

the remainder of the newsletters. Electronic copies of the newsletter were distributed to 84 fisher organisations in 27 countries across the continent. Many of these organisations forwarded the newsletter onto some of their own contacts (copying us in). Copies, both French and English were also distributed electronically to 838 individuals, including academics, policy-makers, NGO workers, government officials and donor agencies.

Impact

The direct impact of the newsletter is difficult to measure. However, we have certainly seen some lively engagements from partner organisations on these issues, with new information and local stories coming to light as a result of the newsletter. It has therefore proven a useful tool to spark discussion, which is fundamental to knowledge empowerment and strengthening of the pan African network. Most of the organisations we have sent copies to have expressed a strong interest in receiving regular editions of this newsletter, which is a clear indication of the value they see in having access to this sort of information.

One of the very tangible impacts of the newsletter is that Nepad (New Economic Partnership for African Development) and the African Union (AU) called a civil society meeting in December 2013 as a direct result of the newsletter. The exact word of a senior Nepad official were, “We are planning to call for a special meeting of the Civil Society Organisations particularly in response to the recent Masifundise newsletter”. One of the articles was highly critical of Nepad/AU in the way that they have gone about developing a comprehensive fisheries reform strategy. This is hugely significant and clearly shows just how useful this newsletter is as an advocacy tool.

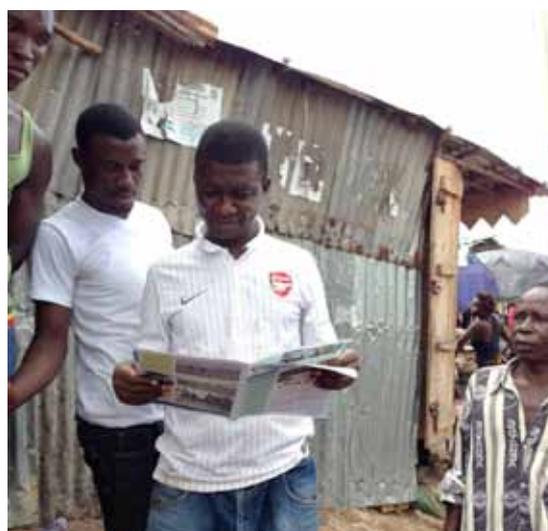
Partner Feedback

Many of our partners (and other stakeholders) responded with very positive comments after receiving an electronic version of the newsletter. Here is some of this feedback, in their own words:

„It really is a horrible situation that affects both small farmers and small-scale fishermen.

It is more urgent to initiate advocacy actions to save the poor.“ Sylvain Ntumba, African Institute for Economic and Social Development (INADES), DRC

„Thank you for the good work, the newsletter is quite interesting. Its well designed and well thought out, I am sure it will encourage partner organisations to pick more interest in the network after they learn about such stories and struggles going on in the small scale fisheries sector. It will



definitely act as a knowledge in all ways.“ Vaal Namugga, Katosi Women’s Development Trust, Uganda

„Thank you for sending the newsletter on Fisheries Tenure Rights. We are very keen to continue the discussion with your group.“ Peter Kristensen, Global Partnership for Oceans

„Anyhow, the issues of Lake Grabbing on the Uganda part of Lake Victoria is now real and evident. As you have rightly said, we need to fight against this by mobilising CSOs and the community we represent and serve for massive campaigns actions.“ Seremos Kamuturaki, Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA), Uganda

„I would like you to send the Newsletter as soon as possible as this topic sounds very serious to me. As the president of national association of artisanal fisheries operators it will be easy

for me and my association to carry on this task of sensitizing my community on such an important topic.“ Amie Ceesay, National Artisanal Fisheries Operation, The Gambia

„Thank you very much for the information, which is of great interest to us.“ Gabriel Mato, Chair of the Committee on Fisheries, European Parliament

her organisations to mobilise fishers to engage with national and regional decision-makers. Nevertheless, a version with more detail and substance to it is still useful to the fisher organisations themselves, as well as other stakeholders, and so perhaps a full newsletter plus a summary should be produced for the next edition.

Many of the partner organisations also expressed a strong interest in contributing stories of what’s taking place in their own countries/regions. For the next edition we plan to ensure that more articles written by partner organisations are included.



„Congratulations Josh and Team - its powerful, the messages are clear and the content is varied and interesting. It’s the clearest statement I’ve seen on opposition to current policy trends and powerful partnerships.“ Dr Edward H Allison, Senior Research Fellow, The WorldFish Center

Lessons learned

Based on some of the discussion with partner organisations, and after going physically to a number of communities in Sierra Leone with our partner there, it seems apparent that a simple version, with less text is necessary for us to distribute to communities. It is the key headline messages that are important to enable local fis-

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