippines Fisheries Code and the Magna Carta for Women. The loss of fishing rights to other coastal development, such as ports, cities, tourism and industry, is

alarming, as highlighted by several presentations. Fisheries is becoming a minority player in many locations and in coastal resources management.

Several of the presentation, as from South Africa, Thailand and the Philippines, made a call for community-based fishery management, noted Williams. There is need for clarity, however, on how to operationalize this approach and to build evidence that such systems can actually work. This is a critical area for more research and action. The issue of climate change and its impact on fisheries was highlighted in several presentations, as from Thailand, the Philippines and Canada. This is an important issue for small-scale fishing communities, and there is need to enhance their resilience. Risk assessments of coastal areas should be undertaken, keeping in mind that climate change, in a context of already stressed coastal environments, could have significant impacts on coastal communities.

In terms of organizations of fisherwomen, the presentations indicated their dynamic nature. While in some countries they are strong, revitalizing or growing, as in Brazil, Chile, India and Guinea Conakry, in others, such as Canada, they appear to be in decline. The challenge for them is to keep up their momentum. The presentations highlighted the need for leadership development in organizations of fisherwomen (and fishermen), to improve women's roles in decisionmaking at all levels—local (family and community), national and regional.

The presentation, noted Williams, also offered some insights into who small-scale fisheries women are allying with, or should ally with. The important thing is to identify tangible outcomes and strategic interests to ensure that the organization is not exploited by other interest groups. There appear to be pros and cons of

fisherwomen working as part of, or allying with, fishermen's organizations. There are some positive examples, such as in Chile, as well as others that are not so positive. Women may not initially be welcome as part of fishermen's organizations. The key is finding common ground with fishermen's groups. However, it needs to be kept in mind that fishermen's groups are often also very weak. Alliances with trade unions have been found useful in some circumstances, particularly where workers' rights are involved. Given the complex context within which the fisheries sector is now embedded, there is possibly a need to look for wider alliances such as with consumers, said Williams.

Williams stressed that gender-disaggregated data is absolutely imperative for understanding the present situation and for guiding future action. It is essential for making the unpaid work of both men and women visible throughout the supply chain. The fisheries sector is lagging behind in terms of the generation of such data. There is space for new tools and approaches such as gender-based resource mapping. There is also need for occupational lists to provide guidance to enumerators, to ensure reliable data on what women and men do in the fisheries.

In her concluding remarks, Williams drew attention to the Asian Fisheries Society, a scientific body of fisheries professionals in Asia, which had organized several symposia on gender in fisheries, with the fifth symposium planned for 2011. These symposia are important in drawing the attention of the scientific and research community to gender issues in fisheries, and for stimulating meaningful research using appropriate frameworks.

A participant noted the need to bring in migration of fishers into any consideration of community-based management. Another participant

stressed the importance of addressing the increasing vulnerability of small-scale fishing communities to climate change, while simultaneously challenging the climate change discourse and terms such as 'vulnerability', 'adaptation' and

'resilience'. Vulnerability is looked at mainly from an ecological perspective, which subsumes and overtakes the awareness of women's political vulnerability, and the way in which existing power relations impact women's vulnerability.

JOHN KURIEN



Participants listening to a review of literature, which analyzed the major shifts over the last three decades in the dominant discourse on women in small-scale fisheries

JOHN KURIEN



The review of literature pointed to a growing emphasis on a human-rights framework in the discourse on gender issues

Overview of International Discourse on Women Based on the Background Study Prepared for the Workshop

Nilanjana Biswas, Independent Researcher

Nilanjana Biswas, an independent researcher based in India, made a presentation based on a review of literature on women in fisheries which analyzed the major shifts that have taken place over the last three decades in the dominant discourse on women in small-scale fisheries.

The first was a shift in focus from political economy to political ecology. Although this shift introduced a significant critique of the industrial model of development, it had the effect of obscuring, over time, the analysis of women's labour in the sector.

The second was the shift from an articulation of (and opposition to) women's oppression to an individual-centric gender-empowerment agenda. Gender, over the past few decades, has been progressively disassociated from other structures of power, creating room for individual empowerment and gender mainstreaming strategies to gain currency, leading to the increasing depoliticization of collective action.

The third shift was the increasing emphasis on a human-rights framework. However, whether community rights, which are based on custom, can be reconciled with the modern discourse on human rights still remains to be demonstrated. Moreover, positing women's rights as community rights and further positing community rights as human rights, as has been the trend, runs the risk of doubly obscuring the problems that women in the sector face. We need to analyze the rights discourse carefully and see whether the human-rights discourse gives place for community

rights, and within community rights, whether there is space for women's rights.

Finally, there has been a shift, and growing dependence, on donor aid for both social action and research. Destructive industrial fishing practices have been introduced in countries of the South, chiefly through aid tied to structural adjustment policies. Today, given that donor aid is increasingly aligning itself with the imperatives of global capital, this dependence is particularly problematic.

The overall effect of these shifts would be to steer the struggles of women in the small-scale fisheries sector from an oppositional agenda towards assimilation and consensus. Such a move would find resonance with the structures of the status quo, including dominant political ideologies, the State, International Monetary Fund-World Bank institutions as well as with local structures and hierarchies of power within communities. It would greatly facilitate the co-option of struggles through tokenism. This impact thus needs to be comprehensively understood and addressed.

Comments

How do women outside the fishing community perceive women fishers and their labour, queried a participant. It is important, in this context, to try to strengthen links between women's organizations from outside the community and women in the fisheries sector. Discrimination between people who are employed in different kinds of work needs to be eradicated.

It was agreed that there is need to strengthen solidarity linkages, in the context of capital becoming more and more concentrated. Most importantly, we need to take stock of, and think through, all our concepts and attain some conceptual clarity that will inform our gender agenda. There is need to synthesize the concepts of class and labour with sustainability, in a rigorous and consistent manner. 3

Group Discussions: Working Towards A Shared Agenda for Sustainable Livelihoods in Coastal Communities

In the forenoon session, participants were divided into three groups along broadly regional lines to discuss the following questions:

- Can we dream of a fishery that will sustain lives and livelihoods in communities? If yes, what will this look like and what will be the components of such a fishery?
- Are there any ethical norms that may be required to guide such a process and what will be the role of different players in helping create such a fishery?
- What lead should we take in making such a reality possible, and how do we (women, fishworker representatives, researchers, etc.) strategize the process at different levels?

Presentation of Group Reports

Moderators: Jackie Sunde and Nalini Nayak, Members, ICSF

The third day of the workshop started with the presentations of the group reports, based on the previous day's discussions. Many common dreams

and strategies emerged, which formed the basis of the "Shared Agenda" finalized by workshop participants on the following day, after much debate.

In the discussions following the group presentations, participants stressed the importance of making issues related to women in fisheries and small-scale fisheries more visible, including at international forums and at meetings of the women's movements. A participant drew attention to the issue of land grabbing that is denying people access to their resources in Africa. She also pointed out that oil exploration is set to become a bigger issue in African countries, leading to large-scale displacement of fishing communities and disrupting their access to resources. There is need to link with international groups that are monitoring the activities of oil exploration companies, especially of their environmental and social impacts. Several people highlighted the need to question the current ideology of development, and to tackle the root cause of the problems being faced by fishing communities. 3

JOHN KURIEN



The report of the group discussions were presented to the workshop

JOHN KURIEN



International fisheries instruments, including the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), often neglect gender issues, the workshop was told

International Instruments Related to Fisheries, Food Security, Women's Rights and Labour

Chair: John Kurien, Member, ICSF
 Presenter: Chandrika Sharma, ICSF

Chandrika Sharma made a presentation on international legal instruments relevant to women in fisheries, with a special focus on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979, and the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), 1995. CEDAW starts with the recognition that there is discrimination against women. It encompasses all aspects of human rights and also addresses the private sphere, including discrimination that is an outcome of customary practices. More work is needed, said Sharma, to integrate international instruments that recognize women's rights into fisheries policies and instruments.

Sharma drew attention to other international instruments that recognize women's rights, including the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (UNDHR); Agenda 21, wherein Chapter 17 on Oceans and Coastal Areas asks States to support the sustainability of small-scale artisanal fisheries, taking into account the interests of fishermen, small-scale fisherworkers, women, local communities and indigenous people; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992, which affirms the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for biological diversity conservation; the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, 1995, which requires States to ensure access to fisheries by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and women fishworkers; and various International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions

that protect the working conditions of women in the organized sector, and of home-based workers.

Though discrimination against women continues to exist in fisheries, and is well documented, gender issues generally do not find mention in fisheries instruments, including the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). This is also largely the case with national legislation for fisheries.

There is need to remind States of their obligations under CEDAW and their commitment to implement the BPFA. Together, CEDAW and BPFA aim to eliminate discrimination against women, on the one hand, and to ensure the achievement of equality for women, on the other. The implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the fulfilment of the obligations under CEDAW are recognized to be mutually reinforcing. Many of the critical areas of concern of the BPFA are explicitly covered by the Convention and, if invoked together, the two instruments, along with other international agreements and treaties, constitute a global basis for advocating gender equality. Several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relate to women. However, there is some concern that the goals, as compared to actions advocated through CEDAW and BPFA, have a narrow and limited focus.

There is need to examine and evaluate the several fisheries projects that have been implemented with 'gender mainstreaming' and 'women's empowerment' among their objectives, said Sharma. The small-scale fishing sector is hopeful that

the processes following 4SSF and the 28th session of COFI will result in an international instrument on small-scale fisheries. It is important that any international instrument adopted should take into account the obligations that States have under CEDAW and other instruments pertaining to gender.

A participant commented on the big gap between legal instruments at the international level and their implementation at the national and local levels. There is need to reflect on why a powerful instrument like CEDAW, which dates back to 1979, is not implemented, and to discuss how implementation can be improved. Given that people who will benefit from these instruments are not aware of them, there is need to spread more information and awareness about these instruments. Lobby and pressure groups need to be created to ensure better implementation at the national level, it was said. Another participant

drew attention to the recent creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), which brings together several UN agencies working on women's issues. This may be useful in ensuring better implementation of commitments to end discrimination against women.

