POSITION PAPER

Declaration on Common Standpoint of Small-scale Fisher-folk Network

Small-scale Fisher-folk, Sustainable Fishery Management and Marine and Coastal Resource Management

Workshop Organised By:

Thailand Federation of Small-scale Fisher-folk Association and Sustainable Development Foundation

In Collaboration With:

International Union for the Conversation of Nature (IUCN), Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Burapha Coastal Community Network, Thai Sea Watch Association, Andaman Foundation, Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and Community-based Research Coordination Center for the East and Burapha University

27-28 February 2012
Main Conference Room, Burapha University
Chanthaburi Province, Thailand

Disclaimer

This position statement represents the viewpoint of a wide range of organizations, in particular Thailand Federation of Small-scale Fisher-folk Association, Association of Women Small-scale Fisher-folk of Southern Thailand, Trat Sea Conservation Group and Burapha Coastal Community Network. The contents of this publication should in no way be taken to reflect the views of either the European Union or IUCN. This position statement is the result of a consultation meeting entitled 'Thailand's Coasts and Seas and Community Rights' conducted between 27-28 February 2012 at Burapha University, Chanthaburi Province, Thailand. Both the consultation meeting and the production of this position statement were supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Centro Internazionale Crocevia (CIC) on behalf of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), and the European Union.

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Background

This declaration represents the consolidated standpoint of small-scale coastal fisher-folk communities from both the Eastern Region and Southern Region of Thailand regarding their fundamental rights in protecting, conserving, rehabilitating and making use of coastal resources and coastal land in support of their livelihood security, food security and financial security. It also represents the views of these communities with respect to the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Small-scale Fisheries (VG-SSF).

The declaration was primarily arrived at through two large consultation workshops. The first workshop, entitled 'Developing Recommendations on the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Small-scale Fisheries (VG-SSF)' was held at the Community Training and Learning Center, Andaman Foundation, Trang Province, Southern Thailand between 17-19 February 2012. It was a collaboration between Association of Women Small-scale Fisher-folk of Southern Thailand, Thailand Federation of Small-scale Fisher-folk Association, Sustainable Development Foundation, Andaman Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization, and Forest – Sea for Life Foundation, focused on understanding the standpoint of women small-scale fisher-folk regarding their fundamental rights and their views with respect to VG-SSF. The workshop was attended by 60 women small-scale fisher-folk from 8 provinces in the Southern Region of Thailand.

The second workshop, entitled 'Thailand's Coasts and Seas and Community Rights', was held at Burapha University, Chanthaburi Campus, Chanthaburi Province, Eastern Thailand between 27-28 February 2012. It was a collaboration between Thailand Federation of Small-scale Fisher-folk Association, Sustainable Development Foundation, International Union (IUCN) for the Conservation of Nature and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources with objectives to:

1. Provide an opportunity for coastal communities from provinces in Eastern Thailand to exchange and learn from one another about issues and problems they are facing at the local level, especially those related to fundamental rights and the infringement or violation of coastal communities' rights.

2. Provide an opportunity for mutual exchange and learning and relationship building between the coastal communities of Eastern Thailand and those of Southern Thailand.

3. Provide information and knowledge about policy frameworks and legal instruments aimed at assuring, promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of coastal communities.

4. Achieve consensus and agree a common standpoint between the coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities of Eastern Thailand and Southern Thailand in working together to assure, promote and defend the fundamental rights of coastal communities.

The workshop was attended by 144 coastal small-scale fisher-folk from a large number of provinces in both the Eastern Region and Southern Region of Thailand. The agenda of the workshop is attached as an annex at the end of this report.

Declaration on Common Standpoint of Small-scale Fisher-folk Network 'Small-scale Fisher-folk, Sustainable Fishery Management and Marine and Coastal Resource Management'

We are 144 small-scale fisher-folk, 72 women and 72 men, from 14 different provinces. We are representatives of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on marine and coastal management. We have come together at the Main Conference Room of Burapha University in Chanthaburi Province, Thailand between 27-28 February 2012 to brainstorm ideas regarding a framework for sustainable fishery management in the context of indigenous fishing in both freshwater and marine fisheries.

We are pleased with the decision made at the 29th meeting of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), where there was an agreement to develop a voluntary operating framework to respond to the various issues faced by both marine and freshwater small-scale fisher-folks, based on the foundation of the principles of responsible fishery management.

