

# Annual Report

(01 Jan 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)

Submitted by

**Legal Aid to Women Trust**  
Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, India.

Supported by

**SwedBio**  
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

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### List of acronyms used in the report

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
SDF	Sustainable Development Foundation
CAN	Coastal Action Network
TNWFS	Tamil Nadu Women Fish workers Sangam
SSF	Small-Scale Fishers
VGSSF	Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries
NFF	National Fish workers Forum
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher People
IPC	Internal planning committee
ICSF	International Collective for Small scale Fishers
MOEF & CC	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change
FRA	Forest Rights Act
FRC	Forest Rights Committee
TNPCB	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
DoE & CC	Directorate of Environmental & Climate Change
CAA	Coastal Aquaculture Authority
CRZ	Coastal Regulation Zone
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Plans
SC	Supreme Court
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
MFRA	Marine Fisheries Regulation Act
NGT	National Green Tribunal
GOM	Gulf of Mannar

1. **Description**

- 1.1 Name of Coordinator of the grant contract: A Gandimathi
- 1.2 Name and title of the Contact person: A Gandimathi, Director
- 1.3 Name of Beneficiary and affiliated entity in the Action: LegalAid to Women Trust
- 1.4 Title of the Action:** Mainstreaming Gender and SSF perspectives in habitat protection/restoration and governance of ecosystem-based fisheries management
- 1.5 Contract number: +91-9443103273
- 1.6 Start date and end date of the reporting period: 01 Jan 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup>December 2023
- 1.7 Target country(ies) or region(s): India
- 1.8 Final beneficiaries: 1) Marginalized, small-scale fishers (SSF) and rural women 2) Allied communities dependent on fisheries economy 3) Existing SSF Network

Target groups: 1) Marginalized, small-scale fishers and rural women and 2) Local authorities, government agencies, national government officials, and related government organizations 3) non-governmental organizations 4) Academic experts 5) intergovernmental organizations and 6) Existing SSF Network 7) CSOs working on marine and fisheries and 8) Public/journalists

## **An Integrated proposal for Mainstreaming Gender and SSF perspectives in habitat protection/restoration and governance of ecosystem-based fisheries management**

### **Background**

During the July 2019-December 2020, Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand, Law Trust from India and Coast Foundation from Bangladesh have collaborated effort to implement the project on 'Strengthening Evidence-based Advocacy for Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Justice in Small-scale Fisheries and Coastal Aquaculture in South and Southeast Asia in the context of Blue economy'. It was a participatory action research to study the socio economic, political and ecological implications of coastal aquaculture on SSF and women and evolve strategies for protecting the rights of the SSF and women and coastal ecology.

**In India the Study concluded that Industrial Aquaculture should be prohibited and National Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act 2005 should be repealed for the following reasons.**

- It is a glaring reality that the traditional coastal communities including women are excluded and there is Externalities of Ecological Integrity.
- The present authority is functioning as a licensing authority and not prohibiting the violations or functioning of unregistered industries,
- Most importantly there is a legitimate dispossession of rights for the Traditional Coastal communities over coastal and Ocean Commons.
- Fish is considered as a commodity under NAMA and not as a food product.
- CAA is governed by of Ministry of Agriculture, instead of MoEF& CC.
- Withdrawing the deregulation in CRZ, EIA and National Fisheries Policy 2020 & PMMSY, in order to avoid disastrous consequences on the eco-systems and their services, acidification of ocean, Green Gas Emission, Climate change. It is a deliberate attempt to result in not only plants and species but marginalized communities of the coast, river and land eco-systems towards extinction.
- There will be fish in the market but not fishers, Government has invisibilized the identity of indigenous community but promoted fish farmers and fish growers as newly emerging class.

As a response all the 3 Countries under took An Integrated proposal for Mainstreaming Gender and SSF perspectives in habitat protection/restoration and governance of ecosystem-based fisheries management and duration of this project is from July 2021 to December 2024 to undertake interventions at the Local level for sensitizing the Communities, at the National level to Advocate and Lobby for Policy and Legislative changes / measures to mainstream Gender and SSF perspectives in habitat protection and Governance of Ecosystem and at the Regional level (South Asia) to interface with various stakeholders like COFI, WFFP, FAO and SSF Summit for protecting the Customary and Governance rights of the Communities over commons, declaring Marine Traditional Fishers as Sea Tribes and protection of Coastal Ecology as a prerequisite.

### **Contextualizing the political economic status for the second Phase**

The polarization between the political leadership and the civil society organization is more and more sharpened and widened due to the churning of post liberalization policies. The present state has glaringly taken position with the corporate players and market and implication of this is the diminishing role of a welfare state which was guaranteed by the Indian constitution leaving a wide majority of the marginalized communities in dire poverty and pushing the development interventions to the civil society organizations. The draconian laws have resulted in shrinking the public space for raising the voice against human rights violations by the state in the name of development. The right based approach to secure the traditional rights and customary governance rights over commons is taken away by the legitimization of market-based policies and deregulating the progressive laws. This is not a phenomenon to India alone but to all the Nation states across the globe.

Sustainable fishery resource management is a notional term in a country like India as it has entered in to non-reversible trade agreements which is decided and controlled by a distant political-bureaucratic system

rather than the communities who depend on the resources. The land conversion along the coast and resource-based investments inside the ocean has now created a conflict between the communities and the state and its global corporate partners. The Indian constitution through its fifth schedule protects the rights of the indigenous communities and we have Forest Rights act. The gap in this schedule is that it only includes Tribal Territories and excluded Coastal/Ocean Territories and the traditional marine fishers as indigenous Sea-Tribes. This has resulted in exclusion of Coastal Communities in policies and programmes of the state. The victims are small scale fishers and women fish workers.

The effects of climate change, extreme and disastrous events are being experienced by the Coastal communities and due to ecological destruction unexpected, sudden changes in the weather, monsoon, temperature resulting in the making of disaster such as landslides, floods, cyclones, Toronto, heavy rainfall / storms where loss of habitats, resources due to coastal erosion and inundation of sea water. Climate change-induced events are likely to be aggravated in the future, potentially causing more frequent extreme events and affecting the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities, Constant climate-related risks because they live in seafront locations, exposed to extreme events, and their occupation entails risky sea fishing. These effects are worsened by other factors, such as pollution, coastal erosion, and destruction of coastal habitats etc. Such events negatively affect fishers' livelihoods, wellbeing and further aggregate gender discrimination at both sea fishing and household levels. Climate change impact small-scale fisheries and marginalized communities differently especially women. So far, there has not been having specific strategies working with small scale fisher for climate change resilience only support the fishers in terms of immediate survival; they are not enough for long-term resilience. To improve the resilience of the small-scale fishers, It need a call for long-term development goals, including in the immediate relief phase, and rehabilitation, reconstruction, and recovery to reduce vulnerabilities to climate and anthropogenic risks.

Keeping these perspectives in mind, LAW Trust has implemented the following activities. The outcome and results are mapped for each activity for the year 2023 from January to December.

#### **Update on progress**

Ecological resilience and community resilience has political developmental economic and cultural components. Our local regional and national interventions have given us impetus to shape our environmental and developmental interventions.

**SO1 –To promote SSF inclusion and governance in fisheries and habitat Management. addressing conflict issues and develop concrete actions ensuring community resilience towards sustainable fishery, ecological protection and Restoration**

**Outcome 1.1 –Stewardship of Coastal Community in Protection of Coastal Ecosystem**

#### **Activities**

1.1.1 Generation of Data on the terrestrial and coastal eco-system, ongoing and upcoming land conversion projects, and their possible implications on coastal communities and their livelihoods, especially SSF and women fish workers.

The Aquaculture farms registered under CAA was collected and reviewed to understand the level of land conversion for raising shrimp farms both in Thiruvarur and Cuddalore (data enclosed)

#### **Output**

Out of 196 registered farms 92 farms are situated in Killai, Pitchavaram, T.S. Pettai, Kuchipalayam, Nanjai MagathuVazhkkai on the banks of river and near Mangrove region.

In Thiruthuraipoondi taluk of Thiruvarur District 197 farms are functioning from 0.16 Hectare of water spread areas to more than 5 Hectares of WSA. All these lands are wetlands deriving water from riverine systems and Agricultural channels.

In addition to this, un registered farms are functioning in the Mangrove region, banks of the river and in the WSAs of wetlands closer to Reserve Forest area.

