



SSF Academy
to support implementing
the SSF Guidelines and SDGs

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Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl

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A bottom-up process

For the better part of three years a bottom-up process supported by the FAO brought together representatives of small-scale fishing (SSF) communities, supportive researchers and civil society organisations from around the world to discuss ways and means to ensure sustainable and prosperous SSF.

In 2014, FAO's Committee of Fisheries (COFI) adopted these “Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication” (SSF Guidelines) after lengthy negotiations.



The SSF Guidelines are based on human rights, including gender equity, and put many demands for policy change to governments. Their voluntary nature allows for flexibility.

2015 adoption of the SDGs

SDG 14.b demands access of SSF to resources,
SDG 14.6 targets end to harmful subsidies by 2020

SDG 1 aims at ending poverty

SDG 2 focuses on ending hunger and ensuring healthy food for all

SDG 4 demands the right to education,

SDG 5 focuses on gender equity and equitability ...

other SDGs

Recognition of the inter-connectedness of the SDG is progress along with some advances in several areas.

The logo for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is displayed in the bottom right corner. It features the words "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The word "GOALS" is significantly larger than the other words. The letter "O" in "GOALS" is replaced by a circular icon composed of 17 colored segments, each representing one of the 17 SDGs. The background of the slide features a faint, light blue world map.

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

Small-scale fisheries

FAO Report State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018:

40.3 million people – about 85% men in the primary (fish production) sector, vast majority SSF.

Unaccounted – no stats available about women in fisheries (pre-, harvesting, postharvest sector – overall perhaps 50:50 according to sample study).

Downward trend – Employment is shrinking in North America and Europe with pro-industrial policies

86% motorised fishing vessels <12m - total 2.8 mio.

Low capital, high labour, selective fishing, climate-friendly, good food, important for food security and nutrition

2022 – International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (Proclamed at the 72nd Session of UNGA)



2017 UN Ocean Conference

For the first time, there was a sustainability goal for the ocean, SDG 14 – under leadership of Fiji and Sweden, the first UN Ocean Conference promoted greater awareness and implementation.

Mundus maris made two commitments in this context

#OceanAction28293 to support implementation of SDG 14 and particularly the SSF Guidelines through a SSF Academy starting in Senegal.

#OceanAction21244 to support ocean literacy and awareness raising with emphasis on World Oceans Day (8 June each year) and youth.



On the road towards ...

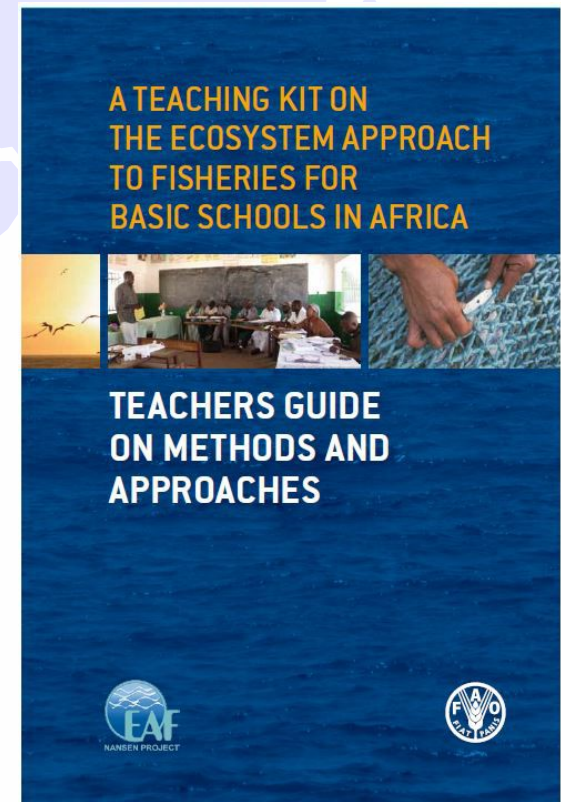
Between 2011 and 2013, together with teachers in Gambia and Senegal we developed a teaching kit on the ecosystem approach to fisheries with and for **FAO-Nansen Project**:



- teachers guide
- pupils workbook
- fish rulers
- other support materials

We supported use in both countries

Conducted educational and cultural work and promoted uptake and use also by making all materials freely available on our website since then.



... launching the SSF academy

Consulting with fishers and fish mongers (men & women) about

- the ecosystem approach to fisheries,
- minimum size at landing to protect the integrity and productivity of resources,
- field work in communities confronting selective impoverishment of women as a result of declining stocks from industrial overfishing and



How can science contribute?