It is widely acknowledged that Thailand's population of over 70 million people derives significant food security from the country's fishery catch. Thailand's coastal communities mostly comprise small-scale fisher-folk, around 500,000 individuals or 60,000 households from around 3,500 villages. Their quality catch provides food security for both Thai and global populations. They make use of traditional fishing gears based on indigenous knowledge and wisdom inherited from their ancestors, and their way-of-life has gradually developed and evolved in close relationship with the natural resources around them. Their fishing gears are diverse, corresponding to the diverse range of marine animals that they fish for, but non-destructive, with a clear focus on and concern for the conservation and renewal of the natural resources on which they depend. In some particular cases, where the use of fishing gears is either not possible or not viable, they make use of only their bare hands to catch marine animals. Some small-scale fisher-folk households have their own fishing boats, but some do not and use only family labor to fish along the banks of nearby waterways and along the shore of the local coastal area. Presently, some labor-saving machinery in employed in the shallow waters of local waterways and lakes and local coastal areas. Enterprises are almost exclusively based at the household level, exploiting family labor without hiring external labor. Small-scale fisher-folk tend to make use of fishing gears which they make themselves, rather than simply purchasing them. Although small-scale fisher-folk are harvest marine animals from nature, they also have cultures and practices related to the conservation and renewal of those natural resources too. Part of their catch is kept for domestic consumption, with only the surplus put up for sale. Their catch represents a quality food product which feed people not only throughout Thailand, but also all over the world.

Today, the expansion of capitalist systems and globalization generally has led to a focus on increase production and financial income, which has in turn has led to increased investment in the fishery sector. The result has been a significant decrease in both the diversity and quantity of marine animals, destroying the natural resources on which small-scale fisher-folk communities are so heavily dependent. It has become increasingly difficult for small-scale fisher-folk communities to maintain their traditional livelihoods. They have suffered from injustices and gaps in terms of their access to and use of natural resources. This situation, a result of centralized management processes predominated by state agencies, has affected small-scale fisher-folk communities both along the banks of freshwater waterways as well as along marine coastlines.

Both sustainable fishery management and the conservation and rehabilitation of marine and coastal resources are currently overseen by a variety of different government agencies and managed centrally by national government. This results in division, overlap and different, conflicting directions and approaches. Management lacks integration and coherence, especially with respect to existing policy and legal frameworks. Whilst there are measures in place which should theoretically support people's participation, these fail to have any tangible effect in terms of concrete practice. Mechanisms and organizations for local and community-based management, such as local administration organizations, are not supported to participate and play a role in marine and coastal resource management. Furthermore, the overlapping management roles of the various government agencies concerned with the conservation, rehabilitation and management of ecosystems,

river basins, waterways and seas results in many deficiencies and loopholes.

Overall this situation affects the way-of-life, livelihoods, work, income and health of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities, further leading to problems of indebtedness, poverty and a lack of livelihood security. As small-scale fisher-folk have to work increasingly hard in order to maintain their catches and their incomes, their health also begins to deteriorate. The health of women in small-scale fisher-folk communities can be particularly at risk, as various pressures force them to both maintain their household work whilst simultaneously looking for additional work outside the community. These problems are all the result of the prevailing direction of fishery development which continues to focus on increasing production, leading to the use of inappropriate and destructive fishing gears, practices and technologies which reduce both the numbers and diversity of marine animals and at the same time bring about the deterioration of marine and coastal resources more generally.

Small-scale fisher-folk communities have been adversely affected by government policies and mega projects outside of the fishery sector, which have focused on increasing production of energy and goods and the development of tourism and infrastructure in coastal areas. This prevailing development direction has yielded very many adverse impacts upon natural resources and the environment, with pollution from waste water drained into the sea being just one example. Such problems have resulted from a lack of people participation in proposing appropriate development directions which are sensitive to different local contexts. The result has been marine and coastal resource management which has not only been inefficient and ineffective, but which has even served to worsen the situation faced by coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities, increasing their insecurities and heightening existing conflicts.

On top of all these existing problems and issues, natural disasters and the impacts of climate variability and climate change are becoming ever more frequent and destructive, which in turn is affecting the abundance and diversity of plants and animals in the coastal zone. Changes to the topography of the coastal zone caused by continued coastal erosion are increasing the costs of fishery, whilst at the same time the volume and quality of the catch is decreasing. The food, livelihood and economic security of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities are all negatively impacted as a result. Exacerbating this situation, past experience has shown that when the coastal zone in impacted by natural disasters or extreme weather events, small-scale fisher-folk often have difficulty gaining access to fair rehabilitation and compensation in the aftermath.