## Result

- Inundation of sea water and heavy flooding during monsoon period inside the villages. Salinization of ground water sources and denying access to drinking water.
- Relief and rehabilitation have become a permanent intervention needed for the coastal inhabitants.
- Degradation of Mangrove
- Reduction in fish catch
- Silting of Bar mouth near Thondiyakadu obstructing the influx of fresh water in to the sea from rivers through Lagoon

As part of Documenting the status of different Ecosystems we had an opportunity to review the CZMPs of Cuddalore and Thiruvarur which was published in the website of DoE & CC. Public Hearing were called by TNEB to collect the views of the Stakeholders and Amendments to be made in the draft CZMPs. It was found out that the habitats, landing centres, pathways, coastal commons and common property of Local body were found missing. So, the members of TNWFF and Community Panchayat Leaders and Elected Panchayat Leaders gave submission to address to the grey areas, lapses and gaps in the draft CZMPs. The details are as follows.

### **Petition / Memorandum submitted to concerned Authorities on violations and incomplete zones, missing areas and villages and Coastal commons in Coastal Zone Management Plan of Cuddalore**

S.No	Date	Name of the Village	Name of the Panchayat	Petition Sent
1.	03.08.2023	Thamanampettai	Thiyagavalli, Cuddalore	District Collector, Cuddalore
2.	03.08.2023	Nayakkarpettai	Thiyagavalli, Cuddalore	District Collector, Cuddalore
3.	03.08.2023	Rasapettai	Kudikadu, Cuddalore	District Collector, Cuddalore
4.	04.08.2023	Ayampettai	Kayalpattu, Cuddalore	Dept of Environment and Climate change and District Collector, Cuddalore
5.	05.08.2023	Mudasalodai	Killai, Cuddalore	District Collector, Cuddalore
6.	05.08.2023	Reddiyarpettai	Aandarmullipallam, Cuddalore	District Collector, Cuddalore
7.	05.08.2023	C.Pudupettai	C.Pudupettai, Cuddalore	Dept of Environment and Climate change and District Collector, Cuddalore
8.	05.08.2023	Chinoor North	C.Pudupettai, Cuddalore	Dept of Environment and Climate change and District Collector, Cuddalore
9.	05.08.2023	Indira Nagar	C.Pudupettai, Cuddalore	District Collector, Cuddalore

S. No	Date	Name of the Village	Name of the Panchayat	Petition Sent
1.	04.08.2023	Idumbavanam	Idumbavanam, Thiruvarur	Dept of Environment and Climate change and Member secretary State Coastal Zone Authority, Thiruvarur District
2.	04.08.2023	Jambuvanodai	Jambuvanodai, Thiruvarur	Dept of Environment and Climate change and Member secretary State Coastal Zone Authority, Thiruvarur District
3.	04.08.2023	Thondiyakkadu	Thondiyakkadu, Thiruvarur	Dept of Environment and Climate change and Member secretary State Coastal Zone Authority, Thiruvarur District
4.	04.08.2023	Tamil Nadu Women Fish Workers Sangam	Thillaivilagam, Idumbavanam Panchayat Thiruvarur	Dept of Environment and Climate change and Member secretary State Coastal Zone Authority, Thiruvarur District

## Result:

### National Level

- The National Coastal Zonal Management Authority (NCZMA) had issued a direction in August 2023 that all coastal States/Union Territories, whose CZMPs/ICRZP were yet to be finalized as per 2019 notification, must complete it within October 31, 2023. The tribunal reminded that the CZMPs/ICRZPs have not been formulated by the erring States despite receiving the directive from the NCZMA.
- The Bench, asked the coastal States and Union Territories to file their response within a week before the next hearing of the case scheduled on March 6, 2024. The Ministry should also submit its response by the end of February, 2024 it said.

### State Level

- The green bench comprising judicial member Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana and expert member K Satyagopal said, “TNCZMA has not adverted to the direction issued by this tribunal on February 22, 2021, besides stating that preparation of the latest CZMPs based on 2011 and 2019 CRZ notifications

would be more scientific and technical. TNCZMA should have followed the direction, rather than coming up with some excuses that too only after the applicant filed an application alleging non-compliance. We deplore the attitude of the authorities.”

- NGT has categorically said ‘incorrect or incomplete’ Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) maps can’t be used for conducting public hearings, and sought an affidavit from member secretary of the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (SCZMA).
- “It would not be appropriate to allow the final public hearing if the draft CZMP is not complete in all aspects. We would, however, like to get a fresh report from the member secretary of SCZMA in this regard”.
- The green bench added, “Let the member secretary file an affidavit to the effect that the complaints raised by the applicant (fishermen) are all addressed by the authorities as directed by the Madras High Court in an earlier order and the map uploaded is complete. If the map is incorrect or incomplete, the public hearing would not proceed,” the bench stated and scheduled the next hearing on August 16.
- Although a report was submitted on August 10, it lacked the fishermen’s key complaints of not marking fishing zones in water bodies, breeding and spawning grounds, common properties of the fisher communities, and the detailed plan for long-term housing needs. The government pleader, appearing for SCZMA, also failed to give a concrete answer and sought time to verify the same.
- “This is crucial in preparing CZMP maps, and has been sought only now. But the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority proceeded to upload the incomplete draft maps and have now also scheduled public hearings. The entire process is being reduced to a formality that is mocking the right of people to participate in the process.”
- A senior SCZMA official told TNIE a detailed reply will be submitted as per instructions of the NGT bench. “The fisheries department must validate the components raised by the fishermen and submit them to be incorporated into the CZMPs.”

In the intervention period (Jan to Dec 2023) we had workshops and thematic deliberations on Forest Rights Act 2006 with the Community leaders and members of the TNWFS in both Thiruvavarur and Cuddalore and in Rameshwaram



## 1.3 Activities

1.3.1 Mapping concept and tool was applied to claim Forest rights for the Traditional Fish folk under Forest Rights Act 2006 amended up to 2022 on 20.05.2023 for the elected representatives and members of TNWFS. In this programme the extend of Forest coverage, peoples commons and the Ecosystems (River and Lagoon) were deliberated and it was decided to restore the Forest Rights of the Community under section 3,5 and 7 of Forest Rights Act.

- In Jambuvanodai the right to fishing and in Pettai in addition to fishing, oyster collection was denied because of the extension of forest coverage in the name of conservation and declaration of the Muthupet Lagoon as Ramsar site.
- A District level Consultation with the Community leaders, SSF and members of TNWFS was convened on 08.06.2023 at Chinnoor North and on 18.07.2023 at Indira Nagar to update the members on the ongoing projects and upcoming projects which demand large land conversion or usurpation of coastal land in lieu of habitats, landing sites, net mending centers, dry fishing yards as most of the coastal lands are declared coastal un surveyed lands and there is no permanent title deed for the fishing community and they are given only Assignee Pattas by the District Administration.

Moreover the name of the conservation the Forest Department is extending coverage's without adequate preparatory processes and illegitimate occupation of the commons at the cost of people's eviction and denial of access rights to commons.

- In Chinnoor North, South, Indira Nagar and Chinnoor Pudupet the traditional fishermen used to land their boats on the banks of Vellar river and engage in fishing both in the riverine ecosystem and in BOB up to 12 nautical miles. They used to land their boats, mending their nets in the net mending Centre and dry the fish. All these activities are stopped the name of extension of Forest area to the path way, habitats and their Commons in the riverine and Coastal eco system. The Forest department has also evicted 140 families from Chinnoor North.
- In Rameswaram island seaweed collection is banned in the name of conservation

## Output

Awareness Creation on Blue economic policy, denying access to Coastal and Riverine livelihood sources and other commons to the local Fisher folk who have been enjoying their access for generations together in the name of Conservation, the riverine Ecosystem and Back water Ecosystems are brought into the Reserve Forest area

## Result

- Formation of Forest Rights Committee with 50% representation of Women
- Resolution of the Forest Rights Committee to reclaim the rights taken away from the Forest department
- Submission of Form B along with evidences
- Submission of Form B with resolutions of Forest Rights Committee to district level committee for its endorsement with seal and signature in the Letter head by the office bearers

- This endorsement copy should be submitted to Tahsildar who is in charge of addressing the grievances. For further action



