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Food and Agriculture
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LEGAL AND POLICY REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN BANGLADESH

Applying the FAO policy and legal diagnostic toolbox
In support of the implementation of the Voluntary
Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries
in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

WORKING DOCUMENT



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO)
2025

LEGAL REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE SMALL- SCALE FISHERIES IN BANGLADESH

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Preface

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) is an international instrument focusing on the needs of small-scale fisheries. The SSF Guidelines provide an all-inclusive framework for guiding small-scale fisheries governance and development, and are by definition, broad and not action-specific at the national or local level: they provide recommendations on what needs to be done, but not how.

Towards supporting implementation of the SSF Guidelines through NPOA-SSF, FAO has developed an SSF Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox to review national policies and legislation, allowing countries to assess the extent to which their legal and policy frameworks address the key issues outlined in the SSF Guidelines.

The Legal and Policy Report supports the initiation of an NPOA-SSF. It is expected that this will be reviewed and further developed as part of the NPOA-SSF development.

A regional webinar was conducted on 4th June 2025 with the participation of about forty members from the four BOBP countries. FAO experts explained the process of using the Diagnostic Toolbox to analyse each country's legal and policy framework in relation to the SSF Guidelines. Subsequently, BOBP IGO carried out an analysis of Bangladesh's national policies and legislation using the first two tools provided in the Toolbox. For the third tool, the questionnaire was filled based on inputs from members of the fishing community through focus group discussions and interviews conducted by community-based organisations.

The first draft report was circulated to experts from the country and the FAO team. The document was revised based on the critical inputs received from the subject matter experts from FAO and national experts. The revised draft was discussed during the FAO Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Development of National Plan of Action for Small Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) held in Chennai from 17-19 September 2025, and the feedback obtained from the country's official nominees to the Workshop were incorporated.

The DRAFT Final version was circulated to the Government of Bangladesh and all the experts and community representatives involved in the process for review and the document was further revised and improved based on the comments received. This version of the Legal and Policy report will serve as a working document for the National Task Force members as well as reference material for outreach and communication, during the development of the NPOA-SSF and will be subject to revision and adaptation based on continuous feedback and inputs.



(Dr. P. Krishnan)
Director, BOBP-IGO

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (Fishing)
MCS(E)	Monitoring, Control, Surveillance (and Enforcement)
NPOA-SSF	National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries
MoFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
DoF	Department of Fisheries
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
SSF-LEX	Small-Scale Fisheries – Legal and policy Database
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

Executive Summary

Towards supporting implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), FAO has developed an SSF Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox to review national policies and legislation, allowing countries to assess the extent to which their legal and policy frameworks address the key issues outlined in the SSF Guidelines.

BOBP IGO carried out an analysis of Bangladesh's national policies and legislation using the three tools provided in the Toolbox. The draft report was circulated to experts from the country and the FAO team and their suggestions were incorporated. The draft was also discussed at the Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Development of National Plan of Action for Small Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) held in Chennai from 17-19 September 2025, and feedback received has been incorporated.

Bangladesh is a Party to 23 instruments (74%) out of 31 of the international instruments relevant to small-scale fisheries (SSF).

Of the 102 questions in the Policy and Legal questionnaire, 34 questions (33%) were answered with 'Yes' meaning the questions are fully or sufficiently addressed in at least in one of the instruments, 14 were answered as 'partially' meaning the requirement is addressed to some degree but with limitations, and 54 (53%) were answered with 'No' meaning the requirement is not addressed in any of the analysed instruments.

From Tool 3, it is clear that the fishing community considers themselves as small-scale but were unsure about being recognised in the legal framework. The community responses show that they answered yes to 46% of the questions, not to 35% and were not sure about 19% of the questions.

Overall, the community recognizes SSF's importance to food security and felt they were not treated equally by law enforcement. It was also noted that while policy addresses participation and effort limits, there are gaps in co-management and traditional knowledge. On the other hand, community confirms co-management but lacks clear role definitions and knowledge integration. Policy provides little social security and lacks comprehensive protections for women, migrant workers, and children. Community has partial access to social security but feels underrepresented in social protection systems. Gender rights have to be addressed – though the policy supports gender equity, there are clear gaps in reality. Policy addresses climate change and SSF vulnerabilities but lacks specific adaptation support for SSF. Community feels unprepared for climate impacts and lacks training and financial mechanisms.

1. Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has supported the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) through various initiatives over the past decade (FAO, 2014; FAO, 2020). One of the key pathways for implementation is the review of national policies and legislation, allowing countries to assess the extent to which their legal and policy frameworks address the key issues outlined in the SSF Guidelines. This process enables the identification of legal and institutional gaps, areas for improvement, and opportunities for incorporating human rights-based and ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries governance. To support this, FAO has developed a range of tools, including the SSF Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox, the SSF-LEX database, and the SSF Legislative Guide, which provide structured guidance to assess, align, and enhance national frameworks in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries. These efforts aim to foster inclusive and coherent governance, ensuring that national instruments reflect the social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions of small-scale fisheries.

1.1. Importance of policy and legal framework for Small-Scale Fisheries

A well-developed policy and legal framework is essential for promoting sustainable SSF, as it provides the foundation for recognizing the rights and responsibilities of those engaged in the sector. National policies and laws play a vital role in shaping how fisheries are managed, ensuring that small-scale fishers and their communities are included in decision-making processes, and that their human rights are respected and protected. Legal instruments help define the duties of both public authorities and private actors, support accountability, and provide access to justice in cases of rights violations. By incorporating approaches such as the HRBA and the EAF, policy and legal frameworks can address the complex social, cultural, economic, and environmental dimensions of SSF. Together, they offer clarity on governance responsibilities, foster cross-sectoral coordination, and ensure that SSF issues are integrated across relevant domains, including gender equity, food security, climate resilience, and environmental protection.

1.2. Legal and policy resources to support national implementation of the SSF Guidelines

To enhance understanding of the policy and legal environment related to SSF, FAO developed SSF-LEX, an online database that provides structured information on national frameworks supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This resource is valuable for policymakers, legal experts, and SSF stakeholders, offering country-specific profiles that include data on socioeconomic conditions, legal commitments, institutional setups, and relevant national laws and policies organized by key themes

such as definition, objectives, principals; institutional and administrative arrangements, tenure and access rights, sustainable resource management and conservation, social development, employment and decent works, value-chains, post-harvest and trade, gender equality, disaster risks and climate change, access to justice, enforcement, and accountability. Complementing this, the SSF Legislative Guide provides a practical framework for countries seeking to align their legal systems with the SSF Guidelines. It outlines legislative options such as amending existing laws, introducing new legislation, or enacting detailed regulations, and emphasizes the need for inclusive, rights-based consultations with all SSF actors: particularly women, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized groups. The Guide also provides examples of legal provisions from different countries and highlights common challenges in legislating for SSF. Used alongside the SSF Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox, it supports a thorough assessment of existing national frameworks and offers guidance on structuring new or revised legal instruments that reflect the core principles of the SSF Guidelines.

1.3. The Marine Fisheries Sector of Bangladesh

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) constitute a cornerstone of Bangladesh's fisheries sector, underpinning the livelihoods of millions and contributing significantly to national food security, rural development, and poverty alleviation. In 20 years of marine production, from 2002 to 2021, the average contribution of artisanal fisheries was 88.1%, while the contribution of industrial fisheries was only 11.9% (Manik, 2022). These fisheries are characterized by labour-intensive practices, the use of non-mechanized or low-powered boats, and a strong reliance on local ecological knowledge. SSF activities span across inland freshwater bodies, floodplains, estuaries, and the coastal and marine areas, supporting approximately 11 million people, including over 1.4 million active fishers (FAO, 2020). Women play a critical yet often under-recognized role, particularly in post-harvest processing, marketing, and value addition—making up a significant portion of the SSF workforce in the country (WorldFish, 2020).

1.4. Overview of National jurisdictional frameworks for governing Small-Scale Fisheries

Governance of SSF in Bangladesh is structured through a combination of national laws, ministerial regulations, and traditional practices. The primary legal instruments guiding the sector include, the Marine Fisheries Act, 2020, and the Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023, all of which aim to ensure sustainable use of aquatic resources, protect biodiversity, and enhance the resilience of fishing communities. These laws are implemented by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL).

Despite these advancements, significant challenges persist. SSF in Bangladesh face mounting pressures from commercial fishing fleets, habitat degradation, unregulated coastal development, and the adverse effects of climate change—such as saline

intrusion, cyclones, and declining fish stocks (Islam et al., 2021). Additionally, data gaps, limited enforcement of existing regulations, and the under-documentation of women's and Indigenous fishers' contributions continue to hinder effective governance. Nevertheless, community-based practices such as the jalmahal system (community-managed wetlands), seasonal bans on marine fishing (e.g., 58-day marine fishing ban), and co-management arrangements illustrate a promising direction toward participatory and adaptive governance rooted in traditional knowledge and local context (Thompson et al., 2017).

In conclusion, Bangladesh's approach to small-scale fisheries governance reflects a growing commitment to international norms while recognizing the unique ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic realities of its fishing communities. Continued investment in legal coherence, cross-sectoral integration, gender equity, and participatory mechanisms will be essential for ensuring that SSF not only survive but thrive in the face of ongoing environmental and economic pressures.

1.5. Manual on NPOA-SSF

To support countries in developing their NPOA-SSFs, FAO has developed a manual entitled “Developing and implementing National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries”, which contains four steps to review and identify gaps in small-scale fisheries governance. FAO has developed a toolbox entitled ‘A policy and legal diagnostic toolbox for sustainable small-scale fisheries’ aiming at highlighting the strengths and gaps in a country’s national legal and policy framework supporting sustainable small-scale fisheries.

2. Small-Scale Fisheries Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox: Mapping National Instruments to the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

The second edition of the Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (FAO, 2025) served as the primary analytical framework for this report. Relevant national policies and legal instruments were systematically reviewed and evaluated using the SSF policy and legal diagnostic toolbox. The toolbox has three tools:

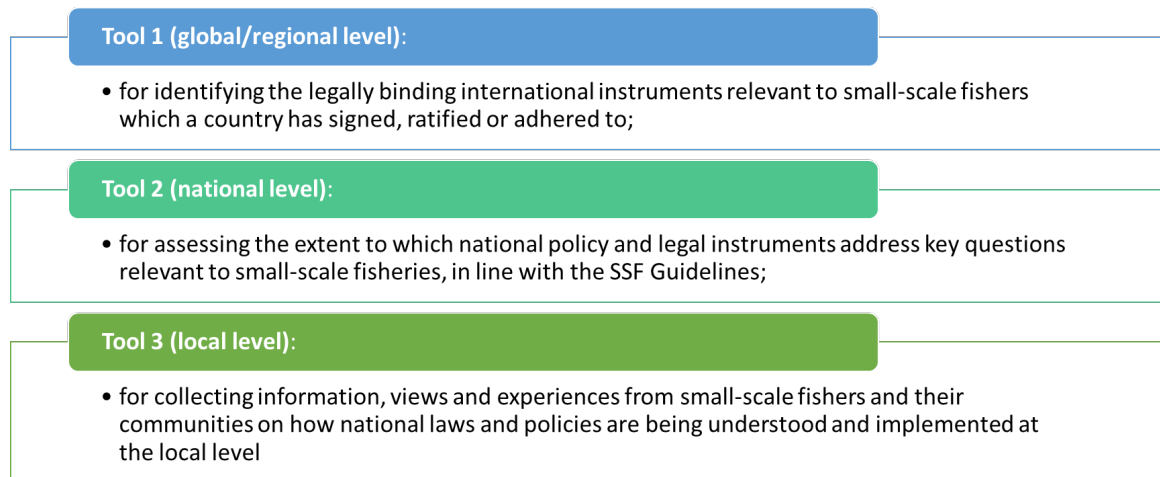


Figure 2.1: The three tools of the Diagnostic Toolbox

2.1. Methodology and Scope of the Desk-based Assessment

Given the holistic nature of small-scale fisheries (SSF) and the variability across national contexts and priorities, assessing the full scope and complexity of SSF presents significant challenges. To address this, a streamlined methodology was used for applying the SSF Legal Checklist to selected national policy and legal instruments, forming the basis of this report. The preliminary desk-based assessment was subsequently validated and refined through expert review during an in-country workshop.