A participant drew attention to one platform where States are taken to task if they do not implement the Conventions that they are party to—the Congress of the ILO, which meets every year. Labour, however, is represented only by the organized sector and there is no representation of the informal sector, such as of women working in the informal fisheries sector. National movements should join the broader labour movement so that small-scale fisheries issues and issues pertaining to women in fisheries are taken up and adequately reflected at that level, it was suggested. 3

FAO Global Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security and Follow-up of Proposals from COFI on Small-scale Fisheries

Chair: John Kurien, Member, ICSF

Presenters: Susanna Siar, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and
Gunilla Greig, Swedish Board of Fisheries, Sweden

Susanna Siar provided information on FAO's work on gender issues in fisheries and aquaculture. The FAO, she said, has prepared a policy brief on gender policies for responsible fisheries. In the revised draft technical guidelines on aquaculture certification, gender issues have been highlighted as they relate to social responsibility. The FAO also takes up field programmes and studies on gender and fisheries issues, and provides guidance on addressing these issues.

Siar noted that one of the strategic objectives under the new FAO results framework is "gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decisionmaking in the rural areas". As part of this, the FAO has developed targets to be achieved by 2013. With respect to UN policies and joint programmes, for example, the FAO will support gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development within the "One UN" initiative. The FAO will also assist governments in integrating gender into development policies and programmes through the analysis of disparities that affect people's access to resources and of issues that threaten gender equity and rural livelihoods. Further, the FAO will expand support to training in gender mainstreaming and to the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and statistics in policymaking. Finally, the FAO will

seek to upgrade the gender skills of FAO staff, allocate specific budgets to meet gender targets, and support the organization-wide network of gender focal points to promote gender mainstreaming in all FAO's technical programmes. An evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Gender and Development is underway and it will focus on the past performance of FAO in mainstreaming gender in its technical work (field and normative), including in the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (PoA), informed Siar.

Siar drew attention to the Global Conference on Small-scale fisheries (4SSF), organized by the FAO in October 2008, which, among other things, stressed the need to adopt a human-rights-based approach to development in fisheries, and highlighted the need to enhance women's participation in decision-making. Following 4SSF, the 29th session of COFI expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries and the establishment of a specific global programme dedicated to small-scale fisheries. To follow up on this mandate, FAO has conceptualized an extra-budgetary programme on fisheries and aquaculture with the following objectives: increased contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to poverty alleviation and food security; sustainable

production for optimal societal benefits through implementation and development of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture; and reduced vulnerability of fishing and fish farming communities to natural disasters and climate change

FAO is also organizing regional consultative workshops in Asia, Africa and Latin America in October 2010, with the participation of governments and civil society organizations to develop the possible contents of an international instrument on sustainable small-scale fisheries and to identify priorities and implementation modalities of a global assistance programme. The outcomes of these consultations will be presented to the 29th session of COFI in 2011, and if COFI provides the mandate, negotiations on an international instrument on small-scale fisheries will be initiated, said Siar.

Noting that the regional workshops were planned only in the Asia-Pacific, African and Latin American regions, a participants suggested that a similar workshop must be held in Europe as well, given that fishing communities in Europe face much the same sets of issues.

Gunilla Greig shared her views on a gender agenda for fisheries from the perspective of a donor government. The Swedish Board of Fisheries has

a dual role—it works as an advisor to the Swedish government on national and European fisheries issues as well as to the Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA). Sweden has engaged with the debate on SSF since COFI 2007. It partially supported the 4SSF conference and, more recently, the FAO inception workshop to discuss the Global Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security. With respect to a possible international instrument on small-scale fisheries, there is need to think through several issues such as: what form such an international instrument can take; which international instruments it must be based on; and its scope (whether it will include, for example, gender and community issues, such as education and health, whether it will need to define SSF, and whether it will include those in SSF communities working on large-scale vessels).

Donor countries such as Sweden have committed to the Paris Declaration on Aid, where the focus is on working with national governments on their priorities for development. The Paris declaration has no specific focus on gender, though gender issues are reflected in the Accra Agenda for Action, the follow-up conference to the Paris Declaration, said Greig. 3

Concluding Session

Panel: Promoting the Shared Agenda: Sustaining
Lives and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities

Chairperson: John Kurien, Member, ICSF

Panellists:

Meryl Williams, *Specialist in fisheries, Aquaculture and
Natural Resource Management, Australia*

Gunilla Grieg, *Swedish Board of Fisheries, Sweden*

Jan Warnback, *Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC),
Sweden*

Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, *World Forum of Fisherpeoples (WFFP)*

Margaret Nakato, *World Forum of
Fishworkers and Fish Harvesters (WFF)*

Alain le Sann, *Member, ICSF*

The Chair welcomed the panelists. He also welcomed the Members of ICSF who had joined the concluding session of the workshop, noting that ICSF was committed to taking forward the "Shared Agenda" from the workshop.

Meryl Williams, speaking from the perspective of a researcher and a former research manager, said that a lot more needs to be done if gender issues in fisheries are to be placed higher on the agenda of researchers and more strongly addressed by the State and by international organizations. The Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), she noted, is one of the few mainstream fisheries and aquaculture bodies to have focused on this issue during its regular symposia, for the past 12 years. The World Aquaculture Society has only just started to look at gender issues in aquaculture. Researchers need to develop discipline-based approaches to gender in fisheries, and stay closely in touch with ground developments to ensure that their work is relevant to users of the research.

Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, speaking as a representative of the

World Forum of Fisherpeople (WFFP), of which the Fisherfolk Federation of Thailand is a member, drew attention to the feedback from the two fisherwomen participants from Thailand who had participated in the workshop. They considered the workshop to be an eye-opener, she noted, and had found it inspiring to meet some of the women activists from other countries. There is need to share the discussions and analysis that emerge from such workshops on a larger scale, especially with local- and national-level organizations of women-in-fishing communities, to strengthen them and to protect their interests and those of their communities. ICSF has a role to play in making this possible, she concluded.

Margaret Nakato of WFF, drawing on her experiences of working with women's groups and fishing communities around Lake Victoria, noted the severe negative impacts that changes in the fisheries sector have had on women. Women's access to fish has been declining, as demand for fish, and even for fish bones, for export and for fishmeal, has gone up. WFF, she said, fully endorses

the “Shared Agenda” developed at the workshop, as it works to protect communities that depend on fisheries and to strengthen their control over resources. She pointed out that there are many cultural values embedded in the tradition of small-scale fisheries—fisheries is not just a profession, it is a livelihood and a tradition. The issues faced by women are no longer only women's alone but also men's issues. There is need to strengthen the voices of fishworkers and to work together for concrete action for change. ICSF has a role as a support organization, she said.

Gunilla Greig pointed to opportunities available for making gender-in-fisheries issues visible in the upcoming processes of FAO, including in the international instrument on small-scale fisheries that may be considered by COFI, and the Global Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security. It is important for civil society to have a concrete proposal on what kind of international instrument is needed to support small-scale fisheries, she stressed. She noted that Swedish official aid is also used to support the work of civil society, through Swedish civil society organizations such as the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). In this context, Jan Warnback from SSNC explained the work of his organization on environment and natural resource issues and the support they provide to like-minded organizations in developing countries as collaborating partners.

Alain le Sann of the NGO, Pêche et Développement, and Member, ICSF, said that ICSF should advocate the “Shared Agenda” at three levels: (i) among international organizations and major NGOs, particularly at international events and upcoming UN meetings; (ii) among fishermen's and women's organizations, supporting

and strengthening new and existing networks of women, recognizing that women's organizations have an important role to play in ‘humanizing’ fisheries, especially during periods of crisis; and (iii) locally, by highlighting the roles of women and working for their greater visibility.

Alain le Sann noted that ICSF is in a unique position to animate the debate on the future of fisheries and to refocus it on the human dimension, while simultaneously integrating the ecological perspective, as a powerful counterbalance to the use of the media by certain environmental NGOs. Small-scale fishers need to fight for an alternative approach to development in collaboration with other social movements, given the profound crisis facing small-scale and artisanal fishworkers. Fishworkers will have to strengthen their capacity to cope with the challenges of the future concerning food, energy, biodiversity and equity, he concluded.

Responding to the panel, Professor Nandeesh, Dean, College of Fisheries, Tuticorin, India, noted the need to bring in clear understanding of social issues within the study of biological sciences, an effort that his institution plans to take up in a systematic way.

Vote of Thanks

Sebastian Mathew, Programme Adviser, ICSF, thanked all those who had made the workshop possible, in particular the workshop participants, and their colleagues and families who had, in fact, enabled their participation. He also thanked the Charles Darwin University for agreeing to co-sponsor the workshop, as well as all the organizations that had supported the workshop and the work of ICSF over the years, including Norad, Hivos, AusAid, Commonwealth Foundation, Misereor, CCFD, SSNC, FAO and the Global Fund for Women. He also thanked the Government of India and

the relevant Ministries for facilitating all clearances that enabled workshop participants to obtain conference visas. And, finally, he thanked the interpreters, colleagues at the ICSF and the Hotel INDeco Mahabalipuram staff.

The workshop ended with a small ceremony, where all participants sang a Ghanaian fishing song while holding a net, symbolizing the solidarity among participants in taking forward their common concerns and the “Shared Agenda” from the workshop. 3

JOHN KURIEN



Workshop participants singing a Ghanaian fishing song while holding up a net, symbolizing their solidarity and commitment to take forward common concerns and the “Shared Agenda”



A woman selling fish and assorted seafood at a fish market in Lorient, France

Appendix 1

Workshop on
“Recasting the net: Defining a gender agenda for
sustaining life and livelihoods in fishing communities”

INDeco Hotels,
Mahabalipuram, India

7 - 10 July 2010

Programme

Day 1	Wednesday, 07 July 2010
0830 – 0900 hrs	Registration
0900 – 1030 hrs	Inaugural session Invocation Welcome: Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF Introduction to workshop: Nalini Nayak (Member, ICSF) Felicitation: Ria Fitriana, Charles Darwin University, Australia
1030 – 1100 hrs	Tea
1100 – 1200 hrs	Presentation of national reports <i>Chair: Cornelia Quist (Member, ICSF)</i> South Africa: Rosetta Marina Ferreira (Coastal Links) and Jacqueline Sunde (Member, ICSF) Brazil: Mario Do Livramento Santos (National Articulation of Fisherwomen, Brazil) and Naina Pierri, Federal University of Parana, Brazil Questions and clarifications
1200 – 1300 hrs	Presentation of national reports (contd.) West Africa: Mamayawa Sandouno (Member, ICSF) India: Purnima Meher and Ujwala Patil (National Fishworkers Forum) Questions and clarifications
1300 – 1430 hrs	Lunch
1430 – 1530 hrs	Presentation of national reports (contd.) Canada: Representative on behalf of Sherry Pictou (World Forum of Fisher Peoples) Europe: Marja Bekendam (AKTEA, European Network of Women’s Organisations in Fisheries and Aquaculture) Questions and clarifications
1530 - 1600 hrs	Tea