**Resource Mapping Programme at Chinnoor North, Cuddalore on 20.05.2023**



**A District Level Consultation with Community Leaders SSF and members of TNWFS was convened on 08.06.2023 at Chinnoor North, Cuddalore District**



**A District Level Consultation with Community Leaders SSF and members of TNWFS was convened on 18.07.2023 at Indira Nagar, Cuddalore District**



## **Outcomes**

**1.2 Improved efforts for SSF and Gender Mainstreaming in Ecological Governance in Coastal Areas Activities**

**1.2.1 Beach Profile Monitoring to document the Morphological changes of the coast in 2 control points at (a) Rasapettai (b) Pettoda during second day of full moon every month.**

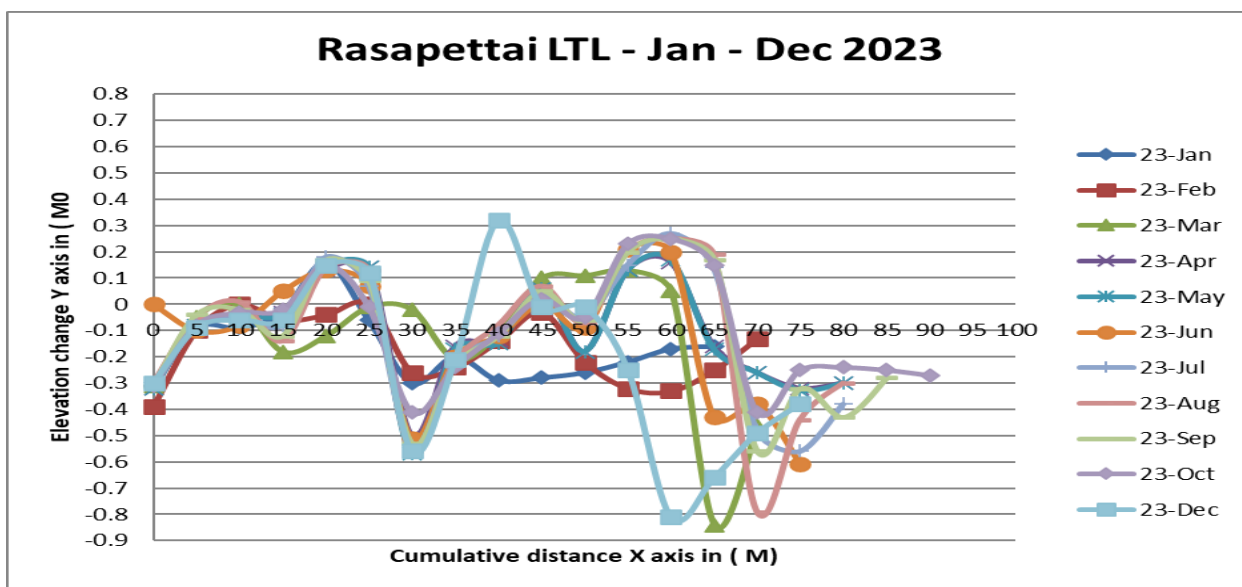
## **Output**

Documentation of extend of Beach erosion or Beach accretion at the control points.

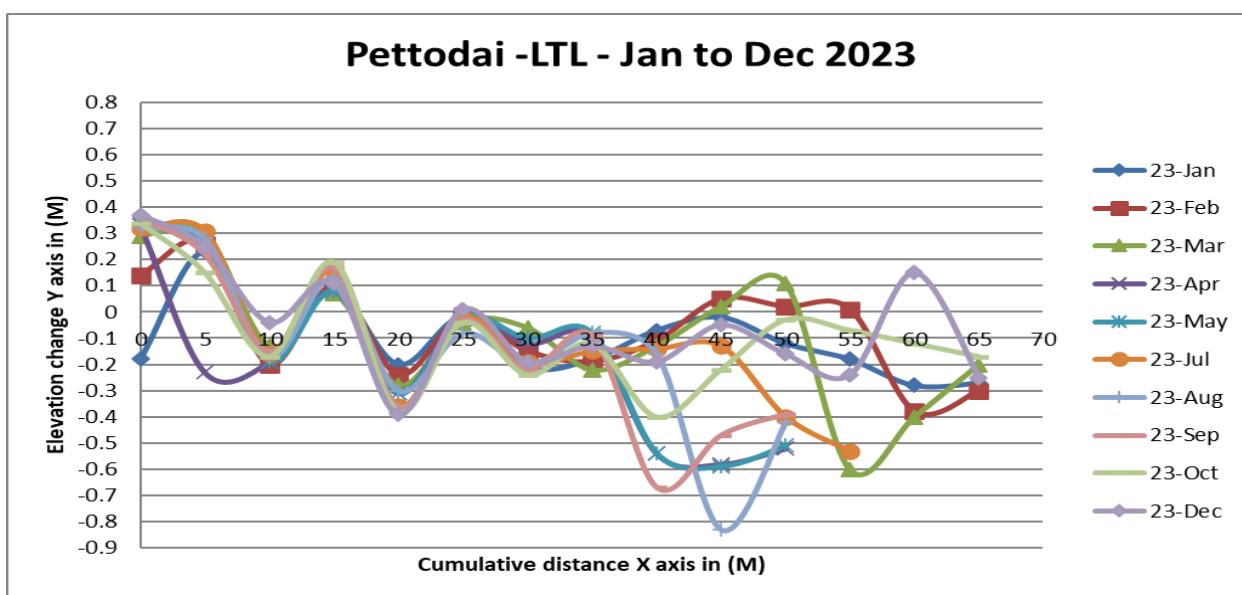
## Result

Accordingly, sea retraction is seen as the sand binding capacity of the Coast is lost due to the construction of sea wall in Pettodai. The foundation of the many houses within the 200 m Zone from the Coast are likely to be washed away during the next heavy Cyclonic floods or heavy monsoon.

In Rasapettai the Beach area is expanded and there are new sand dunes developed between Fore dune and Berm. The effluents discharge from SIPCOT II from Thaikkalthonithurai (nearly 15 industrial units) is polluting the Back water and Uppanar River and needless to say the Marine water is also polluted in Rasapettai. The impact is that there is no source of drinking water as the existing ground water sources are either salinated or contaminated. They are buying water on a daily basis. More over the fish catch is almost nil and there is significant increase in Intra and Inter-state migration.



The lowest water mark seen in January in Berm and highest water mark seen in October in Berm which is influenced by North East Monsoon.



The lowest water mark seen in Berm Face in August and highest water mark seen in Berm March & December due to North East (heavy rain fall) and South West Monsoon. Due to construction of seawall, sea erosion is taking place at a faster rate.

## **Outcome**

### **1.2.2 Improved efforts for SSF and gender mainstreaming in ecological governance in coastal areas**

#### **Activities**

Mapping concept and tool was applied to claim Forest rights for the Traditional Fish folk under Forest Rights Act 2006 amended up to 2022 on 20.05.23 in the Community Hall of Chinnor North Cuddalore district.

#### **Outcomes 1.3**

Bringing Visibility and Inclusion of SSF and Women Fish workers in Policies and Programmes of Fisheries sector at the State Level

#### **Activities**

**1.3.2** Sensitization of target communities on policy and legislative and economic programs for social and economic empowerment of SSF and women through Advocacy and Policy dialogue and legislative measures for promoting customary and governance rights with MPs and leaders of Political parties from Coastal constituencies on 22.12.2023.

A separate programme for Coastal Panchayat Presidents was organized both in Cuddalore and Thiruvarur with CWS funds where members of TNWFS participated and critiqued the failure of Gram Sabha to stop the destructive development projects in their region especially shrimp industries, oil extraction units, sand mining, Hydro Carbon Projects in Thiruvarur and in addition dyeing units and Petro chemical and pharmaceutical companies in SIPCOT region of Cuddalore. This is reported here as Local body is considered the first form of Government / Grass root Government over direct contact with the electorates.

#### **Output**

Awareness on existing gaps in the policies in the programmes and implications of deregulations in CAA, EIA, CRZ, MFA was generated to the members of women's collectives in Cuddalore.

#### **Result**

#### **Election demands**

1. Demanding the scraping of CAA Amendment Act 2023
2. Closure of shrimp industries
3. Delimitation of Coastal Constituencies
4. Declaring Traditional Marine Fishers as Sea- Tribes through Constitutional Amendments as per Mandal Commission's recommendations
5. Access to formal markets
6. Credit support to SSF and Women vendors

State level conferences in Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin and Chennai were convened by State Fish Workers Union and CM, Governor of Tamil Nadu, MPs were the dignitaries attended the conferences and gave assurances to the voices of the people's demand.