2.1.1. Alignment of national Framework with International Legally Binding Instruments Relevant to SSF (Tool 1)

Multiple international instruments: both legally binding and non-legally binding, constitute a set of international commitments and soft law standards that are highly relevant for SSF governance. Annex A of the SSF Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox present a non-exhaustive list of key international instruments relevant to SSF using the first tool of the Toolbox. Though the toolbox includes only legally binding instrument, we have included key non-binding instruments related to SSF.

- a) a template table for identifying legally binding international instruments relevant to SSF which a country has signed, ratified or is adhering to (Annex A, Table 1);
- b) a template table for identifying non-binding international instruments relevant to SSF which a country has endorsed (Annex A, Table 2);

The tables also identify related national policy and legal measures that reflect the implementation of the obligations or guidance derived from each instrument.

2.1.2. Assessing key issues of the SSF Guidelines in national fisheries policy and legal instruments (Tool 2)

Tool 2 of the toolbox provides a template questionnaire for assessing key issues of the SSF Guidelines in national fisheries policy and legal instruments. The results of the exercise are presented in **Annex B**. For this, a comprehensive list of specific national policies, primary legislation, and secondary legislation was compiled using information sourced from SSF-LEX, FAOLEX and the country's official legal and policy databases.

The SSF Guidelines Policy and Legal Questionnaire presents the questionnaire organized around 11 sub-sections as follows; the number of questions under each sub-section is given in the brackets.

- i. Definition (6)
- ii. Objectives (5)
- iii. Principles (3)
- iv. Institutional and administrative arrangements (8)
- v. Tenure and access rights (13)
- vi. Sustainable resource management and conservation (27)
- vii. Social development, employment and decent work (30)
- viii. Value-chains, post-harvest and trade (1)
- ix. Gender equality (6)
- x. Disaster risks and climate change (5)
- xi. Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability (5)

Under each subsection, there are questions that examine the extent to which points are covered in the legislation with respect to the SSF. The assessment prioritized evaluating SSF legal requirements within national fisheries policies, primary legislation, and secondary legislation. The responses: Yes, no, or partially are used in the analysis to assess the checklist. The final two columns of the SSF Legal Checklist identify: (i) the specific provisions or sections of the legal and policy instruments where the SSF legal requirement was addressed; and (ii) supplementary comments and explanatory notes providing context and justifications, particularly in cases of partial or limited alignment.

2.1.3. Assessing Community Response to the Policy and Legal Implementation Questionnaire (Tool 3)

Tool 3 of the toolbox provides a template questionnaire to gather information from small-scale fishing communities on how national laws and policies are being understood and

implemented at the local level. This is divided into the following subsections, the number of questions under each sub-section is given in the brackets.

- i. Recognition of small-scale fishers (7)
- ii. Institutional and administrative arrangements (8)
- iii. Tenure and access rights (13)
- iv. Sustainable resource management and conservation (10)
- v. Social development, employment and decent work (15)
- vi. Value chains, post-harvest and trade (4)
- vii. Gender equality (5)
- viii. Disaster risks and climate change (6)
- ix. Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability (4)

In Bangladesh, community interviews and discussions were held with 15 participants in the form of FGD at Fishery Ghat, Chattogram; Upazila Fisheries Office, Pathorghata, Barguna (online) and Fishery Ghat, Cox's Bazar (online). The questions were translated into the local language and responses were recorded for each question and finally consolidated and presented in Annex C. The participants were all from the local small-scale fishing community.

2.2. Validating the report through experts' consultation and revision by FAO

The document was sent to a set of experts in the country as well as the FAO for comments: feedback was also obtained from participants at the Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Development of National Plan of Action for Small Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) held in Chennai from 17-19 September 2025, which have been incorporated in the latest version.

3. Analysis

3.1. Tool 1 (Annex A)

Table 1 in Annex A shows that Bangladesh is a Party to 23 instruments (74%) out of 31 of the international instruments relevant to small-scale fisheries (SSF), while it is not a Party to 26% (8 out of 31).

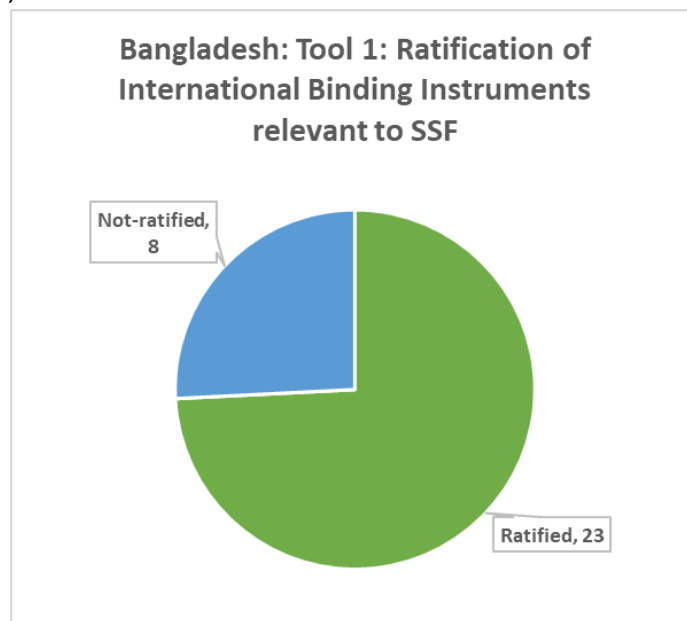


Figure 3.1: Tool 1: Ratification of International Binding Instruments related to SSF

Being a Party to these instruments means that Bangladesh has ratified them, aligning national laws and practices with international standards. For instance, Bangladesh's adherence to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) through the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 reflects the country's efforts to address forced labour and gender equality in the fisheries sector. Similarly, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982), along with the Marine Fisheries Act, 2020, demonstrates Bangladesh's commitment to managing its maritime zones and preserving fishing rights.

However, the national implementation of these instruments is not always uniform. While some commitments are incorporated into the Constitution or primary legislation, others are only addressed through policies, strategies, or action plans, which lack the enforceability of national laws. For example, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh ensure fundamental human rights and decent work, but implementation may be fragmented or insufficient in certain areas.

Regarding the 8 instruments Bangladesh is not a Party to, such as the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources (2010) and the International Convention on the

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers (1990), Bangladesh has not yet committed to these treaties. This limits its ability to fully align with international practices in these areas, such as sustainable management of genetic resources or protection of migrant fishers' rights.

Bangladesh is a member of four key regional organizations: the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), INFOFISH, and the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA). These organizations focus on regional fisheries management, fisheries development in the Bay of Bengal, market information and trade, and aquaculture development, respectively.

Table 2 in Annex A shows that Bangladesh has implemented 79.2% (19 out of 24) of the non-binding instruments relevant to small-scale fisheries (SSF), while 20.8% (5 out of 24) remain unimplemented or only partially referenced. Among the most notable is the consideration of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), which serves as a foundational reference for the National Fisheries Policy (1998). Similarly, the FAO SSF Guidelines have been referenced in key co-management initiatives such as the Hilsa Fisheries Management Action Plan, which promotes participatory governance and habitat protection for an ecologically and economically vital SSF resource.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests (VGGT, 2012) and the Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication (CBD, 2014) are also considered in national planning tools such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, providing tenure security and biodiversity-poverty linkages important for SSF-dependent communities. The 2015 Noumea Strategy for Integrated Coastal Governance is reflected in planning instruments such as the Delta Plan 2100, which incorporates coastal resilience and community-based adaptation principles.

Bangladesh is participant in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) programme, which uses the FAO Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Guide (2016) as a diagnostic tool. This initiative supports both cross-border cooperation and domestic reforms to improve marine resource sustainability, where SSF operate alongside industrial fleets.

Despite this, alignment with investment-specific instruments like the FAO Investment Principles (2014) remains weak, with no direct integration into national blue economy or fisheries financing frameworks. Certain instruments remain unimplemented. Bangladesh has not considered instruments like the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDRIP, 2018) or the Mo'otz Kuxtal Guidelines (2016), indicating gaps in the formal recognition of customary rights, rural social justice.

3.2. Critical Analysis and findings – Tool 2 (Annex B)

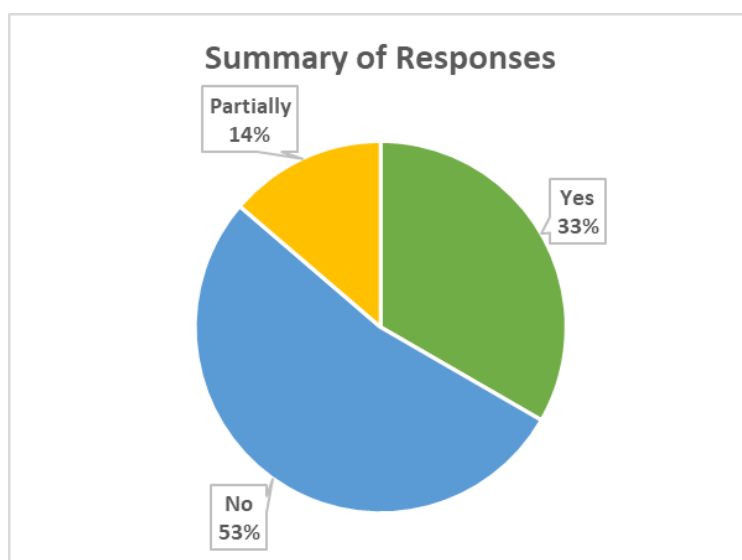
This subsection summarizes the main gaps from the desk-based preliminary assessment without prejudice to others that may be identified in a comprehensive analysis of the national policy and legal frameworks at country level.

Of the 102 questions in the Policy and Legal questionnaire, 34 questions were answered with ‘Yes’ meaning the questions are fully or sufficiently addressed in at least in one of the instruments, 14 were answered as ‘partially’ meaning the requirement is addressed to some degree but with limitations, and 54 were answered with ‘No’ meaning the requirement is not addressed in any of the analysed instruments. Findings by section are presented in the table.

Table 3.1: Tool 2 : Summary of responses (Annex B)

	Section	Yes	No	Partially
1	Definitions	1	3	1
2	Objectives	3	2	0
3	Principles	0	2	1
4	Institutional and administrative arrangements	2	6	0
5	Tenure and access rights	5	7	1
6	Sustainable resource management and conservation	8	15	4
7	Social development, employment and decent work	7	14	3
8	Value-chains, post-harvest and trade	0	1	0
9	Gender equality	3	3	0
10	Disaster risks and climate change	3	0	2
11	Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability	2	1	2
	Total	34	54	14

The summary of responses is presented in the chart below along with a pictorial indication of the distance to be travelled to achieve aspirational status.