1600 - 1700 hrs	Presentation of national reports (contd.) <p>Philippines: Jovelyn Cleofe (Center for Empowerment and Resource Development)</p> <p>Thailand: Suphen Pantee (Fisherfolk Federation of Thailand) and Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk (Sustainable Development Foundation)</p> <p>Questions and clarifications</p>
1700 - 1800 hrs	Reflections from other contexts <p>Rosemarie Mwaipopo (Member, ICSF, Tanzania)</p> <p>Zoila Bustamante (President, CONAPACH, Chile)</p> <p>Questions and clarifications</p>

Day 2	Thursday, 08 July 2010
0900 – 1040 hrs	<p><i>Chairperson: Rosemarie Mwaipopo, Member, ICSF</i></p> <p>Synthesis of issues/ concerns based on presentations on Day 1 Meryl Williams (Specialist in fisheries, aquaculture and natural resource management, Australia)</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Overview of international discourse on women based on the background study prepared for the workshop Nilanjana Biswas, Independent researcher</p>
1040 – 1100 hrs:	Tea
1100 – 1300 hrs:	<p>Group discussions: Working towards a shared agenda for sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities. Introduction to the process: Nalini Nayak</p>
1300 – 1430 hrs:	Lunch
1430 – 1600 hrs	Group discussion (contd.)
1600 – 1630 hrs:	Tea
1630 – 1800 hrs	Group discussion (contd.)

Day 3	Friday, 09 July 2010
0900 – 1030 hrs	<p>Presentation of group reports and making the linkages <i>Moderators: Jackie Sunde and Nalini Nayak, Members, ICSF</i></p>
1030 – 1100 hrs	Tea
1100 – 1300 hrs:	<i>Chairperson: John Kurien, Member, ICSF</i>
1100 – 1145 hrs	<p>International instruments related fisheries, food security, women's rights and labour Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF</p> <p>Discussion</p>

1145 – 1300 hrs	FAO Global programme on fisheries and aquaculture for poverty alleviation and food security and follow-up of proposals from COFI on small-scale fisheries Susanna Siar: Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Gunilla Greig, Swedish Board of Fisheries, Sweden Discussion
1300 – 1430 hrs	Lunch
1430 – 1600 hrs	Screening of films
1600 – 1630 hrs	Tea
1630 – 1800 hrs	Discussion and finalization of shared agenda towards sustaining life and livelihoods in coastal communities <i>Chairperson: Naina Pierri Estades</i>
1900 hrs onwards	Dinner and cultural programme

Day 4	Saturday, 10 July 2010
0900 – 0930 hrs	Registration and Tea
0930 – 1100 hrs	<i>Chairpersons: Marja Bekendam, AKTEA, Netherlands and Rosetta Ferreira, Coastal Links, South Africa</i>
1100 – 1115 hrs	Welcome and Introduction Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF Presentation of workshop process and outcomes Jackie Sunde, Member, ICSF Discussion
1115 – 1245 hrs	Panel: Promoting the shared agenda: Sustaining life and livelihoods in fishing communities <i>Chairperson: John Kurien, Member, ICSF</i> Meryl Williams, Specialist in fisheries, aquaculture and natural resource management, Australia Gunilla Greig, Swedish Board of Fisheries, Sweden Jan Warnback, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Sweden Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, World Forum of Fisherpeoples (WFFP) Margaret Nakato, World Forum of Fishworkers and Fish Harvesters (WFF) Alain le Sann, Member, ICSF
1245 – 1300 hrs	Concluding Session Vote of thanks: Sebastian Mathew, Programme Adviser, ICSF Closing ceremony
1300 – 1430	Lunch



A fisherwoman smoking shrimp at Abidjan on the Ivory Coast

Appendix 2

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Appendix 3

Opening remarks from Charles Darwin University

The School for Environmental Research at Charles Darwin University (CDU) is very pleased to co-sponsor this regional seminar “Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fisheries” with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF).

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Dr Natasha Stacey is unable to attend the workshop. However, Ria Fitriana, originally from the Riau archipelago of Indonesia and currently a doctoral candidate at CDU has kindly agreed to attend in her place. With Ria’s extensive experience on social impacts of MPAs on local fishing livelihoods, community participation and applied research on improved access to markets for artisanal fishing communities in Indonesia, she will make a valuable contribution to workshop discussions and our shared agenda for future research, action and policy at global, national and local levels.

Livelihoods is a broad concept that encapsulates the social, economic and cultural well-being of people, communities and nations. The livelihoods lens provides an integrating focus for the research conducted by the School for Environmental Research at CDU located in Darwin, Northern Territory. The school undertakes integrated social, economic and biophysical research in northern Australia and Southeast Asia across themes of interdisciplinary researchers comprising environmental/resources economists, anthropologists, sociologists, ecologists and natural

resource management specialists. Our research at CDU seeks to develop knowledge and provide practical governance and management solutions to an array of environmental challenges, working in partnerships with indigenous and local peoples, environmental and development agencies, within the university and government.

CDU has expanded our existing coastal and marine livelihoods research activities and collaborations through a new partnership this year with two leading research organizations—the Australian National University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science. This is part of a new marine alliance focusing on three programmes that balance the social sciences with the natural sciences. Key research areas include: poverty alleviation, improving livelihoods of SSF and improved market mechanisms; impacts of MPAs, fisheries management and conservation and development initiatives such as the regional Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI); and role of SSF in economic development and food security across the Asia-Pacific region (with JCU and the WorldFish Centre).

Gender and fisheries, identified as a key area for research development (Development, editorial 2008: 51), are areas CDU would like to pursue further. CDU would be delighted to participate in post-seminar discussions with ICSF and others on how it, as a research institution, can further expand its existing overseas partnerships in the CTI region and promote the shared research agenda on gender and fisheries (through,

for example, postgraduate research training, short courses and applied research projects).

Finally, CDU would like to acknowledge the funding assistance provided by the Australian Government through AusAID, under the International Seminar Support Scheme, to support this workshop with travel funds for four representatives from Australia, the Philippines and Indonesia, and the in-kind staff support provided by CDU. We would also like to

congratulate ICSF and the excellent team under Ms Chandrika Sharma for making this workshop possible.

We wish you a successful meeting over the next four days.

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Appendix 4

La problématique de genre

*Ô Grand Esprit, Créateur de toute Foi
et toute vie, nous, femmes de la pêche
de par le monde, vous
remercions d'avoir permis
ce rassemblement dans
Chennai la belle.
Et nous pensons à tous ceux qui sont
avec nous en esprit. Nous
demandons humblement
à l'Esprit de guider nos prochains
débat,
de nous accorder
force, compassion,
persévérance et sagesse.
Que nos conclusions puissent
se traduire en actions
pour toutes les femmes de la
pêche et leurs familles.
Nous voulons aussi honorer
tous les pêcheurs
et leurs êtres chers qui ont
trépassé. Souvenons-nous
de notre grand camarade
Harekrishna Debnath,
et aussi de la source de notre vie,
le poisson de la mer,
des rivières, des océans, des lacs.
Que le cœur de la Terre-Mère
fasse sentir son rythme dans nos
cœurs,
notre travail,
nos relations mutuelles.
Merci à toutes mes Relations.
—Sherry Pictou, Canada,
Coprésidente du Forum mondial des
populations de pêcheurs (WFFP)*

Du 7 au 10 juillet 2010, 39 personnes venues de 18 pays se sont réunies à Mahabalipuram, Inde, à l'occasion de l'atelier de l'ICSF qui avait pour thème *Changer la donne : définir un programme commun sur les questions de genre pour soutenir la vie et les moyens de subsistance dans les communautés de pêcheurs*. Il y avait là des pêcheurs, des membres d'organisations professionnelles, des chercheurs, des universitaires, des

décideurs politiques, des représentants d'Ong et d'agences multilatérales. Il s'agissait d'analyser les effets des évolutions actuelles du secteur de la pêche sur la vie et les moyens de subsistance des communautés de pêcheurs, en particulier pour ce qui est du vécu des femmes, de partager l'information sur les agendas locaux et les stratégies des organisations de femmes de la pêche, de définir un programme et des stratégies visant à maintenir la vie et les moyens de subsistance dans la pêche pour les temps à venir. Cela faisait suite à une série d'ateliers nationaux et régionaux qui avaient eu lieu précédemment aux Philippines, en Inde, en Afrique du Sud, au Brésil, en Thaïlande, en Europe et au Canada. Une étude générale constituant un état des lieux de la documentation disponible sur les femmes de la pêche avait été réalisée au préalable.

L'atelier commence par une invocation (voir ci-dessus) lue par Rosetta Ferreira, pêcheuse sud-africaine membre de Coastal Link, au nom de Sherry Pictou du WFFP. Puis a lieu la cérémonie traditionnelle de l'allumage des lampes et, dans son allocution de bienvenue, Chandrika Sharma, Secrétaire exécutive de l'ICSF, souligne que l'atelier n'est pas un événement isolé mais au contraire un des éléments d'un long travail avec les femmes de la pêche.

Intervenants

Nalini Nayak, Membre de l'ICSF, décrit les activités d'appui du Collectif aux communautés de pêcheurs depuis 1984 : « Nous sommes ensemble ici aujourd'hui afin de procéder à une analyse critique de ce qui s'est passé et

de débattre des moyens d'aller de l'avant. Nous espérons élaborer un programme commun pour que les communautés côtières puissent continuer à vivre de la pêche. » Ensuite Ria Fitriana, au nom de Natasha Stacey de l'École de la recherche environnementale de l'Université Charles Darwin, Australie, présente le travail de cette institution qui co-sponsorise l'atelier.