# Orientation Workshop on Sectoral Rights at Cuddalore on 22.12.2023



**மினவர்களுக்கான 10 முக்கிய அறிவிப்புகள்**

- 01 மினவர்களுக்கான வீடு கட்டும் திட்டத்தில் 5,035 வீடுகளுக்கு யட்டா வழங்கப்படும்.
- 02 45,000 மினவர்களுக்கு சூட்டுறவு கடன் வழங்கப்படும்.
- 03 மீன்பிடி தடைக்காலத்தில் நிவாரண உதவி ரூ.5,000லிருந்து ரூ.8000ஆக உயர்த்தி வழங்கப்படும்.60 வயதுக்கு மேற்பட்ட 15,000 பேருக்கு மீன்பிடித்தடைக்காலத்தில் நிவாரணத் தொகை வழங்கப்படும்.
- 04 1000 நாட்டுப்புலகு மினவர்களுக்கு 40% மானியத்தில் எந்திரங்கள் வழங்கப்படும்.
- 05 தூத்துக்குடி கன்னியாகுமரி மாவட்ட மினவர்களுக்கு வழங்கப்படும் மானிய மண்ணெண்ணெய் 3,400 லிட்டரிலிருந்து 3,700 லிட்டராக உயர்த்தப்படும்.
- 06 வினையுட்களுக்கு 18,000லிருந்து 19,000 லிட்டராகவும், நாட்டுப்புலகுக்கு 4,400 லிட்டராகவும் மானிய டீசல் வழங்கப்படும்.
- 07 தங்கச்சிமடத்தில் மீன்பிடி துறைமுகம் அமைக்கவும், குந்துகாலில் மீன் இறங்கு தளம்; பாம்பனில் தூண்டில் வளைவு அமைக்கவும் ஆய்வு
- 08 மினவர் விபத்து காப்புறுதி திட்டத்தின் கீழ் 205 குடும்பங்களுக்கு நிவாரணம்
- 09 மினவர்கள் வீட்டு வசதி திட்டத்தின் கீழ் அலகு தொகை ரூ.1,70,000லிருந்து ரூ.2,40,000ஆக உயர்த்தப்படும்.
- 10 கடல் அரிப்பை தடுக்கவும், படகுகள் பாதுகாப்பிற்காகவும், எங்கெங்கு சாததியமோ அங்கெல்லாம் தூண்டில் வளைவு அமைக்க நடவடிக்கை.

- முதலமைச்சர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின்

POLIMER NEWS | 18 AUG 2023



LIVE: மினவர்கள் நலநாடாடு - ராமேஸ்வரம்-நோவை



**SOUTH COAST FISHER PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED**  
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To  
Greetings to Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu  
Dear Sir,  
We are proud to be fishermen of Kanyakumari District Tamil Nadu and India. And the Government of India and proud of their contribution to the micro and macro economy of the district, state and country.  
More than 2.5 crore fishermen of the country depend on fishing and related economic activities. Tamil Nadu is the second largest producer of marine fish in the country. India contributes the most in marine fish exports. India's domestic market for fish trade is also a primary source of employment.  
Kanyakumari district is very unique in terms of culture, education, commerce and fisheries as compared to all other coastal districts of the country.  
Thirty-five percent of the population belong to a community comprising all religions and are fishermen of Kumari district.  
More than 60 per cent of the fishermen involved in fishing in India and many other states in many areas are brought ashore by the fishermen of Kanyakumari district. But as far as central projects are concerned, only limited projects are brought to light. Hence their financial condition is very poor compared to other communities of the district.  
Therefore we give your special and kind attention to solve the long pending issues of the district and focus on the development projects of the district.

37C, Augusto Garden, Kamarajar Salai, Moovender Nagar, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu, India 629004. Tel : 9488007810 • Email : SCFproducercompanylimited@gmail.com • Web : www.scfpcl.com

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A.L. NIRMALA Finance Controller 8675083362  
V. ISAIYANAN Technical Director 9444677490  
H.P. NANCY Technical Director 8940240286  
Dr. A. VIJU Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) 9488880401

1. Fishing Boat Driving License We want to issue driving license for sailing in Indian Ocean and allow all fishing boats irrespective of their length to be registered under Mpeda and state department.
2. We request that all fish export companies, ice plants, fish processing plants and other states relax the CRZ Act without any restrictions and implement it in Tamil Nadu as well (especially the pollution department) as it works with the welfare of fishermen and the economic development of the country.
3. Our South Coast Fisherman Producer Company. A private organization, NABARD, a central government organization of Kanyakumari district, is heavily supported by Naksian, Netlix, MPDEA and state governments.
4. Tenggattam port has led to permanent death toll due to its improper construction. So we want to take action to update after scientific evaluation about serial death.
5. All fishermen associations should be divided on the basis of its strength. We request the Tamil Nadu government to register one association for every 500 members.
6. We want to take steps to treat all coastal villages as panchayats.
7. We request that the norms of one primary health center per 2000 population are not followed in Kumari district and that it be followed.
8. We want to permanently create a situation where the non-caste fishermen community is completely neglected and benefited from the financial assistance of the cooperative banks.

37C, Augusto Garden, Kamarajar Salai, Moovender Nagar, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu, India 629004. Tel : 9488007810 • Email : SCFproducercompanylimited@gmail.com • Web : www.scfpcl.com

**SOUTH COAST FISHER PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN : UO1110TN2021PTC145088

Supported by  
NABARD NETFISH

Dr. P. ANTONY RAJ Managing Director (MD) 9443450801  
MARY J. SEBIMOL Secretary 9489821728  
A.M. ANTO LENIN General Manager (GM) 9994030177  
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9. Tamil Nadu needs 14 districts of Tamil Nadu to have 7 sea ambulances at the rate of one for every two districts for rescue operations in times of danger at sea. Therefore, we request that action be taken to provide rescue boat at the rate of one rescue boat for every two districts.
10. We want our India to provide protective equipment to the fishermen of Tamil Nadu like the native government provides protective equipment to Sri Lankan fishermen.
11. We want to provide old age pension to all fishermen after 60 years.
12. Central Research Institutes to be established in Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu to protect marine species and permanently prevent garbage from reaching the sea. Study the seawater-freshwater catchment areas and guide an intelligent and creative plan for harbor construction. Protect turtle nesting sand dunes. We wish

21-09-2023

With love  
Director  
Dr. AM. Anton Lenin.

37C, Augusto Garden, Kamarajar Salai, Moovender Nagar, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu, India 629004. Tel : 9488007810 • Email : SCFproducercompanylimited@gmail.com • Web : www.scfpcl.com

## Outcome

### 1.4 Facilitating the participation of women fish workers in value and supply chain in restoring the livelihood rights

#### Activities

1.4.1 A meeting for Interfacing and promoting Linkages for Women fish workers and small-scale fishers with the following officials was held on 13.06.2023 at Muthupettai

- Additional Director of fisheries
- Manager Indian Overseas Bank
- Official from fisheries department
- Branch Manager District Industrial centers
- The various schemes and services of the above departments were explained. The credit support for strengthening livelihood options, additional employment avenues and services of welfare Board were deliberated.
- The Women fish workers demanded cold storage facilities.
- An appeal was made to the AD fisheries to support the claim of Right to Fishing

#### Output

- Knowledge creation on services available from sector related departments
- Opportunities for availing credit have been created
- Awareness on Procedures for availing membership in Fisheries Welfare Board, Cooperatives.

#### Result

- The Indian Overseas Bank has promised to support the projects for women's groups
- Access to buy nets, capital investment for fish vendor.
- Fisheries Department has promised to construct dry fishing yard provided they able to identify the availability of land as Coastal Poramboke.

- District Industrial Centre has promised to extend training in value added fisheries products and marketing skills.

### **Interfacing with the Officials at Thiruvarur District on 13.06.2023**



Skill Building Training for the team members and Perspective Building training on Entrepreneurship skills for vendors and ME groups at Field Office, Parangipettai, Cuddalore was facilitated on 19.08.2023 & 02.12.2023 and by the monitoring team along with Mr. Sajo Alois.

