



Small-Scale Fisheries Resource & Collaboration Hub Partnership Charter

August 2021

The Small-Scale Fisheries Resource & Collaboration Hub (“SSF Hub”) Partners (“Partners”) are those organizations that actively contribute to the Hub and achievement of the vision, mission and objectives described below. This Charter¹ outlines Partners’ commitments and shared activities for development and initial implementation of the Hub through December 31, 2022. Upon Charter expiration, a new and updated Charter will be adopted to reflect the objectives for the Hub for 2023 and beyond.

Vision:

Small-scale fisheries and communities that are resilient, thriving and implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ([SSF Guidelines](#)).

Mission:

By 2022, co-create and maintain a resource and collaboration hub that addresses small-scale fisheries governance and community development in mutually supportive ways. The Hub shall use tools and mechanisms that foster learning, information sharing and capacity enhancement to the benefit of all stakeholders, and accelerate the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, in support of the [SSF-Global Strategic Framework](#).

Guiding Objectives:

1. Realize all aspects of Hub development, outreach and implementation in inclusive and transparent ways, respecting diverse cultural and gender perspectives, and accountable to the SSF Guidelines Guiding principles (Appendix 1)
2. Share knowledge, tools, resources and processes developed by contributors in forms that are useable by, and relatable to, Hub users
3. Provide mechanisms to ensure that Hub users not only have access to this content, but that they also inform it in ways that are meaningful to them and to other participants
4. Connect Hub users in direct and meaningful ways so they can share learning, stories, successes and failures via multilateral dialogue – in short, so groups and individuals can learn from each other
5. Ensure that information, communication and sharing mechanisms build and reinforce mutual respect and trust across all Hub users

Partners will:

- Provide strategic inputs to determine the design, focus, testing, and outreach of the SSF Hub through participation in meetings, working sessions, and other activities and tasks as agreed to by the Partners
- Support testing, outreach, and socialization activities for the Hub leading to the release of version 1.0 in January 2021 and for subsequent Hub versions through the end of 2022
- Participate in meetings and working sessions, typically once per quarter, to advance activities
- Contribute tools, guidelines, case studies, and other practical resources to the Hub platform
- Support development of new tools and resources, or customization of existing resources

¹ This document is not a legally binding MOU

- Maintain up-to-date tools on the platform, updating and revising as appropriate, based on received feedback and other organizational updates, at least once per year
- Actively engage as part of the Hub’s online community, e.g. by responding to questions posed, contributing updates of own work, and sharing upcoming events of interest to the community
- Actively promote the use of the Hub with community partners
- Provide testimonials of use, as appropriate
- Promote the SSF Hub within their organization and with external community partners in appropriate contexts using their communication channels
- Represent the Hub in a manner that is consistent with the Guiding Objectives
- Contribute in-kind support (i.e., personnel time) and Hub content to support the goals and core activities of the partnership
- If appropriate and feasible, contribute financial resources to the partnership (e.g., by directly funding key activities or Hub expenses, or providing funds to the Secretariat)²
- Support fundraising efforts to ensure the longevity and success of the Hub
- Give 2 months’ advance notice to the Secretariat in the event of their organization’s withdrawal from the partnership, and help facilitate the hand-off of ongoing tasks and responsibilities to other Partners

Secretariat:

- Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) will serve as the Secretariat for the partnership and will act as the central point of contact for Partner communications and activities
- Secretariat responsibilities will include:
 - Managing operations of the partnership including scheduling Partner meetings, soliciting agenda items, facilitating meetings, and preparing and distributing meeting summaries and action items
 - Supporting planning and execution of partnership activities, either as the lead organizer or by providing targeted assistance to other Partners
 - Developing community guidelines and support for moderation of the site
 - Maintaining databases of content for the Hub site to meet goals
 - Contracting with providers to advance Hub activities and goals, including web developers
 - Facilitating fundraising where possible

Task forces:

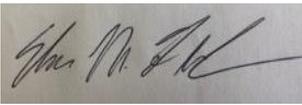
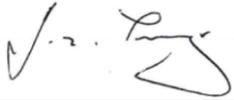
- Task forces (working groups of Partners) will be formed to efficiently implement activities as agreed to by the Partners
- Membership in task forces is open to Hub Partners
- Meeting frequency is determined by needs identified by task force members and Hub Partners
- Initial task forces include:
 - Design and Development – refine content and tools for inclusion in the Hub
 - Outreach – develop assessments and testing guidance
 - Communication – develop materials to promote and share the Hub

Decision-making:

- For formal motions or proposals, Partners will seek consensus
- Task forces will bring proposals and key decisions to Partners for approval

Partners

² SSF Hub partnership has no financial obligation other than that offered voluntarily by Partners for particular work streams or deliverables

	
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Appendix 1 – SSF Guidelines Guiding principles

Guiding principles, as stated in the SSF Guidelines, include:

1. **Human rights and dignity:** recognizing the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable human rights of all individuals, all parties should recognize, respect, promote and protect the human rights principles and their applicability to communities dependent on small-scale fisheries, as stipulated by international human rights standards: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; nondiscrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law. States should respect and protect the rights of defenders of human rights in their work on small-scale fisheries.

All non-state actors including business enterprises related to or affecting small-scale fisheries have a responsibility to respect human rights. States should regulate the scope of activities in relation to small-scale fisheries of non-state actors to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards.

2. **Respect of cultures:** recognizing and respecting existing forms of organization, traditional and local knowledge and practices of small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities encouraging women leadership and taking into account Art. 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
3. **Non-discrimination:** promoting in the small-scale fisheries the elimination of all kinds of discrimination in policies and in practice.
4. **Gender equality and equity** is fundamental to any development. Recognizing the vital role of women in small-scale fisheries, equal rights and opportunities should be promoted.
5. **Equity and equality:** promoting justice and fair treatment – both legally and in practice – of all people and peoples, including equal rights to the enjoyment of all human rights. At the same time, differences between women and men should be acknowledged and specific measures taken to accelerate de facto equality, i.e. using preferential treatment where required to achieve equitable outcomes, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
6. **Consultation and participation:** ensuring active, free, effective, meaningful and informed participation of small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples, taking into account the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP) in the whole decision-making process related to fishery resources and areas where small-scale fisheries operate as well as adjacent land areas, and taking existing power imbalances between different parties into consideration. This should include feedback and support from those who could be affected by decisions prior to these being taken, and responding to their contributions.
7. **Rule of law:** adopting a rules-based approach for small-scale fisheries through laws that are widely publicized in applicable languages, applicable to all, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and that are consistent with existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments.
8. **Transparency:** clearly defining and widely publicizing policies, laws and procedures in applicable languages, and widely publicizing decisions in applicable languages and in formats accessible to all.

9. **Accountability:** holding individuals, public agencies and non-state actors responsible for their actions and decisions according to the principles of the rule of law.
10. **Economic, social and environmental sustainability:** applying the precautionary approach and risk management to guard against undesirable outcomes, including overexploitation of fishery resources and negative environmental, social and economic impacts.
11. **Holistic and integrated approaches:** recognizing the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as an important guiding principle, embracing the notions of comprehensiveness and sustainability of all parts of ecosystems as well as the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities, and ensuring cross-sectoral coordination as small-scale fisheries are closely linked to and dependent on many other sectors.
12. **Social responsibility:** promoting community solidarity and collective and corporate responsibility and the fostering of an environment that promotes collaboration among stakeholders should be encouraged.
13. **Feasibility and social and economic viability:** ensuring that policies, strategies, plans and actions for improving small-scale fisheries governance and development are socially and economically sound and rational. They should be informed by existing conditions, implementable and adaptable to changing circumstances, and should support community resilience.