Au cours de la séance consacrée aux rapports nationaux, présidée par Cornelle Quist, on entend dix exposés : Asie (Philippines, Inde, Thaïlande), Afrique (Guinée-Bissau, Afrique du Sud, Tanzanie), Amérique latine (Brésil, Chili), Europe et Canada. Rosetta Ferreira de Coastal Links, Afrique du Sud, parle de l'atelier pour les femmes de la pêche qui s'est tenu dans ce pays en février 2010. Coastal Links est un réseau d'organisations communautaires de la côte ouest qui s'est constitué en 2004 et regroupe actuellement 2 000 personnes : pêcheurs, femmes, jeunes. Au sein de Coastal Links, les femmes ont lutté pour les droits des pêcheurs, note Rosetta. Grâce à des actions en justice, ceux-ci ont poussé le gouvernement à prévoir enfin une politique en faveur de la pêche artisanale. En attendant, ils bénéficient d'une aide sous forme de permis temporaires pour l'exploitation de certaines ressources halieutiques. Mais les femmes ne profitent pas beaucoup de ces arrangements car le poisson continue d'être vendu aux grosses entreprises. « Nous étions si occupées en train d'aider les hommes à défendre leurs droits que nous avons oublié les nôtres, et le nouveau processus politique nous a oubliées. Les hommes ne nous ont pas aidées à obtenir des moyens d'existence pour les femmes aussi. Notre priorité maintenant c'est de faire en sorte que la nouvelle politique reconnaisse les droits des femmes et le rôle qu'elles jouent dans les pêcheries

et les communautés, et qu'elle protège leurs moyens d'existence. »

Rosetta explique aussi comment le système actuel des quotas a divisé les communautés en introduisant une mentalité individualiste. Les aires marines protégées (AMP), qui concernent 21 % du littoral de l'Afrique du Sud, ont été créées sans consultation avec les pêcheurs locaux, lesquels souffrent de l'importance des zones où tout prélèvement est interdit. Et Rosetta souligne la nécessité d'une approche communautaire pour la gestion de la ressource et d'une couverture sociale pour tous.

Pour le Brésil, Maria Santos de l'Articulation nationale des femmes de la pêche (ANP) et Naina Pierri de l'Université fédérale du Paraná parlent des deux ateliers qui ont eu lieu au début de l'année 2010. Les principales préoccupations des femmes de la pêche sont les suivantes : obtenir leurs droits en tant que travailleuses, notamment la sécurité sociale, pouvoir disposer d'espaces à terre et accéder aux ressources halieutiques face aux gros projets de développement touristique et aquacole et d'infrastructures, contenir la dégradation de l'environnement, bénéficier des services d'éducation et de santé. Les femmes des communautés de pêcheurs militent dans diverses organisations : les traditionnelles *colonias*, les associations communautaires et de solidarité économique, l'ANP, le Mouvement brésilien des pêcheurs et pêcheuses du secteur artisanal lancé en 2009. Grâce à leurs efforts d'organisation et à leurs alliances élargies, elles sont parvenues à faire reconnaître leur travail par la législation nationale des pêches. Le leadership se renforce chez les femmes, et elles sont maintenant mieux représentées au sein des *colonias*. Plusieurs problèmes persistent cependant : assurer

l'autonomie et l'équilibre financier de leurs organisations, améliorer la communication entre les membres, faire davantage prendre conscience de certaines difficultés comme la violence domestique.

À une question pour savoir si, en s'organisant de façon autonome en dehors des structures classiques des pêcheurs, les femmes ne risquaient pas d'affaiblir le mouvement des pêcheurs dans son ensemble, il est répondu qu'il existe un certain degré d'intégration au Brésil. On constate quand même chez les pêcheurs des résistances contre une plus ample participation des femmes, en particulier dans les *colonias*. Les pêcheurs devraient admettre que les femmes partagent les mêmes préoccupations et leur faire une place pour qu'elles s'intègrent au travail d'organisation.

Mamayawa Sandouno, de l'Ong guinéenne ADEPEG-CPA, dit qu'on fume actuellement davantage de poisson : environ 10 % de la production artisanale avant l'Indépendance en 1958, 70 % maintenant. Presque tout le poisson qui est ainsi traité passe dans le commerce national ou régional. Les techniques de fumage ont fait des progrès et sont appliquées à davantage d'espèces. Les femmes qui pratiquent cette activité ont créé récemment une coopérative, l'Union Nationale des Femmes fumeuses de Poisson de Guinée (UNFFPG). Le fumage, qui était une activité familiale de subsistance, est devenu une entreprise commerciale organisée, soutenue par des structures coopératives qui apportent soutien et formation. Les femmes restent cependant handicapées par des taux élevés d'analphabétisme, par des conditions de travail difficiles (manque d'hygiène, insécurité...), par la prévalence de maladies sexuellement transmissibles. Le commerce du poisson et produits dérivés est également confronté à

d'autres obstacles : normes sanitaires pour les marchés à l'exportation, barrières douanières pour les échanges régionaux, points de contrôle *ad hoc* et extorsions. L'UNFFPG s'occupe de ces dossiers avec le soutien d'ADEPEG-CPA.

Purnima Meher et Ujwala Patil, du Forum national des pêcheurs (NFF), Inde, parlent de l'atelier qui s'est tenu à Mumbai en février 2010. Depuis une trentaine d'années, les femmes de la pêche en Inde se sont organisées pour défendre leurs droits dans le cadre plus large des mouvements et des syndicats de pêcheurs. Elles ont obtenu des succès sur quelques points : accès à des moyens de transport pour les marchés, baisse des taxes, possibilités de bénéficier de plans d'épargne et de soutien dans certaines régions. Mais bien des problèmes subsistent : difficultés d'obtention de crédits, alcoolisme, augmentation du montant de la dot exigée, diminution des quantités de poisson disponibles pour la transformation et la commercialisation (du fait du déclin des stocks et de l'accroissement des exportations), pauvreté des installations dans les marchés et les sites de débarquement, délocalisations forcées et pollution. Purnima Meher note que, au cours des dernières décennies, les rangs des dirigeants ne se sont pas renforcés, particulièrement chez les femmes. Il s'ensuit que les préoccupations des femmes ne trouvent guère leur expression dans les programmes d'action du mouvement des pêcheurs en général. On tente depuis quelque temps d'obtenir un statut de travailleuses pour les femmes du secteur informel ; et on fait pression pour que les vendeuses de poissons puissent tirer partie d'une politique nationale relative aux vendeurs de rue. Purnima Meher fait remarquer que, là où les pêcheries sont tournées vers l'exportation, les approvisionnements

des marchés locaux en souffrent car les pêcheurs préfèrent vendre leur production au plus offrant.

En l'absence de Sherry Pictou du Canada, Nalini Nayak lit l'exposé sur la consultation organisée par le Coastal Learning Communities Network et qui avait la forme d'une téléconférence à laquelle participaient des représentantes de communautés autochtones et non autochtones. Dans les pêches canadiennes, les femmes récoltent (surtout des coquillages), sèchent, transforment, commercialisent le poisson et ont à terre diverses activités liées à la pêche (préparation des engins de capture, comptabilité...) tout en s'occupant de leur famille et des affaires communautaires. Parmi les nombreuses difficultés auxquelles elles se trouvent confrontées, citons la privatisation des ressources halieutiques, l'impossibilité de vendre officiellement du poisson produit dans une pêcherie traditionnelle, la dégradation de l'environnement. La privatisation a entraîné la perte de permis et de l'accès aux ressources et aux installations. L'aquaculture industrielle et les forces du marché ont mené à des situations de stress et de violence plus fréquentes dans les familles. Il semble que, dans le secteur de la pêche, les Canadiennes se font moins entendre aujourd'hui qu'il y a dix ans, lorsque l'idée de leur participation aux organisations de pêche était plus acceptée.

L'exposé sur l'atelier européen est fait par Marja Bekendam, présidente d'AKTEA (Réseau européen des organisations de femmes de la pêche et de l'aquaculture), membre de Vinvis (Réseau des femmes de la pêche des Pays-Bas). Le questionnaire diffusé en Europe avant cet atelier a été complété par des organisations de sept pays. La réunion portait sur quatre thèmes : travail et évolution de la division sexuelle du travail, femmes et

processus décisionnels, droits aux ressources côtières et halieutiques et gestion des pêches, les femmes de la pêche s'organisent. Marja Bekendam dit que les organisations de femmes veulent obtenir un statut officiel pour le travail jusqu'ici non reconnu (notamment par le biais de la notion de *conjointe collaboratrice*), l'égalité des chances et de la représentation dans les prises de décision à tous les niveaux (l'entreprise familiale, les organisations communautaires de la pêche, les organisations nationales, les structures européennes). On cherche à intégrer les connaissances et le savoir-faire des femmes dans la gestion des pêches. Marja note que ces organisations se sont multipliées en Europe depuis le milieu des années 1990 afin de défendre l'avenir du secteur et les communautés qui dépendent de cette activité. AKTEA a facilité ce processus en agissant comme une éclosierie de militantes et responsables. Parmi les objectifs à atteindre, il y a le recrutement de nouveaux membres, trouver des leaders, obtenir l'appui des organisations de pêcheurs et des pouvoirs publics. À une question posée sur la reconnaissance officielle du travail des récolteuses de coquillages (*mariscadoras*) et des femmes qui accomplissent des tâches de soutien (notamment les *redeiras* ou ramendeuses) en Galice, Espagne, il est répondu que cela a pu se faire parce que le gouvernement galicien est fier de son secteur des pêches. L'une des principales revendications des *mariscadoras* était la couverture sociale, avec droits à la retraite et aux indemnités pour maladies professionnelles.

L'exposé sur l'atelier des Philippines est fait par Jovelyn Cleofe du Centre for Empowerment and Resource Development. Les débats ont porté sur la façon dont les communautés de pêche perçoivent ou subissent le changement climatique. Face à

l'absence de politiques de soutien où les femmes seraient considérées comme des actrices essentielles du développement et de la gestion des pêches, les femmes ont fini par s'organiser dans les villages et au plan national pour défendre leur cause. Et elles ont obtenu des succès, par exemple le Code de la pêche des Philippines qui inclut les femmes dans la définition du mot *pêcheur* et la Grande Charte des femmes promulguée en 2009. Il reste cependant beaucoup à faire : veiller à la bonne application de la législation existante, renforcer les capacités et consolider les organisations de femmes de la pêche à divers niveaux, améliorer les possibilités d'intervention des communautés locales en matière de changement climatique et de catastrophe naturelle, en prenant en compte les répercussions particulières sur les femmes.

L'exposé sur l'atelier de la Thaïlande est fait par Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk de la Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) et Suphen Pantee de la Fisherfolk Federation of Thailand. Un accès incertain aux ressources halieutiques, l'amenuisement des stocks et la dégradation de l'environnement côtier constituent autant de facteurs qui menacent la survie des communautés de pêcheurs. Le récent Plan de développement de la Région Sud prévoit plusieurs gros projets de développement industriel et touristique et d'infrastructures qui viendront déstabiliser encore plus ces populations. Les participantes à cet atelier ont décidé de constituer un Réseau de femmes pour la défense des droits des pêcheurs (droits d'accès, d'utilisation et de gestion sur les ressources naturelles...), pour réclamer aussi des politiques appropriées.

