

Small is beautiful – or is it?

The challenges of integrating human rights principles and multiple functionalities into sector policies favourable to artisanal fisheries and mining

Cornelia E. Nauen

Mundus maris

Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl



How small is small? (1)



FAO estimates 40.3 million workers in SSF: 85% in Asia, 10% in Africa, 4% in Latin America, rest in North America, Europe, Australia. 50% are believed to be women, 15% in primary extraction, most in pre- and postharvest activities.

Independent production estimate is **20-25% of total** (Pauly & Zeller 2016, Nature Communication, 7:1-9)



How small is small? (2)



Artisanal gold mining Côte d'Ivoire, Source: Al Jazeera

World Bank estimates of people involved in global artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) are 100 million, 80% in sapphire, 20% in gold mining, perhaps as many as half may be women, the percentage of children varies. People in industrial mining are globally estimated at 7 million. Production estimates of artisanal miners are around **15% of the global total.**

(<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/extractiveindustries/brief/artisanal-and-small-scale-mining>.)



Artisanal operations are integrated

Artisanal operations are deeply integrated with other resources and purposes contrary to industrial operations which create their own operating environment with “single purpose”:

SSF: food, energy, marine and freshwater ecosystems, social organisation, labour-intensiveness, high degree of informality to respond to multi-purpose needs and uncertainties

ASM: water, energy, food, social organisation, labour-intensiveness, high degree of informality to respond to multi-purpose needs and uncertainties



Catching small pelagic fish



Thomas Grand & Moussa Diop, 2018. Documentary on sardinella fisheries "*Poisson d'or, poisson africain*"



Landing the catches



Thomas Grand & Moussa Diop, 2018. Documentary on sardinella fisheries "*Poisson d'or, poisson africain*"



Smoking the catches



Thomas Grand & Moussa Diop, 2018. Documentary on sardinella fisheries "*Poisson d'or, poisson africain*"



Solar drying of the catch



Thomas Grand & Moussa Diop, 2018. Documentary on sardinella fisheries "*Poisson d'or, poisson africain*"

Sardinellas, appreciated food in the Sahel



Thomas Grand & Moussa Diop, 2018. Documentary on sardinella fisheries "*Poisson d'or, poisson africain*"



Chinese fishmeal plant in a 'protected' area



Thomas Grand & Moussa Diop, 2018. Documentary on sardinella fisheries "*Poisson d'or, poisson africain*"



Women processors were displaced...