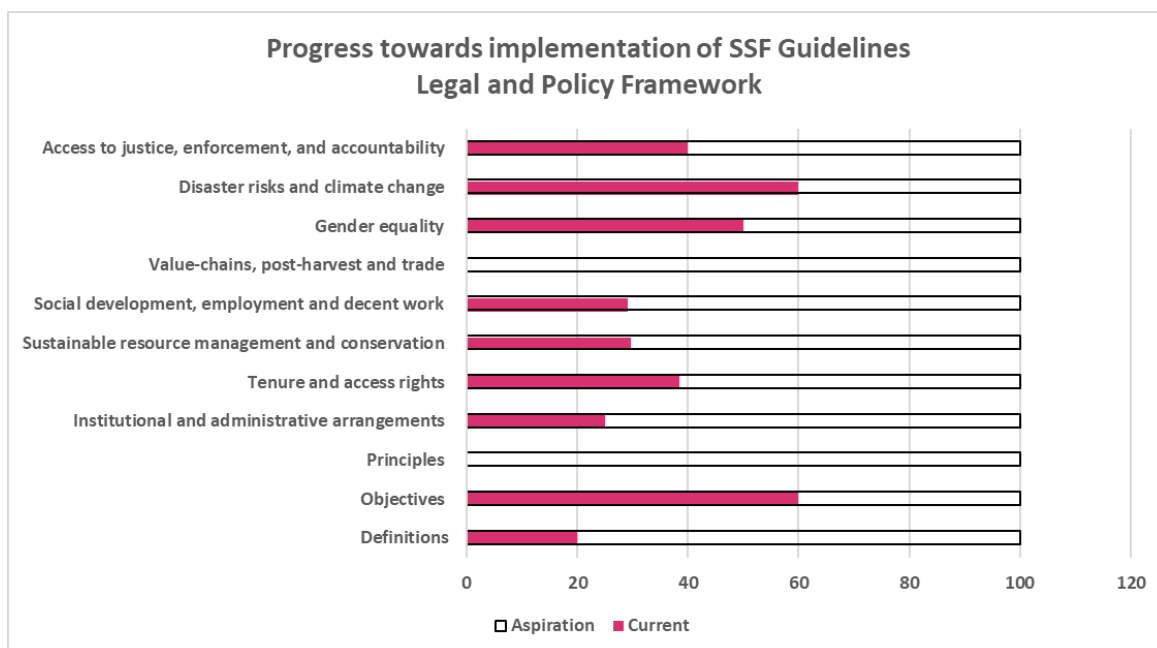


Figure 3.2: Tool 2: Analysis of policy and legal framework to support implementation of the SSF Guidelines

3.2.1. Section-wise analysis

Based on the responses in Annex B, a section-wise summary is given below.

i. Definition

The definition of small-scale fisheries and the differentiation between commercial and subsistence fisheries are partially addressed, while the inclusion of women, the entire value chain (pre-harvesting, harvesting, and post-harvesting), and the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples are not addressed in the framework.

ii. Objective

In The objectives include reference to SSF, recognition of SSF contributions to food security and nutrition, and sustainable utilization and responsible management of fisheries resources. However, the objectives do not include references to women or Indigenous Peoples.

iii. Principles

In the principles component of the policy and legal framework for small-scale fisheries in Bangladesh out of 3 criteria, none of the criteria are fully addressed. One criterion is partially addressed, where the main fisheries policy (A28) incorporates some human rights-based principles such as equity, rule of law, stakeholder participation, accountability, transparency, and the right to information, but this applies only to the marine fisheries sector and not explicitly to SSF. The other two criteria, including explicit reference to SSF in the principles and inclusion of human rights-based principles in the main fisheries legislation, are not addressed.

iv. Institutional and administrative arrangements

In the institutional and administrative arrangements component for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh out of 8 criteria, 2 criteria are addressed, 6 are not addressed. Specifically, a government institution, the Department of Fisheries, is in charge of small-scale fisheries, as outlined in the Marine Fisheries Act 2020, which grants the department the authority to regulate and manage fishing activities, issue licences, and enforce bans. However, there is no formal representation of small-scale fisheries actors or women in any national fisheries authority, nor is there any representation of Indigenous Peoples in these authorities. Additionally, the role of the government institution is not solely advisory, as it has regulatory and enforcement powers. The role of small-scale fishers is not clearly defined, and while the policy and legislation address fishing practices, there is no recognition of customary or Indigenous institutional arrangements. On a positive note, there are provisions for delegation of authority to the local/community level, as seen in the powers granted to local officers to enforce regulations and conduct inspections under the Marine Fisheries Act 2020.

v. Tenure and access rights

In the tenure and access rights component for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh, 5 criteria are addressed, 7 are not addressed, and 1 is partially addressed. The Marine Fisheries Act 2020 establishes a registry for fishers, where fishing vessel owners must submit documents, including proof of ownership and registration, to obtain a licence. Small-scale fishers using artisanal vessels must apply for a "Letter of Permission" to fish, which requires specific documentation, including vessel registration. However, there are no specific requirements for the registration of women or Indigenous Peoples, and no preferential or exclusive access is granted to small-scale fishers in the legislation. The Act allows exemptions from obtaining a fishing licence for artisanal vessels for a specified period, but the "Letter of Permission" issued to small-scale fishers is not transferable or saleable. While the Act implies some prioritization for artisanal vessels, it does not explicitly establish preferential access to fishery resources or exclusive access for small-scale fishers. Additionally, the policy and legislation do not recognize customary or Indigenous tenure rights, and they do not provide safeguards against forced eviction or relocation for small-scale fishers and their communities.

vi. Sustainable resource management and conservation

In the sustainable resource management and conservation component for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh, out of 27 criteria, 7 are fully addressed, 4 are partially addressed, and 16 are not addressed. The Marine Fisheries Act 2020 provides a registry for fishing vessels, establishes limits on fishing effort for small-scale vessels, and promotes small-scale fisher participation in MCS activities through systems like e-reporting and AIS. The NPOA-IUU specifically targets small-scale fisheries with provisions for IUU prevention. However, the ecosystem approach to fisheries and co-management provisions are partially addressed with limited implementation, and there are gaps in marine spatial planning, MPAs, and fisheries management plans. Key criteria

such as recognition of traditional knowledge, exemptions for subsistence fishers, and preferential or exclusive access for small-scale fishers are not addressed, along with a lack of customary or Indigenous tenure rights recognition. The participation of small-scale fishers in research and IUU reporting is encouraged but not legally required.

vii. Social development, employment, and decent work

In the social development, employment, and decent work component for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh, out of 24 criteria, 7 are fully addressed, 3 are partially addressed, and 14 are not addressed. The Marine Fisheries Act 2020 provides a social security scheme for small-scale fishers through the issuance of a "letter of permission" for artisanal vessels and mandates safety standards on fishing vessels, including life-saving utilities and radios. Vocational training is encouraged for youth and students, promoting skill development. However, there are gaps, as savings, credit, or insurance schemes are not available for small-scale fishers, and protection against forced labour, human trafficking, and debt bondage is not addressed. While the fisheries policy promotes decent work, it does not provide specific protections for migrant workers or Indigenous Peoples, nor does it include minimum age requirements or restrictions on unsafe work for children in the fisheries sector. Some safety standards for fishing vessels are included, but there is no comprehensive social security scheme for small-scale fishers or recognition of family-economy or household labour regimes. Despite these gaps, the framework includes a mechanism for reporting accidents and promotes compliance with sea safety standards for fishing vessels.

viii. Value chain, post-harvest and trade

There are no special considerations for small-scale fisheries in the provisions on trade in fisheries and fishery products in Bangladesh. The policy and legal framework does not provide specific support or address the unique challenges faced by small-scale fishers in accessing markets or participating in trade.

ix. Gender equality

In the gender equality component for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh out of 6 criteria, 3 criteria are fully addressed, and 3 are not addressed. There is policy and legislation that specifically supports gender equity, with strong alignment to the SSF Guidelines, particularly in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme, which promotes gender equity and participation in decision-making. The Delta Plan 2100 and National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh also address gender equality and non-discrimination. However, there are no measures for preferential treatment of women, maternity rights for small-scale fisherwomen, or measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women in the fisheries sector.

x. Disaster risks and climate change

In the disaster risks and climate change component for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh out of 5 criteria, 3 criteria are fully addressed and 2 are partially addressed. The fisheries policy considers climate change in its provisions for fisheries management,

with the Delta Plan 2100 and the National Adaptation Plan addressing climate-resilient technologies and climate-ready fisheries management. The Sector Action Plan for Environment and Climate Change (SAP ECC) also explicitly recognizes the vulnerabilities of SSF to climate change and outlines strategies to enhance their resilience. However, while the climate change policy partially addresses small-scale fisheries, the support is general and not specific to SSF. There is partial provision for an insurance scheme or funds to support SSF in the event of climate change or disaster risk, but SSF-specific actors are not fully integrated into financial mechanisms. There are no specific insurance schemes or funds mentioned that directly support small-scale fishers during climate-related disasters.

xi. Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability

In the access to justice, enforcement, and accountability component for small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Bangladesh out of 5 criteria, 2 criteria are fully addressed, 2 are partially addressed, and 1 is not addressed. Small-scale fishers have access to legal assistance through the Legal Aid Services Act, 2000, which allows them to receive free legal aid if they are financially insolvent, though it is not directly related to SSF legislation. The fisheries legislation differentiates the offences committed by small-scale fishing vessels, particularly regarding violations of fishing area regulations or operating without a "Letter of Permission" (11.4). However, there are no provisions for alternative means for conflict resolution such as mediation or village councils. Community participation in enforcement of fisheries legislation is partially addressed; while the Aquaculture Sub-Strategy mentions community involvement, it lacks enforcement mechanisms. The legislation does not provide for different penalties for small-scale fishing vessels, treating penalties uniformly across all scales of fisheries, though small-scale fishers may face more severe economic impacts due to their limited capacity.

3.3. Critical Analysis and findings – Tool 3 (Annex C)

This section summarizes the results regarding the fishing community’s perspective to the questionnaire under nine major sections as given in the table, and visualised in the chart.

Table 3.2: Tool 3 : Summary of Responses (Annex C)

	Section	Yes	No	Not sure
1	Recognition of small-scale fishers	4	0	2
2	Institutional and administrative arrangements	4	2	2
3	Tenure and access rights	8	4	1
4	Sustainable resource management and conservation	4	3	3
5	Social development, employment and decent work	5	7	3
6	Value chains, post-harvest and trade	3	1	0

	Section	Yes	No	Not sure
7	Gender equality	2	3	0
8	Disaster risks and climate change	2	3	0
9	Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability	1	2	0

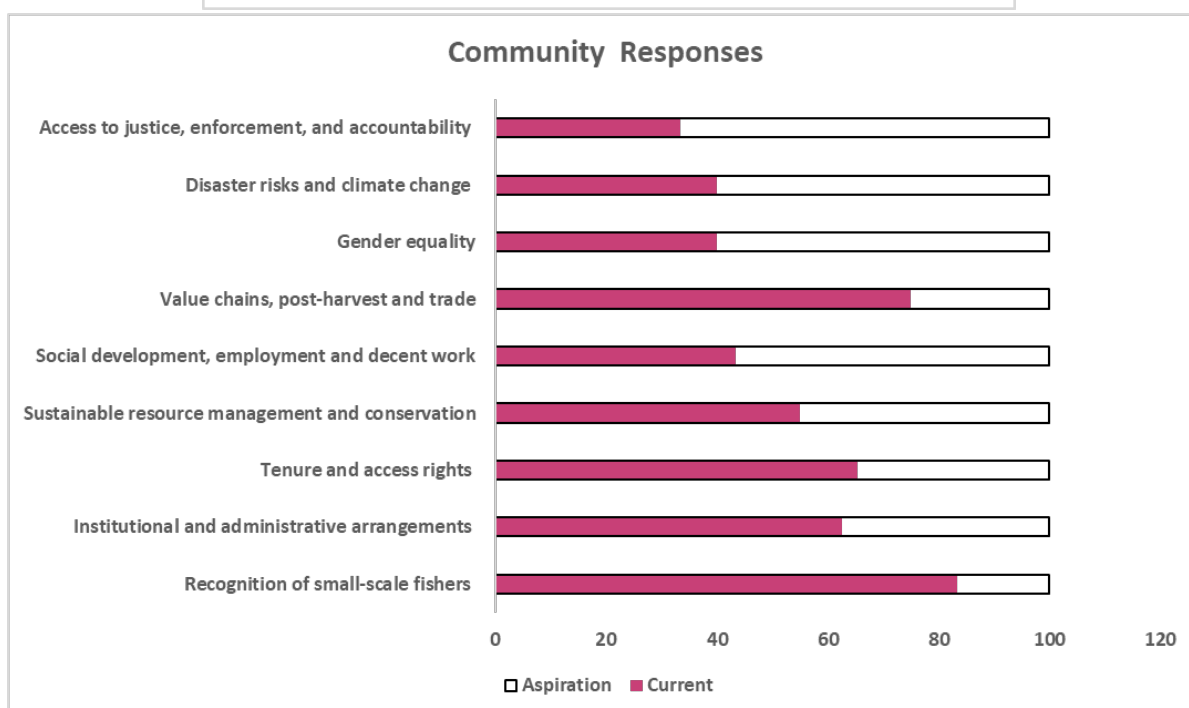
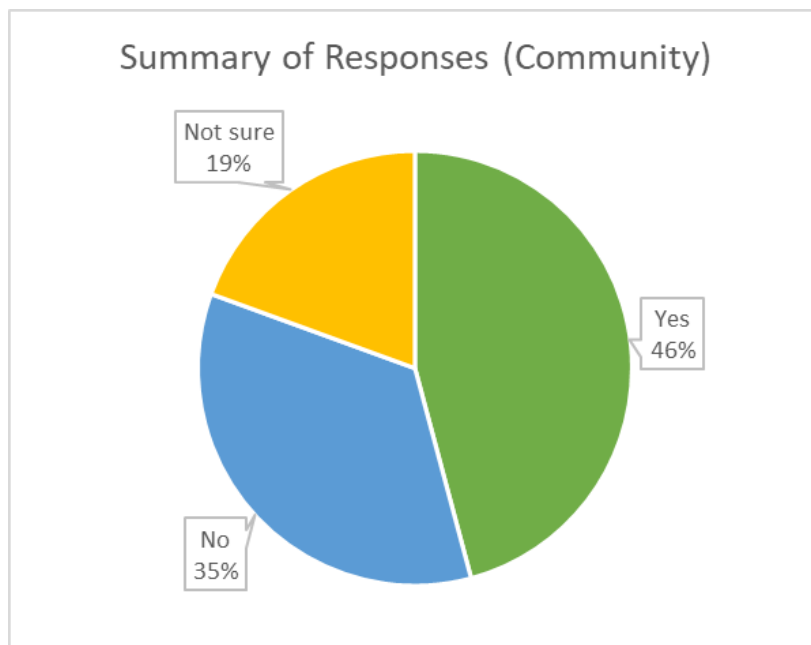