These meetings were specifically organized to evolve the possibilities of linking the vendors and members of ME groups the formal financial institutions like Nationalized Banks, District Industrial Centre, Cuddalore to enroll under MSME schemes. The issues and concerns were deliberated.

The state & Central Government do not respond to the resource crunch especially the depletion of Fish resources by catch fisheries and the inability to earn subsistence income. New forms of indebtedness are on the increase. Instead of the traditional money lenders and boat owners there are NGOs and I PAD who are exclusively involved in extending capital support for interest rate ranging from 24 to 36 percent.

The capital support by the State along with adequate infrastructure facilities will strengthen the participation of women in supply and value chain.

Business skills and Marketing skills were shared as inputs. The implications of deregulation of various laws are the main cause for reduction in fish catch as there is no monitoring or surveillance by the TNEB and DoE & CC for discharging the untreated effluents from the industries including shrimp industries into the brackish water bodies, riverine and marine ecosystems.

So, it is an issue to be tackled by networking the other like-minded forums and transcending the other micro level realities into the macro level polity.

### **Output**

- Submission of petition to the DA, TNEB, DoE and CC to restore the Coastal, Marine and Riverine ecosystems and make the producing companies/ manufactures to pay compensation and in restoration of the affected water bodies based on the Supreme Court guidelines of Polluters Pay Principle.
- The members of Women collective would like to promote their own financial institutions.
- Leasing out the formal markets to the women's group will be the demands of the forthcoming election.

- The state should direct the formal banks to extend credit support to the vendors and other fish workers engaged in allied activities.

### **Result**

- The Annappanpettai, Reddiyarpettai were able to mobilize finance through I PAD to the tune of 10 lakhs and shared it with their members on an equitable basis.
- The Vendors and members of SHGs have opted to contribute for a common fund to extend capital support for their Business.

### **National Level**

**Specific Objectives 2: To strengthen Social and Environmental Justice through Advocacy and Policies reforms. Desired Long-term impact – Towards Social, Gender and Environmental Justice through Coastal and community resilience**

### **Outcome**

2.1 Communities resilience to cope up with vulnerabilities during disaster.

### **Activities**

2.1.2 Perspectives Building program on Community resilience ecological integrity and habitat protection

### **Output**

It was postponed to 9th and 10th January 2024

### **Regional**

**2.4 Networks at Regional and National level to strengthen SSF movement through an exchange and /or online learning.**

### **Activities**

2.4.1 Networking National SSF/women movement to play an active role at the regional movement with special attention increasing visibility and participation of women fishers

Regional webinar on Understanding Gender Issues in the Small-Scale Fisheries Sector was held on 18.12.2023 via Zoom and coordinated by Coast Foundation.

### **Participants**

Tamil Nadu Women Fish workers Sangam from Cuddalore and Thiruvarur district, India, Fisherwomen Groups in Bhola and Cox Bazar District, Bangladesh, Fisherwomen Association members in Trat (Thailand), Fisherwomen unions in Mannar, Sri Lanka, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and Sanat Kumar Bhowmik from Coast Foundation ( Bangladesh), RavadeePrasertcharoensuk and VaruntonKwawtankam from Sustainable Development Foundation Thailand, A.Gandimathi from Legal Aid to Women Trust (India), Herman Kumara and Subha from National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (Srilanka), Susan from Kiara (Indonesia), Sheikh Asad from Udhayan( Bangladesh ). (Report and Concept enclosed)

### **Output**

Identification of the major commonalities and an inclusive understanding of gender dynamics within this part in Bangladesh, India, and Thailand.

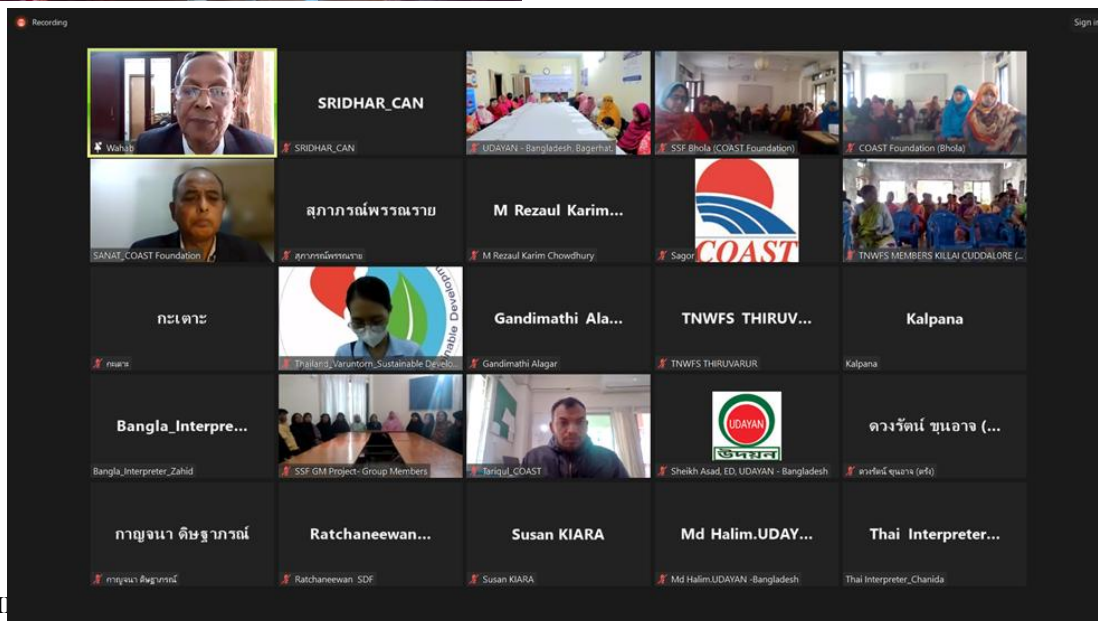
Major challenges and opportunities faced by women, were deliberated. Several forward-looking strategies and policy advocacy that promote gender equality, social inclusivity and sustainable development were proposed.

### Result

Major commonalities in gender issues within the SSF sector of Bangladesh, India, and Thailand. The proposed recommendations aim to address these challenges and pave the way for more inclusive and sustainable development, emphasizing the importance of gender-sensitive policies, awareness campaigns, and collaborative efforts among government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.

This regional dialogue contributed valuable insights, gender equality and social inclusivity in the small-scale fisheries sector across the three countries.

### Regional Webinar Understanding Gender Issues in the Small-Scale Fisheries Sector: A Comparative Analysis of Bangladesh, India and Thailand via Zoom on 18.12.2023



## Activities

### 2.4.4 Observing World Fisheries day on 28th November in Thiruvarur and on 10.12.2023 in Cuddalore.

The members of TNWFS and SSF stood with the traditional fishers in re-assertion of their history and celebrate this Nov 21st together with the ocean people of the world!

TNWFS convened a Consultation where they spoke about the implications of deregulation of Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, CRZ Notification 2019, EIA 2020, Marine Fishers Act 2023 in legitimizing the dispossession of resources, habitats. Land grabbing along the Coast and in Ocean in the name of development for promoting Industrial and Infrastructure projects, shifting from capture fisheries to culture fisheries and sanitizing the elimination of SSF and Women from supply and value chain through Neelkranti and SAGARMALA programs. The important reflection was on the Governments conscious act of leaving the Coastal habitats, commons, path ways in the Coastal Zone Management Maps in 2023 under CRZ 2019 and invisibilization of the indigenous and resource dependent communities.

They also made a pledge to restore the rights of the Fishing community guaranteed under Sec (3,5 & 7 of Forest Rights Act)

In Thiruvarur the members of TNWFS hold a Human Chain and issue the pamphlets on the importance of Global Fishers Movement and their demands to State and Central Government. During the human chain the participants hold posters with demands to inform the issues of Fishing community in the public domain. This meeting was inaugurated by the Union Secretary of AITUC and President of Thiruvarur Fish workers union.

## Output

Awareness creation on the Socio- Economic and Political situation of SSF and Women Fish workers in the context of Blue Economy under the banner of development for growth

## Result

- Formation of FRA Committee and Gram Sabha under FRA act
- Demanding the Closure of Shrimp industries during the forthcoming Parliamentary election in May 2024.
- Inclusion of traditional, marine and fishing community as Sea tribes through Constitutional Amendment.
- Reservation for fishing communities in employment education
- Delimitations of Coastal Constituencies.