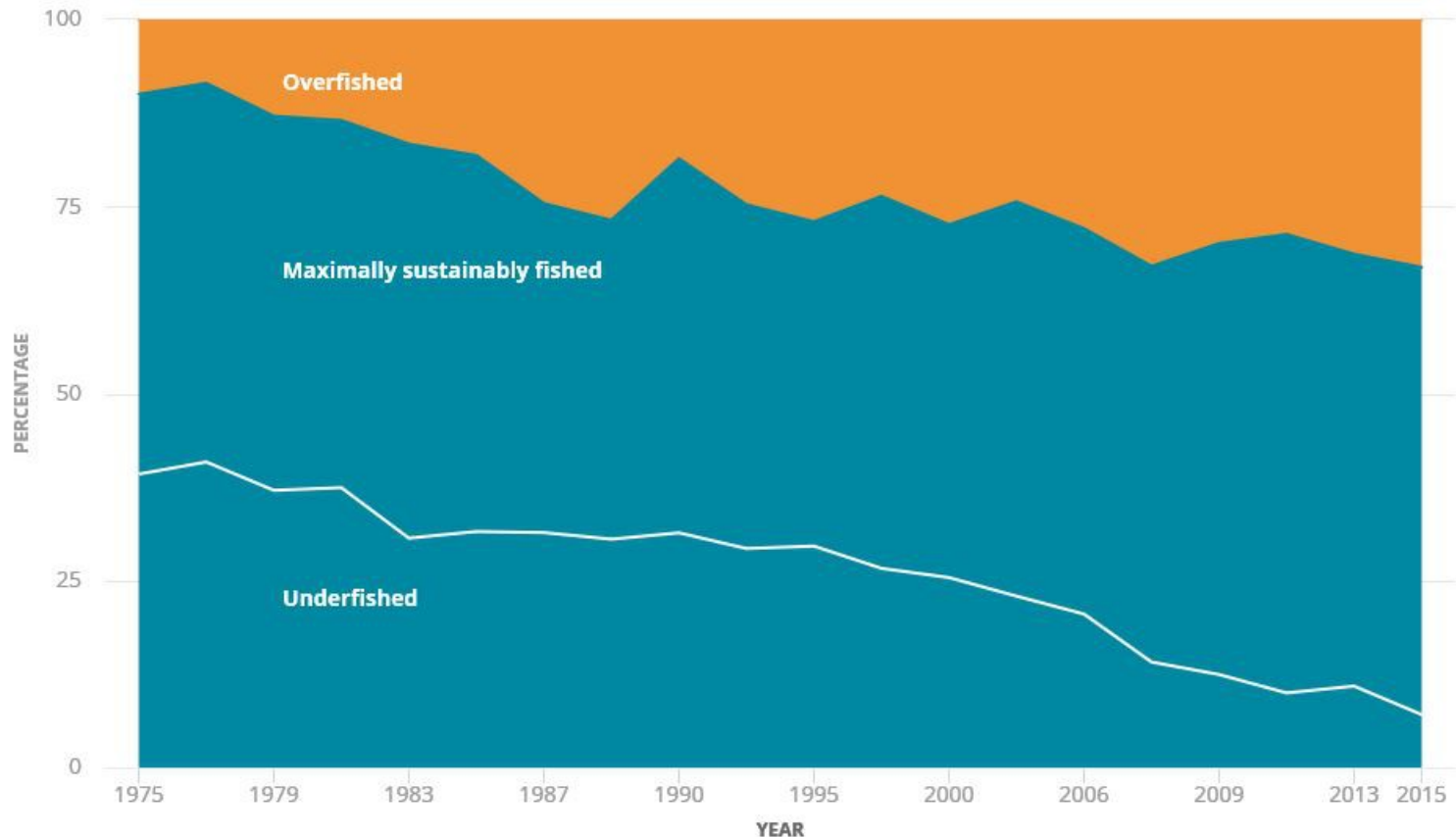
Thomas Grand & Moussa Diop, 2018. Documentary on sardinella fisheries "*Poisson d'or, poisson africain*"



