

Coastal Fisheries Initiative



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THE ISSUE

Fish provide 4.3 billion people with about 15% of their animal protein and essential nutrients for growth and maternal health. Coastal fisheries – defined as all fisheries within Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZ) – are of global importance as a basis of food, nutrition and livelihoods, particularly in developing countries. In addition to playing a key role in food security, coastal fisheries provide a host of economic benefits.

Marine fisheries are estimated to employ over 260 million people, including both fishers and postharvest jobs. Some 85% are small-scale fishers and fish workers primarily operating in coastal waters in developing countries. Women, working in particular in the postharvest sector, represent about half of the people employed in capture fisheries and aquaculture. Coastal fisheries contribute

about 85% of the roughly 80 million tonnes/year produced by marine capture fisheries.

But coastal marine ecosystems are subject to intense pressures, including overexploitation, habitat destruction and overall ecosystem degradation. Globally, close to 30% of the world's assessed marine fish stock is overexploited. The vast majority of overexploited fisheries are in developing coastal states and island nations, posing a threat to the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of many poorer population groups. Global bycatch (catch that is not targeted) has been estimated to be 38.5 million metric tonnes, representing over 40% of total catches. It contributes significantly to overfishing, threats to non-target species, and where discarded, to post-harvest losses.



THE APPROACH

Despite the importance of coastal fisheries globally, there are no mechanisms for worldwide coordination. In response to this need, the Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) was developed to foster cooperation and promote more holistic processes and integrated approaches. It aims to support environmentally, economically and socially sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries, complementing the GEF multi-country Large-Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach. The initiative will focus on i) strengthening the fisheries sector's policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to incorporate environmental, social and economic sustainability considerations; ii) improving the capacity and capability of fishing nations, regional management bodies and empowering communities in sustainable management of fisheries and the components of the ecosystem these fisheries rely on; and iii) promoting private-public partnerships that enable responsible investment along the supply chain, fostering sustainable fisheries and sustainable development.

THE PROGRAM

The CFI will bring together US\$34.1 million of GEF resources from the International Waters and Biodiversity Focal Areas, and leverage US\$211.6 million in contributions from partners. The initiative was developed through close collaboration between six GEF Agencies that will also jointly implement the program – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (lead agency), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, World Bank, Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund.

The CFI consists of five projects representing a combination of national and sub-regional projects; technical assistance to foster private sector investments (the Challenge Fund); and a global partnership, knowledge management and research mechanism for sharing experiences and furthering long-lasting partnerships for effective fisheries management globally. The CFI will focus on six countries in three geographies, representing various dimensions of the challenges facing coastal fisheries of global importance: Indonesia (three Fisheries Management Areas in the eastern part of the country); Latin America (Ecuador and Peru); West Africa (Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal).

The CFI was designed to address an important barrier to sustainable coastal fisheries governance and management: the limited integration between governments, and development and environmental groups working in the sector. The CFI will play an important role in examining how different approaches work in different situations through its regional/national pilot projects. It will also bring this new knowledge to the international arena to be examined, shared, understood and replicated, as appropriate.

The program will speed up reform processes in participating countries; indirectly influence global efforts to reduce overfishing by bringing together key international agencies working on conservation and coastal fisheries; and lead to the use of appropriate and more integrated approaches by the fisheries private sector. The CFI will support innovative market incentive systems to manage the level of fish catches; put in place decision-making processes involving people employed in fisheries and other relevant stakeholders; and provide governments with robust fisheries performance indicators for sustainable management decisions.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The CFI will ensure that resource users can recognize and realize the benefits from appropriate incentives for better management. It will put in place a policy and institutional environment that enables the establishment and realization of those incentives. And it will adopt holistic and integrated tools to enhance governance, and evaluate and track fisheries performance.

The program will help safeguard globally important coastal ecosystems (such as coral reefs, sea grass beds and mangroves) and species and genetic diversities of coastal fisheries' resources. Moving

coastal fisheries to more sustainable levels will generate additional co-benefits of global importance. Furthermore, the positive impacts on coastal fisheries through the CFI may also remove some stress on terrestrial biodiversity resources. Finally, effective coastal fisheries management will support greenhouse gas sequestration; coastal ecosystems such as salt marshes, sea grass beds and mangroves absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide and contribute to the world's carbon fixation and carbon storage.



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Total GEF Financing: \$33.5 million; Total Co-financing: \$201.5 million



ABOUT THE GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided over \$14 billion in grants and mobilized in excess of \$70 billion in financing for more than 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector to address global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AFDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development

Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office - Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank Group (WBG), World Wildlife Fund U.S. (WWF).

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