### World Fisheries Day Celebration Human Chain at Muthupettai, Thiruvarur on 28.11.2023



## World Fisheries Day and Human Rights Celebration at Cuddalore on 10.12.2023



### **2.5 Knowledge creation on Customary and Governance rights of resource dependent communities especially SSF and women related National and International related policies and legal instruments**

#### **Activities**

2.5.2 Strengthening the existing knowledge on conservation and resource management of coastal and ocean resources as empirical evidence on local initiatives toward sustainable fishery and coastal resource management.

#### **Output**

Collection of Empirical evidences for Dispossession and Displacement of Capture fishers, Degradation of Ecosystems, Disappearance of Commons

#### **Result**

Traditional knowledge of the fishing communities was revisited and contrasted with the false understanding that is shaping government policy and practice. These gaps in knowledge are leading to several anti-people and anti-ecology measures in the name of conservation, as we have discussed in Gulf of Mannar region of Ramanathapuram district, Pichavaram mangrove belt in Cuddalore and Muthupet lagoon. Unscientific practices in implementing development projects have also been documented.

Photo / video documentation on Cage fishing in Ramnad, and FGDs were carried out Keezhakkarai, Bharathi Nagar in Ramnad. Sea weed collection in and around Gulf of Mannar.

Photo / video documentation Traditional fishing methods (Traditional gears and crafts) in Pettai, Koraiyaru and Lagoon area (hand picking, fishing in Lagoon)

Photo / video documentation on Traditional Fishing methods in MGR Nagar and Kuchipalayam.

## Findings from FGDS

Small scale cage fishing is a traditional Fishing method which helps in conservation of Fisheries. In cages the size of the hole will be bigger. Each cage will be filled with the prawn waste from Shrimp farms and kept near coral reefs.

The Small fish will eat the prawn waste and escape from the cage. Whereas the larger size fishes will be retained in the cage. In this way the conservation of fingerlings and other smaller varieties will be ensured.

Sea weeds are extensively grown from Keezhakkarai to Dhanushkodi. Women are using fiber boats with outboard engine with less horse power and they collect different varieties of sea weeds ranging from Ornamental, edible and medicinal value.

While collecting sea weeds, women are not removing the entire plant. They leave the roots and use their hands to pinch the plant and collect them in bunches.

So, this method is followed as a conservation measure. Moreover, they do not engage in collection during the months of April, May and June. Only for 20 days in a month they collect sea weeds as part of the Conservation measures.

The members of BC communities in Kuchipalayam and scheduled tribes of MGR Nagar are the latest entrants in Lagoon and Back water fishing. They engage in hand picking of prawns without any tools. They nearly spent 7 hours by immersing themselves in water up to neck point and collecting prawns using their hands. Sometimes they will be hurt by the attack of cat fish

## Strengthening the existing knowledge on conservation and resource management of coastal and ocean resources at Ramnad, Cuddalore and Thiruvarur Districts Non- Budgeted Activities



### Updation of Track record

- The field team regularly collects data on the status of Socio- economic profile of members of Women collective and update the track record for every three months. The format of the track record is enclosed. The analysis of the track record will give us the incidence of Child labour, Child marriage, Drop outs, changes in income, debt, benefits availed from the Welfare Board.

### **Participation in Gramsabha of Local Body Institution**

- The Thiruvarur team participated in the Gram sabha meetings held on 26th January and 1st May in four Coastal Panchayats namely Edumbavanam, Thillaiwilagam, Jambuvanodai and Thondiyakadu. The role of Law trust is to facilitate the participants of Gram sabha passed resolutions against Shrimp industries, Sand mining. We will also try to center stage the practical gender needs and strategic gender interest of Women members. It is quite disturbing phenomena that the elected representatives do not have Coastal perspectives and not aware of the issues and concerns of Fishing communities.

### **State Committee Meeting of Tamil Nadu Women Fish workers Sangam**

- This meeting was held on 20.06.2023 at VPN, Nagapattinam where the members of Working Committee from nine Coastal Districts participated. The salient features of Labour code and the ongoing de-regulations of policies and Legislations (CRZ, IMF, NFP) were deliberated. The Right to Commons under Forest Rights Act as entitlements was discussed. It was decided to initiate / promote Chapters/ Branches of TNWFS based on the size of the population/ No. of Families. Replacement of Working Committee Members and announcement of new office bearers, submission Audit Report were the other Agendas deliberated during this meeting.

### **State Committee Meeting TNWFS at VPN Hotel, Nagapattinam on 20.06.2023**



### **World Social Forum**

- Legal Aid to Women Trust is part of Tamil Nadu chapter of Indian Social Forum
- The WSF provides a general platform for like-minded social movements to strengthen their commitment, agenda, and solidarity action, while challenging the global domination of the ideology represented by the World Economic Forum that is held every year in Davos. The common view of constituencies is that “Another World is Possible.” It is known that the people in most parts of Asia are dealing with authoritarianism, war and conflict, deep inequalities, destruction of the environment, decent habitat and livelihood and a shocking lack of social security. There are increasing restraints on the right to speak and organize.
- While most of these issues must be battled locally and nationally, the advantage of having a global outreach where experiences, strategies, information and solutions can be exchanged is critical in what is a very globalized world. Such opportunities exist in our region only at sectoral and inter-governmental level. It is very useful to have a space like the Forum where various

people's movements, networks can meet and interact without the pressure of having to agree on the details of their politics, strategy, tactics and ideology. All that is needed is a broad commitment to a sustainable, just and equitable world, free from war, casteism, racism, religious sectarianism and patriarchy.

- In the light of the above, a physical meeting of Asia Pacific Social Forum Facilitation Group from 6th to 8th June 2023 met in Bangkok, which included participants of different networks, movements with a commitment to a just, sustainable and equitable world, free from war, casteism, racism, and patriarchy.
- 24th June 2023
- Working Group of World Social Forum – India Process had its face-to-face meeting for the first time for two days in Delhi on 24th and 25th June 2023 at Office of All India Union of Forest Workers and People at 6, Tootsarai, Ground Floor, Maliviya Nagar in New Delhi.

Tamil Nadu chapter

- This meeting was convened on 16th may at ICSA, Chennai and it was facilitated by Ms. Sheelu, President, Women's Collective. In this meeting it was decided to hold District level meetings. In this context Law Trust took initiatives to hold meeting for Thiruvarur on 16th June 2023. In this meeting the following focal points were finalized.
- Violence against Women (Declining child sex ratio through the elimination of female infants and Foeticide)
- Impact of Climate Crisis on water resources and food security
- Centralization of powers and increasing violation of Human Rights by the State.
- Impediments in New Education Policy and denial of Right to higher Education for Children from marginalized Communities.
- Appropriation of Natural resources/ commons for the accumulation of profit for the Corporates.
- Nearly 25 participants from various layers of civic society participated in this meeting.

### **World Social Forum Meeting at Thiruvarur on 16.06.2023**



## World Social Forum Meeting at ICSSA, Chennai on 16.05.2023



### Inter-Agency Group – Planning meeting at MSSS, Chennai on 28th June 2023

Inter-Agency Group is a State Level Forum created after the RANOV Cyclone in 2015 as a knowledge sharing platform and promoting strategic actions towards Relief and Rescue operations, Rehabilitation measures of Coastal Districts in Tamil Nadu during Disaster. So as part of its ongoing engagements, IAG convened a planning meeting for evolving pro- Active measures during Disaster and mobilizing support and Strengthening communication networks on 28th June 2023. As a member of this Board Law trust participated in this meeting.

### Annual Review Process on 19.01.2024

#### 1. Problems, Obstacles and risks

- At national level, Deregulation of laws and legal mechanisms in favour of corporates, in order to implement developmental and infrastructural projects. These include amendments to CRZ, EIA, CZMP etc.
- The Amendments in Coastal Aqua culture Authority Act have legalized the functioning of legal farms in ecologically sensitive areas.
- The Public sector like LIC is being deregulated and the investments are made the promotion of corporate.
- Without any information, the central Government is issuing e-shram card with unique ID number which is an indicator for dismantling of State welfare Boards. New Labour law for 12 hours for 5 days was introduced by Tamil Nadu Government and was withdrawn after wider protest by the Labour Class in a united way.
- Demonetization continues and very recently Rs. 2000/- was declared invalid.
- CBOs and CSOs are restricted by the State even to work within the legalistic framework.
- Policy influenced by corporates, resulting in dilution on progressive laws on ecology, livelihood.
- Coastal communities, especially women fishers are living in dire poverty and beset with daily economic crisis. Mobilization for larger right based struggles increasingly difficult.