Intervenant à son tour, Rosemarie Mwaipopo, Membre de l'ICSF, dit

que le contexte en Tanzanie évolue rapidement sous l'effet de l'expansion de l'aquaculture industrielle et du tourisme. Dans la pêche artisanale, il existe un certain nombre de projets soutenus par l'extérieur. Dans le cadre communautaire, ils favorisent certes l'organisation mais l'état des capacités locales et le chevauchement des mandats en matière de droits d'accès et de gestion des pêches viennent souvent limiter les possibilités concrètes d'amélioration. Il y a sans doute une prise de conscience des questions de genre mais on se préoccupe surtout de l'amélioration des moyens matériels d'existence. Les femmes adhèrent aux groupements essentiellement pour cela, pas pour réclamer leurs droits. Rosemarie conclut en disant qu'il est important de pouvoir disposer d'informations et de cartographies des ressources ventilées par sexe pour le secteur de la pêche. Il faut aussi aider les gens à mieux prendre conscience de leurs droits ; il faut que les pêcheurs s'engagent davantage dans le champ politique.

Zoila Bustamante, présidente de la Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH), se présente. Elle dit qu'elle vient d'une famille de pêcheurs d'Estaquilla, une *caleta* du sud du Chili. Elle a commencé à travailler comme aide avec son père, pêcheur de coquillages en plongée ; maintenant elle travaille avec ses frères. Au Chili, il y a 12 932 femmes inscrites officiellement comme pêcheuses, et les femmes sont particulièrement actives dans la collecte d'algues. Elles sont mieux organisées dans le sud du pays, et notamment les *fileteadoras* (fileteuses), les *encarnadoras* (boetteuses) et les *auxiliares de Caleta* (ramendeuses, manutentionnaires...) réclament le statut officiel de travailleuses et un soutien des pouvoirs publics.

En 2009, il y a eu une réunion nationale sur les femmes du secteur de la pêche artisanale. Les responsables (hommes et femmes) présents ont reconnu le rôle essentiel des femmes dans ce secteur. Aucune proposition n'a été faite en vue d'envisager une organisation parallèle pour ces femmes, et on a plutôt incité pêcheurs et pêcheuses à œuvrer ensemble à des objectifs communs. Un certain nombre de points à approuver ont été identifiés. Il faudrait procéder à une évaluation approfondie du système des QIT (quotas individuels transférables) lorsque ce dossier sera réexaminé en 2012, pour réparer les injustices infligées au secteur artisanal. La bande des cinq milles réservée aux bateaux artisans doit être strictement respectée. Les femmes qui appâtent les hameçons, qui mettent le poisson en filets, qui aident au débarquement devraient être reconnues et soutenues comme des travailleuses de plein droit. Les pêcheurs qui souffrent de pathologies professionnelles devraient pouvoir bénéficier d'indemnités sociales. Il faut s'attaquer au problème de la pollution engendrée par des centrales électriques et autres établissements industriels implantés sur le littoral. Il faudra s'occuper du dossier des femmes atteintes d'affections contractées à cause de leur travail. Zoila dit que la CONAPACH est parvenue à intégrer les femmes au sein de ses structures et à prendre en compte leurs préoccupations particulières. Quand elle a pris la présidence de cette fédération en novembre 2007, certaines résistances se sont manifestées au début. Par la suite, le mode de fonctionnement de l'organisation a évolué et les responsables agissent davantage en équipe.

Deuxième jour

Le deuxième jour, Meryl Williams, spécialiste de la gestion des pêches,

de l'aquaculture et des ressources naturelles en Australie, présente une synthèse des exposés de la veille. Elle observe que ces exposés ont adopté un point de vue de femmes plutôt qu'un point de vue de genre et qu'il reste à s'accorder plus précisément sur la signification du concept de genre dans la pêche artisanale. Alors que les droits du poisson se renforcent (par exemple via les permis et les quotas), les droits des pêcheurs semblent être en régression. Plusieurs exposés ont préconisé une gestion communautaire des pêcheries. Pour bien mettre en œuvre une telle démarche, il serait bon de clarifier les choses et d'avoir des preuves que cela peut effectivement bien marcher dans la réalité. Certains exposés ont parlé du changement climatique et de ses répercussions sur les communautés côtières. Ce problème mérite toute l'attention nécessaire pour renforcer la résilience de ces populations. Plusieurs exposés (Espagne, Philippines, France, Brésil) ont souligné l'intérêt d'une bonne organisation et apporté des exemples d'actions collectives débouchant sur des résultats positifs. On a aussi mentionné l'importance de données ventilées par sexe, de nouveaux outils et nouvelles approches (cartographies des ressources selon des critères de sexe...).

Au cours de la séance suivante, Nilanjana Biswas, chercheuse indépendante basée en Inde, fait une communication consistant en un état des lieux de la documentation disponible sur le thème des femmes de la pêche. Elle analyse les principales évolutions qui se sont produites au cours des trente dernières années dans le discours dominant relatif aux femmes du secteur artisanal. Premier point, on est passé de l'économie politique à l'écologie politique, ce qui a sans doute permis de faire apparaître une critique significative du modèle industriel du développement mais

qui a aussi obscurci au fil du temps l'analyse du travail des femmes dans ce secteur. Deuxième point, on est passé d'une opposition à l'oppression des femmes à des programmes de renforcement des capacités des femmes sur une base individualiste ; et les relations de genre ont été progressivement dissociées des autres structures de pouvoir, ce qui a créé un espace où des stratégies d'autonomisation individuelle et d'intégration de la problématique de genre se sont insérées. Troisième point, il est de plus en plus question de l'approche fondée sur les droits humains ; mais il reste à démontrer qu'on peut effectivement harmoniser droits communautaires (fondés sur la coutume) avec le discours moderne sur les droits humains. En présentant les droits communautaires comme des droits humains, on court le risque d'obscurcir doublement les problèmes auxquels sont confrontées les femmes. Quatrième point, on constate une dépendance croissante par rapport à l'aide des donateurs en matière d'action sociale et de recherche. Or cette dépendance génère un réel problème car les modes de pêche industrielle destructeurs ont été introduits dans les pays du Sud surtout dans le cadre d'aides liées à des politiques d'ajustement structurel ; et les donateurs s'alignent également de plus en plus sur les impératifs de la mondialisation.

En fin de matinée, les participants se répartissent en trois groupes, grosso modo selon les régions d'origine, afin de débattre des questions suivantes : 1) Pouvons-nous rêver d'une pêche qui soutiendra la vie et les moyens de subsistance dans les communautés ? Si oui, à quoi ressemblerait cette pêche et quelles en seraient les composantes ? Des critères éthiques seraient-ils nécessaires pour guider ce processus et quel serait le rôle des différents acteurs pour contribuer

à créer une telle pêche ? 2) Quelle initiative devrions-nous prendre pour concrétiser ce rêve, quelles stratégies devrions-nous (femmes, représentants de pêcheurs, chercheurs...) mettre en œuvre aux différents niveaux de ce processus ?

Troisième jour

Le troisième jour commence par la restitution des groupes de travail de la veille. Les rêves et les stratégies issus de leurs discussions vont servir de fondations au Programme d'action commun qui va être adopté par tous les participants à l'atelier (voir encadré). Au cours de la séance de fin de matinée, présidée par John Kurien, Chandrika Sharma fait un exposé sur les instruments internationaux qui ont une pertinence pour les femmes de la pêche, tout particulièrement la Convention de 1979 sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes (CEDAW) et la Déclaration et le Programme d'action de Beijing de 1995. Elle signale aussi des articles d'autres instruments : Agenda 21, Convention sur la diversité biologique (1992), Accord des Nations unies sur les stocks de poissons (1995)... La discrimination à l'encontre des femmes continue à exister dans la pêche et elle est bien documentée, mais les instruments internationaux relatifs à la pêche (y compris le Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable de la FAO) n'ont pas vraiment abordé les questions d'égalité hommes-femmes et de discrimination. Et c'est aussi largement le cas pour les législations nationales relatives à la pêche. Il faut rappeler aux États les obligations qu'ils ont contractées dans le cadre de la CEDAW et les engagements pris dans la Déclaration et le Programme d'action de Beijing. Il faut examiner et évaluer les nombreux projets des

pêches qui contenaient parmi leurs objectifs un élément de *gender mainstreaming* (approche intégrée de l'égalité) et de *women's empowerment* (autonomisation des femmes).

Ensuite Susanna Siar, du Département des pêches et de l'aquaculture de la FAO, donne des informations concernant le travail de cette organisation sur la problématique de genre dans la pêche. Elle fait remarquer que, parmi les objectifs de son nouveau Cadre stratégique axé sur les résultats, figure l'égalité des sexes dans l'accès aux ressources, aux biens, aux services et à la prise de décision dans les zones rurales. En octobre 2008, la FAO avait organisé la Conférence mondiale sur la pêche artisanale qui préconisait notamment l'adoption d'une démarche fondée sur les droits humains dans le développement des pêches et soulignait la nécessité de renforcer la participation des femmes aux processus décisionnels. À la suite de cet événement, la 29^{ème} session du Comité des pêches (COFI) de la FAO a également exprimé le besoin d'un instrument international sur la pêche artisanale et d'un programme mondial spécifiquement consacré à ce secteur. Pour donner suite à ce mandat, la FAO organise, en octobre 2010, des ateliers de consultation régionaux en Asie, en Afrique et en Amérique latine, avec la participation des gouvernements et d'organisations de la société civile, cela afin de faire apparaître le contenu éventuel d'un instrument international pour une pêche artisanale durable et d'identifier les priorités et les modalités d'application d'un programme d'assistance mondial. Les résultats de ces consultations seront soumis à la 29^{ème} session du COFI en 2011 ; et si le COFI donne mandat en ce sens, les négociations en vue d'un instrument international

relatif à la pêche artisanale seront lancées, fait savoir Susanna Siar.

Puis Gunilla Greig du Swedish Board of Fisheries présente ses points de vue sous l'angle d'un gouvernement donateur. La Suède a financé en partie l'atelier de lancement FAO destiné à débattre du Programme mondial sur la pêche et l'aquaculture pour lutter contre la pauvreté et contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire. L'intervenante informe également les participants sur les engagements des pays donateurs dans le cadre de la Déclaration de Paris sur l'efficacité de l'aide, à la suite de quoi la Suède, par exemple, agit de plus en plus via les gouvernements nationaux sur la base des priorités de développement qu'ils ont établies.