Figure 3.3: Legal and Policy Framework: Summary of community responses on progress towards implementation of SSF Guidelines

3.3.1. Section-wise analysis

i. Recognition of small-scale fishers

In the community responses on the recognition of small-scale fishers, 100% of respondents consider themselves small-scale fishers, and 87% believe there is a clear understanding of "small-scale fisheries." 47% think the term is used in laws or policies to support fishers, while 53% are unsure. 100% of respondents believe that the term includes women, and 100% recognize people involved in post-harvest activities as part of the fishing community. However, 80% are unsure if the policy and legal framework includes references to small-scale fisheries.

ii. Institutional and administrative arrangements

In the community responses on institutional and administrative arrangements, 100% of respondents consider the Department of Fisheries (DoF) as the government institution responsible for managing small-scale fisheries. While 100% of respondents believe the DoF addresses the needs of small-scale fishers, they feel its efforts are partial due to limitations in manpower, financial resources, and legal framework. Regarding the representation of small-scale fishers in national fisheries authorities, 47% of respondents believe there is representation, while 53% are unsure. None of the respondents think the representation is effective in influencing decision-making. As for women's representation, 67% of respondents believe women are not represented, and 33% are unsure. In terms of Indigenous Peoples' representation, 20% believe there is no representation, and 80% are unsure. When asked about delegation of authority to local/community levels, 53% of respondents believe it occurs, and 47% are unsure. Of those who felt delegation occurs, 53% believe it improves management and sustainability, while 47% are unsure.

iii. Tenure and access rights

In the community responses on tenure and access rights, 100% of respondents indicated that small-scale fishers are officially registered in a fishers' registry, and the registration process is accessible and affordable. However, 100% of respondents were unsure about special efforts to assist women in registering as fishers. 33% of respondents believe Indigenous Peoples' registration aligns with their customary rights, while 67% are unsure. 100% confirmed that small-scale fishing vessels follow separate rules from larger vessels, and 0% indicated that subsistence fishers are exempt from registration or license fees. All respondents (100%) agreed that small-scale fishers need a license to fish, and the licensing process is fair and transparent. 100% of respondents stated that there are no barriers for any group in obtaining a license. 100% of respondents believe small-scale fishers have special or preferential access to fishing areas, and traditional fishing grounds are respected and protected. Additionally, 0% reported forced evictions of fishers or fishing communities, and 100% confirmed that proper safeguards were in place if relocation occurred.

iv. Sustainable resource management and conservation

In the community responses on sustainable resource management and conservation, 100% confirmed the presence of a co-management system. 20% believe the roles and responsibilities of small-scale fishers are clearly defined and respected, while 47% disagree and 33% are unsure. 100% affirmed that small-scale fishers have a say in creating fisheries management areas and can participate in planning processes for marine protected areas and aquaculture projects. 20% believe small-scale fishers are involved in designing MCS systems, while 80% are not. 100% agreed that fishers can help with MCS activities. 27% are aware of a national plan to fight IUU, while 73% are unsure. 100% are unsure if the IUU plan includes small-scale fisheries. 20% believe small-scale fishers have a duty to report IUU fishing, while 80% are unsure. Finally, 27% feel traditional knowledge is respected in fisheries management, while 73% disagree.

v. Social development, employment, and decent work

In the community responses on social development, employment, and decent work, 80% of respondents reported that fishers have partial or limited access to social security schemes, while 20% indicated no access. 100% of respondents stated that there are no savings or credit programs available for small-scale fishers, and 100% confirmed that fishers do not have access to insurance related to fishing. However, 100% reported that fishers receive subsidies, such as rice during closed seasons. For maternity benefits, 100% said women involved in pre-harvest, harvest, or post-harvest activities do not receive any. 47% confirmed that small-scale fishers have decent work conditions, while 53% disagreed. 100% reported no cases of forced labour, human trafficking, or debt bondage. While 100% agreed there are measures to improve safety at sea, 47% felt these measures were partial. 100% were unsure about the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights and the existence of migrant workers in fishing. For children, 53% confirmed minimum age requirements for working in fishing, and 80% believed children are prevented from dangerous jobs in fishing, but 100% were unaware of any government programs supporting children and young people in the fishing community.

vi. Value chains, post-harvest, and trade

In the community responses on value chains, post-harvest, and trade, 100% of respondents confirmed that they have facilities to keep fish fresh or process it, although these facilities are insufficient. 100% stated that it is easy to sell their fish at a fair price locally. However, 100% reported that there are no cooperatives or associations in the community to help market their catch. 100% of respondents confirmed that training has been provided by the government or other organizations to improve fish processing or marketing, but the training is partial, as it is only occasionally arranged by the Department of Fisheries for post-harvest handling and preservation.

vii. Gender equality

In the community responses on gender equality, 100% of respondents confirmed that women are involved in small-scale fisheries, primarily in processing fish (cleaning, drying, smoking) and making or repairing fishing gear (nets, traps). 100% of respondents

stated that women do not have the same rights and opportunities as men, including the right to fish in the same areas, obtain licenses, join cooperatives, or speak in community meetings. 100% of respondents confirmed there are no specific programs or support for women in small-scale fisheries. However, 100% agreed that women feel safe and respected when participating in fishing activities and meetings, though their opinions are often not counted. 100% of respondents indicated that women do not hold leadership roles or have representation in local fisheries groups or committees.

viii. Disaster risks and climate change

In the community responses on disaster risks and climate change, 100% of respondents have noticed changes in the climate affecting their fishing, including shifting seasons, more storms, and fewer fish. 53% are aware of a disaster plan for natural events like storms, floods, or cyclones, while 47% are unaware. 100% of respondents have not received any training or support to adapt to climate change impacts. Regarding emergency plans, 27% are aware of one, while 53% are unaware and 20% are unsure. 100% of respondents are unaware of any insurance schemes to help fishers recover from losses due to disasters or climate events.

ix. Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability

In the community responses on access to justice, enforcement, and accountability, 100% of respondents confirmed there is no office for legal assistance for fishers, such as legal aid services or ombudsmen. However, 100% reported that the community has local conflict resolution mechanisms like village elders or community meetings. When it comes to fishing rule violations, 100% stated that violators typically face penalties such as fines or gear confiscation by national authorities. 100% of respondents feel that small-scale fishers are not treated fairly by law enforcement, with the reason being that large-scale fishers receive favoritism due to their wealth and power.

A comparison between the desk-based study of the policy and legal framework and the community’s perspective is presented in the table.

Table 3.3: A Critical Comparative Analysis between the policy/legal framework and community Perspectives (Annex B & Annex C)

Component	Policy/Legal Framework	Community Perspective	Comments
Definition	0% fully addressed, 60% not addressed, 40% partially addressed	100% consider themselves SSF, 87% understand the term, 53% unsure about legal use	Policy has significant gaps in defining SSF for women, value chain, and Indigenous Peoples. Community has a good understanding of SSF but is unsure about legal framework recognition.

Component	Policy/Legal Framework	Community Perspective	Comments
Objectives	60% fully addressed, 40% not addressed	100% believe SSF is key to food security, 80% unsure if policy includes SSF	Policy addresses key objectives, but lacks focus on women and Indigenous Peoples. Community recognizes SSF's importance to food security but is unsure of the policy's inclusiveness.
Principles	0% fully addressed, 67% not addressed, 33% partially addressed	Community feels unfair treatment of SSF by law enforcement	Policy partially addresses human rights principles, but SSF-specific principles are largely absent. Community feels SSF are not treated equally by law enforcement.
Institutional and Administrative Arrangements	25% fully addressed, 75% not addressed.	100% agree DoF is responsible for SSF, but efforts are partial due to resource constraints	Policy establishes DoF but lacks effective representation of SSF actors, women, and Indigenous Peoples. Community agrees with DoF's role but feels inadequate resources and lack of effective participation.
Tenure and Access Rights	38% fully addressed, 58% not addressed, 4% partially addressed	100% registered, 33% believe Indigenous Peoples' registration aligns with customary rights	Policy allows access and registration but lacks customary rights recognition and preferential access. Community confirms equal access but unsure about customary rights and women's role in registration.
Sustainable Resource Management and Conservation	30% fully addressed, 15% partially addressed, 55% not addressed	100% confirm co-management systems, but only 20% believe roles are clearly defined	Policy addresses participation and effort limits but has gaps in co-management and traditional knowledge. Community confirms co-

Component	Policy/Legal Framework	Community Perspective	Comments
			management but lacks clear role definitions and knowledge integration.
Social Development, Employment, and Decent Work	30% fully addressed, 12% partially addressed, 58% not addressed	80% report partial access to social security, no savings or credit programs, no maternity benefits for women	Policy provides little social security and lacks comprehensive protections for women, migrant workers, and children. Community has partial access to social security but feels underrepresented in social protection systems.
Value Chains, Post-Harvest, and Trade	100% not addressed	100% have facilities to process fish, no cooperatives or associations for marketing	Policy lacks focus on market access and trade support for SSF. Community has insufficient facilities but believes market access and cooperative support are lacking.
Gender Equality	50% fully addressed, 50% not addressed.	100% of women involved, but no equal rights for women to fish or join cooperatives	Policy supports gender equity but lacks protections for maternity rights, leadership roles, and violence prevention. Community confirms gender participation, but women have unequal rights.
Disaster Risks and Climate Change	60% fully addressed, 40% partially addressed	100% confirm climate change impacts fishing, but no climate adaptation training or insurance	Policy addresses climate change and SSF vulnerabilities but lacks specific adaptation support for SSF. Community feels unprepared for climate impacts and lacks training and financial mechanisms.
Access to Justice,	40% fully addressed, 40%	100% have no legal assistance	Policy provides legal aid access but lacks

Component	Policy/Legal Framework	Community Perspective	Comments
Enforcement, and Accountability	partially addressed, 20% not addressed	office, violations face penalties but large-scale fishers are favored	alternative conflict resolution mechanisms. Community feels SSF are treated unfairly in law enforcement.

4. List of priority areas/gaps

4.1. Outcomes from Tool 1

- i. Bangladesh is a Party to 74% of international instruments relevant to SSF (23 out of 31), but 26% remain unratified, including key treaties on genetic resources and migrant workers' rights.
- ii. National implementation of international commitments is uneven: some are embedded in constitutional or legislative provisions, while others exist only in policies or strategies with limited enforceability.
- iii. Regional cooperation is evident through membership in APFIC, BOBP-IGO, INFOFISH, and NACA, supporting fisheries management, trade, and aquaculture development.
- iv. Bangladesh has implemented 87.5% of relevant non-binding instruments (21 of 24), including CCRF, SSF Guidelines, VGGT, and EAF approaches, but gaps remain in labour rights, Indigenous representation, and investment principles.
- v. Labour and safety instruments (e.g., ILO C188, FAO/ILO/IMO Codes) are partially referenced but not comprehensively institutionalized, leaving SSF workers under protected.
- vi. Biodiversity and climate-related voluntary instruments (e.g., NBSAP, Delta Plan 2100) are integrated, but socioeconomic protections, investment frameworks, and recognition of customary institutions remain weak.