According to FAO 2018

FIGURE 14

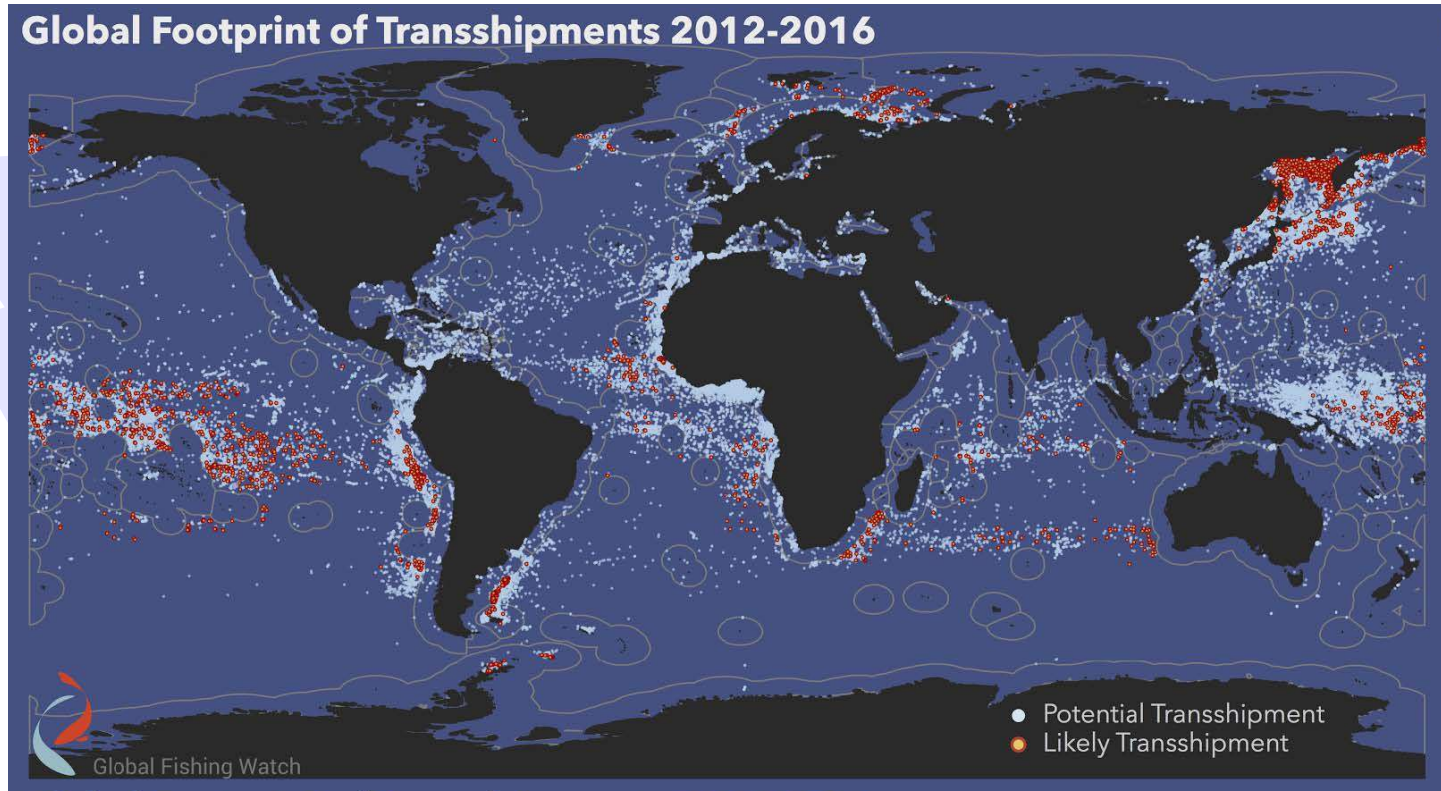
Global trends in the state of the world's marine fish stocks, 1974–2015



China, Indonesia, USA, Russian Federation, Peru, India, Japan, Viet Nam, Norway, Philippines, Malaysia, Chile, Morocco, Rep. Korea, Thailand, others with shrinking landings



Dubious or criminal practices...



New observation methods facilitate searching dubious or criminal practices – e.g. transshipment at sea, prohibited in many countries, as often associated with fiscal fraud, overfishing, human trafficking etc.



Artisanal operations are diverse

Artisanal and small-scale fisheries as illustrated here by way of example rely on value chains organised around renewable resources. When pitched in direct competition between a regional fish food economy and an export-driven fish feed economy multiple dilemmas arise:

- ==> industrial vs artisanal fishing affects income of small-scale fishers, disrupts local value chains
- ==> food supply and food security for humans within the region vs. export for animal feed
- ==> mostly industrial overfishing degrades ecosystem integrity and productivity
- ==> renewable resources can be regenerated through protection and better suited allocation (partially unlike minerals or at least on different time scales).



Artisanal operations have commonalities

==> The horizontal integration characterising both artisanal mining and fisheries at the local and regional levels they operate is often viewed sceptically by higher-level administrations more focused on mono-purpose sectoral objectives and infrastructures.

