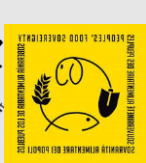


# Waves



**SSF  
CANNOT  
BE  
IGNORED  
MUST BE  
ON COFI  
AGENDA**

## Secretary's Messages.



Herman Kumara

General Secretary- WFFP

National Convener-NAFSO

Chairperson- Praja Abilasha Land  
Rights Network

Board Member- Right to Life HR  
organization

Secretary- Sri Lanka Forum for SSF

Dear Comrades,

It has already been over one year since March 2023, after the New Coordinating Committee elected for WFFP. This year we were busy with setting up or reviving mechanisms of smooth running of the organization since November 2017, the 7th General Assembly held in New Delhi, India. We were in India after 20 years of WFFP's origin, as a very active, dynamic and vibrant social movement in the fisheries sector. Our visionary leaders in the past built the movement as the most vibrant political organization in the world which represents, strongly voices out and committed to the aspirations of Small Scale Fisher People. However, in the past 7 years since the New Delhi general Assembly, we faced serious difficulties to come together and meet each other in the movement due to many reasons, and COVID Pandemic caused a major contribution to it. However, the newly elected Coordinating Committee met at Istanbul in Turkey which marked a decisive landmark of the movement. At the Turkey CC meeting, we arrived at 25 resolutions in relation to the progress of the WFFP as a social movement and now we are on the move.

Setting up of a secretariat to support the General Secretary was one of the resolutions and appointing staff including communication officer is a very important decision there.

The voice of the SSF is not heard in the global fora as well as their visibility is not seen in many places. Media people always say "We are not aware much about the fisheries sector and their role, the issues and their struggles, so we need to learn more about fisheries." It shows the attention to the sector and their level of importance they pay. However, it is very important to visualize the importance of SSF, their role in the food production, how they feed to the poor and to the world populations, how much the sector generate employment, provide sources income for the poor and their contribution to cooling the mother earth is not visible and totally neglected their role.

At the same time, women are always invisible in the social development process and it is difficult to respect their decisive role in the home as well as in our society, our organizations. So, gaining the equity, visibility and due respect is a struggle, but we should say, it is a "Struggle within the Struggle" because the fishers are also not recognized in the same society. Our leaders in the past two decades focussed their attention to have a political instrument to fight, demand, advocate and claim the SSF rights through the establishment of SSF Guidelines. Our role as WFFP is to bring the voices of the SSF and visualize their struggles for moving towards Food Sovereignty.

However, there are several hurdles as the so called proposed solutions become the weapons against the SSF and all the other Small Scale Food Producer communities. So, it is our role as WFFP to unitedly fight against all the evils coming as solutions to destroy us, dispossess our resources, dislocate us from our fishing grounds, and also destroy our eco systems. So, it is a fight with all of the Small Scale Food Producers unitedly.

However, we need to bring the voices forward and we as WFFP family need to take progressive steps to make it happen. So, we decided to publish our work, our struggles, our efforts to build alternatives, and our united efforts with other movements and allies through the newsletter and the website of WFFP.

We comradely invite all our members to contribute to the Newsletter while sending your important work in the ground level at grass root communities, national level work, also the regional and global events you all are taking part. This will help to draw attention to the sector and approach us for support, to pay media attention, and importantly seek solidarity support for our actions. At the same time, the global social movements will understand our efforts and will support us for strengthening our campaigns towards food sovereignty.

We urge all of our comrades to pay attention and take this work forward with the support of the WFFP Secretariat.

Let us work hard and contribute to make a difference to the lives of the fishing communities and eventually to the whole of humanity while progressing climate justice efforts. Your small work will contribute to the system change when all these efforts come together.

**Let us continue the dialogue.!**

As co-chairs of the World Forum of Small-Scale Fishing Populations (WFFP), we are dedicated to advancing our initiatives to support and empower small-scale fishing communities worldwide. Our primary focus is on promoting sustainable fishing practices by training artisanal fishermen in eco-friendly techniques that minimize the impact on marine ecosystems. We are actively collaborating with NGOs and international organizations to fund projects aimed at restoring degraded marine habitats. Empowering fishing communities through training and skills development programs is essential to helping them diversify their income sources. We are also working to improve market access for artisanal fishing products through fair trade initiatives and continue to advocate for policies favorable to artisanal fishermen at both national and international levels. Our efforts include representing their interests at conferences and collaborating with governments to implement fair regulatory policies and SSF guidelines. As we prepare for the next AG8 meeting in Brazil, we are finalizing logistics and setting the agenda to address challenges such as climate change, food sovereignty, ocean grabbing, and new market opportunities for sustainable artisanal fishing products. Expanding our network of partners, we are engaging with government representatives, NGOs, researchers, and community leaders, and consulting with local fishing communities to integrate their feedback into our discussions. We have launched a project to map accessible fishing resources and plan to initiate a pilot program to improve artisanal fishermen's access to financing for modern, sustainable equipment. Our communication efforts aim to raise awareness of the importance of artisanal fishing, and we are committed to ongoing capacity building through regular training and educational resources. We also encourage innovation in fishing techniques and resource management through grants and partnerships with research institutions. To measure the impact of our initiatives and refine our strategies, we are establishing a monitoring and evaluation system. Our commitment to supporting small-scale fishing communities is unwavering, as we believe WFFP plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable and equitable practices, and we will continue to work together to achieve our shared goals.



**Daouda Ndiyaye**

Co-chair WFFP.

CNPS Coordinator.

Vice President in charge of communications

CONIPAS Mbour fishing wharf



**Nadine Nembhard**

**Co-chair WFFP**

**Administrative Officer**

**Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk  
Organizations**

This year, 2024, the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is planning yet another massive general assembly. Six hundred (600) to seven hundred (700) WFFP members, allies, partners and friends will gather in Brazil; and on 21st November, World Fisheries Day we will have a rally to proclaim our struggles, to celebrate our unity, to celebrate our movement, to celebrate WFFP. It is necessary to embrace a vision for the future that honors our traditions and sustains our livelihoods. The fishing industry, deeply rooted in cultural heritage and community values, has the potential to thrive through sustainable practices that respect both our ecosystems and our traditional way of life.

Rather than relying on aquaculture or other false solutions that may compromise our values, we can champion responsible fishing practices that prioritize the implementation of the small-scale fisheries guidelines. By advocating for policies that support the SFF Guidelines, we can ensure that local communities benefit directly from their resources. This approach not only preserves fish populations but also strengthens community ties and promotes food sovereignty.

The future of fishing lies in collaboration among fisher peoples, researchers, and policymakers. By activating the Global Strategic Framework (GSF) to have a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences, we can develop innovative strategies that enhance resilience against climate change while protecting marine environments. Community-led initiatives incorporating traditional knowledge can serve as powerful models for sustainable fishing practices worldwide. I look forward to meeting all members of WFFP soon to continue the hard work and to forge a path through our resolutions to have a sustainable fishing industry for all small-scale fisher peoples.

Dear comrade, Anaate, I greet you all. We are gearing towards WFFP GA8 to witness and partake in a mammoth global gathering of small-scale fishers, fishing communities, indigenous peoples, partners, funders, allies and researchers to demonstrate that small scale fishing is alive, it is our culture, our livelihood, our way of life and it is who we are.

WFFP GA8 is very special as it is dedicated to the people – the women, youth and indigenous peoples' assemblies making it indeed people centered and people driven.

2023/2024 being a post covid pandemic period has been very busy and productive times for WFFP as we engaged in regular virtual meetings and also physical meetings starting with our CC meeting in Istanbul Turkey to do SWOT Analysis of WFFP and plan our future work including GA8

WFFP participated in EDGE funders community conference in Berlin Germany (October 2023) to fund raise for the movement and some of these funders are funding the WFFP GA8. This is a space where funders and movement representatives explored what it means for philanthropy to act as boldly as the groups they are funding making space for challenging political conversations that are necessary to shift power. Other meetings WFFP participated include conferences organized by our allies such as La Via campesina (LVC), ESCR – Net and SOLIresp which are also our allies to build stronger movements and support each other.

As a member of IPC, WFFP helped plan, organize, facilitate and participate in the IPC and SSF summit in preparation for the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 36 where WFFP and other IPC members strongly called on the members states to bring back SSF to COFI agenda.

Over the years we have witnessed and experienced shrinking space(s) for the Civil Society and Social Movements in the global arena leading to their being allocated very little or no time to make their interventions in a meaningful way.

For the implementation of the SSF Guidelines to be realized – **focus and resources must be shifted to the grassroots.**

My call to you all is together “**Lets assert our rights and reclaim our spaces**” for the realization of sustainable small-scale fisheries in the world.

**Kalat Kasse - Thank you all**



Christiana Saiti Louwa

Treasurer WFFP

Director the Elmolo Forum

Secretary, Gurapau Women Group

**The Asian WFFP Women's Movement, a beacon of unity and solidarity, has reaffirmed its collective commitment to protecting the rights of fisher peoples.**

*“Our shared fight for Food Sovereignty and women's equality is a testament to our strength and purpose.”*

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) members' representative organizations in Asia organized the ASAIN WOMEN'S FORUM on January 26, 2024, after the Asia Pacific Regional Advisory Group (RAG). This meeting was to share, discuss, and consult each other to strengthen the SSF women's movement and prepare for their political process for active participation at the 8th WFFP assembly to be held in Brazil from 14 to 21 November 2024, where the women's assembly is to be convened before the general assembly. This Asian Women's Assembly aimed to prepare members to contribute strongly to the Women's Assembly in Brazil. The forum was held at the NAFSO Auditorium at No.10, Malwatte Road, Negombo. Participants came from eight Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. On this occasion, the network of 35 SSF's fisherwomen groups from Sri Lanka participated in the forum. This forum was facilitated by Mr. Freddie Jayawardena, Programme Manager, WFFP, with Ms. Ravadee Prasertcharounsuk of SDF, Thailand, briefed the gathering about the WFFP, its history, activities, achievements, and future strategies.

At this meeting, Asia WFFP members had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of SSF women's formation and their struggle in each of the participating Asian countries. It was also a time that Asian WFFP members were updated on the preparation of the WFFP GA8 by Herman Kumara, General Secretary of WFFP, and leverage the understanding of the WFFP members on the WFFP resolution of the Coordinating Committee finalized at the CC Meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 20-27 September 2023, which were aligned with the resolutions endorsed by the 7th WFFP General Assembly in Delhi, 2017. by Jesurethinem Christy, NFF, India who is one of the Women working group members of WFFP.

Results from one day's sharing and discussion: It uplifted members' understanding of the Asian regional preparation process and led to each of the nationally -wise planned SSF women's movement actions to be conducted, aiming at meaningful participation in the 8th WFFP general assembly meeting. In addition, the forum has fostered WFFP members' commitment to forming and strengthening the SSF and SSF women's movement, to continue fighting for SSF Rights on Food sovereignty, addressing the climate false solutions toward climate justice, and to protect the marine and coastal resource from the encroachment of the corporate sector into the food system in the context of fisheries as well as the Blue economy scheme which heavily focus on economic driven.

*“ We are looking forward to playing an active role in the coming 8<sup>th</sup> WFFP General Assembly being organized in this November 2024 in Brazil,” reflection by WFFP members who participated in the Asian women's form.”*

Ravadee Prasertcharounsuk.  
Reflection reporter.  
18,May 2024.





# The 8th Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum

13th - 14th February 2024, Rome, Italy



The Eighth Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), took place on 13-14 February 2024 in Rome, Italy. This gathering was pivotal, occurring after the global health crisis of COVID-19 and its significant socio-economic impact on small-scale food producers, artisanal fisheries, and pastoralists, further exacerbated by the Russian-Ukraine war, which affected food and energy prices. Amidst these challenges, climate change continues to pose significant threats, such as water stress, coastal erosion, and pest infestations. The Forum emphasized the need for climate resilience and sustainable food systems, promoting agroecology. Aligning with key IFAD processes, the Forum aimed to foster national dialogues between governments, IFAD, and Farmers' Organizations, leveraging IFAD's country presence to support local initiatives.

Key recommendations included promoting activities for Indigenous Peoples and Small-scale Fisheries, establishing a community-based monitoring framework, aligning IFAD projects with sustainable small-scale fisheries guidelines, integrating fishers' organizations into national Farmers' Forums, creating dedicated projects and funding mechanisms for small-scale fishers, providing infrastructure support, enhancing networking opportunities, and supporting small-scale fishers with livelihood grants. The Forum highlighted the importance of collaboration and innovation in addressing the complex challenges faced by small-scale food producers. This report reflects the commitment of IFAD and its partners to advancing sustainable rural development and food security globally.

Fatou Camara  
Head of Extension  
African Fish and Wildlife Conservancy



## 8th International Conference of La Via Campesina in Bogotá, Colombia



From December 2 to 8, 2023, the 8th International Conference of La Via Campesina took place in Bogotá, Colombia. This event was a milestone, filled with significant achievements and diverse assemblies, including youth, women, LGBTQIA+, and men's articulations, culminating in the Via Campesina general assembly. Many organizations from around the world were present, including representatives from MPP x WFFP, advocating for small-scale fisheries.

Participants engaged in working groups and discussions, addressing the human rights violations experienced in their territories. A strong message of solidarity was expressed for Palestine, highlighting the devastating impact of ongoing attacks in the Gaza Strip on the country's fisheries, and the tragic loss of lives, particularly among women and children. The importance of the upcoming 8th WFFP General Assembly in Brazil was also underscored.



During the assembly, interviews with local newspapers in Bogotá provided an opportunity to emphasize the critical need for preserving rivers, oceans, and ecosystems. The assembly concluded with a sense of accomplishment, having actively contributed to recommendations for Via Campesina to invest in regional training to bolster the fight for guaranteed rights. Additionally, participants visited small community gardens, which have played a crucial role in supporting families with food during the COVID-19 pandemic. These visits underscored the importance of local, sustainable food sources and community resilience.

The conference in Bogotá was a powerful demonstration of solidarity, advocacy, and collective action, reinforcing the commitment of small-scale fisheries to global efforts for sustainable and equitable practices.

Josana Printo  
Brazil



## WFFP Engages in Vital Discussions at 55th HRC Sessions

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) actively participated in the 55th Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions from March 5 to 11, 2024. Key discussions and strategic meetings marked the event, focusing on advancing the rights of fisher communities and addressing climate change impacts on fisheries. On March 7, WFFP and FIAN International co-hosted a side event, highlighting the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Right to Food (RTF) report, which emphasized the critical intersection of fisheries and climate change. Jones Thomas Spartegus, WFFP Representative, delivered an oral statement during the official HRC session, underlining the urgent need for climate resilience in small-scale fishing communities.

The following day, a significant discussion with SR Michael Fakhri and his team explored ways to strengthen the thematic report on the right to food. Key follow-up actions included translating the report into local languages, creating infographics, and disseminating the findings. Plans to invite Fakhri to the next WFFP General Meeting or an online webinar were also discussed, alongside strategies for using the report for local and regional advocacy. Meetings continued with Mr. Chafik Ben Rouine and Rina from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The dialogue focused on integrating fisher peoples into the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) and planning regional meetings, starting with the Asia-Pacific region, potentially in Bangkok. Further engagements included discussions with the Geneva Climate Change Consultation Group (GeCCco), highlighting the need to mainstream fisher peoples' voices in HRC sessions. FIAN committed to bridging WFFP with environmental organizations to advance these rights, and agreed to send relevant reports, such as the Blue Tribunal and COP Statement, to key stakeholders. Earth Justice proposed organizing a side event with WFFP at the upcoming September HRC sessions, focusing on blue economy tribunals. CETIM (Europe – Third World Centre) expressed interest in collaborating on rights to development, a safe and sustainable environment, and business and human rights issues.

These meetings and discussions underscore WFFP's commitment to advocating for the rights of small-scale fishers on the global stage. The collaborative efforts with various organizations and stakeholders aim to enhance the visibility and impact of fisher communities in international forums, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights protected.

Jones Thomas Spartegus  
India



# SSF Summit: A Decade of Progress and Future Directions

## Insights from the 36th Session of the UN FAO Committee on Fisheries

The 36th session of COFI, held from July 8 to 12, 2024, brought together representatives from member states, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to address key issues in global fisheries and aquaculture. The session covered a range of topics, including sustainable fisheries, climate change impacts, small-scale fisheries, blue transformation, and technological innovations.

Countries such as India, Chile, Tanzania, the Philippines, and Peru emerged as strong advocates for small-scale fisheries. The Philippines and Indonesia, both of which have developed NPOAs for the SSF Guidelines, encouraged other member states to follow suit. Inspired by the SSF Summit, many countries called for the formal inclusion of small-scale fisheries in COFI’s agenda and urged regional collaborations to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. There was also a push to strengthen port state measures and promote transparency in fishing activities.

## Between Dialogue and Declarations

The 36th session of COFI was also marked by numerous side events that explored various aspects of sustainable ocean use and governance, including discussions on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty. The session highlighted the importance of implementing the SSF Guidelines and recommended holding the SSF Summit every two years prior to COFI meetings. The committee called for enhanced cooperation between fisheries and environmental bodies at both national and regional levels to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. Members were also urged to ratify the BBNJ treaty.

The session concluded with the adoption of a declaration reaffirming the commitment of member states to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices. There was strong support for the Blue Transformation initiative, with member states committing to actions that will enhance the sustainability and productivity of aquatic food systems. As the dust settles, the extent to which COFI can influence national governments to implement



The SSF Summit marked a significant milestone as it celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines). This milestone event brought together small-scale fishers and key stakeholders for a vibrant session, filled with passionate discussions and collaborative exchanges. The gathering focused on evaluating the progress of SSF Guidelines' implementation at various levels—national, regional, and global—with an eye on shaping future actions.



### **Voices of Small-Scale Fishers**

Central to the summit were the voices of small-scale fishers, who emphasized the urgent need for the recognition and respect of their traditional and customary rights and territories. The participants strongly condemned the exclusion of small-scale fisheries from the agenda of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and asserted their rightful place in decision-making processes that impact their lives and livelihoods. The call for a "differentiated approach to small-scale fisheries" resonated throughout the discussions, as SSF representatives highlighted pressing concerns such as tenure rights and social development.

An interactive session between SSF representatives and national governments further underscored the importance of National Plans of Action (NPOAs) for SSF Guidelines implementation. Countries with existing NPOAs urged others to develop their own, while issues like social protection, gender concerns, and climate change were repeatedly discussed, underscoring the need for a nuanced approach to small-scale fisheries. With 145 participants from 47 countries in attendance, the SSF Summit effectively raised awareness of the critical role small-scale fisheries play in the sustainable use of ocean resources. The event also stressed the need for robust implementation of the SSF Guidelines to achieve broader sustainable development goals.

### **Weapons of Mass Collaboration**

Collaboration emerged as a key theme throughout the SSF Summit, with representatives calling for meaningful partnerships and collective action. "What we need are weapons of mass collaborations," remarked Anaru Fraser of the International Indigenous Treaty Council (IITC). Nicole Franz from the FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the need to move from words to action through partnerships. Herman Kumara of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) added, "Nothing about us without us," underscoring the necessity of inclusive decision-making. In line with these discussions, the RISE UP movement successfully convened meetings with various SSF organizations and representatives to chart a course for future collaborations.

## AKKA-THANGA DIALOG



**FISHER WOMEN'S DIALOGUE**  
BUILD INDO - SRI LANKA FISHER PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY

**ZOOM DIALOG**

**16 JULY AT 2.00 P.M**  
**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**  
**MEETING ID: 892 8544 9164**  
**PASSCODE: 849068**

**NORTHERN PROVINCE FISHER PEOPLES' UNITY**  
**NATIONAL FISHER WOMEN'S FEDERATION**  
**VOICE OF NORTHERN PROVINCE WOMEN**  
**NATIONAL FISHERIES SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT**

The Indian trawling problem dates back beyond the 1990s, but between 1990 and 2009, Indian vessels operated within their borders. But after the war, Indian trawlers started encroaching into Sri Lankan waters by the thousands. As their presence grew day by day, the livelihood of the people who were already battered by the thirty years of war, was completely destroyed.

It was seen that not only the fish resources but all the resources at the bottom of the sea were destroyed. In 2010, a dialogue between fishermen of the two countries was organized with the mediation of the National Fisheries Cooperative Movement. The discussion came to be known as the “Anna Thambi” discussion. As a result, the fishermen of both countries reached an agreement to protect the resource peacefully, with the intervention of the Sri Lankan government. However, even today, the fishermen of both countries are facing various conflicts without being able to get a solution to this problem.

As such, following the arrest of some of these Indian fishermen, the fisher women and their families of those countries are affected. That is why the “Akka Thanga” discussion was held to raise the voice of women that called for an urgent solution to this problem.

As its future program, it was agreed that

1. An exchange of experience sharing program between women of both countries
2. Launch of press conferences in both countries
3. In order to expand this dialogue, activities were launched to contact the fishermen's societies and trade unions of both countries.

We wish all of you to contribute to this process while congratulating the women for the success of this kind of effort!

Subashini Deepa  
Women's Coordinator  
National Fisheries Solidarity Movement



## Reassessing the Commons: Navigating Property Rights and Indigeneity in Agrarian and Small-Scale Fishing Communities

On 10-2 October 2023 the College of Humanities and Development Studies at China Agricultural University (COHD-CAU), the Collective of Agrarian Scholar-Activists from the South (CASAS) and the Transnational Institute (TNI) are convened an international gathering in October in Beijing, China to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Journal of Peasant Studies (JPS). This conference provided a critical moment for academia, scholar activists and civil society across the world to unpack and engage in robust debate around the everchanging environment of agrarian studies. Sibongiseni Gwebani from WFFP was a discussant on a panel titled Reassessing the Commons: Property rights and indigeneity. She highlighted the use of new forms of enclosure targeted at small-scale fishing communities globally such as the accelerating threats of ocean grabbing, extractive development and the 30x30 agenda. The conference presented an important moment to connect with critical agrarian and small-scale issues on the ground in China and around the world.

## Fisher People in South Africa seek justice at People's Tribunal





## Fisher People in South Africa seek justice at People's Tribunal

The Fisher People Tribunal took place from 12-14 August 2024 in Cape Town. Hosted by Masifundise and Coastal Links, this event marked the first People's Tribunal in South Africa focused on fisherfolks and their communities.

The Tribunal gathered fisher representatives from 5 provinces, academic and civil society experts, allies and activists to address the urgent issues facing coastal and inland fishing communities. Although relevant government and conservation actors were invited to respond to the accusations against them, they did not attend.

Over the three days, fisher representatives documented and exposed instances of ocean and land grabbing and violations of fishing communities' rights. The six cases presented to a jury of experts highlighted critical issues through charge sheets, testimonies from fishers, A sessions and additional inputs from the fishers.

On the first day, fisher representatives from the four coastal provinces testified in the case titled &quot;The Broken Promises of the Small-Scale Fisheries Policy. &quot; They shared first-hand accounts of how the SSF Policy implementation has significantly diverged from its original objectives. The State was criticized for failing to respect, protect and promote the rights of fishers, particularly in implementing the Policy. Key issues raised included inadequate species allocation, lack of community consultation, violations of equality rights through a flawed verification process and the neglect of gender equality, especially in supporting women fishers. These shortcomings have had serious implications for the food security, cultural right, and livelihoods of SSF communities. On the second day, the Tribunal heard three cases. The first addressed inland fisheries, focusing on the lack of recognition and access to resources at Gariep Dam due to nature reserves and private land ownership. The next two cases featured testimonies on conservation practices in iSimangaliso that led to human rights violations against fishers and the erosion of customary fishing rights in Dwesa-Cwebe, resulting in violence and harassment.

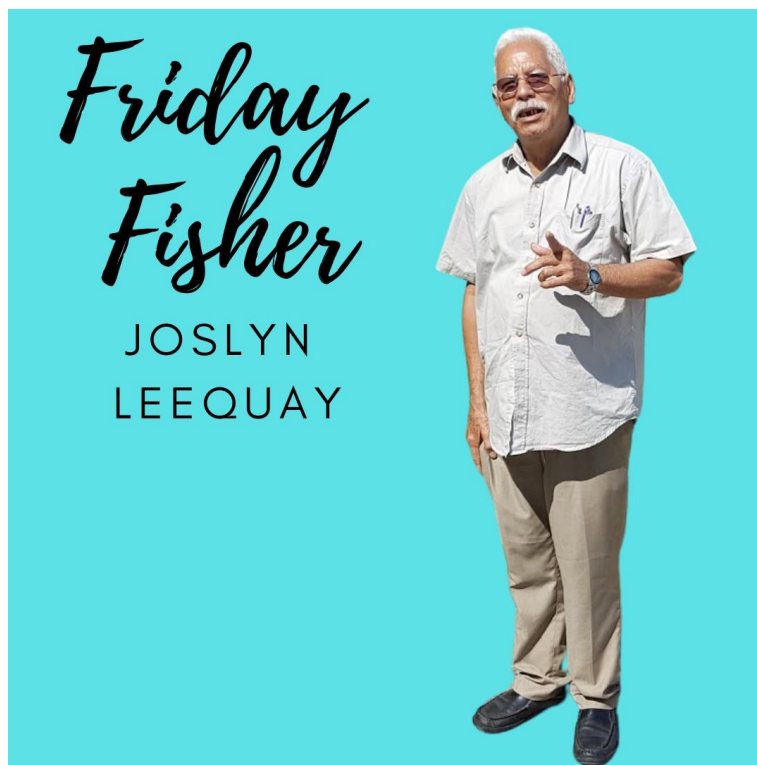
Zandile Mkhwanazi, a fisherwoman from Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal, shared her experience of harassment by conservation authorities in iSimangaliso, &quot;We get arrested when we go to cut Incema (grass). We're forced to go at night to avoid being caught, but it's dangerous because of the animals.&quot; In Dwesa-Cwebe, harrowing accounts were heard from fishers shot at by rangers despite their recognised customary fishing rights. Thobile Mpunzi, now wheelchair-bound after being shot, recounted, &quot;We were about to go into the ocean when I heard gunshots and realised I had been shot. I asked the ranger why he shot without knowing who we were.&quot; On the final day, the Tribunal addressed the final cases, the &quot;West Coast of Extraction&quot; which highlighted how the entire West Coast of South Africa is being allocated for mining oil, gas and green hydrogen activities, displacing fishers and &quot;Women in Small-Scale Fisheries in Times of Climate Emergency,&quot; which examined the devastating impact of the

April 2022 floods in KwaZulu-Natal on women reliant on mussel harvesting. This case emphasized the urgent need for policies addressing climate change, gender inequality and economic vulnerability. After closing statements from the jury and reflections from the participants, the Tribunal successfully concluded. The jury will deliver a verdict, which will be presented at the Fisher people Conference in October this year. In the conference, fisher movement and its allies will be discussing strategic goals and priorities for the future, to advance food sovereignty and climate justice in the context of fishing communities.



## OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLOGES!

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Joslyn Leequay, a dedicated representative of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations. Mr. Leequay's commitment to the cause of small-scale fishers was evident in his active participation in various international gatherings, including the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) General Assemblies in South Africa and Delhi.



Mr. Leequay's contributions to the discussions at these Assemblies, representing the voice and concerns of Caribbean fisherfolk, were invaluable. His passion, dedication, and tireless advocacy for the rights and well-being of small-scale fishers will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of working with him.

On behalf of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), the General Secretary expresses profound sorrow at the loss of Mr. Leequay. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family, friends, and the entire fisherfolk community during this difficult time. Mr. Leequay's legacy will continue to inspire those who work towards the protection and promotion of the rights of fisherfolk worldwide.

**May he rest in peace!**

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