4.2. Outcomes from Tool 2

- i. Policy/legal framework contains 28 policies, 9 primary legislations, and 5 secondary legislations addressing fisheries.
- ii. **Definition** of SSF is weak: 0% fully addressed, 40% partially addressed, 60% not addressed (women, value chain, Indigenous Peoples absent).
- iii. **Objectives**: 60% fully addressed (food security, resource sustainability), but no reference to women or Indigenous Peoples.
- iv. **Principles**: 0% fully addressed, mostly absent except partial coverage of rights-based approaches in fisheries policy (limited to marine fisheries).
- v. **Institutional/administrative arrangements**: 25% addressed, 75% not addressed; Department of Fisheries holds regulatory power but lacks representation of SSF actors, women, and Indigenous Peoples.
- vi. **Tenure and access rights**: 38% addressed, but no recognition of customary rights, no preferential access for SSF, and women/Indigenous registration not prioritized.
- vii. **Sustainable resource management**: 26% addressed, 15% partial, 59% not addressed; gaps in co-management, traditional knowledge, and spatial planning.
- viii. **Social development and decent work**: 23% addressed, 10% partial, 67% not addressed; lacks social security, credit, insurance, migrant worker protections, and safeguards for women/children.

- ix. **Value chain and trade:** 0% addressed; no market support or provisions for SSF in trade policy.
- x. **Gender equality:** 50% addressed, 50% not addressed; gender equity exists in policy, but no leadership roles, maternity rights, or violence-prevention measures.
- xi. **Disaster risks/climate change:** 60% addressed, 40% partial; policies integrate climate resilience but lack SSF-specific adaptation support and insurance.
- xii. **Justice, enforcement, accountability:** 40% addressed, 40% partial, 20% not addressed; legal aid exists but no alternative dispute resolution, penalties are uniform across small and large-scale fishers.

4.3. Outcomes from tool 3

- i. **Recognition of Small-Scale Fishers:** Small-scale fishers recognize themselves (100%), but there is uncertainty about legal recognition (80%).
- ii. **Institutional and Administrative Arrangement:** The Department of Fisheries (DoF) is seen as responsible, but its efforts are limited by resources. There's low representation of women (67%) and Indigenous Peoples (80%) in decision-making.
- iii. **Tenure and Access Rights:** Registration is accessible (100%), but women and Indigenous Peoples face unclear support for registration.
- iv. **Sustainable Resource Management and Conservation:** A co-management system exists (100%), but there are unclear roles for SSF. Limited involvement in MCS systems and IUU reporting, and minimal respect for traditional knowledge (73%).
- v. **Social Development, Employment, and Decent Work:** Limited social security, no savings/credit programs, and no maternity benefits. Conditions at sea are partially addressed (47% dissatisfaction).
- vi. **Value Chains, Post-Harvest, and Trade:** Fishers have processing facilities, but they are insufficient. No cooperatives exist to assist in marketing their catch, and training is infrequent.
- vii. **Gender Equality:** Women are involved in processing and gear-making, but lack equal rights, leadership roles, and support programs.
- viii. **Disaster Risks and Climate Change:** Climate change impacts fishing (100%), but there is no adaptation support or insurance schemes.
- ix. **Access to Justice, Enforcement, and Accountability:** No legal aid for SSF, but community-based conflict resolution exists. SSF are treated unfairly by law enforcement, with large-scale fishers receiving favoritism.

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5. Annexures

5.1. Annex A: Tool 1

Table 1. Legally Binding International Instruments Relevant to Small-Scale Fisheries

Legally Binding International Instruments Relevant to Small-scale Fisheries

Country Name: Bangladesh

Date of Assessment: 1 July 2025

S. No	Full Instrument Name	Status (Signatory/ Party/ Not a Party)	Related Legislation	Policy/	Comments/ Explanatory notes
1.	Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)	Party	Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006		Prohibits forced labour in fishing industry.
2.	Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)	Party	Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006		Protects fishers' right to form unions.
3.	1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	Not a Party	-		-
4.	Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)	Party	Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006		Ensures equal pay for women in fisheries.
5.	Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)	Party	The Penal Code, 1860 374. Unlawful compulsory labour		Strengthens prohibition of forced labour.
6.	Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)	Party	Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006		Prevents workplace discrimination.
7.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)	Party	The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh 28 ...		Protects ethnic minority fishing communities.

S. No	Full Instrument Name	Status (Signatory/ Party/ Not a Party)	Related Legislation	Policy/	Comments/ Explanatory notes
8.	1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) No. 97	Not Party	-	-	-
9.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)	Party	Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh - Part III		Guarantees fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens
10.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)	Party	The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Part II		Recognizes right to decent work. The provision of the basic necessities of life, including food, shelter, education and medical care are also ensured.
11.	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971)	Party	wildlife (conservation and security) act, 2012		Protects critical fish habitats.
12.	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, 1973)	Party	Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012 (No. XXX).		Regulates trade of endangered aquatic species.
13.	1973 ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138	Not Party			
14.	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)	Party	National Women Development Policy 2011		Promotes gender equality in fisheries.
15.	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982)	Party	Marine Fisheries Act, 2020 (Act No. XIX of 2020).		Governs maritime zones and fishing rights.

S. No	Full Instrument Name	Status (Signatory/ Party/ Not a Party)	Related Legislation	Policy/	Comments/ Explanatory notes
			The Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974 (Act No. XXVI of 1974)		
16.	1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	Not Party	-		-
17.	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)	Party	National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009		Protects fishers from abuse
18.	1994 WTO General Agreement Tariffs and Trade.	Party	Free Trade Area Agreement		
19.	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1990)	Party	Children Act, 2013		Prohibits child labour in fisheries
20.	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW, 1990)	Party	A New Overseas Employment Policy for Bangladesh		Protects migrant fishers
21.	2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not Party	-		-
22.	2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.	Not Party	-		-
23.	2007 ILO Work in Fishing Convention No. 188.	Not Party	-		-
24.	2010 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and	Not Party	-		-

S. No	Full Instrument Name	Status (Signatory/ Party/ Not a Party)	Related Legislation	Policy/	Comments/ Explanatory notes
	Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.				
25.	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992)	Party	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009.		Addresses climate impacts on fisheries.
26.	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992)	Party	Bangladesh Biodiversity Act, 2017 (Act No. II)		Promotes sustainable fishing practices.
27.	Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA, 1995)	Party	Marine Fisheries Act, 2020 (Act No. XIX of 2020).		Manages shared fish stocks.
28.	Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)	Party	Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006		Bans hazardous child labour.
29.	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, 2006)	Party	Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013		Ensures inclusive fisheries.
30.	Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)	Party	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009		GHG reduction commitments.
31.	Paris Agreement (2015)	Party	Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041		Climate adaptation for SSF.

Annex A. Table 2. International non-binding Instruments relevant to SSF

S.No	International Guidance Instruments	Implemented or Not at National Level	Legal/ Policy Basis	Comments/Explanatory Notes
1	1968 Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels	Implemented	Fisheries Training Programs	Referenced in capacity-building
2	1980 FAO/ILO/IMO Guidelines for Small Fishing Vessels	Implemented	National Fisheries Policy 1998	Operational use in training
3	1992 UNGA Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.	Implemented	Marine Fisheries Act, 2020	The 1992 UNGA Declaration on Minority Rights is reflected in Bangladesh's policies, alongside legal frameworks like the Fisheries Act for sustainable fisheries management.
4	1995 UN Fourth World Conference for Women's Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing Declaration).	Implemented	National Fisheries Policy, 1998, Marine Fisheries Act 2020.	The principles of the 1995 Beijing Declaration have influenced Bangladesh's gender equality policies, and while fisheries laws primarily focus on resource management, they indirectly support women's roles in the sector through broader empowerment initiatives.

S.No	International Guidance Instruments	Implemented or Not at National Level	Legal/ Policy Basis	Comments/Explanatory Notes
5	1995 FAO CCRF	Implemented	National Fisheries Policy 1998. Marine Fisheries Harvest Policy, 2023.	Principle reference point.
6	1999 UN Declaration on human rights defenders	Implemented	Protection and Conservation of Fish Act (East Bengal Act XVIII) 1950, National Fisheries Policy 1998.	Reference in human rights but not well equipped.
7	2002 CBD COP Decision VI/7 Annex Akwe: Kon Voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.	Implemented	Protection and Conservation of Fish Act (East Bengal Act XVIII) 1950, National Fisheries Policy 1998.	Support sustainable resource management
8	2004 FAO Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Right to Food Guidelines).	Implemented	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh 2020, National Food and Nutrition Security Policy - Plan of Action 2021, The National Fisheries Policy (1998).	Ensure food security and nutrition for all, with integrated strategies across sectors, including fisheries.

S.No	International Guidance Instruments	Implemented or Not at National Level	Legal/ Policy Basis	Comments/Explanatory Notes
9	2005 FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 10 “Increasing the Contribution of Small-Scale Fisheries to Poverty Alleviation and Food Security”	Implemented	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh 2020, National Food and Nutrition Security Policy - Plan of Action 2021, The National Fisheries Policy (1998).	Poverty alleviation.
10	2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).	Not Implemented	The Labour Inspection in Bangladesh 2014-2018	Ensure basic needs but not for indigenous people explicitly.
11	2010 FAO/ILO/IMO Safety Recommendations for Decked Fishing Vessels of Less than 12 Metres in length and Undecked Fishing Vessels.	Implemented	The Labour Inspection in Bangladesh 2014-2018	Basic safety checks
12	2010 ILO Guidelines for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No.188).	Implemented	National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (NPOA-IUU)	NPOA-IUU reflects a commitment to improving fisheries governance and may align with the Convention's objectives.
13	2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights	Not Implemented	-	-

S.No	International Guidance Instruments	Implemented or Not at National Level	Legal/ Policy Basis	Comments/Explanatory Notes
14	2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development' outcome document 'The Future We Want'	Implemented	National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010–2021.	This strategy aligns with the global commitment to sustainable development by focusing on sustained economic growth, environmental protection, and social justice.
15	2012 FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).	Implemented	The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP2100) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	Tenure references
16	2013 CITES COP Resolution 16.6 (Rev. COP 18) CITES and Livelihoods	Implemented	Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).	Emphasize the importance of community involvement in conservation efforts and the sustainable use of biodiversity, which indirectly supports the livelihoods of rural communities dependent on natural resources.
17	2014 FAO Principles for responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.	Implemented	National Fisheries Policy (1998).	Emphasizes sustainable fisheries management, poverty alleviation, and community participation, which resonate with the CFS RAI's focus on responsible investment and inclusive development.

