



management, the application of environment impact assessment in deep sea fisheries, and the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture.

Since 2019, FAO has provided legal assistance for implementation of the above mentioned Convention and international fisheries instruments to a number of Member Nations, including: Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Grenada, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liberia, Namibia, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago. The legal assistance provided included reviewing and developing national policy and legislation for sustainable fisheries including gaps analysis of legal and institutional frameworks; coordinating and supervising research and providing technical support for the publication of international legal and policy instruments.

Work on the alignment of legislation with international instruments that implement the Convention, in particular the SSF Guidelines, was carried out under the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme. Such alignment as well as implementation of the SSF through legislation was undertaken in collaboration with other partners, programmes and projects including the following:

The Coastal Fisheries Initiative [FAO-GEF CFI] project review of fisheries legislation frameworks in West Africa (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Senegal, Mauritania, Mauritius, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe) (including small-scale fisheries communities). The review will come up with recommendations for modifications to reflect an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and principles of the SSF Guidelines. The project is developing a small-scale fisheries legislative practical guide (SSF Legal Guide) from an EAF perspective including addressing a human rights-based approach, and gender equality. The project is also reviewing existing institutional structures to support amendments necessary for new co-

ascertaining the need to strengthen national legislation, institutional set up, and MCS systems and operations consistent with the provisions of the PSMA and related instruments and tools  
formulating and/or revising relevant fisheries policies, laws and by-laws or regulations;  
strengthening MCS, compliance and enforcement institutions and systems, including through South-South Cooperation and mechanisms for regional harmonization, coordination and cooperation;  
enhancing capacity to improve flag State performance in line with the VGFSP; and,  
as appropriate, implementing market access measures, such as catch documentation and traceability schemes.

This capacity building assistance is also enhanced and supported through workshops. At such <sup>3</sup> « 3 « - - - S @ Y Y S a ° - - @ p Y j ° 3 Y P E « a ° a j ° S ° j ° - rights and obligations as coastal States, flag States, chartering States, port States and market States, as well as rights and obligations under RFMOs. The training covers fundamental provisions of the Convention, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the Compliance Agreement, and the PSMA. Soft law instruments such as the CCRF and the VGSFP were also covered.

FAO continued to provide assistance in 2019 to its Member States in training and capacity building in support of the implementation of the Convention and related fisheries instruments, including: Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Myanmar,

European Union, Iceland, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America.

To date, 42 countries from Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean have received FAO assistance under the Programme. Activities have included:

the formulation of national strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Agreement and complementary international instruments to combat IUU fishing for 33 coastal States;

technical support on domestic policies and legislation to 18 developing States Parties, non-parties and SIDS to ensure alignment with the requirements of the Agreement;

support on operations and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) to 13 developing States Parties, non-parties and SIDS to adopt procedures and systems in line with the Agreement;

legal training on international fisheries law provided to 54 officials from 16 countries, and training on MCS and port inspection procedures provided to 24 officials from 7 countries;

national



Work started in the previous biennium on mapping small-scale fisheries organizations and assessing their needs with a view to provide support by the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme in collaboration with partners. This includes work by the Duke University with support from the Oak Foundation on a small-scale fisheries organizations global inventory.

In the Pacific, two new initiatives have been started that include support to small-scale (coastal) fishers/fish worker organizations. A regional project provides support to seven Pacific Island countries to develop and strengthen their small-scale tuna fisher associations and cooperatives to enable improved engagement in management and decision-making processes related to the resources on which they depend. In addition, aligned to the latter regional project is a project that focuses on assessing, mapping and characterizing associations of fishers and fish workers from around the Pacific Islands. This project seeks to develop a baseline of information to assist national and regional agencies and organization better engage and support small-scale fisher and fish worker associations and cooperatives.

In the Caribbean, the FAO-GEF project REBYC-II LAC and StewardFish are collaborating with Duke University and the University of West Indies to diagnose the functionality of fishing organizations in Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname to understand and reinforce areas of action. This project created and strengthened five local fisher and fishworker organizations and one national organization in Suriname to enhance the capacity of small-scale fishers to participate in the decision-making process. Under StewardFish, capacity building is being carried out to empower fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods, with strengthened institutional support at all levels. Implementation is being guided by the principles of EAF and is seeking to promote leadership and promote the importance of social protection for sustainable livelihoods. Moreover, FAO is providing support to the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) to allow small-scale fisheries actors in the region to better understand the SSF Guidelines and to engage in regional policy processes. In the region, FAO is also providing support to the CNFO and National Fisherfolk Organizations to increase resilience to climate change through the GEF Funded Climate Change of the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH).

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) co-developed by FAO and the IPC Fisheries Working Group was used to train small-scale fisheries organizations and CSOs in Brazil, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. The overall goal of the training is to enable SSF organizations and their constituents to use the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the SSF Guidelines meaningfully and effectively to improve the governance of tenure and ensure sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Global training programmes initiatives including modules on the SSF Guidelines primarily directed to governments with engagement of FAO include:

- Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (Wageningen University and Research – WUR, the Netherlands) on fisheries governance courses;
- TBTI interdisciplinary training course initiative,

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coordination with the Latin American parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger (PFH) and the Panama National Assembly Also, at the VI FOPPAALC, held in Colombia in November, 2019, an agreement was made to foster social protection and occupational safety in labour and fisheries national legal frameworks of member countries.