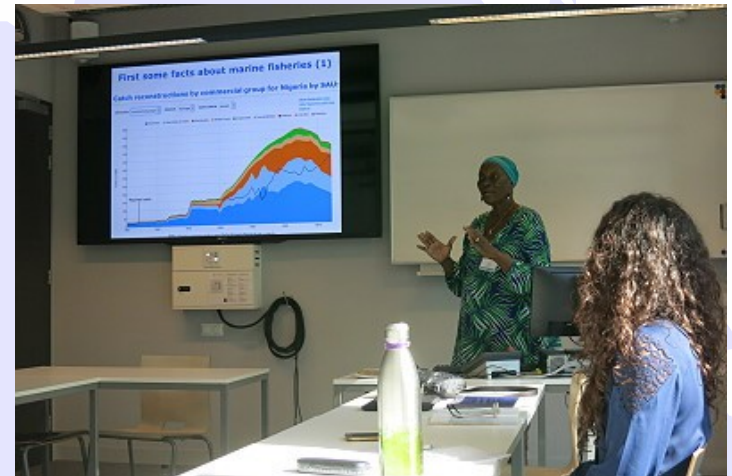
Take stock of available research and try to understand the “bigger picture”;

Contribute to scientific dialogues by reporting on field research results and learn also from other experiences;

Bring back insights to fishing communities in understandable form;

Learn from one another through respectful and attentive listening and sharing knowledge

Help increase productivity through innovation, while keeping everybody focused on conservation and restoration as top priorities for better production and use.



What other means?

We co-sponsored the prize-winning documentary “Poisson d'or, poisson africain” (Golden fish, African fish) by Thomas Grand and Moussa Diop depicting the different professions of the value chain in artisanal fisheries in Casamance, before the establishment of Chinese fishmeal factories destroyed part of this regional economy.

We interviewed leaders in SSF in different countries to share their views and perspectives more widely for better understanding.

Which changes in technologies and social organisation can help adapt to climate change, avoid more deforestation ...?



SSF academy launch in Senegal, 2018



Men, women from all parts of the country, from all parts of the value chains, ages, helped shape the priorities for 2019

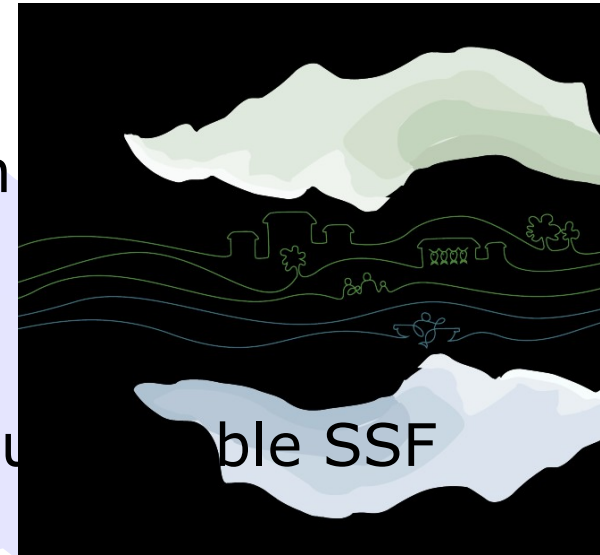
SSF academy key concepts

What?

Identify together with ss fishers
(men and women) their current situation

Where would they like to be? Identify
together strengths and weaknesses, act!

Rebuild resources, improve governance, sustainable SSF



How?

Respond to frequent demand for access to research results
relevant to their livelihoods and recognise local
knowledge – blending science and practice

Use and test co-learning methods accounting for their
living and working conditions (visual, local language,...) -
driving social change for the better

What type of collective action can help empowerment and
propel women and men to achieve their goals and SDG?