Many coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities lack housing security or secure land tenure. Some do not own any land at all, others may own land in the informal sense but have not formal land entitlement document. This lack of rights in terms of owning, inhabiting and making a living from the land has several underlying causes, including the declaration of reserved forest areas which overlap with the settlements or fishing grounds of local communities, a lack of mechanisms and measures to ensure effective and meaningful participation of local communities, and a lack of recognition of the rights of local communities to participate in the management of marine and coastal resources in the local area. Despite the fact that the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand BE 2550 (AD 2007) contains provisions to support local community participation in marine and coastal resource management, a range of issues severely limit the potential impact of these provisions, including encroachment and possession by investors, large private businesses and coastal development projects. Such encroachment and possession is often deemed legitimate because land entitlement documents have been illegally issued in advance. The eventual aim in many cases is to make use of coastal land for the development of heavy industry, the construction of deepwater ports and the reclamation of the sea.

Apart from the concrete and material problems and issues highlighted above, coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities are also negatively impacted by a lack of access to information and a lack of guaranteed participation in policy planning and decision making related to the management and use of marine and coastal resources, which constitute the very source of their livelihoods. This has resulted in competition and conflict over resources between small-scale fisher-folk and large commercial fishing operations, the later making use of modern fishing gears and highly developed technologies, and even resorting to illegal fishing practices such as the use of dredges, drag-nets and push-nets in certain waters.

Women living in coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities often have roles which are very limited and strictly defined by local social and cultural norms. Women small-scale fisher-folk work incredibly hard, shouldering heavy burdens side-by-side with their male counterparts. However, the roles that women play and the burdens that women face in the social, economic and health spheres are poorly acknowledged, and so the problems and issues which they face are not addressed or resolved. The roles defined for women by local social and cultural norms often mean they lack the opportunity to learn more about their own situation, develop their own capacity, and so become key actors of equal standing to their male counterparts in addressing the problems and issues which affect them daily.

We are a group of both male and female small-scale fisher-folk who have come together to share and exchange our ideas regarding how best to sustainably manage fishery resources, from the perspective of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities, We know that related government agencies at all levels need to improve their awareness and understanding about the issues and problems being faced by coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities. Mechanisms and measures aimed at addressing the issues and problems faced by small-scale fisher-folk, and aimed at promoting and supporting the participation of small-scale fisher-folk in marine and coastal resource management, must be based upon an awareness of and respect for the fundamental rights of small-scale fisher-folk, both men and women. Coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities need to be protected and supported as follows:

Fishery Management and Marine and Coastal Resource Management

1. The various government agencies related to the management of waterways, fisheries and marine and coastal resources need to reform their management approaches, away from centralized, top-down and sectoral approaches and towards integrated, area-based, ecosystem-based approaches which promote people participation and are sensitive to local contexts.
2. Sustainable management philosophies and approaches must be integrated into fisheries management and marine and coastal resource management.
3. A forum should be organized where various stakeholders come together to help develop a master plan covering fisheries management and marine and coastal resource management which integrates the efforts of the different related government agencies. The various stakeholders should work together to develop mutually agreed mechanisms, measures and operating procedures which help to promote and support the meaningful participation of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities.
4. Mechanisms and measures to promote and support the meaningful participation of both male and female small-scale fisher-folk should cover planning, finance and operation.

Legal Measures

5. Policy and law must recognize the rights of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities to have access to and make sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. These resources form the foundation of the fishery-based livelihoods of small-scale fisher-folk, allowing them to maintain their identity, way-of-life, livelihoods, food security and income security.
6. Amend the Fisheries Act BE 2490 (AD 1947) with a focus on protecting and securing the rights of individuals and communities to participate in the conservation, protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the environment and natural biodiversity, as provided for in articles 66 and 67 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand BE 2550 (AD 2007). Further amend the act in line with article 81(1) of the Constitution, which decrees that the government must implement and enforce laws in a correct, timely, just and equitable manner in all cases, and in line with article 85 (4) of the Constitution, which decrees that the government must develop and implement systematic plans for the management of water and other natural resources which bring benefit to all, and which support people participation in the conservation, protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the environment and natural biodiversity.
7. Advocate for laws which support integrated approaches to marine and coastal management and call for the enactment of the Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management Act as provided for in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand BE 2550 (AD 2007). Advocate for

the timely enactment and proper enforcement of laws related to the discharge of waste water into the sea, zoning of industrial, tourism and conservation activities in coastal areas, community land title documents, and protecting and securing the settlements and livelihoods of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities.