S.No	International Guidance Instruments	Implemented or Not at National Level	Legal/ Policy Basis	Comments/Explanatory Notes
18	2014 CBD COP Decision XII/5 Annex Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication.	Implemented	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	Biodiversity-poverty link
19	2015 UN Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).	Implemented	Hilsa Management Plan	Co-management basis
20.	2016 CBD COP Decision XIII/18Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" or "approval and involvement", depending on national circumstances, of Indigenous Peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge.	Not Implemented	-	Customary rights gap
21	2016 FAO How- to Guide on Legislating for an ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.	Implemented	BOBLME Program Marine Fisheries Management Plan, Part 2 Artisanal, 2023 Marine Fisheries Harvest Policy, 2023	Diagnostic tool and policy guidance for government

S.No	International Guidance Instruments	Implemented or Not at National Level	Legal/ Policy Basis	Comments/Explanatory Notes
22	2017 ILO Guidelines of flag State inspection of working and living conditions on board fishing vessels.	Not Implemented	-	EEZ implementation gap
23	2018 UNDROP	Not Implemented	-	No rural policy links
24	2015 A New Song for Coastal Fisheries, Pathways to Change: The Noumea Strategy	Implemented	Delta Plan 2100	Coastal governance

5.2. Annex B: Tool 2

Table 1: List of National Policy and Legal Instruments related to Fisheries Assessed in this Report

Type	Identification	Original title (with English translation)	Year or time frame	Amendment
Policy	A1	National Fisheries Policy	1998	N/A
	A2	National Fisheries Strategy	2006	N/A
	A3	Shrimp Sub-Strategy	2006	N/A
	A4	Marine Fisheries Sector Sub-Strategy	2006	N/A
	A5	Inland Capture Fisheries Sub-Strategy	2006	N/A
	A6	Aquaculture Sub-strategy	2006	N/A
	A7	Coastal Development Strategy	2006	N/A
	A8	Country Investment Plan	2011	N/A
	A9	Master Plan for Agricultural Development in the Southern Region of Bangladesh	2013	N/A
	A10	National Aquaculture Development Strategy and Action Plan of Bangladesh	2013–2020	N/A
	A11	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme	2015	N/A
	A12	Seventh Five Year Plan FY2016 – FY2020	2015	N/A
	A13	Plan of Action to Implement Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	2018	N/A
	A14	Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (Abridged Version)	2018	N/A
	A15	National plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing	2019	N/A
	A16	Perspective Plan of Bangladesh	2020	N/A
	A17	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh	2020	N/A
	A18	Eighth Five Year Plan	2020	N/A
	A19	Bangladesh National Conservation Strategy	2021	N/A
	A20	Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Management Plan: Part 1- Industrial	2021	N/A
	A21	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy - Plan of Action	2021	N/A
	A22	Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan	2022	N/A

Type	Identification	Original title (with English translation)	Year or time frame	Amendment
Primary Legislation	A23	Bangladesh Third Country Investment Plan - CIP3	2022	N/A
	A24	National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh	2022	N/A
	A25	Sector Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change	2023	N/A
	A26	National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP)	1995	N/A
	A27	Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Management Plan: Part 2- Artisanal	2023	N/A
	A28	Marine Fisheries Harvest Policy	2022	N/A
	B1	Protection and Conservation of Fish Act (East Bengal Act XVIII)	1950	2002
	B2	Government Fisheries (Protection) Ordinance	1959	N/A
Secondary Legislation	B3	Agricultural Produce Cess Act	1949	1973
	B4	Private Fisheries Protection Act	1889	1973
	B5	Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act	1974	2021
	B6	Bangladesh Merchant Shipping Ordinance	1983	2004
	B7	Marine Fisheries Act	2020	N/A
	B8	Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation Act	1973	N/A
	B9	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute Act	2018	N/A
	C1	Protection and Conservation of Fish Rules	1985	N/A
Secondary Legislation	C2	Marine Fisheries Rules	2023	N/A
	C3	Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries Management and Harvest	2023	N/A
	C4	10-year Plan of Action for Artisanal Vessel Management (2023-2032)	2023	N/A
	C5	Guidelines on Sustainable Fisheries by Artisanal Vessels, 2024	2024	N/A

Table 2: Response to Questionnaire

	Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
1	Definition			
1.1	Is the term small-scale fisheries or related terms defined in the policy and legal framework?	Yes	A15 (Page 13) , B7 (Chapter 1) .	A15. NPOA- IUU Fishing provides definitions of artisanal fishing traditionally known as SSF; B7. “Artisanal vessel” means any fishing vessel with a carrying capacity of net 15 (fifteen) tons or below.
1.2	Does the term related to small-scale fisher include women?	No		
1.3	Does the term related to small-scale fisheries differentiate commercial and subsistence?	Partially	A15 (Page 13) B7 (Chapter 1)	A15. The NPOA-IUU distinguishes between "artisanal marine fisheries" and "industrial marine fisheries," but does not explicitly differentiate between commercial and subsistence small-scale fisheries. B7. Distinguishes between "artisanal vessels" and "commercial trawlers."
1.4	Does the term related to small-scale fisheries include reference to the entire value chain (pre-harvesting, harvesting, and post-harvesting)?	No		
1.5	Do any of the terms related to small-scale fisheries include	No		

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
Indigenous Peoples?			
Objectives ⁷			
2.1 Do the objectives of the policy and legal framework include reference to small-scale fisheries?	Yes	A15 (Page 13). B7 (Chapter 1).	A15. NPOA- IUU Fishing provides definition of artisanal fishing that known as SSF in BD during the objective explanation of the document. B7. The Marine Fisheries Act 2020 defined artisanal fisher in the preliminary where all the documents prime points have been defined.
2.2 Do the objectives include recognition of SSF to food security and nutrition?	Yes	A15 (Page 09).	A15. The NPOA-IUU demonstrates Bangladesh's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which provide a framework to “free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet support peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future .” With this objective it calls for action against IUU in SSF.
2.3 Do the objectives refer to achieve the sustainable utilization and responsible management of fisheries resources?	Yes	A1 (Page 8–10); A15 (Page 6).	A1. Supports sustainable and responsible management by prioritizing small-scale fisheries in coastal areas, training, and resource protection.

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
		A28 (Page 3)	<p>A15. NPOA-IUU Fishing recognizes the importance of regulating artisanal (small-scale) fisheries, promoting sustainable and responsible use of marine resources.</p> <p>A28. Promote the conservation & responsible fisheries in coastal and marine waters for the sustainability of the resources</p>
2.4	No		
2.5	No	-	-
3			
3.1	No	-	-
3.2	Partially	A28 (Page 12)	<p>A28. For establishing equity, the rule of law, scope of participation, accountability, transparency, responsibility, and the right to information in marine fisheries management, the government shall take the initiative in implementing the law, ensuring accountability and participation of stakeholders. Only for the marine fisheries sector, and SSF is a major part of marine</p>

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
3.3	No		fisheries.
* For ease of reference: human rights and dignity; respect of cultures; non-discrimination; gender equality and equity; equity and equality; consultation and participation; rule of law; transparency; accountability; economic, social and environmental sustainability; holistic and integrated approaches; social responsibility; and feasibility and social and economic viability.			
4	Institutional and administrative arrangements		
4.1	Yes	B7 (Chapter VII)	B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. The Department of Fisheries is mentioned in the Act as the authority responsible for various aspects of marine fisheries, including small-scale fisheries, and has powers to issue fishing licences and permissions for artisanal vessels, which are typically small-scale.
4.2	No		B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. The Act does not explicitly mention a formal representation of small-scale fishers in the national fisheries authority.
4.3	No	-	Not mentioned
4.4	No	-	Not specifically mentioned

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
national fisheries authority?			
4.5 Is the role of the government institution relevant to small-scale fisheries solely advisory?	No	-	The role of the government institution (Department of Fisheries) is not solely advisory. It is empowered to regulate and manage fishing activities, issue licences, enforce bans, and take action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities.
4.6 Is the role of the small-scale fishers clearly defined?	No	-	-
4.7 Does the policy and/or legislation recognize customary or Indigenous institutional arrangements?	No	-	However, it does address fishing practices through the issuance of permissions and regulations, but there is no direct mention of customary practices.
4.8 Are there provisions for the delegation of authority to the local/community level?	Yes	B7 (Chapter III)	B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. the Act does allow for the delegation of authority to local levels, as seen in the powers granted to designated officers and authorised officers, who are tasked with enforcing the regulations, including conducting inspections and imposing fines at the local level.
Tenure and access rights			
5.1 Is there a registry for fishers?	Yes	B7 (Chapter III)	B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. a registry of fishing vessels is implied through the licence application process. The owner of a fishing

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
5.2 Are there specific requirements for the registration of small-scale fishers?	Yes	B7 (Chapter III)	vessel must submit various documents to obtain a licence, including proof of ownership and registration documents. B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. Yes, small-scale fishers using artisanal vessels must apply for a "Letter of Permission" to fish in the marine fishing area. The application requires specific documentation, including proof of ownership and registration of the vessel.
5.3 Are there specific requirements for the registration of women?	No	-	Not mentioned in any relevant policy or legislation.
5.4 Are there specific requirements for the registration of Indigenous Peoples?	No	-	-
5.5 Is there any exemption from obtaining a fishing license?	Yes	B7 (Section 21/7)	B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. The Government may exempt the artisanal vessel from obtaining letter of permission under for a specified period of time.
5.6 Is there any special requirement for small-scale fishers in the application for a fishing license?	Yes	B7 (Chapter III)	B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. Yes, small-scale fishers using artisanal vessels must apply for a "Letter of Permission" for fishing in the marine fishing area, and this letter is not transferable or saleable, which is a specific requirement for small-scale fishers.
5.7 Are there any requirements for	Partially	B7 (Chapter II)	B7. The Act does not explicitly mention

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
preferential access by small-scale fishers to fishery resources?			preferential access for small-scale fishers to fishery resources. However, the regulation of fishing areas and licences implies some prioritization for certain fishing methods, such as those used by artisanal vessels.
5.8 Does the policy or legislation establish exclusive access for small-scale fishers?	No		Any legislation does not establish exclusive access for small-scale fishers. It does allow artisanal vessels to fish in specific areas with a "Letter of Permission," but this does not constitute exclusive access.
5.9 Is there any special requirement for small-scale fisher license holder to transfer his/her licenses?	Yes	B7 (Chapter III)	B7. The "Letter of Permission" issued for artisanal vessels is not transferable or saleable. This special provision ensures that the licence cannot be transferred to another party.
5.10 Does the policy and/or legislation recognize customary tenure rights?	No	-	-
5.11 Does the policy and/or legislation recognize Indigenous tenure rights?	No	-	-
5.12 Does the environmental policy and/or legislation prohibit forced eviction of small-scale fishers and their communities?	No	-	-

	Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
5.13	Does the environmental policy and/or legislation provide clear safeguards (e.g., prior notification in a timely manner, compensatory measures, reparation) for small-scale fishers and their communities in the case of relocation?	No	-	-
6	Sustainable resource management and conservation			
6.1	Does the policy and/or legislation provide for the ecosystem approach to fisheries?	Partially	<p>A6 (Page 13,14); A10 (Page 7,9).</p> <p>A27 (Page1)</p> <p>A28 (Page 10)</p>	<p>A6 & A10. Aquaculture Sub-strategy & National Aquaculture Development Strategy and Action Plan of Bangladesh reference EAF but lack implementation.</p> <p>A27. Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) based on the EAFM for sustainable harvests of marine fisheries resources by artisanal and mechanized fleets defined in the Marine Fisheries Act 2020.</p> <p>A28. Coastal and Marine Fisheries Management shall follow the Ecosystem-Based Approach (EBA).</p>
6.2	Is there a requirement for fisheries management to apply the precautionary principle?	No		
6.3	Is there a register of fishing	Yes	B7 (Chapter III).	B7. Yes, fishing vessels must register with the

	Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
	vessels? If yes, please specify if the vessel is required to register with the fisheries authority, maritime authority or any other applicable authority.			Department of Fisheries and comply with the Bangladesh Merchant Shipping Ordinance for inspection and registration.
6.4	Are there any special requirements for registration applicable to small-scale fishing vessels?	No	-	-
6.5	Does the fisheries legislation exempt subsistence small-scale fishing from certain responsibilities (e.g., registration, payment of licence fees)?	No	A1 (Section 11.1) .	A1. All fishing units must register and obtain licenses; no exemption for subsistence small-scale fishers is mentioned.
6.6	Is there a fisheries management scheme in place that reflects co-management?	Partially	A15 (Page 19)	A15. NPOA-IUU explains that establishment of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and village level sub committees are the first and fundamental step in creating sustainable co-management of fisheries resources.
6.7	Where there is co-management in place, are roles and responsibilities of small-scale fishers clearly defined?	No	-	-
6.8	Is there a requirement to use traditional knowledge in fisheries	No	-	-

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
management?			
6.9 Do the conditions for granting a fishing license require the applicants to be a national, and not allow for a migrant to apply?	Yes	B7 (Page 6)	B7. For the issuance of a license, a certificate is required as proof of citizenship or nationality of the applicant, but not mentioned whether it is applicable for a national or a migrant.
6.10 Is there a specific arrangement for establishing quota to small-scale fisheries?	No		
6.11 Is there a specific arrangement for establishing quota to women?	No	-	Not mentioned in any relevant policy or legislation.
6.12 Is there a specific arrangement for establishing quota to Indigenous Peoples?	No	-	Not mentioned in any relevant policy or legislation.
6.13 Is there a limit of fishing effort to small-scale fishing vessels?	Yes	B7 (Chapter 2)	B7. Marine Fisheries Act 2020. The Director General may impose fishing effort limits to ensure sustainable catch levels, including for small-scale vessels. An engine-driven fishing vessel without trawling or long lining or purse seining method having a net capacity of more than 15 (fifteen) tons;
6.14 Are there any traditional fishing techniques, methods and ceremonies protected?	No	-	Not mentioned in any relevant policy or legislation.