Au cours de la séance de l'après-midi, les participants visionnent trois films : *Manguezais e Carcinicultura* (Ceará, Brésil) qui traite de l'impact de la crevetteculture sur les mangroves, *Femmes pêcheurs, femmes de pêcheurs*, documentaire sur la vie et le travail des femmes de la pêche en France, et un film équatorien sur les femmes et les mangroves. Et lors de la séance de clôture (table ronde), Meryl Williams dit qu'il reste beaucoup à faire pour que les questions de genre dans la pêche trouvent une meilleure place dans les priorités des chercheurs. La Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) est l'un des rares organismes connus à s'être constamment intéressé à cette problématique. Les chercheurs devraient élaborer des approches disciplinaires sur les questions de genre dans la pêche, rester étroitement en contact avec les évolutions en cours sur le terrain et veiller à ce que leurs travaux aient une utilité pratique pour les intéressées. S'exprimant en tant que représentant du WFFP, dont fait partie la Fisherfolk Federation of Thailand, Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk rappelle qu'il faut soutenir les

structures locales et nationales des femmes des communautés de pêcheurs. Et Margaret Nakato du WFF, tirant parti de son expérience auprès des populations de pêcheurs établies autour du lac Victoria, souligne la nécessité de protéger les communautés qui vivent de la pêche et de renforcer leur contrôle sur la ressource. Gunilla Greig note les opportunités qui pourraient se présenter pour donner de la visibilité aux questions de genre dans la pêche dans le cadre des processus à venir de la FAO : l'instrument international relatif à la pêche artisanale que pourrait envisager le COFI, le Programme mondial sur la pêche et l'aquaculture pour lutter contre la pauvreté et contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire...

Alain Le Sann de l'association Pêche et Développement et Membre de l'ICSF dit que le Collectif devrait promouvoir le Programme commun à trois niveaux : 1) auprès des

organisations internationales et des grosses Ong, notamment lors d'événements internationaux, 2) auprès des organisations de pêcheurs et de femmes, en soutenant et en consolidant les réseaux de femmes déjà établis ou nouvellement constitués, en reconnaissant que ces organisations de femmes ont un rôle important à jouer pour « humaniser » le secteur de la pêche, 3) en mettant en lumière, dans le cadre local, le rôle des femmes et en s'efforçant de les rendre plus visibles. Alain Le Sann note que l'ICSF est dans une position unique pour animer le débat sur l'avenir de la pêche et pour le recentrer sur la dimension humaine tout en intégrant dans le même temps la perspective écologique, cela afin de contrecarrer l'usage que font des médias certaines Ong environnementales. Il faut que les pêcheurs artisans militent pour une approche alternative du développement.

3



A woman fish vendor at the Udupi fish market in the Indian State of Karnataka

Appendix 5

Agenda de género

*Gran espíritu, creador de todas
las creencias y de todas las vidas
Nosotras, mujeres pescadoras
del mundo entero*

*Te damos gracias por habernos
permitido reunirnos aquí en la
hermosa ciudad india de Chennai*

*En nuestro nombre y en el de todos los
que nos acompañan con su espíritu.*

*Te pedimos humildemente que guíes
nuestros debates en los próximos
días, que nos des fuerza, compasión,
perseverancia y sabiduría,
para que nuestras conclusiones
puedan transformarse en acciones
dirigidas a todas las mujeres
pescadoras y a sus familias.*

*Queremos también honrar a todos
los pescadores y recordar a todos
nuestros seres queridos ya fallecidos,
con un recuerdo especial para
nuestro querido amigo y compañero
Harekrishna Debnath y para la
fuente de nuestra vida, los peces que
surcan los ríos, lagos y océanos.*

*Que el latido del corazón de la
Madre Tierra palpite en los nuestros,
acompañe nuestras faenas y el
trato que damos a los demás.*

*Gracias a todos vosotros,
Hermanos y hermanas míos.*

*—Sherry Pictou, copresidenta del
Foro Mundial de Pueblos Pescadores
(WFFP), Canadá*

La ciudad india de Mahabalipuram acogió del 7 al 10 de julio de 2010 un seminario titulado “Volvamos a lanzar las redes: Una nueva agenda de género para mantener la vida y los medios de sustento de la pesca”, organizado por el Colectivo Internacional de Apoyo al Pescador Artesanal (CIAPA). Entre los 39 participantes figuraban pescadores,

miembros de organizaciones de pescadores, investigadores, académicos, administradores pesqueros y representantes de organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG) y de organismos multilaterales, procedentes de 18 países.

El seminario tenía como objetivos analizar el impacto de los acontecimientos más recientes en el sector pesquero sobre la vida y los medios de sustento de las comunidades pesqueras, integrando la experiencia femenina en ese contexto; compartir las agendas y estrategias locales de las organizaciones de mujeres en el sector pesquero, y definir una agenda y una estrategia a largo plazo para apoyar la vida y los medios de sustento basados en la pesca. El encuentro se fundamentó en una serie de seminarios nacionales y regionales celebrados previamente en Filipinas, la India, Sudáfrica, Brasil, Tailandia, Europa y Canadá, así como en un estudio bibliográfico sobre la mujer en la pesca.

La sesión inaugural comenzó con la oración que prologa este artículo, que Rosetta Ferreira, una pescadora sudafricana afiliada a *Coastal Links*, leyó en nombre de Sherry Pictou, de la WFFP. A continuación hubo una pequeña ceremonia tradicional consistente en encender una lámpara y repartir guirnalda de flores. En sus palabras de bienvenida, la secretaria ejecutiva del Colectivo, Chandrika Sharma, señaló que el encuentro no constituía un hecho aislado sino un eslabón más en una larga cadena de colaboración con las mujeres pescadoras.

Copatrocínio

Nalini Nayak, miembro del CIAPA, explicó que el Colectivo apoya a las comunidades pesqueras desde 1984. Según sus palabras, “nos reunimos aquí a fin de hacer una crítica constructiva de todo lo ocurrido hasta ahora y planear nuestras acciones futuras. Esperamos poder crear una agenda común para la pesca que sostenga la vida y los medios de sustento de las comunidades costeras”. A continuación, Ria Fitriana, en nombre de Natasha Stacey, de la Escuela de Estudios Ambientales de la Universidad Charles Darwin (CDU), Australia, presentó a la CDU, copatrocinadora del seminario.

La sesión de presentación de los seminarios nacionales fue moderada por Cornelie Quist, miembro del CIAPA. Hubo en total diez ponencias, de Asia (Filipinas, India y Tailandia), África (Guinea Bissau, Sudáfrica y Tanzania), Sudamérica (Brasil y Chile), Europa y Canadá. Rosetta Ferreria, de *Coastal Links*, Sudáfrica, expuso los resultados del seminario sobre mujer en la pesca celebrado en Sudáfrica en febrero de 2010. *Coastal Links* (Redes Costeras), una red de organizaciones comunitarias de la costa occidental sudafricana, empezó su andadura en 2004 y cuenta con más de 2.000 miembros entre pescadores, mujeres y jóvenes. Según explicó Rosetta, las mujeres afiliadas han luchado por los derechos de los pescadores. Gracias a sus denuncias han conseguido del gobierno el compromiso de elaborar una política para la pesca artesanal, y mientras no esté lista una serie de medidas transitorias que les permiten acceder temporalmente a ciertos recursos pesqueros. Sin embargo, estas iniciativas no han aportado gran cosa a las mujeres ya que una gran parte del pescado desembarcado sigue vendiéndose a las grandes empresas. “Nos implicamos tanto en

ayudar a los hombres a reivindicar sus derechos que nos olvidamos de los nuestros. La nueva política ha dejado a la mujer fuera de juego. Los hombres no nos han ayudado a garantizar los medios de vida de las mujeres”, dice Rosetta. “Nuestra prioridad en este momento consiste en garantizar que la nueva política reconozca los derechos de la mujer y su papel fundamental en la pesca y la comunidad, protegiendo además nuestros medios de sustento”.

Rosetta mencionó igualmente que el sistema de cuotas aplicado actualmente en su país ha dividido a las comunidades al introducir una ética individualista. Las áreas marinas protegidas (AMP), que abarcan el 21% del litoral sudafricano, se han implantado sin consultar a las comunidades locales, imponiendo amplias zonas de veda absoluta que les impiden sustentar a sus familias. Se impone un enfoque de gestión con base comunitaria y la provisión universal de seguridad social.

De Brasil llegaron Maria Santos, de la Articulación Nacional de Mujeres Pescadoras (ANP) y Naina Pierri, de la Universidad de Paraná, que presentaron los dos seminarios organizados a principios de 2010. A las pescadoras brasileñas les preocupan sus derechos laborales, (a la seguridad social, por ejemplo), el derecho a la tierra, el acceso a los recursos pesqueros frente a los proyectos de turismo, acuicultura e infraestructura a gran escala, el deterioro medioambiental y el acceso a la educación y a la atención sanitaria. Las mujeres de las comunidades pesqueras participan en movimientos como las organizaciones tradicionales de pescadores (“colonias”), asociaciones comunitarias y redes de solidaridad económica, así como el ANP o el Movimiento Nacional de Pescadores y Pescadoras Artesanales, fundado en 2009. Gracias a estas y

a otras alianzas el trabajo femenino ha sido reconocido oficialmente en la legislación pesquera brasileña. Las mujeres cuentan con un liderazgo cada vez más sólido y están mejor representadas en las *colonias*. Sin embargo, todavía quedan por delante numerosos desafíos, como garantizar la autonomía y la sostenibilidad financiera de las organizaciones, mejorar la comunicación entre sus miembros y dar mayor visibilidad a problemas como la violencia doméstica.

En el turno de preguntas se planteó si la organización autónoma de la mujer fuera de las organizaciones de pescadores podría debilitar al movimiento social de la pesca en su conjunto y las representantes brasileñas respondieron que en Brasil existe cierto nivel de integración. Sin embargo, los pescadores se muestran reacios a la participación femenina, especialmente en las *colonias*. Los pescadores deben admitir que las pescadoras comparten sus preocupaciones y crear espacios para que la mujer pueda participar en los movimientos.

