



Background

The *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines) promote governance reform in order to create food security and poverty eradication in



small-scale fishing communities. Their development by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and was endorsed by FAO members in 2014. The capability to implement the SSF Guidelines varies within States and regions, as do national policies and small-scale fisheries governance strategies. Many States have poor awareness and recognition, capacity, co-ordination and institutional structures to effectively implement many of the fundamental values that the SSF Guidelines seek to promote. While many States have begun to develop new and participatory approaches, few translate into policy, and fewer still translate into action in improving local economies while sustaining local habitats.

FAO have therefore partnered with the International Ocean Institute (IOI-SA) to develop and deliver a training course to promote implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Goal of the Training

Recognizing the challenges many countries face, the *Regional Small-scale Fisheries Governance Training* aims to contribute towards creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, through capacitating practitioners to address key small-scale fisheries governance issues using holistic and participatory methods. The course aims to strengthen capacity at national and regional levels, by creating increased awareness, enhance cross-sectoral and regional collaboration, facilitate institutional linkages and the development of good governance frameworks.

Training Outcomes

The outcome of the Training is envisaged as a core of decision makers in the African region who are aware of the complexities of small-scale fisheries governance, and the means and methods to render such governance achievable and effective at regional and national levels in order to create a better enabling environment for the SSF Guidelines to achieve sustainable and positive socio-economic change.

Who is the Course Aimed at?

The course is aimed at mid-level small-scale fisheries practitioners. Invitations to the pilot course will be extended to a number of African countries who are already working with the FAO on implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

When and Where Will the Course Take Place?

The pilot training is scheduled to take place in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2021. If an in-contact training is not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions, it will be conducted via alternative virtual learning solutions. The training will be conducted in English.

Course Structure and Modules

The course is a 5-day training programme that comprises interactive lectures, fieldtrips, exercises and course materials. The following five modules will be covered:

The governance framework: international, regional and national - This module reviews the relevant international, regional and national frameworks concerned with small-scale fisheries governance. It asks, what is the legal status of small-scale fishers, their human rights and tenure rights, and the power dynamics that affect them?

Principles, concepts, tools and instruments for small-scale fisheries governance - This module provides an overview of the approaches to small-scale fisheries governance. It analyses good governance approaches that encompasses equality, respect, human rights, participation, representation, accountability, transparency, local knowledge, and sustainability.

Understanding small-scale fisheries as complex socio-ecological systems - This module addresses the intrinsic connectedness of the natural, social, political, cultural, traditional and institutional nature of small-scale fisheries. Some of the key issues highlighted include gender, markets, conflict, stakeholder engagement, traditional knowledge and systems, and protected areas.

Institutions for governance - This module focuses on institutional mechanisms, their interconnectedness, challenges and ability to address issues of small-scale fisheries governance. It is important in understanding which agencies play a role in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Governance in action and Policy exercise - This module analyses specific case studies of good governance and draws on lessons from different governance models across the world. It will also highlight the importance of policy to implementation to practice through group exercises.



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