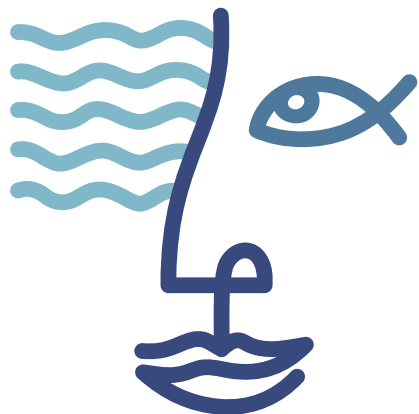




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**ARTISANAL FISHERIES
AND AQUACULTURE**

2022



GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES
AND AQUACULTURE
2022 GLOBAL
ACTION PLAN

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Introduction

Background

In 2016, COFI endorsed a proposal for the Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture with the purpose of sensitizing public opinion and governments on these sub-sectors and on the importance of adopting specific public policies and programs to enable them to operate in a sustainable manner. Particular attention is to be paid to the most vulnerable rural areas, constrained by poor governance and generally low capacity to make sustainable use of natural resources.

In 2017, the 72nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022), with the FAO serving as the lead agency, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system¹.

The objectives of IYAFA 2022 are as follows:

- enhance global awareness about, understanding of, and action to support the contribution of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development, and more specifically in relation to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and the use of natural resources;
- promote dialogue and collaboration between and among small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers, fishworkers, governments and other key partners along the value chain, as well as to further strengthen their capacity to enhance sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture and to enhance their social development and well-being.

Challenges of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture

Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture hold a unique potential to promote changes in how, by whom and for whom aquatic foods and products are harvested, processed and distributed. The recognition of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture as a sustainable method of food production is imperative as current food systems face increasing challenges globally. Such challenges include hunger and diet-related diseases, the need to provide a growing global population with sufficient and healthy food, vast amounts of food loss and waste, the depletion of natural resources, environmental degradation, and climate change.

Nevertheless, despite their high potential, small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture themselves face unique and complex challenges. Not only do they face threats from other

¹UN General Assembly, resolution A/RES/72/72

sectors, but also from within the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. For example, habitat degradation, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU), and overfishing, are core challenges that compromise the very basis of the ecosystems on which they depend. Economically, small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture often face power imbalances in value chains, unnecessary barriers to trade and lack the appropriate skills and services to access markets with healthy products at a fair price. Additionally, social sustainability requires serious redressing to ensure that fishers, fishfarmers, fishworkers and their communities can obtain proper social services such as healthcare, education, housing, financial and legal services. The recognition and respect of the role of women remains another core, cross-cutting challenge to ensuring not only gender equality and equity, but also to the achievement of sustainability: when women are empowered and have the opportunity to earn and control income, their spending is more likely to benefit a household's nutrition, health and education. Lastly, the need for resilience strategies in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture is becoming ever more evident in order for communities to be better prepared for environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change. Covid19- has thrown light onto the deficiencies of the structures and systems upon which small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are dependent. However, it has also shown how innovative these sectors can be, and there is now an opportunity to cooperatively reconfigure the way in which small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are managed and governed that will ensure their autonomy in the future as well as their ability to provide food security and nutrition along with the responsible management of natural resources.



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Action Plan

Vision statement of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

A world in which small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers of both genders are fully recognized and empowered to continue their contributions to poverty alleviation, human well-being and resilient and sustainable food systems through the responsible use of fisheries and aquaculture resources and socio-economic development.

Overall design

The IYAFA 2022 Global Action Plan (IYAFA GAP) aims at building global momentum to empower small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture and securing a sustainable future for these important sectors. Outlined here are a series of indicative and interconnected actions that are mutually reinforcing in the pillars of work described below.

The GAP is meant to provide inspiration for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture proponents including, but not limited to, national administrations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), private enterprises, development agencies and intergovernmental bodies.