Question		yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
6.15	Is there a requirement to ensure participation of small-scale fishers in the process of establishing fisheries management areas?	No	A1 (Section 9.3)	A1. Marine Fisheries Policy 1998. While SSF harvesting zones are to be demarcated, no participation mechanism is specified.
6.16	Is there a requirement for the fisheries management plans to be published?	No	-	
6.17	Does the law regulating the process for marine spatial planning allow for the participation of small-scale fishers?	No		
6.18	Does the law regulating the process for marine protected areas allow for the participation of small-scale fishers?	No		A1. The policy focuses on environmental safeguards but lacks clauses ensuring SSF involvement in MPA planning.
6.19	Does the law regulating the process for aquaculture establishments allow for the participation of small-scale fishers?	No	A1 (Section 10.11)	A1. The credit policy supports SSFs financially but doesn't involve them in aquaculture licensing or policy formation.
6.20	Are there any special considerations for small-scale fisheries in the provisions on	Yes	A1 (Section 10.8)	A1. Marine Fisheries Policy 1998. The research policy encourages practical research involving fishers and aligning with

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
fisheries research?			their development needs.
6.21 Is there an obligation for the research institution to collect disaggregated data for small-scale fisheries?	No	A1 (Section 10.8)	A1. Though field research is encouraged, there is no requirement to disaggregate data specifically for SSFs.
6.22 Do the fisheries policy and/or legislation promote or provide for the involvement of fishers in the design of MCS systems and safety standards?	Yes	A15 (Section 3.1)	A15. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance and SCMPF, safety certificates, registration campaigns, and vessel inspections are key mechanisms ensuring fisher and vessel safety, though direct SAR training is not mentioned.
6.23 Do the fisheries policy and/or legislation promote or provide for the involvement of fishers to engage in MCS activities (e.g., community observers, inspectors, wardens)?	No		
6.24 Is there a National Plan of Action (NPOA) to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)?	Yes	A15	A15. NPOA-IUU has been developed in 2019 in BD
6.25 Where there is an NPOA-IUU, are there any specific provisions on small-scale fisheries?	Yes	A15 (Section 2.2.7.6, 2.2.7.7)	A15. AIS, e-reporting, and landing site inspection plans target artisanal fleets.
6.26 Where fisheries legislation	Partially	A15 (Section 3.5)	A15. Small-scale vessels are not primary

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
contain provisions on Port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, or where there is legislation regulating these measures, do they apply to small-scale fisheries?			subjects of PSMA-based enforcement mechanisms.
6.27 Do small-scale fishers have the duty to report on IUU fishing practices?	Partially	A15 (Section 2.2.7)	A15. No legal duty stated but encouraged through phased e-reporting. Reporting is encouraged via future mobile-based systems but not made a legal obligation.
7	Social development, employment and decent work		
7.1 Does the social security scheme apply to small-scale fishers and fishworkers?	Partially	B7 (Section 21) .	B7. The Act provides for the issuance of a "letter of permission" to artisanal vessels, facilitating their operation within the marine fisheries sector. It supports social security indirectly by granting artisanal fishers legal permission to operate, ensuring recognition, stability, and continued livelihood opportunities within the sector.
7.2 Does the savings and credits scheme apply to small-scale fishers and fishworkers?	No	-	Not mentioned in any relevant policy or legislation.
7.3 Does the insurance scheme apply to small-scale fishers and	No	-	Not mentioned in any relevant policy or legislation.

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
fishworkers?			
7.4 Are any specific subsidies and insurance schemes for small-scale fishers and fishworkers?	No	-	Not mentioned in any relevant policy or legislation
7.5 Does the fisheries policy promote decent work in fisheries?	Yes	A4 (Section 2.3).	A4. Highlights the importance of creating employment opportunities and improving the livelihoods of the fishers, particularly those from poor communities, as part of sustainable fisheries management. Ensures fair, safe, and productive employment for fishers—providing them with secure livelihoods, protection of rights, social security, safe working conditions, and opportunities for income and community development, especially for marginalized and poor fishing communities.
7.6 Is there specific protection against forced labour, human trafficking, and debt-bondage?	No	-	-
7.7 Are there specific considerations on the safety of fishers and fishworkers in the fisheries policy and/or law (e.g. awareness campaigns, trainings on search and rescue)?	Yes	A15 (Section 3.1).	A15. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance and SCMFP, safety certificates, registration campaigns, and vessel inspections are key mechanisms ensuring fisher and vessel safety, though direct SAR training is not mentioned.

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
7.8 Is there a policy and/or legislation that specifically supports or protects the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which would be applicable to Indigenous Peoples in the small-scale fisheries sector?	No		
7.9 Does the fisheries policy and/or legislation provide for non-discrimination against Indigenous Peoples?	No		
7.10 Is there recognition and protection of traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples?	No		
7.11 Is there recognition and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to occupy, and manage the resources of, the traditional/ancestral territories?	No	-	
7.12 Is the free, prior, informed consent (FPIC) provided in the consultation process affecting Indigenous Peoples?	No	-	
7.13 Is there a policy and/or legislation that specifically	No	-	

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
supports or protects the rights of migrants, which would be applicable to migrants in the small-scale fisheries sector?			
7.14 Does the labour or related legislation recognize the same rights to migrant workers as the rights of national workers (e.g. wages, working hours, health and safety standards), which would be applicable to the small-scale fisheries sector?	No	-	
7.15 Are migrant workers eligible to apply for social security scheme?	No	-	
7.16 Is there a policy and/or legislation that specifically supports or protects the rights of children and youth, which would be applicable to children and youth in the small-scale fisheries sector (e.g. access to education, decent employment for youth)?	Partially	A1 (Section 10.6)	A1. Vocational training for youth, students, and unemployed persons is encouraged, promoting decent work and skill development.
7.17 Is there a minimum age for working in fisheries?	No	-	The Bangladesh's Labour Law Act, 2006 sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. However, there is no specific age limit

	Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
7.18	Are there any restrictions for children to engage in unsafe work or other activities along the fisheries value chain?	Yes	A12 (Page 573)	mentioned in anywhere of fisheries legal framework specifically.
7.19	Does the fisheries policy provide for any program that address children in fisheries?	Partially	A1 (Section 10.6) .	A12. Protect, promote and monitor rights and non-discrimination: right to adequate food and to be able to feed oneself in dignity; and all other –related rights (employment, children’s rights; women’s rights; water and rights, focus on marginalized groups, poor households and women
7.20	Does the social security scheme include provisions specific to a family-economy or household labour regime?	No	-	A1. Vocational training is mentioned for school and college students, promoting skill development, though not as a child-focused protection policy.
7.21	Are there any considerations for the maintenance of safety equipment and/or the observance of safety standards on board small-scale fishing vessels?	Yes	A1 (Section 9.3) .	-
7.22	Does the fisheries policy promote the compliance with sea safety standards for fishing	Yes	A1 (Section 9.3, 10.1) .	A1. All small-scale fishing boats must carry life-saving utilities and radios, supporting onboard safety.
				A1. Safety compliance is promoted through required vessel utilities and conditions tied to

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
vessels?			landing site permits.
7.23 Is there a specific policy and/or legislation on safety standards for fishing vessels?	Yes	B6 (Chapter 30)	B6. The legislation includes specific safety standards for fishing vessels, such as compliance with Collision Regulations, proper use of lights, fog signals, and mandatory inspections (Sections 368–370).
7.24 Is there any mechanism for small-scale fishers to report on accidents or incidents occurred during their activities?	Yes	B6 (Section 93)	Under the legislation, any ship owner or master—including small-scale fishers operating licensed vessels—must report accidents or incidents (e.g., injury, damage, violence) to the Director-General within 3 days, indicating there is a formal mechanism for such reporting.
8			
8.1 Are there any special considerations for small-scale fisheries in the provisions on trade in fisheries and fishery products?	No		
9			
9.1 Is there a policy and/or legislation that specifically supports or protects the rights of women, which would be applicable to women in the	Yes	A11 (Page 40) .	A11. Shows strong alignment with SSF Guidelines by promoting gender equity, SSF participation in decision-making, and policy reforms. It directs authorities to “undertake a gender equity review and gaps analysis of

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
small-scale fisheries sector?			policies, regulatory and legal frameworks and institutions; and provide recommendations for best practice and initiate actions for mainstreaming.”
9.2 Does the fisheries policy and/or legislation provide for gender equality?	Yes	<p>A11 (Page 40, 42, 43).</p> <p>A14 (Page 34,35);</p> <p>A17 (Page 34,35).</p>	<p>A11. Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme shows strong alignment with SSF Guidelines by promoting gender equity. It emphasizes gender-sensitivity, requiring the continuous provision of gender inputs throughout SAP implementation.</p> <p>A14 & A17. Delta Plan 2100 & National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh mention gender.</p>
9.3 Does the fisheries policy and/or legislation provide for non-discrimination against women?	Yes	<p>A11 (Page 40, 42, 43).</p> <p>A14 (Page 34,35);</p> <p>A17 (Page 34,35).</p>	<p>A11. Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme shows strong alignment with SSF Guidelines by promoting gender equity,</p> <p>A14 & A17. Delta Plan 2100 & National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh mention gender.</p>
9.4 Are there any measures or requirements in place which grant preferential treatment to	No	-	-

	Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
	women?			
9.5	Does the labour or related legislation provide for maternity rights (e.g., paid leave, healthcare, safety), which would be applicable to small-scale fisherwomen?	No	-	-
9.6	Are there any measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women?	No	-	-
10	Disaster risks and climate change			
10.1	Does the fisheries policy consider climate change in the provisions relating to fisheries management?	Yes	A14 (Page 23) , A24 (Page 97) .	A14. Delta Plan 2100 highlights as a whole the marine fisheries management considering climate change. A24. The fisheries policy considers climate change in its provisions, particularly through the development of climate-ready fisheries management, climate-resilient technologies, and the extension of indigenous knowledge-based adaptation techniques to address climate-related stresses in aquaculture and fisheries management.
10.2	Does the climate change policy consider fisheries management?	Yes	A14 (Page 23) , A24 (Page 97) .	A14. Delta Plan 2100 highlights as a whole the marine fisheries management considering climate change.

Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
10.3 Does the climate change policy or strategy address small-scale fisheries?	Partially	A14 (Page 23) .	A24. National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh considers climate change in its provisions, particularly through the development of climate-ready fisheries management, climate-resilient technologies, and the extension of indigenous knowledge-based adaptation techniques to address climate-related stresses in aquaculture and fisheries management. A14. Delta Plan 2100 highlights as a whole the marine fisheries considering climate change not specific to SSF. As SSF is under fisheries, that's why it partially supports the question..
10.4 Does the fisheries policy recognize the vulnerabilities of small-scale fisheries to climate change?	Yes	A25 (Page 45-155) .	A25. The Sector Action Plan for Environment and Climate Change (SAP ECC) of Bangladesh explicitly acknowledges the vulnerabilities of SSF to climate change impacts. It outlines strategies aimed at enhancing the climate resilience of SSF through improved resource management, sustainable practices, and integration into broader environmental and climate policies. The plan emphasizes the importance of aligning SSF initiatives with national development goals and international commitments to ensure sustainable

	Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
10.5	Is there an insurance scheme or funds available to support small-scale fishers in the event of climate change or disaster risk?	Partially	A22 (Page 80, 109).	livelihoods and food security for fishing communities. A22. Aligns with the climate aspect of the SSF Guidelines by promoting access to climate-resilient financing and adaptation technologies; however, it shows a coordination gap as SSF-specific actors are not explicitly integrated into financial mechanisms or partnership strategies.
11	Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability			
11.1	Is there a public legal advisor or office to whom/which small-scale fishers can resort to for legal assistance?	Yes	Legal Aid Services Act, 2000 (Sections 2(a), 7, 8, 9).	Though it is not directly related to SSF legal policy or legislation but there is a scope under the Legal Aid Services Act, 2000 (Sections 2(a), 7, 8, 9) , small-scale fishers can access free legal aid through District Legal Aid Committees if they are financially insolvent. These committees appoint public lawyers to assist eligible applicants
11.2	Does the fisheries legislation provide for alternative means for conflict resolution (e.g., mediation, village councils)?	No		
11.3	Does the fisheries legislation provide for community participation in the enforcement	Partially	A6 (Page 13,14).	A6. Aquaculture Sub-Strategy mentions community involvement but lacks enforcement. And there is no other clause that mentions community participation in the

	Question	yes / no / partially	Legal and/ or Policy basis	Comments
11.4	<p>of fisheries legislation?</p> <p>Does the fisheries legislation differentiate the offences committed by small-scale fishing vessels?</p>	Yes	B7 (Chapter III)	<p>enforcement of fisheries legislation.</p> <p>B7. It differentiates the offences committed by small-scale fishing vessels, especially in cases where artisanal vessels violate fishing area regulations or operate without a Letter of Permission</p>
11.5	<p>Does the fisheries legislation provide for different penalties for small-scale fishing vessels?</p>	Partially	B7 (Chapter III)	<p>B7. The law does not provide any formal distinction in penalties between large-scale and small-scale fishers for the same offence. Penalties are defined uniformly, although their <i>impact</i> may be more severe for small-scale fishers due to economic capacity—but the legal framework itself treats them equally in terms of punishment.</p>

5.3. Annex C: Tool 3

Table: Response to the Policy and Legal Implementation Questionnaire for Communities

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
1. Recognition of small-scale fishers					
1.	In your community, do people generally consider themselves small-scale fishers (whether they fish or a living, for food, or both)?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
2.	Do you think there is a clear understanding in your community about what "small-scale fisheries" means?	√			A total of 15 respondents. 13 answered "Yes", and 2 answered "Not Sure".
3.	In your experience, is the term "small-scale fisher" used in any laws or policies to support fishers?			√	A total of 15 respondents. 7 respondents answered "Yes", and 8 answered "Not Sure".
4.	Do you know if the term "small-scale fisher" includes women in your community?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
5.	Are people involved in post-harvest activities (e.g., processing fish, selling fish) recognized as part of the fishing community?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
6.	Do the objectives of the policy and legal framework include reference to small-scale fisheries?			√	A total of 15 respondents. 3 respondents answered "Yes", and 12 answered "Not Sure".

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
2. Institutional and administrative arrangements					
7.	Is there a specific government institution or authority responsible for managing small-scale fisheries in your country or community?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes". Department of Fisheries
8.	If yes, do you think the government institution is doing enough to address the needs of small-scale fishers?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes". But partially
Please elaborate your response and give examples: The responsible authority is the Department of Fisheries. However, due to the lack of manpower, financial resources, and a proper legal framework & policy support, the DoF is partially fulfilling the needs of Small-scale fishers.					
9.	Are small-scale fishers represented in any national fisheries authority or institution (e.g., ministry, agency, or commission)?		√		A total of 15 respondents. 7 respondents answered "Yes", and 8 answered "No".
10.	Do you think the representation of small-scale fishers in these authorities is effective and allows their voices to be heard in decision-making?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
11.	Are women represented in any national fisheries authority or institution that deals with small-scale fisheries?			√	A total of 15 respondents. 10 respondents answered "No", and 5 answered "Not Sure".

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
12.	Are Indigenous Peoples represented in any national fisheries authority or institution that deals with small-scale fisheries?			√	A total of 15 respondents. 3 respondents answered "No", and 12 answered "Not Sure".
13.	Are there provisions for delegating authority over small-scale fisheries to the local or community level (e.g. local government, fishing cooperatives, or community-based organizations)?	√			A total of 15 respondents. 8 respondents answered "Yes", and 7 answered "Not Sure".
14.	Do you think that delegating authority to the local/community level improves the management and sustainability of small-scale fisheries?	√			A total of 15 respondents. 8 respondents answered "Yes", and 7 answered "Not Sure".
3. Tenure and access rights					
15.	Are small-scale fishers in your community officially registered in a fishers' registry?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
16.	Is the registration process accessible and affordable?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
17.	Are there special efforts or procedures to assist women register as fishers?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Not Sure".
18.	Are Indigenous Peoples in your community able to register and be recognized in consistency with their customary rights?			√	A total of 15 respondents. 5 respondents answered "Yes", and 10 answered "Not Sure".
19.	Do small-scale fishing vessels have to register separately or follow different rules from larger vessels?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
20.	Is subsistence fishers exempt from registration or license fees?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
21.	Do small-scale fishers need a license to fish in your area?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
22.	Is the licensing process fair and transparent?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
23.	Are there any groups that face barriers in getting a license? (Select all that apply) a. Women b. Indigenous Peoples c. Migrants d. Youth e. Poor/low-income fishers f. None √ (15 respondents for "f") g. Don't know				
24.	If you checked any group: what type of barriers do they face? Do small-scale fishers have special or preferential access to certain fishing areas?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
25.	Are traditional fishing grounds respected and protected from other sectors? (e.g. large-scale fishers, tourism, extractive industries)?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
26.	Are there any cases of forced evictions of fishers or fishing communities in recent years?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
27.	If relocation happened, were proper safeguards (e.g., consultation, compensation) in place?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
4. Sustainable resource management and conservation					
28.	Is there a co-management system in place where small-scale fishers share decision-making power with the government?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes". A task force committee has been formed by the Department of Fisheries for fisheries management at the field level, as well as at the national level. SSF associations are members of this committee.
29.	If co-management exists, are the roles and responsibilities of small-scale fishers clearly defined and respected?		√		A total of 15 respondents. 3 respondents answered "Yes", 7 answered "No", and 5 answered "Not Sure".
30.	Do small-scale fishers have a say when fisheries management areas are created?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
31.	Can small-scale fishers participate in planning processes that affect them such as marine protected areas or aquaculture projects?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
32.	Are small-scale fishers involved in designing monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems?		√		A total of 15 respondents. 3 respondents answered "Yes", and 12 answered "No".
33.	Can fishers help with MCS activities, like being community observers or reporting violations?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
34.	Is there a national plan to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)?			√	A total of 15 respondents. 4 respondents answered "Yes", and 11 answered "Not Sure".
35.	Does this plan include small-scale fisheries?			√	A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Not Sure".
36.	Do small-scale fishers have a duty or role to report IUU fishing?			√	A total of 15 respondents. 3 respondents answered "Yes", and 12 answered "Not Sure".
37.	Is the traditional knowledge of the community for example the knowledge of seasons or customary fishing practices used or respected in fisheries management decisions?		√		A total of 15 respondents. 4 respondents answered "Yes", and 11 answered "No".
5. Social development, employment and decent work					
38.	Do fishers and fishworkers in your community have access to any social security schemes? For example, healthcare, pensions or unemployment assistance.	√			A total of 15 respondents. 12 respondents answered "Yes", but partial or limited access and 3 answered "No".

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
39.	Are there any savings or credit programs available for small-scale fishers and fishworkers? For example, micro credits.		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
40.	Can fishers get any form of insurance related to fishing? For example, insurance for accidents at sea, vessel insurance or life insurance.		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
41.	Do fishers and fishworkers receive any type of subsidies? For example, during closed seasons, or subsidies for fuel.	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes". Rice grain during closed seasons.
42.	Do women involved in pre-harvest, harvest of post-harvest activities receive maternity benefits?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
43.	Do small-scale fishers have decent work conditions? (this means that they work in safe conditions, are not forced to work excessive hours, receive a fair payment)		√		A total of 15 respondents. 7 respondents answered "Yes", and 8 answered "No".
	If not, what are the main issues? Work conditions are not good; scarcity of drinking water, inadequate toilet facilities, and lack of cleanliness, etc. Willingness of authority.				
44.	Have you heard of any cases of forced labour, human trafficking or debt bondage in your community?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
	If yes, please provide details:				

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
45.	Are there measures in place to improve safety at sea for fishers in your area? For example, safety trainings, provisions of safety equipment or communication devices.	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes". But partial
46.	Are the rights of Indigenous Peoples in your community protected by policies or laws? For example, laws that uphold indigenous traditions and customs or customary rights.			√	A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Not Sure".
47.	Are there migrant workers involved in fishing?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
48.	If yes, do they have the same rights and receive the same treatment as local fishers? For example, same pay, decent working conditions, access to services			√	A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Not Sure".
49.	Are you aware of any laws, policies and programmes that specifically aim to protect children? For example: laws, policies and programmes that ensure that children can go to school			√	A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Not Sure".
50.	Is there a minimum age for someone to start working in fishing in your area?	√			A total of 15 respondents. 8 respondents answered "Yes", and 7 answered "No".
51.	Are children in your community prevented from doing any dangerous jobs in fishing? For example: handling heavy fishing gear or going out to sea	√			A total of 15 respondents. 12 respondents answered "Yes", and 3 answered "No".

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
52.	Are you aware if the government have any programmes to support children and young people in your fishing community? For example, training for young fishers, safety training	√	√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
6. Value chains, post-harvest and trade					
53.	Do you have facilities to keep fish fresh or to process fish in your community?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes". But not enough
54.	Is it easy to sell your fish at a fair price locally?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
55.	Is there any cooperatives or associations in your community that help fishers market their catch?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
56.	Has the government or other organizations provided training to improve fish processing or marketing?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes". But partial. DoF sometimes arranged training for post-harvest handling and preservation
7. Gender equality					
57.	Are women involved in small-scale fishers in your community?	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
58.	If "Yes": in what ways women participate?				

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
	Catching or harvesting fish b. Processing fish (cleaning, drying, smoking) ✓ (15 respondents for “b”) c. Selling or trading fish d. Making or repairing fishing gear (nets, traps) ✓ (15 respondents for “d”) Other roles:				
59.	Do women have the same rights and opportunities as men in your community? For example, the right to fish in the same areas, to get licenses or permits, to join cooperatives, and to speak in community meetings.		✓		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered “No”.
60.	Are there any programs or support specifically for women in small-scale fisheries? For example, training for women specifically, credits or grants, leadership programs, or others.		✓		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered “No”.
61.	Do women feel safe and respected when they participate in fishing activities and meetings? Including being free from harassment or violence and having their opinions heard.	✓			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered “Yes”. But partial. Their opinion is normally not counted.
62.	Do women have any leadership roles or representation in local fisheries groups or committees?		✓		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered “No”.
8. Disaster risks and climate change					
63.	Have you noticed any changes in the climate that affects your fishing?	✓			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered “Yes”.

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
	If "Yes" what changes have you noticed? For example: rising temperature, shifting seasons, more storms, fewer fish and other species, or new species -shifting seasons, more storms, fewer fish etc.				
64.	Are you aware of a plan in case of a natural disaster that affects fishing? For example: plan for storms, floods, cyclones including early warnings or evacuation plans.	√			A total of 15 respondents. 8 respondents answered "Yes", and 7 answered "No".
65.	Have you received any training, or support to help fishers adapt to climate change impacts?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
66.	Are you aware of any emergency plan or assistance in the case a disaster or extreme weather hits your community?		√		A total of 15 respondents. 4 respondents answered "Yes", 8 answered "No" and 3 answered "Not Sure".
67.	Are you aware of any insurance schemes to help fishers recover from losses due to disasters or climate events?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
9. Access to justice, enforcement, and accountability					
68.	If a fisher has a legal problem or dispute, is there an office they can turn for assistance? For example, legal aid service, ombudsman, national human rights institution, an organization that assist fishers.		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
	If "Yes" which one?				

S. No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Comments
69.	Does your community have ways to resolve conflicts or problems related to fishing locally? For example, village elders, community meeting, local dispute resolution/ mediation center	√			A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "Yes".
70.	If someone breaks the fishing rules in your area, what usually happens? a. Nothing happens (violations are usually ignored) b. They might get a warning from community officials c. They face penalties, such as fines or have their gear confiscated from national authorities √ (15 respondents for "c") d. It depends on who it is, some people face penalties others not e. Not sure				
71.	Do you feel that small-scale fishers are treated fairly by law enforcement?		√		A total of 15 respondents. All of them answered "No".
	Please give reasons for your answer: Large-scale fishers get favour, as they are rich & powerful				



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