In 2019, ILO became a formal member of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters. At the fourth session of the JWG, FAO, ILO and IMO Secretariats worked together to increase understanding of the relations between IUU fishing, safety at sea and severe human rights abuses and exploitation in the fisheries and seafood

In 2015, the Dialogue recognized that promoting decent working conditions has become a central issue for sustainable business development in fisheries supply chains. In 2016, the Vigo Dialogue called for the ratification of 2007 ILO Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188), and for more effective and coordinated multi-agency labour inspections on board fishing vessels. It was also discussed the challenges of ensuring responsible sourcing of seafood products. In 2017, the Dialogue focused on the implementation of available recent international fisheries and labour instruments as strategic approaches to combat abuses of human and labour rights in fish value chains. Approximately seventy-five participants took part of the event, presenting current conditions, challenges, perceptions, processes and best practices from the perspective of the seafood industry, civil society

SDG14.4.1 requires countries to report on their national indicator and FAO, as custodian agency for the indicator, to provide a framework for consistent and comparable national reporting as well as to Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) stock status indicator which covers a time series starting in the 1970s and relies on regional estimates. An e-Learning course aimed at providing guidelines to stakeholders for the reporting of SDG14.4.1 has been published. The course addresses various audiences and explains the practical significance of the indicator, reviews the existing assessment methodologies, teaches new methods applicable for situations of limited data, and explains how to calculate the indicator and meet the reporting requirements. The driving principles for the guidelines include transparency, consistency, communication and collaboration with RFBs, timeliness, and adherence to international standards in their data and statistical production. Countries will report through a specific questionnaire. Monitoring will be supported by unique identifiers for stocks through FIRMS/GRSF, which are built upon the standards of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), a statutory body established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. SDG14.4.1 is an opportunity for FAO to improve the granularity of reference stocks upon which the SOFIA regional and global indicator is based.

SDG Target 14.6 calls for an end to IUU fishing, while another calls to eliminate subsidies which contribute to IUU fishing by 2020. To measure the progress of States in this context, an indicator was developed, namely indicator 14.6.1 - international methodology for this indicator was approved in April 2018 by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. It is based upon responses by States to the biennial FAO Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Related Instruments. The indicator is comprised of five variables, each of which has been assigned a weighting depending on its importance in eliminating IUU fishing, while taking into consideration areas of overlap between certain instruments. The five variables are:

- adherence and implementation of UNCLOS (10 percent);
- adherence and implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (10 percent);
- development and implementation of a national plan of action to combat IUU fishing in line with the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (30 percent);
- adherence and implementation of the PSMA (30 percent);
- implementation of flag State responsibilities in the context of the Compliance Agreement and the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (20 percent).

The indicator assesses the level of implementation for each variable with regard to policy, legislation, institutional framework, and operations and procedures. Responses by countries to questions

relevant to each variable within the questionnaire are used to calculate a score for this indicator. These scores are then converted into bands, assigning the States a level of implementation from 1, the lowest level of implementation, to 5, the highest.

According to self-reporting from States on this indicator, countries have made good progress overall in carrying out the recommended measures to combat IUU fishing, with close to 75 percent scoring highly in their degree of implementation of relevant international instruments in 2020 compared to 70 percent in 2018.

FAO, as custodian agency for SDG indicator 14.b.1 (Progress by countries in adopting and implementing a legal/regulatory/policy /institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries) supports countries in working towards achieving SDG 14.b and reporting on its progress. The indicator is a composite indicator and its reporting is based on

Conference Kenya and Portugal in consultation with the General Assembly will decide on possible future dates for the Conference, including timelines for the preparatory process.

A global online series, the Virtual Ocean Dialogues: connecting communities for ocean action, organized by the Friends of Ocean Action, will instead take place on 1-

system relying on vessel identity and relative information. Additionally, the global record would strongly support and enhancing the traceability of fish and fishery products from the sea to the plate through the inclusion of the Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), as the IMO number, in all vessel and fish products related documentation such as in the catch certificates. This would ensure that traceability is not lost at the landing point, but kept throughout the value chain to assert the legality of the product. Consequently, the global record contributes significantly to achieving the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.

Following guidance provided by the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group<sup>5</sup> (GRWG) held annually, FAO launched the first version<sup>6</sup> of the Global Record back in April 2017 and since then 63 countries have uploaded their fleets summing up to over 40% of the global eligible fleet, i.e., vessels with IMO numbers. Some of the latest countries having uploaded information include Panama, Argentina, Republic of Korea, China, and Indonesia. This global information system includes primarily information on vessel identity, characteristics, ownership, and historical data, together







In 2019, FAO in collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) convened four regional workshops around the globe on best practices to prevent and reduce ALDFG. The aim of these workshops was to develop a Best Practices Framework for the Management of Fishing Gears (BPF). Each workshop produced a set of recommendations on actions that need to be taken up in the respective regions<sup>8</sup>.

COFI 33 mandated FAO to develop a comprehensive global strategy to tackle issues relating to ALDFG and to support implementation of the VGMFG involving relevant international bodies and other



resources and

Programme in the South-West Indian Ocean region. Several member countries of the SWIOFC have adopted the EAF as the main guiding principle of their fisheries regulatory system.

The Fishery committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) also work to promote and support countries to implement EAF. They also act as a regional steering committee for the EAF-Nansen Programme.

seabirds, and mammals, as well as the standard EAF-Nansen sampling regional biological and chemical oceanographic data, microplastics and litter etc. were performed.

Since COFI 33, FAO has continued to work to support the achievement of Target 11 in particular. Following the CBD COP 14, FAO and CBD, in close collaboration with the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG), and with support from the Nordic Council of Ministers, organized an expert meeting from 7-10 May 2019 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy to begin the process of supporting the fishery sector to engage in identifying OECMs in support of Aichi Target 11. The purpose of the expert meeting was to compile expert advice on the identification, establishment and implementation of OECMs in the fishery sector. Participants