==> “Unruly” behaviours often borne out of necessity to adapt to uncertainties create social gap with administrations

==> Widely distributed production sites pose a challenge to recording production, supporting marginalisation

==> Attempts at formalisation from above without generally accepted spaces for respectful dialogue confronting different perspectives will easily lead to more marginalisation



Policies based on human rights (1)

- => 2014 Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication – grounded in human rights, FAO-COFI
- ==> 13 guiding principles, incl. Non-discrimination, equity, transparency, accountability, social responsibility, feasibility
- ==> Responsible fisheries & SD: Governance and tenure, social development and decent work, value chains, gender equality and disaster risks and climate change
- ==> Enabling environment & supporting implementation: Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration; information, research and multi-way communication; capacity development
- => Widespread trend for marine spatial planning carries risk for not delivering on expectations as “expert”-driven



Policies based on human rights (2)

=> 2018 Mosi-ao-Tunya Declaration on Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining, Quarrying and Development – Harare - multistakeholder platform expressing aspirations

==> info sources and arguments of the resolution, incl. Harare Guidelines on Central Role of Women, 2009 AU Summit “African Mining Vision” for ASM

==> General issues and ambitions: Governance through formalisation, rights recognition of ASM, integration of ASM into the development agenda, recognition of “Development Minerals”, gender equality, ensuring protection of the environment and health of miners, address conflict and ensure human rights in ASM supply chains



Exploring outside the box

Supporting the implementation of the aspirational policy-orientation consensus documents is completely aligned with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.

- Artisanal fishers have a better environment and socio-economic record than energy hungry industrial fleets bearing down heavily on marine biodiversity, environmental health and human rights.
- Alternative processes exist for artisanal gold mining without heavy use of mercury affecting miners' health and contaminating the environment. What does it take to implement them?
- Recognising that a degree of informality is acceptable, even necessary, in successful artisanal operations, while explicitly formalising their rights and responsibilities enough to benefit from social and institutional services creates win-win situations, including improved taxes, value chain integration etc.



Support vs. marginalisation (1)

Despite the efforts that allowed us to learn a lot in the last decades about bringing together the environmental concerns of the 1960s with the social justice concerns prominent since the 1970s:

- the nexus between ecosystems, water, energy, food, social organisation and other dimensions playing out at local level in people's lives remains fiendishly difficult to put into practice.
- Sectoral government silos remain strong and many well-intended processes even among a diversity of experts can not quite deliver on what's needed.
- It always boils down to the two questions: (1) who asks the questions and who's heard (agency), (2) how is it set up and done (process)?
- Strengthening local capacities for self-representation as answer.



Support vs. marginalisation (2)

- The Artisanal Fisheries Academy tests this working hypothesis with initial steps of informing people at the bottom of the pile about their rights, the rules, their responsibilities and opportunities
- Inclusive, active learning independent of formal schooling levels
- Stimulating critical reflection through drawings expressing their aspirations of a happy life - triggering engagement.



Support vs. marginalisation (3)

- How can a fish monger achieve systematically her one-year objective and get from A to B to C up to her aspiration?
- Planning is a huge challenge for people, who have to adapt frequently to changing circumstances over which they have little or no control - the reason they cope in the informal economy.





Finding solutions together





Success is possible

Nabia is a fish monger. She explains how she used the newly learnt approach to double her economic results within the first three months.

She checks her progress against her initial drawing and makes adjustments as she meets expected and unexpected obstacles and opportunities.





By way of a preliminary conclusion

The SSF academy explores the possibilities to use bottom-up training of trainer approaches to empower individuals (men and women) and communities to improve their livelihoods. Inclusive, participatory methods of active learning based on the “Gender Actions Learning System” (GALS) are being tested to enable experiencing positive local change in relation to global policy goals that incorporate human rights approaches. The SSF Academy offers a safe space where diverse actors can meet, confront their different knowledges and experiences and develop social and technological innovations. Wider sharing builds capabilities and practice of advocacy and collective action, thus also paving the way for forms of more participatory governance. Demonstrating feasibility in many places and contexts, such as artisanal mining may entice policy reform that would benefit artisanal fishers and miners.

**I'm still a baby,
let me live and grow**



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www.mundusmaris.org

ce.nauen@mundusmaris.org