Mamayawa Sandouno, miembro de ADEPEG-CPA, una ONG de Guinea, comentó el incremento de la actividad de ahumado del pescado en su país: si antes de la independencia se destinaba al ahumado el 10% de la producción pesquera artesanal, hoy en día la cifra alcanza el 70%. El pescado ahumado se orienta principalmente al comercio a escala nacional o regional. Los avances tecnológicos permiten procesar un mayor número de especies. Las mujeres dedicadas a esta faena crearon hace poco tiempo un sindicato, la Unión Nacional de Mujeres Ahumadoras de Pescado de Guinea (UNFFPG). La actividad comenzó su historia como una empresa familiar de subsistencia, pero actualmente constituye un sector comercial

organizado que cuenta con el apoyo de las cooperativas y con una formación correspondiente. Sin embargo, las mujeres todavía tienen que vérselas con altos índices de analfabetismo y condiciones de trabajo inseguras, antihigiénicas y de gran dureza, amén de las enfermedades de transmisión sexual. Existen asimismo numerosos obstáculos al comercio de pescado y productos de la pesca: en los mercados de exportación, las normas higiénico-sanitarias y en los mercados regionales, barreras como los controles aduaneros arbitrarios o la extorsión. La UNFFPG estudia todos estos problemas con el apoyo de ADEPEG-CPA.

Purnima Meher y Ujwala Patil, del Foro Nacional de Trabajadores de la Pesca (NFF) de la India, presentaron el taller celebrado en Mumbai en febrero de 2010. Desde hace treinta años las pescadoras indias se organizan para reivindicar sus derechos dentro de los movimientos y sindicatos de pescadores. Han cosechado algunos éxitos, como el transporte a los mercados, reducciones tributarias, y acceso a sistemas de ahorro y préstamo en algunas regiones.

Sin embargo persisten problemas como el difícil acceso al crédito, la falta de higiene, la insuficiente atención sanitaria, la carencia de títulos de propiedad, el alcoholismo, el aumento de la dote matrimonial, la menor disponibilidad del pescado para la transformación y comercialización (debido tanto a la merma de las poblaciones como a las exportaciones), las malas instalaciones en el mercado y los centros de desembarco, el desplazamiento y la contaminación. No se observa un refuerzo del liderazgo, especialmente entre las mujeres, de manera que los problemas femeninos no aparecen en los planes de acción de los movimientos de pescadores, según Meher.

Actualmente se redoblan esfuerzos a fin de conseguir el reconocimiento oficial de la mujer como trabajadora informal y una política de venta callejera que apoye a las pescaderas. Meher afirma que si la pesca se orienta a la exportación, se reduce la disponibilidad del producto para las mujeres en los mercados locales, ya que el pescador prefiere vender al mejor postor.

Al no estar presente Sherry Pictou, la presentación de la consulta realizada por la Red de Aprendizaje de las Comunidades Costeras de Canadá corrió a cargo de Nalini Nayak.

Faenas de cosecha

La consulta se llevó a cabo mediante teleconferencia entre representantes de comunidades pesqueras aborígenes y no aborígenes. Las mujeres de la pesca en Canadá faenan en la cosecha (sobre todo de marisco), el secado, la transformación y la comercialización de la captura, así como en actividades de tierra firme como la preparación del aparejo, la contabilidad y el cuidado de la familia y de la comunidad. Sus principales desafíos son la privatización de los recursos pesqueros, la imposibilidad de vender las capturas procedentes de la pesca tradicional y el deterioro medioambiental. La privatización trae consigo la pérdida de licencias y de acceso a recursos e infraestructuras. La acuicultura industrial y las fuerzas del mercado intensifican la ansiedad y la violencia en el seno de las familias. Las mujeres canadienses parecen tener hoy en día una presencia menos visible que hace diez años, cuando la idea de la participación femenina en las organizaciones de pescadores suscitaba un mayor entusiasmo.

La presentación del seminario europeo corrió a cargo de Marja Bekendam, presidenta de AKTEA, la

Red Europea de Organizaciones de Mujeres en la Pesca y la Acuicultura, y miembro de VinVis, la red de mujer en la pesca de los Países Bajos. Antes de este encuentro se había hecho circular un cuestionario que recibió respuestas de afiliadas a organizaciones pesqueras de siete países europeos. El taller estudió cuatro temas: cambios en las labores femeninas y en la división sexual del trabajo; la mujer en la toma de decisiones; derechos a los recursos pesqueros y costeros y gestión pesquera, y organización de la mujer en la pesca. Bekendam explicó que las organizaciones de mujeres buscan dar un estatus jurídico al trabajo invisible de la mujer, como por ejemplo el de "cónyuges colaboradoras", mejores condiciones de trabajo, igualdad de oportunidades y de representación en la toma de decisiones a todos los niveles (empresas familiares, organizaciones comunitarias, nacionales y europeas). El conocimiento y las habilidades de las mujeres deben integrarse en la gestión pesquera. Según expuso Bekendam, las organizaciones de mujeres se han multiplicado en Europa desde mediados de los noventa con objeto de defender el futuro del sector y de las comunidades dependientes de la pesca. AKTEA ha contribuido a animar este proceso actuando como un vivero de líderes femeninas. Los desafíos para el futuro consisten en aumentar el número de afiliadas y de dirigentes femeninas y conseguir el apoyo de las organizaciones de pescadores y de los gobiernos.

Se formuló una pregunta acerca del reconocimiento jurídico obtenido por las mariscadoras y otras trabajadoras de oficios auxiliares a la pesca (como las "*redeiras*", fabricantes de redes) de Galicia, España. Se hizo saber que los logros alcanzados se explican por el orgullo del gobierno gallego por el sector pesquero.

Las mariscadoras han reivindicado su derecho a la seguridad social y a las pensiones y prestaciones por enfermedad profesional.

La presentación del taller celebrado en las Filipinas fue responsabilidad de Jovelyn Cleofe del Centro de Empoderamiento y Desarrollo de Recursos. Los debates exploraron las percepciones y experiencias sobre el cambio climático entre las comunidades pesqueras. La falta de un ambiente político favorable al reconocimiento de la mujer como socio de pleno derecho en el desarrollo y la gestión de la pesca ha empujado a las mujeres a organizarse a escala local y nacional a fin de defender sus derechos. El fruto de este trabajo consiste en logros como el Código Nacional de Pesca de 1998, que incluye a la mujer en su definición de "pescador", y la Carta Magna de la Mujer aprobada en 2009.

A pesar de todo aún queda mucho por hacer, como garantizar la aplicación de la legislación vigente, reforzar las capacidades individuales de la mujer y colectivas de sus organizaciones a varios niveles, y mejorar la aptitud de las comunidades locales de enfrentarse al cambio climático y a los desastres naturales, teniendo en cuenta el impacto específico sobre la mujer.

Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, de la Fundación para el Desarrollo Sostenible, y Suphen Partee, de la Federación de Pescadores de Tailandia, presentaron los resultados del taller celebrado en este país. La inseguridad del acceso a los recursos, la merma de las poblaciones y la degradación del medio ambiente costero son las principales amenazas para las comunidades pesqueras. El Plan de Desarrollo de la Región Sur, recientemente aprobado, incluye varios proyectos de desarrollo de infraestructuras, la industria y el turismo que recrudecerán los problemas de las comunidades pesqueras. El cambio climático no

hará sino complicarlos aún más. A fin de solventarlos, las participantes del taller tailandés decidieron fundar la Red de mujeres en defensa de los derechos de los pescadores, a fin de proteger los derechos de acceso, explotación y gestión de recursos naturales y abogar por medidas adecuadas.

Rosemarie Mwaipopo, miembro del CIAPA, explicó que el auge de la acuicultura a gran escala y del turismo está cambiando con gran rapidez el panorama del sector en Tanzania. Existen varios proyectos de pesca artesanal sufragados por donantes extranjeros. Aunque estos permiten la organización a escala comunitaria, en la práctica la capacidad organizativa de las comunidades se ve limitada por su escasa experiencia y la multiplicidad de instancias reguladoras de los derechos de acceso y gestión de las pesquerías. Si por una parte se reconocen los problemas de género, se da mayor prioridad al refuerzo de los medios de sustento, es decir, las mujeres se afilian a las organizaciones para mejorar sus oportunidades de sustento y no para reivindicar derechos. La recogida de datos desglosados por sexos y la cartografía de recursos según el género son importantes, al igual que concienciar a las mujeres de sus derechos y conseguir que los pescadores se involucren en la política, concluyó Rosemarie Mwaipopo.

Zoila Bustamante, presidenta de la Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH), se presentó a sí misma, hija de una familia de pescadores de Estaquilla, una caleta del sur de Chile. Empezó a ayudar a su padre, un buzo mariscador, y actualmente trabaja con sus hermanos. Zoila observó que Chile cuenta con 12.932 pescadoras registradas, cuya presencia destaca especialmente en la recogida de algas.

Las mujeres del sur de Chile se encuentran bien organizadas. Hoy en día muchas de ellas, especialmente las fileteadoras y encarnadoras (que preparan el cebo), así como las auxiliares de caleta, (reparan las redes y ayudan a descargar la captura), reclaman su reconocimiento formal como trabajadoras y acceso a las ayudas oficiales al sector.

Un encuentro nacional de las mujeres de la pesca artesanal chilena, celebrado en 2009, en el que participaron tanto mujeres como hombres dirigentes, reconoció el papel fundamental de la mujer en el sector. Sin embargo, no hay de momento ninguna propuesta de crear una organización paralela de mujeres de la pesca artesanal, sino que se insiste en que hombres y mujeres pescadores cooperen en la lucha por objetivos comunes.

Se identificaron varios temas convergentes, como la evaluación en profundidad del sistema de cuotas individuales transferibles cuando se revise en 2012, a fin de corregir las injusticias cometidas con el sector artesanal. La franja de cinco millas reservada para la pesca artesanal debe respetarse estrictamente. Las mujeres que participan en el cebo, el fileteado y el desembarco tienen que ser reconocidas y apoyadas. Los pescadores que sufren enfermedades o incapacidades profesionales deben acceder a las prestaciones de la seguridad social. Urge abordar los problemas de la contaminación provocada por las plantas eléctricas y los proyectos industriales de la costa. Se prestará atención a las enfermedades profesionales de la mujer. Para Zoila, CONAPACH ha conseguido integrar a las mujeres en la organización y abordar sus problemas.

Explicó asimismo que cuando asumió la presidencia de CONAPACH en noviembre de 2007 se enfrentó a ciertas

resistencias iniciales. Sin embargo, se ha producido un cambio en el clima de trabajo de la organización, con una dirigencia que funciona como un auténtico equipo.