- The need for public debate on Role of Judiciary (International Court of Justice) in ensuring gender and Ecological Justice.
- Centralization of powers by union government and basic norms of federal/provincial/state governance is at stake.
- Religious and cultural norms against women mobility.
- Internal: In spite of our strong passion for our collective vision, we have to work with limited human and material resources.
- Swed Bio can organize an Online Forum to see guidelines for adopting international conventions to challenge the ongoing violations on coastal communities and coastal Ecology by deregulation of existing environmental and sectoral legislations and policies at least at the South Asia level.

### **Challenges:**

- There is still a lack of consensus among the wider fisheries movements about fundamental question of who the primary stakeholders are. Whether it should address only the fishing community or the other coastal communities too. There are related challenges for defining SSF and Traditional fishers in India's and Tamil Nadu's context with several debates about whether to consider it as an occupational category, or an indigenous category.
- Evolving Strategies to restore riverine and mangrove Ecosystems in Thiruvavur.
- Undertaking Legal intervention, to stop industrial shrimp farms.

What result or change are you most proud of, that took place due to the support from Swed Bio?

- Through Court order the NIOT is redirected to redo the CZMP Maps with participation of fishing communities and to be coordinated by District Administration and Fisheries Department as per the guidelines issued under the 2011 Notification.
- Declaration Board under FRA 2006 in Pettai and reclaimed the access to navigate in Koraiyar River and pathways for Oyster collection.
- Unique ID card for Women Seaweed collectors of Rameshwaram Island in Ramnad District (Members of Tamil Nadu Women Fish Workers Sangam).
- Both the leadership of Ruling Party (CM) and representation of high-level Authority of Opposition Party (Governor of TN from BJP) in the State conferences hosted by fishing leaders (Members of Coastal Action Network).

Do you feel that you are taking desired steps towards the overall vision of your organization? (What is enabling you or blocking you?)

- Advocacy, Campaign in the public domain is branded as Antinational activities.
- Deregulation of progressive legislations and policies for accumulation of capital for market players and global corporate.
- Global governance through WTO agreements – European and Asian agreements

### **Opportunities and Options**

- Both in Killai region, Pitchavaram, T.S. Pettai of Parangipettai, Cuddalore and Thillaiwilagam Panchayat of Thiruvavur District have approached the District Court/ High Court since the verdict by SC in 1996 for the implementation and closure of intensive shrimp farms as they were suffering from acute water shortage, drop in fish catch and reduction / failure in crop yield in agrarian areas. The deregulation of CAA and Amendments in CRZ Notification have denied Justice to these people.
- The newly emerging identity of fish farmers being recognized by policies and programmes is set against traditional catch fishers by the State and failure to recognize the contribution of SSF and negation of this community legally is the on doing challenge.
- Strategy: Both the communities need to be aligned as they will face the brunt of the Blue Economy as the present Aquaculture practices have already impacted the Ecosystems resulting in sea water

rise, salinization of land and water and eviction from dwelling units as they are permitted to be converted as hatcheries, feed industries.

- The irony is that most of the coastal lands are listed as un surveyed coastal porambokes and are leased out by the Government for the investors in Marine, riverine and brackish water.

**Have you found any opportunities to increase gender equality, HRBA and Conflict sensitivity? Can SwedBio support you in achieving this?**

- Implementation of FRA 2006 with Amendment up to 2022 in both Cuddalore and Thiruvarur will strengthen the women seafarers, seaweed collectors, women fish vendors to secure sustenance to livelihood and continue to participate in supply and value chain.
- Interfacing with Forest Officials and District Administration by Community Leaders in Thiruvarur District will be the next move to improve the functioning of riverine ecosystems (desilting).

**Have you identified any areas where you see a need to engage different actors? Can SwedBio support you in strengthening knowledge collaboration processes?**

- Cumulative impact assessment of shrimp industries needs to be carried out in collaboration with Research Institutes to understand the link between business decisions and natural properties of production.

**Are you aiming towards both social results and ecological results (e.g. biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing)? Why/why not? How are those connected?**

- Yes, Restoration and Promotion of Ecosystem is a prerequisite for life and livelihood of resource dependent communities.

**Cross Cutting Regional Work**

- Common advocacy and recognition of role and customary rights of women in fisheries, through Gender in Fisheries Week in November.
- Online webinar series, with sharing and learnings from women fish workers in Bangladesh, India, Thailand
- Preparatory work includes series of online learnings and capacity building for partners on the critical issues and concerns with international frameworks like ILO, UNTRIP, UNDRP, CBD, UNCLOS and others wrt capture fisheries - from June onwards. The political position on Customary and Governance rights for Traditional Marine Fishers (Sea tribes-indigenous convention need to be defined)
- Each partner to provide country specific inputs on Gender in Fisheries, to evolve Regional Concept Note.

**Common Learnings (Regional)**

- Present policies for development are exclusively for economic development, with exploitation of natural and coastal resources. Eviction of SSF from catch fisheries and women vendors from value and supply chain.(Neel Kranti, PMMSY India)
- Nations do not have any independence for policy making. Instead, it is a rule by global governance
- Customary rights not recognized.
- Definition of traditional fisheries coastal community
- Who constitutes SSF, define customary rights, access to contiguous zone (UNCLOS)
- Gender mainstreaming in customary rights is not classified enough in the project (Thailand).
- The implications of climate change on catch fisheries and livelihoods of SSF, women and Ecology.

## **Lesson learned from implementation of the project and recommendation**

- The most glaring realization is the massive extent of forest department-controlled land on the coast, on which traditional fishing and coastal communities depend for both habitation as well as livelihood and cultural needs. These communities are facing restrictions in even accessing these resources in all the three districts of our study – Cuddalore, Thiruvarur and Ramanathapuram districts. Indeed, this is the larger story of denial of access rights to resource to traditional resource dependent communities by the forest department.
- The critical learning is the total and absolute non-implementation of Forest Rights Act,2006 in any of the coastal areas in Tamil Nadu. Thus, despite a very favorable legislation which provides for both collective rights over resources, as well as recognizes customary governance rights of the communities over their resources, the law is not at all implemented even an inch, not in letter nor in spirit. This has given us a new scope of work, and complements our existing plans for advocacy towards a Coastal and Marine Rights Bill.
- The extensive bureaucratic-raj in Tamil Nadu, and continuous amendments to Panchayat Raj framework through Government Orders and such subordinate legislations have led to severe dilutions to Constitutionally mandated people's local government institutions. We are fully demanding a constitutional amendment towards delimitation of coastal panchayats instead of G.Os and devolution of powers and funds to the Local Government by bringing amendments in Tamil Nadu Panchayat raj Act 1994 Amended up to 2020.
- In recognition of the ancient history, uniqueness of cultural practices and customary dependency on coastal and marine resources, we are now pressing that traditional fishing communities be declared as Sea Tribes, and be included in Scheduled Tribe lists through constitutional amendment.
- The government's promotion of industrial aquaculture includes as its main component the new lease policy - leasing out of all inland water bodies for fish farming and not available for other common uses. This is being promoted with support of World Bank under FIMSUL project. This is enabling land grabbing and food crop like Paddy being replaced by cash crop like fish. This carries an immense danger of putting our food security at stake.