8. Integrate the management of fisheries, marine and coastal resources and the coastal zone, away from the current approach which is centralized, segregated and sectoral, towards decentralized management approaches which are ecosystem-based, community-centered and promote meaningful multi-stakeholder participation whilst at the same time giving appropriate consideration to the indigenous knowledge of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities.
9. Officials from related government agencies should change their mindsets and conceptual frameworks in order to become more open to working with actors from civil society and the people's sector. Cooperation and collaboration should be based on meaningful participation, commonly agreed base data, mutual awareness and understanding and sound ethics.

Coastal Erosion

10. Efforts to resolve the problem of coastal erosion need to consider the coastal ecosystem as a whole. Actors should work in close collaboration with affected coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities and other local communities in order to come up with guidelines and solutions which are sensitive to their needs, and which also take into consideration the impact on the wider ecosystem of such guidelines and solutions, rather than taking interventions focused merely on solving the problem of coastal erosions in specific, small areas of the coastline.
11. Interventions to address the problem of coastal erosion need to be based on a sound and thorough understanding of the local coastal ecosystem. If this is not the case then interventions intended to be beneficial might actually do more harm than good, causing devastation to the local coastal ecosystem and exacerbating the problem of coastal erosion. It is essential that multi-stakeholder workshops should be conducted in order to provide a forum for sharing information knowledge and experiences on resolving the problem of coastal erosion. This would promote shared learning and mutual agreement on plans, measures and interventions aimed at addressing the problem of coastal erosion in a much more integrated fashion than is presently the case.
12. Guidelines should be developed for resolving the problem of coastal erosion which place importance on and give value to indigenous knowledge and local wisdom, and which integrate such knowledge and wisdom with traditional scientific and academic knowledge, rather than promoting solutions based solely on traditional scientific and academic knowledge.

Rights Related to Economic and Social Development

13. Coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities should be promoted and supported in maintaining their livelihoods through the sustainable use of fishery resources. This should be done by establishing mechanisms and measures which recognize the importance of small-scale fisher-folk livelihoods and their contribution to local economies, and which accordingly provide a level of protection to such small-scale fisher-folk livelihoods.
14. Promote and support the community-based groups, organizations, cooperatives and enterprise of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities in having straightforward, timely and equitable access to local development funds e.g. alternative livelihood groups, seafood processing groups etc.
15. Establish mechanisms and measures which promote and support women small-scale fisher-folk in strengthening their capacity to be able to participate in the development of plans and budgets of marine and coastal resource management, and which also encourage and facilitate women small-scale fisher-folk in setting up their own groups, organizations and networks for marine and coastal resource management too.

Rights Related to Housing, Settlement and Access to Natural Resources

16. Prepare sound base data on existing problems and conflicts in the area of justice and rights related to access to land and natural resources for housing, settlement and livelihood security. This base data should be prepared through a cooperative and

collaborative process which engages coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities, related local government agencies and other important local stakeholders.

17. Expedite the resolution of existing conflicts related to access to land and natural resources for housing, settlement and livelihood security by using the National Reform Assembly's recommendations as an overarching set of operational guidelines, and by expediting the issuance to community land title documents.

Rights Related to Livelihood Security

18. Develop clearly demarcated fishery zones and clear and straightforward rules and regulations which are sympathetic to the local context, local coastal ecosystems and local community livelihoods, in order to ensure appropriate control, management and use of marine and coastal resources which is of mutual benefit to all local stakeholders. Strictly enforce existing policies, laws, mechanisms and measures for the management of fishery zones in order to guarantee livelihood security for all local stakeholders. The current fishery zone which reserves the first 3,000 meters of nearshore waters for coastal small-scale fishery should now be extended to 3 nautical miles (approximately 5,400 meters), and is some areas where there are especially important marine and coastal resources or where there is high natural biodiversity then the limit should be extended to the first 8 nautical miles (approximately 14,800 meters) of nearshore waters.
19. Promote and support coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities in enabling each household to develop aquaculture activities as a way to supplement the income they derive from capture fishery. The focus should be on providing appropriate training and access to appropriate development funds whilst ensuring that appropriate zoning and regulations are in place to control and constrict the developing aquaculture activities.
20. Reform existing regulations and develop additional regulations to oversee fishery activities with an emphasis on controlling the number and size of fishing boats and the number and type of fishing gears. Punishments should be increased in order to serve as more effective deterrents.
21. Promote and support small-scale fisher-folk to organize themselves into groups, organizations and networks so that they can cooperate and collaborate together in resolving issues and problems of mutual concern.
22. Provide access to appropriate funds to allow coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities to engage in livelihood development and socio-economic development activities, initiatives and projects.

