



TRIPLE IMPACT FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK IN ACTION

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Case study

Community-based Fishery Improvement Projects in Costa Rica

New strategies and approaches integrate and advance socioeconomic and environmental fisheries improvement in three Responsible Fishing Areas on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica

- ✓ First-ever triple impact assessment for small-scale fisheries in the region
- ✓ Five fisher organizations with 115 fishers commit to working towards fisheries sustainability
- ✓ Identification and implementation plan for 35 specific tasks to improve the environmental, social, and financial aspects of the fisheries
- ✓ 65% average increase of the fisher's profit per fish / kilograms through the associated EcoGourmet program
- ✓ Over 6,000 fishing trips monitored and over 2,000 kilograms of fish tracked as part of the traceability work

The Triple Impact Fisheries Evaluation Framework empowers local organizations and those working in FIPs to maximize their impact by including social and financial improvement in their work. View the complete Framework at www.oceanoutcomes.org.

Gulf of Nicoya & Nicoya Peninnsula, Costa Rica

The main fishing grounds of Costa Rica are located along the Pacific coast — here over 6,000 people fish both formally and informally in small-scale fisheries (SSFs).

Fishing in this region is a major driver of economic activity, supporting the nutrition and livelihood of hundreds of families. Despite their importance, several fish stocks are currently considered to be overfished, primarily due to inadequate management and a lack of cooperation amongst stakeholders. As a response to this situation, social actions led to fishers' organizations consolidation, and co-management plans for marine resources, such as the Responsible Fishing Areas (RFA) and the Marine Management Areas. However, these advances in organization and management did not address economic and social challenges in the fisheries and their communities, handicapping the livelihoods of coastal communities with low prices and limited production.

Recognizing that social and economic progress is needed alongside environmental management to reach a truly sustainable fishery, Conservation International (CI) Costa Rica is leading a process

to implement Community-based Fishery Improvement Projects (C-FIPs) in the region. These projects; strengthen capacity and increase knowledge amongst fisheries stakeholders; create access to markets interested in fairly-priced sustainable seafood; improve efficiency and quality of the production chain; and, incentivize responsible fishing practices. The goal of the C-FIPs is to secure a sustainable livelihood for the coastal communities depending on SSFs. The C-FIPs align with the UN's SDGs and Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable SSFs. This work has been supported by the Blue Action Fund and the Costa Rica-United States of America Foundation (CRUSA).



KEY ACTIVITIES

- Assessments of the environmental, social, and financial statuses of three SSFs in Costa Rica.
- Design of an integrated improvement plan to address all three dimensions, developed together with fishing organizations and other institutions.
- Launch of CI's EcoGourmet program to connect fishers participating in C-FIPs with high end markets.
- Improve fishing organization capacities in: fisheries data collection, administration, accounting, production logistics, marketing and coordination/communication with institutions.
- Collaboration among CI, government institutions, and fishers' organizations to update the Fishery Management Plans of the RFAs.

OUTCOMES

- 01 --- Identification of alternative economic activities to support coastal communities' livelihoods, alleviate pressure on fishing stocks, and reduce dependence on fishing as the only productive economic activity.
- 02 --- Establishment of a reliable system to ensure traceability, quality, freshness, and sustainability of the fisheries' products.
- 03 --- Improvement of local seafood consumers' awareness and responsibility regarding environmental, social, and financial issues of sustainable fisheries.
- 04 --- Development of a market-driven funding strategy to support the long-term sustainability of the C-FIPs.