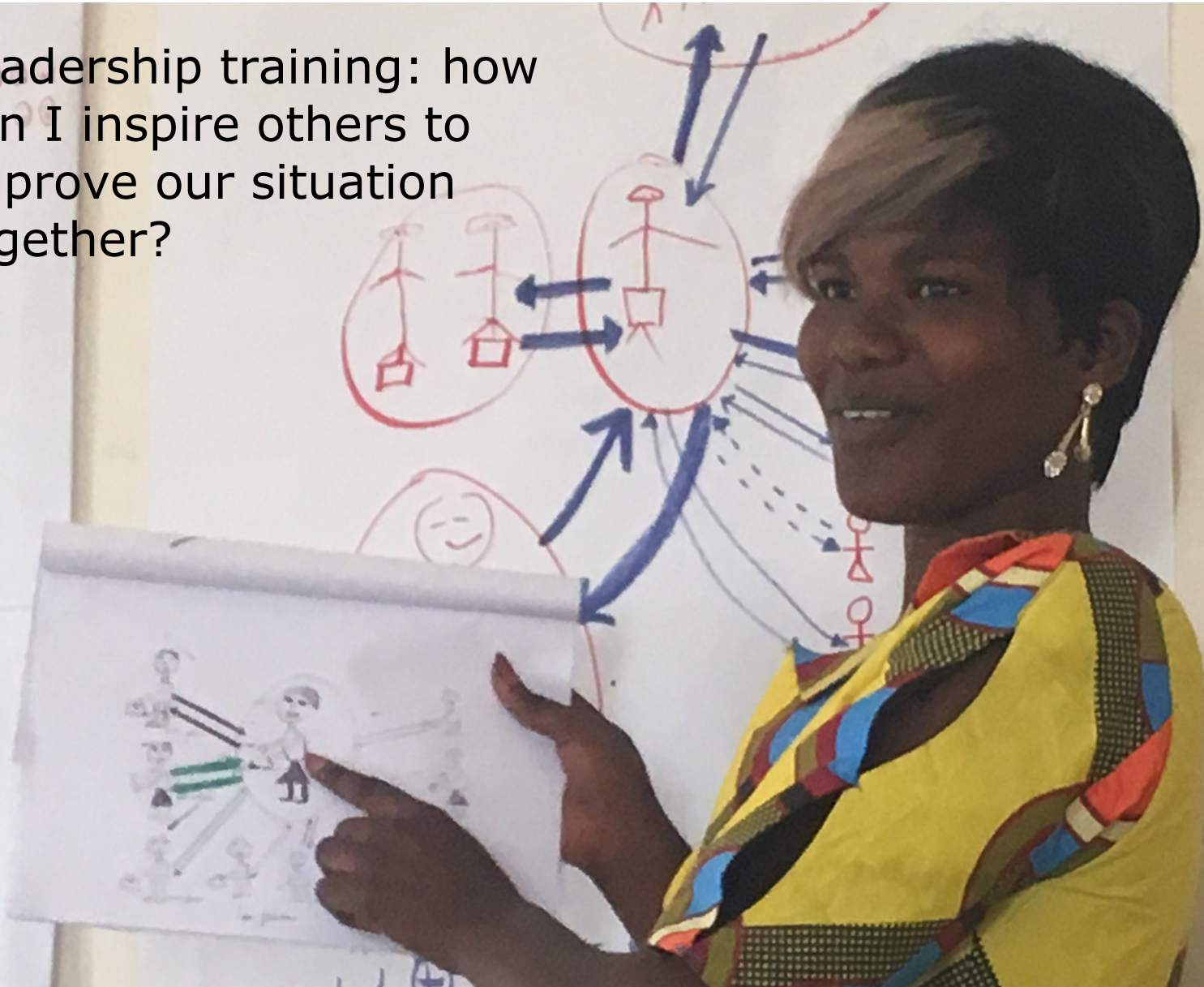
SSF academy how to... (1)

Social empowerment: how to get from where you are to where you want to be



SSF academy how to... (2)

Leadership training: how can I inspire others to improve our situation together?



Framework for success (1)

At policy level push for

Phasing out subsidies to industrial fishing in the WTO to overcome the structural disadvantages (economic, social, environmental), particularly for African countries

Using public resources for promoting healthy marine ecosystems that can generate high levels of nutritious food and welfare, participatory MPAs

Helping to make IUU fishing unprofitable – promote Blue Commons and Blue Justice

Implementing gender equity and equality policies

Education and health care for all

Connect global and local

Framework for success (2)

How to scale for success?

Keep pressure up to reform national and global framework conditions, such as subsidies and unhelpful national laws

Strengthen local capacities to enable seizing any opportunities from such reforms for SSF, innovate

Enlarging the academy to an international platform for expanded mutual learning from a wider pool of experiences

Methods need to be scalable, while remaining with “feet on the ground” for local ownership and benefits

Solutions thru collective action



Framework for success (3)

Develop components of the curriculum

1. Capacity and leadership training for better governance
2. Innovation for improved productivity & participation
3. Improvement and learning for better incomes at individual, family and community levels
4. Support expression and development of maritime cultures
5. Promote emergence of champions of healthy coasts and ocean
6. Diversification of income earning opportunities and civic participation





Thanks!
we seek
cooperation and
funding for
broader
development of
the SSF academy
together with
partners

More info on

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