Aquaculture

23. Conduct a survey together with coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities in order to better understand how public land is being used for aquaculture activities locally. The survey should at a minimum include information about the owner and size of each aquaculture enterprise.
24. Develop mechanisms and measures in collaboration with coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities and using ecosystem-based approaches with the full participation of multiple stakeholders in order to address issues and problems related to the unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of aquaculture activities, which include undesirable impacts on natural resources, ecosystems and the environment locally, as well as disagreement and conflict between stakeholders competing to make use of local land.
25. Develop mechanisms and measures to promote and support small-scale fisher-folk in adopting aquaculture as an additional or alternative livelihood, whilst at the same time including safeguards to prevent any individual or group from monopolizing aquaculture activities locally.

Management of Products and Market

26. The government should ensure that advances in areas like seafood processing, standards accreditation and the development of markets bring benefit to coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities, allowing them to increase the value they derive from their catch through appropriate management, processing, standardization, packaging and marketing.
27. Improve the marketing of marine produce so that coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities are paid a fair, equitable and sustainable price for their catch. The government should develop a centrally managed marine produce market to avoid monopolization by private interests and

reduce the negative impacts of middlemen. The government should also introduce environmental safeguards to mitigate issues like inadequate sanitation and industrial pollution in coastal areas in order to improve food safety and consumer confidence.

Safety at Sea and Climate Change

19. Develop risk information and warning systems so that coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities have access to accurate and comprehensive information in assessing potential threats.
20. Support capacity building activities related to climate change for coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities. Develop a knowledge base, strengthen skills, raise awareness and increase understanding in order to prepare small-scale fisher-folk to be able to cope with the potential impacts of climate change.
21. Support coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities in developing natural disaster management plans in order to address the potential impacts that natural disasters might have upon housing and settlements, infrastructure and utilities, way-of-life and livelihoods, and natural resources, ecosystems and the environment.
22. Coordinate, support and facilitate the various related government agencies to achieve better integration of fishery management, natural resource and ecosystem management and natural disaster management, and to promote approaches which are sensitive to the local context, centered around multi-stakeholder participation and ecosystem-based.
23. Promote, support and strengthen the capacity of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities in developing plans for natural disaster preparedness, risk area mapping and early warning systems in order to increase their ability to address the potential impacts of natural disasters.
24. Establish mechanisms and measures to promote and ensure safety at sea, in terms of the safety and security of both lives and property. There should be regular and consistent monitoring and checking for e.g. insurance, overloading etc.
25. Promote and support coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities in developing additional and alternative livelihoods and occupations in order to provide them with supplementary sources of income and reduce their sole dependence on fishery livelihoods.
26. Develop the capacity of local administration organization and local government agencies to apply spatial mapping approaches, ecosystem-based approaches, and land-use planning and zoning. Promote and support the development of rules and regulations to control house building and infrastructure construction in order that such activities do not unintentionally increase the risk or severity of natural disasters, e.g. roads which when constructed block natural rainwater drainage routes thereby increasing the risk and severity of flooding, poorly built housing and poorly constructed infrastructure unable to withstand the potential impacts of natural disasters etc.

Equality

27. Gender equality should be promoted and ensured by stipulating the ratio of men and women who should participate in processes and mechanisms to formulate policies and plans for fishery management and marine and coastal resource management at all levels.
28. Formulate concrete plans and ensure budget allocation so that women small-scale fisher-folk are given the opportunity to build their capacity, improve their skills, learn about and participate in livelihood diversification, seafood processing, product marketing etc. This will provide coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities with a greater range of alternatives for maintaining their subsistence way-of-life and sustainable livelihoods.
29. Promote and support the introduction of safeguards to ensure that the fundamental rights of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities are protected during the policy formulation process and during the implementation of local development projects. Ensure that coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities are provided with just and fair representation, assistance and compensation in cases where socio-economic or management-related conflicts occur between coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities and other groups of fishers or other groups of stakeholders.

Governance and Public Policy

30. Secure the rights of coastal small-scale fisher-folk, both men and women, to access information and meaningfully participate in policy planning and decision making processes and mechanisms related to the management of fisheries and marine and coastal resources. Ensure basic principles of good governance according to accepted international standards are adhered to in the

management of fisheries and marine and coastal resources.

31. The cabinet previously agreed to bring to a halt all industrial projects and special projects being implemented in the coastal zones of Thailand's provinces, pending a review of development plans. The government should urgently take up the recommendations of the Second National Health Assembly on 'Planning for Sustainable Development in Southern Thailand on the Foundation of the Sufficiency Economy and with Consideration of the Local Socio-economic and Environmental Contexts'. The government should organize and conduct a new consultation process to produce an overarching plan for coastal zone development covering all of Thailand's provinces. The consultation process should ensure the meaningful participation of all stakeholders either directly or indirectly affected, regardless of factors like age and economic status, and encompassing both government agencies and non-state actors that have conducted studies into the potential environmental, health and social impacts of coastal zone development plans.

Additional Issues

- The rights of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities to access land for housing and settlement purposes.

- There is a lack of clarity regarding the roles and responsibilities, missions and objectives of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and the Department of Fisheries, and specifically how they complement and overlap. This is particularly the case within the 3,000 meter neashore zone reserved for coastal small-scale fishery. Consideration must be given as to how to promote collaboration and integrate operation of these two different government agencies.

- The existing legal acts related to the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and the Department of Fisheries need to be urgently reviewed by means of a common workshop which engages representatives from both of the government agencies.

- Current management regimes are segregated according to the roles of different government agencies and the provisions of different legal acts. This has created considerable confusion for coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities and other local stakeholders, and has ultimately resulted in ineffective management. Management of marine and coastal resources cannot be effective if it is implemented sectorally according to the roles, responsibilities, missions and objectives of multiple different government agencies. Instead, area-based approaches, ecosystem-based approaches and information-basd approaches must be employed. Existing legal acts should be amended to acknowledge and support the fundamental rights and meaningful participation of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities. The conceptual framework applied in legal acts for the management of marine and coastal resources should be amended to promote and support multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration. This will then lead to integrated, cross-sectoral operation in the management of marine and coastal resources.

- Civil society and the people's sector should mobilize in order to propose amended policy frameworks and legal acts which reflect the above observations and recommendations.

- Increasing industrial development in coastal zones is leading to year-on-year increases in environmental pollution from industry. Proper waste water treatment is an area that requires urgent and substantial investment. If the people's sector remains silent then industrial waste water will continued to be drained into the sea. Experience has shown that when individuals or communities lodge complaints with provincial-level government agencies, such as Provincial Industry Offices, they are unlikely to be provided with any assistance.

- Commercial fishers continue to fish illegally in some areas, such as in some parts of Chonburi Province. Government agencies and government officials have proved largely ineffective in addressing such issues.

Further Remarks

- What should civil society and the people's sector do if the government

decides not to adhere to the VG-SSF guidelines.

- Civil society and the people's sector will need to proactively advocate for adoption of the VG-SSF guidelines, and should persuade related government agencies to join in the campaign for adoption of the guidelines.

- Special administrative areas such as Bangkok Metropolis might be excluded even if the VG-SSF guidelines are adopted. This would greatly reduce the value and impact of the guidelines, and so strategies for countering this must therefore be considered.

- We propose that the nearshore zone reserved for coastal small-scale fishery should be extended from the first 3,000 meters of nearshore waters to the first 3 nautical miles (approximately 5,400 meters) of nearshore waters in all of Thailand's provinces.

Organizations Participating in This Declaration

- Thailand Federation of Small-scale Fisher-folk Association
- Association of Women Small-scale Fisher-folk of Southern Thailand
- Trat Sea Conservation Group *(A network of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities that work on marine and coastal resource conservation, rehabilitation and management in Laem Klad Sub-district, Mai Root Sub-District and Klong Yai District, Trad Province, Eastern Thailand)*
- Burapha Coastal Community Network
- Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Mangroves for the Future (MFF)
- Community-based Research Coordination Center for the East Thai Sea Watch Association
- Reclaiming Rural Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Action (RRAFA)
- Sustainable Development Foundation

Annex 1 – Agenda of the Workshop: 'Thailand's Coasts and Seas and Community Rights'

Agenda
Conference on 'Thailand's Coasts and Seas and Community Rights'
27-28 February 2012, Burapha University, Chanthaburi Province, Thailand

27 February 2012	
07.00-08.00	Breakfast
08.30-10.00	Registration
10.00-11.00	***Background to the Conference on 'Thailand's Coasts and Seas and Community Rights'*** by Khun Sama-ae Jehmudor Secretary, Thailand Federation of Fisher Folk Association ***Welcoming Remarks*** by Dr.Wasin Yuwanataemee Dean, Faculty of Marine Technology ***Opening Speech*** by Mr.Phuchong Sariddeechaikul Director, Marine and Coastal Resource Conservation Center 1, Rayong ***Clarify Objectives and Agenda for the Conference on 'Thailand's Coasts and Seas and Community Rights'*** by Jonathan Shott, Project Manager, 'Building Resilience to Climate Change Impacts – Coastal Southeast Asia' Project, Sustainable Development Foundation
11.00-12.30	***Community Rights and Marine and Coastal Resource Management*** by Ms.Supaporn Pannarai Southern Small-scale Fisher-folk Network Mr.Wichocksak Ronnarongpairee Coordinator, Thailand Federation of Fisher Folk Association Mr.Surasak Intaraprasert Community Leader, Mai Root Sub-district, Klong Yai District, Trat Province Ms.Kanokphan Tongbai Coordinator, Burapha 7 Province Coastal Ecosystem Network Facilitated by Prof. Dr. Chaiyon Praditsilp Chair, Senior Fellows Political and Administrative Science Curriculum Project, Rambhai Barni Rajabhat University
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.30	***Coastal Communities and Marine and Coastal Resource Management: Infringements and Violations of Communities' Rights, Capacities and Limitations in Coastal Community Participation*** Format: Break into small groups, circulate around a number of learning stations arranged by the local networks. Dr. Niran Pitakwatchara National Human Rights Commission Facilitated by Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Director, Sustainable Development Foundation
15.30-15.45	Coffee Break
15.45-17.30	***Establishing Recommendations to Assure Community Rights and Overcome Obstacles in Pursuit of Good Governance in the Sustainable Management of Fisheries and Marine and Coastal Resources*** (preparation for presentation during day 2) Format: Small group meetings based on regional and women's networks. Facilitated by Ms.Benchawan Pengnu Thai Sea Watch Association
28 February 2012	
07.00-08.00	Breakfast

08.30-09.00	***Summary and Review of Day 1*** Facilitated by Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Director, Sustainable Development Foundation
9.00-10.00	***Presentation of Summary Results from Day 1 Small Group Meetings*** Facilitated by Mr.Wichocksak Ronnarongpairee Coordinator, Thailand Federation of Fisher Folk Association
10.00-10.15	Coffee Break
10.15-12.00	***Synthesize and Summarize Recommendations to Assure Community Rights in the Sustainable Management of Fisheries and Marine and Coastal Resources*** Facilitated by Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Director, Sustainable Development Foundation
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00-15.00	***Receive Feedback from Organizations and Agencies Related to Community Rights in the Sustainable Management of Fisheries and Marine and Coastal Resources*** by Representative, Department of Fisheries Representative, Marine Department Representative, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources Representative, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) Representative, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Ms.Phansiri Winichakul Director, Thailand Office, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Mr.Sutthitham Lekkhawiwat Advisor, Burapha 7 Province Coastal Ecosystem Network Facilitated by Mr.Bunjong Nasae President, Thai Sea Watch Association
15.00-15.15	Coffee Break
15.15-16.00	***Progressing the Issue of Community Rights in the Sustainable Management of Fisheries and Marine and Coastal Resources*** by Representative, Small-scale Fisher-folk Network, Andaman Coastline Representative, Small-scale Fisher-folk Network, Gulf of Thailand Coastline Representative, Small-scale Fisher-folk Network, Eastern Region Representative, Southern Thailand Women's Small-scale Fisher-folk Network Facilitated by Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Director, Sustainable Development Foundation
16.00-16.20	Closing Ceremony