El segundo día del taller Meryl Williams, especialista en pesca, acuicultura y gestión de recursos naturales de Australia, recapituló las presentaciones de la víspera. Comentó que las presentaciones se habían referido principalmente a la perspectiva de la mujer y no tanto a la perspectiva de género y que todavía existe divergencia de opiniones sobre lo que significa el concepto de género en la pesca artesanal. Si los derechos de pesca avanzan, gracias a medidas como las licencias y las cuotas, los derechos de los pescadores, en cambio, parecen estar en retroceso.

Aportación de pruebas

Si algunas presentaciones reclamaban una gestión con base comunitaria, será necesario aclarar cómo se plasma este enfoque en la práctica y aportar pruebas de que dichos sistemas funcionan realmente. El impacto del cambio climático sobre las comunidades costeras mencionado por varias participantes reclama una atención seria, observó Williams, con miras a reforzar la capacidad de aguante de las comunidades. Algunas ponencias (las de España, Filipinas, Francia y Brasil), pusieron de manifiesto asuntos relacionados con la organización, brindando ejemplos de acciones colectivas que arrojaron frutos interesantes. Las presentaciones destacaron igualmente la necesidad de obtener datos desglosados por sexo y desarrollar nuevas herramientas y enfoques metodológicos para cartografiar el acceso a los recursos de hombres y mujeres.

En la siguiente sesión Nilanjana Biswas, investigadora independiente residente en la India, presentó una

revisión bibliográfica sobre el tema de la mujer en la pesca. Expuso los principales cambios de discurso sobre mujer en la pesca artesanal de las tres últimas décadas. El primero consiste en la transición de economía política a ecología política, que por una parte propicia una crítica sustancial del modelo industrial de desarrollo, aunque por otra oculta en última instancia el análisis del trabajo femenino en el sector.

El segundo parte de la oposición a la opresión de la mujer para orientarse hacia una agenda centrada en los individuos y en el empoderamiento de género. El género se distancia de otras estructuras de poder, dejando espacio para el empoderamiento individual y las estrategias de transversalización del género. El tercero gravita en torno al interés que suscita el marco de derechos humanos.

Sin embargo, todavía está por demostrar que los derechos comunitarios, basados en la tradición, puedan conciliarse con el discurso moderno de derechos humanos. Plantear los derechos comunitarios como derechos humanos crea el riesgo de relegar los problemas femeninos por partida doble. Por último, se destaca que la acción social y la investigación dependen cada vez más de la ayuda de los donantes. Esta dependencia resulta problemática si se piensa que la ayuda vinculada a los planes de ajuste estructural ha permitido la introducción de prácticas de pesca destructiva en el hemisferio sur y que la ayuda al desarrollo sigue cada vez más el compás de los imperativos de la globalización.

En los debates matinales la asamblea se dividió en tres grupos según regiones geográficas aproximadas para discutir las siguientes cuestiones: (1) ¿Podemos soñar con un sector pesquero que sostenga la

vida y los medios de sustento de las comunidades? En caso afirmativo, ¿qué aspecto tendría, cuáles serían sus componentes fundamentales? ¿Existe alguna norma ética indispensable para orientar el proceso? ¿Cómo se repartirían los papeles entre los diversos socios para crear esta nueva situación?, y (2) ¿Qué podemos hacer para convertir este sueño en realidad? ¿De qué manera podemos planificar el proceso cada uno de nosotros, mujeres, representantes de pescadores, o investigadores?

Al iniciarse el tercer día del seminario los grupos presentaron sus deliberaciones. Algunos sueños y estrategias aparecieron repetidamente y se utilizaron para el desarrollo de la "agenda común" acordada por los participantes del taller en la última jornada (ver recuadro).

En una sesión presidida por John Kurien, miembro del CIAPA, Chandrika Sharma presentó una ponencia sobre los principales instrumentos jurídicos internacionales de aplicación a la mujer en la pesca, con mención especial a la Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer (CEDAW) de 1979 y la Declaración y Plataforma de Acción de Pekín (DPAP) de 1995. No olvidó mencionar otros artículos importantes de otros textos como la Agenda 21, el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica de 1992 y el Acuerdo de las Naciones Unidas sobre Poblaciones de Peces de 1995. Sharma recordó que la discriminación de la mujer continúa presente en el sector pesquero y está bien documentada, pero a pesar de todo otros instrumentos como el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) pasan por alto los problemas de igualdad o la discriminación

de género. Lo mismo ocurre con las legislaciones pesqueras nacionales. Es imprescindible recordar a los Estados las obligaciones contraídas al ratificar la CEDAW o al comprometerse con la DPAP. Interesa igualmente examinar y evaluar los proyectos pesqueros ejecutados con objetivos como “transversalizar el género” o “empoderar a la mujer”.

Susanna Siar, del Departamento de Pesca y Acuicultura de la FAO explicó el trabajo que realiza esta organización en el ámbito de la mujer en la pesca. Comentó que el nuevo marco de resultados que aplica la FAO tiene entre sus objetivos estratégicos la “equidad de género en el acceso a los recursos, bienes, servicios y toma de decisiones en las áreas rurales”. La FAO había organizado con anterioridad la Conferencia mundial sobre pesca en pequeña escala de Bangkok, en octubre de 2008, que instaba a adoptar un enfoque basado en los derechos humanos para el desarrollo del sector pesquero e incrementar la participación femenina en la toma de decisiones.

Después de la conferencia de Bangkok, el Comité de Pesca (COFI) de la FAO en su 21º período de sesiones manifestaba la necesidad de dedicar un instrumento jurídico internacional a la pesca a pequeña escala y de establecer un programa global para el sector artesanal. Para responder a este mandato, la FAO está organizando varios seminarios regionales consultivos en Asia, África y Latinoamérica para octubre de 2010, con la participación de gobiernos y organizaciones de la sociedad civil a fin de desarrollar el posible contenido de semejante texto sobre la pesca artesanal sostenible e identificar las prioridades y las modalidades de aplicación de un programa mundial de asistencia. Los resultados de estas consultas se presentarán en el

29º período de sesiones del COFI en 2011. Si en ese momento el COFI aprueba un mandato, comenzarán las negociaciones sobre este instrumento, afirma Siar.

Gunilla Greig, del Consejo de Pesca de Suecia, brindó la perspectiva de un gobierno donante de fondos. Suecia patrocinó el seminario de la FAO para el lanzamiento del Programa Mundial de de pesca y acuicultura para el alivio de la pobreza y la seguridad alimentaria. Greig habló del compromiso de los países donantes con la Declaración de París sobre la ayuda al desarrollo, que llevan a países como Suecia a colaborar estrechamente con los Gobiernos de los países receptores para el establecimiento de sus prioridades de desarrollo.

Por la tarde se proyectaron tres películas: “Manglares y camaricultura”, de Ceará, Brasil, sobre el impacto de la acuicultura de camarón en el ecosistema del manglar; “Mujeres pescadoras, mujeres de pescadores”, un documental sobre la vida y el trabajo de las mujeres en la pesca en Francia, y otro más procedente de Ecuador sobre la mujer en los manglares.

En la sesión de clausura del seminario Meryl Williams comentó que queda mucho por hacer todavía hasta conseguir que los problemas de género ocupen el lugar destacado que merecen en las prioridades de los investigadores. La Sociedad Asiática de Pesca es una de las pocas entidades que sistemáticamente se han ocupado del tema. Los investigadores deben desarrollar enfoques de género para cada disciplina, mantenerse en contacto cercano con las actividades sobre el terreno y asegurar que su trabajo resulta útil para los destinatarios del mismo.

Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, representante de la WFFP, que cuenta entre sus miembros a la Federación de

Pescadores de Tailandia, destacó la importancia de apoyar las organizaciones locales y nacionales de mujeres de las comunidades pesqueras. Margaret Nakato, del Foro Mundial de Pescadores y Trabajadores de la Pesca, apoyándose en su experiencia de trabajo con las comunidades pesqueras de las riberas del lago Victoria, indicó la urgencia de proteger a las comunidades que dependen de la pesca y de reforzar su control de los recursos.

Gunilla Greig señaló que se abren oportunidades interesantes para dar visibilidad a los temas de género en el sector pesquero en los próximos procesos de la FAO, como el instrumento internacional para la pesca artesanal que probablemente se estudiará en el COFI y el Programa mundial de pesca y acuicultura para el alivio de la pobreza y la seguridad alimentaria.

Alain Le Sann, de la ONG "*Pêche et Développement*" (Pesca y Desarrollo) y miembro del CIAPA, comentó que el colectivo debe defender la "agenda

común" en tres niveles: (i) ante las organizaciones internacionales y principales ONG, especialmente en eventos internacionales; (ii) ante las organizaciones de pescadores y de pescadoras, apoyando y reforzando las redes de mujeres, nuevas o ya existentes, reconociendo que las organizaciones femeninas tienen un papel importante que desempeñar en la "humanización" de la pesca, y (iii) a escala local destacando la contribución de la mujer y dándole una mayor visibilidad.

Alain Le Sann observó que el CIAPA se encuentra en una posición privilegiada para animar el debate sobre el futuro de la pesca y reorientarlo hacia la dimensión humana al mismo tiempo que integra la perspectiva medioambiental, a fin de contrarrestar el dominio de los medios de comunicación de las grandes ONG ecologistas. Los pescadores de pequeña escala deben luchar por aplicar al desarrollo un enfoque alternativo. 3

WIF WORKSHOP

Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities

Report

Thirty-nine participants from 18 countries, including women fishworkers, representatives of fishworker organizations and NGOs, activists and researchers, met at Mahabalipuram, India, during 7-10 July 2010, to discuss the theme “Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities”.

The workshop was meant to reflect on what needs to be done to develop a ‘gender agenda’ for sustaining life and livelihoods in fisheries. It was also organized against the backdrop of the growing international recognition of small-scale fisheries and efforts to enhance their contribution to food security and poverty alleviation, as evidenced in the deliberations of the the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This publication—the proceedings of the Mahabalipuram workshop—will be useful for fishworker organizations, gender activists, researchers, policymakers, fish farmers, members of civil society and anyone interested in gender, fisheries and livelihoods.



ICSF is an international NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers the world over. It is in status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is on ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental International Organizations. It also has Liaison Status with FAO. As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, ICSF's activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns and action, as well as communications.