**Issued Identity Cards for Women Seaweed Collectors(Members of RFTU and TNWFS) in Rameshwaram by MP. Ms. Kanimozhi**



**Collective meeting at Sothikuppam on 10.02.2023 and Thamanampettaion 10.06.2023**



**FRA Declaration Board on 22.08.2023 at Pettai, Thiruvaurur**



**List all materials produced during the project.**

Material produced	Distributed to	Name, picture or link to the material
Booklets / Resource Kits	Resource kits on the theme of the workshop/ programme was given to the participants	
Short clips	Short clips on the issues by you tube	<a href="https://youtu.be/k0uT4xMBp-M?feature=shared">https://youtu.be/k0uT4xMBp-M?feature=shared</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/Lo9uuXb9Fbs?feature=shared">https://youtu.be/Lo9uuXb9Fbs?feature=shared</a>
Photos from programmes	Attached	

## உலக மீனவர் தினம் மீனவரின் வாழ்வுரிமையும் வாழ்வாதார உரிமையும் மனித உரிமையே

ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் நவம்பர் 21-ம் தேதி உலக மீன் வள தினமாகவும் உலக மீனவர் இயக்கம் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட தினமாகவும் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது. இந்த வருடம் உலக மீனவர் இயக்கத்தின் 25-வது ஆண்டு துவக்கவிழா கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது. இந்தியாவின் பல்வேறு பகுதிகளில் நிலப்பொருளாதாரத்தின் கீழ் இறால் தொழிற்சாலைகள், நீல் கிராந்தி, வணிக துறைமுகங்கள், சுற்றுலா தொழிற்சாலைகள் எனக் கடலிலும் கடற்கரையிலும் நிறுவப்பட்டு, இந்த கடல் மற்றும் கடற்கரை வளங்களை நம்பி வாழும் இதர கடலோர சமூகங்களின் குடியிருப்பு உரிமை, வாழ்வுரிமை மற்றும் வாழ்வாதார உரிமை ஆகியவற்றை இழந்து சொந்த மண்ணிலே அந்நியப்படுத்தப்பட்டு புலம்பெயர்ந்தும், பிழைப்பதற்காக வேறு தொழிலை தேடிச்செல்லும் அவலநிலைக்கு தள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளனர். எனவே இன்றைய தினத்தை உலகெங்கிலும் உள்ள சமுத்திரத்தைச் சார்ந்து வாழும் மீனவச் சொந்தங்களோடு வரலாற்று ரீதியாக நாம் அனுபவித்து வந்த வளங்கள் மீதான பாரம்பரிய உரிமையும், குடியிருப்பு உரிமையும் மீட்டெடுக்கும் நாளாக இன்றைய நாளில் இங்கு நாம் ஒன்று கூடியிருக்கின்றோம்.

இந்த தினத்திலே நாம் உலகெங்கிலும் உள்ள கடல் சொந்தங்களுக்கு சமுத்திரத்தை சார்ந்துள்ள சமூகங்களுக்கு கடலும், கடல் வளமும் கடலாளிக்கே, முதல் உரிமை என்று உரத்த குரலில் பதிவு செய்வோம். நமக்கு எதிரான அழிவுகரமானத்திட்டங்களை திரும்பப்பெருமாறும் புதிய திட்டங்கள் மீது தடை விதிக்கப்பட வேண்டும் என்றும் நாம் அரசை வழியுறுத்துவோம். இந்த வருடம் மிக முக்கியமாக ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் சபை நவம்பர் 22 தினத்தை உலக மீன் வளம் மற்றும் நீரியல் உற்பத்தி தினமாக அனுசரித்து உள்ளது. இதை எதிர்த்து செயற்கையான நீரியல் உற்பத்தி தொழிற்சாலைகளை நாம் ஒரு போதும் அனுமதியோம் என்பதை அறிவுறுத்துகின்றோம்.

மிக முக்கியமாக வனப்பாதுகாப்புச் சட்டத்தில் காடுகளில் வாழும் மலைவாழ் மக்களுக்கு சட்டம் வாயிலாக பாதுகாப்பும், உரிமையும் அளிக்கப்பட்டதுபோல் கடலோர பாரம்பரிய மீனவர்களுக்கும், மீன்பிடி தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் கடல் வளங்கல் மீது உரிமையும், குடியிருப்பு மற்றும் வாழ்வுரிமை பாதுகாப்பிற்கான சட்ட உரிமையும் ஏற்படுத்தப்படவேண்டும். மீனவர்களுக்கான பிரதிநிதிகள் ஊராட்சி அரசாங்கம், சட்டமன்றம் மற்றும் நாடாளுமன்றத்தில் இடம்பெறும் வகையில் அவர்களுக்கான தனித் தொகுதி அறிவிக்கப்பட வேண்டும் அல்லது அவர்களுக்கான எல்லைகள் மாற்றியமைக்கப்பட வேண்டும்

**மாநில மற்றும் ஒன்றிய அரசுகளுக்கு கீழ்க்கண்ட கோரிக்கைகளை  
முன் வைக்கின்றோம்.**

**மாநில அரசு :**

1. தமிழக மீன்பிடி ஒழுங்குமுறைச் சட்டம் 2020 ரத்து செய்யப்பட்டு மீனவர்களின் தேவைகளை உணர்ந்து அவர்களின் பங்கேற்போடு புதிய சட்டம் இயற்றப்பட வேண்டும்.
2. மீன்வளத்துறையானது மாநில அரசியல் பட்டியலில் உள்ளதால் பாரம்பரிய மீனவர்களின் வாழ்வு, குடியிருப்பு மற்றும் வாழ்வுரிமை பாதுகாப்புச்சட்டம் இயற்றப்பட வேண்டும்.
3. வேளாண் பாதுகாப்பு மண்டலம் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டதுபோல் கடற்கரை பாதுகாப்பு மண்டலங்கள் அறிவிக்கப்பட வேண்டும். தொழிற்சாலைக்கு நிலங்கள் கையகப்படுத்துவதற்காக கடற்கரை பஞ்சாயத்துகள், நகராட்சிகளாகவும் மாற்றப்படுவது நிறுத்தப்பட வேண்டும்.
4. மீனவர்கள் மற்றும் விவசாயிகளின் வாழ்வுரிமைக்கு எதிரான தொழிற்சாலைகள் குறிப்பாக இறால் தொழிற்சாலைகள் ரத்து செய்யப்பட வேண்டும்.
5. மீனவ நலவாரியம் முறைப்படுத்தப்பட்டு நிதி மற்றும் மனித வளம் இரண்டும் பூர்த்திசெய்யப்பட்டு மீனவர்களின் பிரதிநிதித்துவத்தோடு செயல்பட வேண்டும்.
6. மீனவர்களின் குடியிருப்புகளுக்கு நிரந்தர பட்டா வழங்கப்பட வேண்டும்.

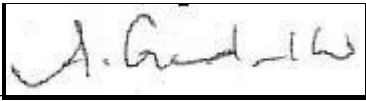
**ஒன்றிய அரசு :**

1. மத்திய அரசின் சுற்றுச்சூழல் வனம் மற்றும் பருவநிலை மாற்றுத் துறையால் வெளியிடப்பட்ட கடற்கரை ஒழுங்குமுறை மண்டல அறிக்கை (Coastal Regulation Zone) 2019 படி திரும்பப்பெற வேண்டும்.
2. ஒன்றிய அரசானது மீனவர்களை கடல் பழங்குடியினராக மாற்றுவதற்கு அரசியல் சட்டத்திருத்தம் கொண்டுவரப்பட வேண்டும்.
3. தேசிய நீரியல் உற்பத்திச்சட்டம் 2005 (திருத்தம் 2022) ரத்து செய்யப்பட வேண்டும்.
4. கடல் பாதுகாப்பு மண்டலங்களில் (Marine Protected Areas) கட்டுமானத் திட்டங்கள், தொழிற் திட்டங்களுக்கு அனுமதி வழங்கக்கூடாது.
5. தேசிய கடல்சார் ஒழுங்குமுறை சட்டம் 2021 திரும்பப்பெற வேண்டும்.
6. கடல்சார் வளங்களை சார்ந்துள்ள சமூகங்களுக்கென தனிச் சட்டம் இயற்றப்பட வேண்டும் (Coastal Rights Bill)
7. கடல், நிலம் மற்றும் மலை சார்ந்த சூழலியல் பாதுகாக்கப்பட வேண்டும்.
8. புலம்பெயர்ந்த மீனவர்களின் புள்ளிவிவரங்கள் தொகுக்கப்பட்டு அவர்களுக்கான மறுவாழ்வு திட்டங்கள் உருவாக்கப்பட வேண்டும்.

**நாம் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து குரல் கொடுப்போம் !  
நம் உரிமைகளை வென்றெடுப்போம் !!**

**கடலோர செயல்பாட்டு கூட்டமைப்பு  
தமிழக மீனவப் பெண் தொழிலாளர் சங்கம்**

Name of the contact person for the Action: A Gandimathi

Signature: 

Location: Legal Aid for Women Trust

Date report due:

Date report sent: