



LEARNING ABOUT
14 **b.1**
INDICATOR

SDG Indicator 14.b.1 Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

Lesson: Managing and using the estimated results of the 14.b.1 Indicator

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Managing and using the estimated results of the 14.b.1 Indicator

This lesson will introduce you to the importance of creating a knowledge management system for maintaining an effective catalogue of data and for sharing and using your data derived knowledge. The lesson will also provide an overview on how to use this knowledge for various purposes, depending on your profile – fisheries manager, policy-maker, resource-user.

Learning objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- illustrate the characteristics of a knowledge management system for effectively storing and analysing small-scale fisheries-related data;
- describe how to use those data for reporting on related international frameworks;
- explain how to use the collected small-scale fisheries data for national, regional and local purposes.

Introduction

The environmental and social systems that we care about, can be very complex, due to their various interconnected and mutually dependent characteristics. Small-scale fisheries is one such system of great interest to individuals across society and with intricate links to the natural world.

SDG 14 and the related indicator and methodology present a unique opportunity to build your long-term understanding of how the small-scale fisheries system – in its social, economic, political and environmental perspectives – is embedded in and reacts to policies and actions.

 *“We have successfully collected the necessary data to compile our indicator. But I know that there are other groups that would find these results useful for reporting on other related SDGs or frameworks of similar scope.”* -- **Natee** National fisheries administration official

To ensure that this long-term understanding is used for our benefit as a society, we must **properly manage the wealth of data** and information generated and **effectively share this knowledge** with relevant audiences for an array of mutually beneficial purposes

Building a knowledge management system

How can we most effectively store, communicate and share our results?



It is important to design a mechanism to manage the process of **effectively storing and analysing small-scale fisheries related data** (resulting from reporting on SDG 14.b Indicator or otherwise). Likewise, it is important to have a system that relates this information, and accommodates new data from different interested actors.

A key feature of a knowledge management system is the ability to **establish and maintain a dialogue** around emerging small-scale fisheries data and information. The **engagement of different relevant actors** can encourage further contributions to the data catalogue for reporting and communicating needs. A knowledge management systems can have a dual function:

- ① Handling management and analysis of incoming data and information
- ② **Interacting with data and information experts and with the general public** providing the information used to populate the system

A knowledge management system can be:

⇒ a **digital platform** (e.g. a website or web forum) www.ifish.id

⇒ a **communication strategy** that revolves around actively communicating results and gathering new data



Ideally, both are involved and used in tandem to ensure continuous collection of data and information, and to build trust and ownership among relevant groups.

The chances are that there already is a "back-end" system where data analysis and storing takes place. If possible, consider adding the "front-end" function, with the following considerations:

1. Be sure your knowledge management system or platform is available free of charge to a balanced representation of relevant actors, in the appropriate languages etc.
2. If you use an existing online platform, make sure it is well established. This may perhaps form part of ongoing projects or agencies already working on similar topics.
3. Consider also strategic communications in paper form. These would supplement online formats, or replace them if online platforms are not immediately available.
4. If resources allow, consider building your own digital platform. However, these can be expensive to develop and maintain, so take note of your capacity and resources for this.

5. Take due consideration of the technical and computer literacy of the intended audiences. If online platforms are available, consider building capacity to use these tools through computer literacy workshops and similar programs.

“Information is power! We will share this information with the communities – in meetings, through ICTs, on our website – as part of their empowerment.”

Natee, national fisheries administration
official

It is important to **communicate early on**, during data collection for reporting on the indicator, for example, **that you intend to make the data and results available through various means**.

As seen above, building this type of trust will further assist future data collection.



“It is important to fully understand our sector. Contributing and having access to this information and its use will help us to engage constructively.” Darya and Alex, Fisherfolk

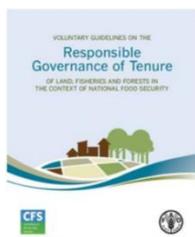
Resource users should **take note of what different actors intend to do with the information provided**, and **how this information will be made available to all**. Learning about knowledge platforms can help resource users to access vital pieces of information, so as to better advocate for their needs.

A knowledge management system or platform is of great assistance in reporting across international, national and local obligations (in small-scale fisheries and beyond). As will be discussed in detail later, the knowledge management system you build will house data of different varieties, and can be used for purposes and reporting responsibilities in international, national and local contexts. The small-scale fisheries indicator data should be part of this platform, and used to support the reporting functions presented here.

Using the information for reporting on related international frameworks

Our fisheries administration official, Natee, has responsibility not only for **ensuring the equitable access to resources and markets** for the communities that she serves, but also for **reporting the progress made towards this**, including efforts to implement the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines) in her country.

The SSF Guidelines and Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure



The *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure for Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security* **set out principles and guidance** for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development.

The SSF guidelines are presented in lesson 2 of this course.

Natee was able to initiate this by engaging the methodology for reporting on the indicator for Target 14.b.

Considering that the methodology presented in this course directly links to implementation of the SSF Guidelines in its various aspects – gender, climate change, access to resources and markets etc. – this information can also contribute towards **reporting on other SDGs and frameworks** of similar scope.



View **Lesson 2** “*Creating an enabling environment for sustainable small-scale fisheries*” to learn more on how to ensure equitable access to resources and markets

View **Lesson 3** “*Gathering data and compiling the SDG 14.b.1 Indicator*” to know more about the methodology for monitoring and reporting on the indicator

As already mentioned, small-scale fisheries can be closely associated with additional SDGs, beyond its host, SDG Target 14.b.



SDG 1: "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"

Did you know that in the small-scale fisheries sector close to 6 million small-scale fishers are estimated to earn less than USD1 per day?



SDG 2: "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"

Approximately 95% of all small-scale fisheries landings are destined for local consumption, providing highly nutritious food for a large number of consumers.



SDG 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girl"

About 50% of those operating in small-scale fisheries are women. However, their role is often not sufficiently recognized.



SDG 12: "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"

Small-scale fisheries actors can be champions of sustainable production and contribute to sustainable consumption at local, national and international level. They have traditional fisheries management and processing systems and should also play a key role in modern fisheries management and use systems.



SDG 13: "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"

Small-scale fishing communities in coastal areas are among the most vulnerable and exposed to climate change impacts and require specific inclusion in national climate change adaptation planning.



SDG 16.7: "Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels"

The responsible use of aquatic resources requires the involvement of the direct users in these processes, to allow them to become resource stewards.

The information collected through this methodology can potentially complement the information and data gathered for reporting on specific targets and indicators of each of the SDGs described above.

To give you a general idea of how the data and information collected for SDG 14.b can potentially be used across reporting responsibilities, let's look at a couple of relevant international frameworks aside from the SDGs.

[👉 The Convention on Biological Diversity's \(CBD\) Aichi Biodiversity](#)

Targetserdfjsrytyjty

Much like the SDGs, the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets www.cbd.int/sp/targets/](http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/) are an internationally recognized means of ensuring the well-being of the natural environment and society. The linkage with the collected data for reporting on SDG Target 14.b is clear in the following specific targets:

Aichi Target 4 - By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Aichi Target 6 - By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that over fishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Climate Agreements

The [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](http://unfccc.int/2860.php) <http://unfccc.int/2860.php> relates to the very real and impending threat of climate change. The link to addressing climate change is made clear in a dedicated chapter of the SSF Guidelines (Part 2 Chapter 9, Disaster risks and climate change). In supporting implementation of the Guidelines in its entirety, you are also supporting action on climate change. Data and information collected in this regard can contribute to tracking your countries' commitment to the issue.



Specific details of each of these frameworks is beyond the scope of this course.

Catalysing domestic and local action

In addition to reporting on relevant international frameworks and responsibilities, the small-scale fisheries data and information collected can also be used for national, regional and local purposes.

“Through the process of collecting the necessary information I can better understand the state of the fisheries and the needs of my constituents.” - Natee

With concrete data in hand, Natee can now advocate for action to address specific needs that may be of great relevance to communities.

A practical example of how data and information collected can be used for local action

Issue

Data shows that some aspects of the SSF Guidelines still remain to be implemented. Of specific concern to our fisheries officer Natee is the area of gender equality – policies and programmes are

not necessarily taking into consideration women's needs in their place of employment (for example in post-harvest processing operations).

Immediate actions

Natee uses the data to take immediate action:

- ✓ **to concretely articulate the issue to different policy makers within government** – this may be in the form of a policy brief and call for action document;
- ✓ **as an entry point to acquiring more specific detail on the issues across localities** – for this, she prepares a series of local workshops around the issue with participation from women and men relevant to the SSF sector (actors and stakeholders at all levels);
- ✓ **to justify resource reallocation within her agency to start addressing the concerns** – often budgets and resources are low, so she uses this data to apply for government funds and other reputable sources of funding;
- ✓ **to gain constituents' support and trust by sharing the results of workshops and similar exercises** – she communicates the existence of a knowledge platform for the benefit of all.

Intended outcomes

The intended outcomes of the immediate actions are the following:

- ✓ strengthen support
- ✓ availability of additional data and information supporting the case for immediate action
- ✓ potentially additional funds to plan long-term engagement
- ✓ the political momentum that may be necessary to enact policies and laws around the issue

Community members and small-scale fisheries actors (like our couple, Darya and Alex) can also use data and knowledge to communicate their specific vulnerabilities among each other and key partners such as, for example, Civil Society Organizations. Equipped with data and contextual knowledge, they can better organize and simultaneously **support policies and legislative action** for the further implementation of the SSF Guidelines as a strong, organized unit.

Example

Natee and her colleagues have set up a database with all relevant information about the small-scale fisheries sector. They are now selecting the appropriate actions to make the information easily accessible to the SSF actors. Natee decide to choose possible actions to create an enabling environment:

- ✓ Organize an information meeting to introduce small-scale fisheries actors representative to the database.
- ✓ Disseminate information about the database and how to access it via other channels (e.g. radio, SMS, flyer).
- ✓ Through the database, provide links to reports and analysis produced with the data.

While an access fee would provide a barrier to information, in particular for small-scale fisheries actors, open access allows wide sharing and use of data, supporting small-scale fisheries' informed engagement in decision-making and other relevant processes. In addition, it is advisable to involve small-scale fisheries early, to explain what type of information is collected, how and for what, so as to ensure stakeholder collaboration and empower actors. Moreover, small-scale fishing communities and other relevant actors have a right to access information that concerns them directly. Finally, it is important to show how data are used, both for transparency and also to give inspiration to others.

Summary

Collecting data to report on SDG 14.b encourages a process of collaboration and trust amongst fishing communities and government institutions.

The mechanisms for reporting on the SDG indicator can be used not only to collect the necessary data and information, but also as a means of building mutual understanding of social, economic and environmental well-being in small-scale fisheries.

Developing this trust depends on how the data and information is used and communicated.

With an effective system of managing incoming data in the long term, governments can reliably meet their reporting responsibilities to different international frameworks.

Reliable, accurate and validated data (backed by actors and stakeholders) can be used nationally, regionally and locally to inspire action towards achieving national objectives related to sustainable development.