The overall expected outcomes of IYAFA 2022 fall into four categories:

- *Raised awareness:* Sharing accessible information and key messages on small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture with a broad range of audiences, including through the organization of and participation in relevant global, regional and national events and campaigns.
- *Strengthened science-policy interface:* Collectively gather and disseminate transdisciplinary evidence in a participatory manner to generate required information and knowledge on specific aspects of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, that is then used to support decision-making and policy processes in support of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
- *Empowered stakeholders:* Enabling small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers and their organizations to engage as equal partners in all relevant decision-making processes. This would also include working with legislators and government agencies in the formulation and adoption of laws, regulations, policies, strategies, programs and projects.
- *Partnerships:* Build new and strengthen existing partnerships, both among small-scale actors' organizations as well as with other partners from government, research bodies, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, regional organizations and others, at all levels.

To secure the realisation of these outcomes the IYafa GAP is structured around seven pillars which are presented and justified in the following section. An indicative list of outputs and activities is presented under each pillar to stimulate stakeholders to develop individual and specific activities around these pillars. These outputs and activities are by no means exhaustive and stakeholders are encouraged to interpret these in accordance with their specific context. It should be remembered that the pillars are interconnected and should be treated in a balanced manner, with the order of the pillars not representing an order of priority. Lastly, it must be recalled that the GAP is a living document with the intention of inspiring ideas and initiatives to celebrate IYafa 2022.



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Ensuring effective operationalization

The oversight and management of IYafa 2022 is coordinated by two bodies: the FAO IYafa Secretariat and the IYafa International Steering Committee (IYafa ISC), composed of representatives of Member States, United Nations (UN) organizations, civil society organizations, research organizations and non-governmental organisations. The FAO IYafa Secretariat is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of the IYafa GAP, by preparing regular reports and the necessary documents regarding the activities to inform the

administration and planning of the Year. The IYAFA ISC provides guidance and assistance to the implementation of the IYAFA GAP, including the establishment of regional committees, as well as the mobilization of political and financial support in their respective regions or areas of influence.

As initial steps in the implementation of IYAFA 2022, synergies with ongoing UN Decades relevant to small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture will be made, such as with the UN Decade of Family Farming (2028–2019), the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2025–2016), the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2030–2021), and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2030–2021).

IYAFA 2022 will also seek opportunities to support the implementation of and benefit from activities related to international instruments. These include among others:

- the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#);
- the [Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries](#);
- the 2021 Committee on Fisheries (COFI) [Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture](#);
- the [Agreement on Port State Measures](#);
- the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#);
- the [Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security](#);
- the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security to Food](#);
- the [UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas](#);
- the [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems](#);
- the [Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#);
- the [Rome Declaration: Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries](#).

Processes IYAFA 2022 intends on targeting include the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the Committee on Food Security (CFS), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), along with key regional processes and organisations.

Similarly, IYAFA 2022 will stimulate actions aimed at supporting the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030. IYAFA 2022 will draw attention to the contribution small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture already make to the SDGs, in particular SDG 14.b, with a view to channel strong political commitment at national, regional and global levels to further establish supportive measures intended for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

Lastly, the implementation of each and every activity in connection with IYAFA 2022 should follow a human rights based approach (HRBA). The HRBA seeks to analyze the inequalities that lie at the heart of development and address them. Three components make up the HRBA and must be acknowledged at all times:

1. It is based on international human rights standards and the overall objective is to promote and protect human rights.
2. Any programs or projects following this approach must respect the human rights principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and the rule of law. These principles apply to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects, in order to improve targeting, efficiency, effectiveness and the quality of the outcomes.
3. Rights, duties, responsibilities and accountability mechanisms are promoted by developing the capacity of duty bearers to meet their obligation and of right holders to claim their rights.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR
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2022
PILLARS

Pillar 1



Environmental sustainability: Use biodiversity sustainably for the longevity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture

The significant challenges posed to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors by a changing climate and environmental conditions, in particular where warming water temperatures, deoxygenation, and acidification in aquatic environments are already impacting the distribution and abundance of aquatic resources in many regions. Hence, there is an urgent need to address these through innovative, inclusive, effective and adaptive management measures.

Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture producers are directly involved in the extraction of the natural resources they depend on for their livelihoods, subsequently occupying a central responsibility in the management and sustainable use of living aquatic resources and their supporting ecosystems, including the land-sea interface, often possessing traditional, local and indigenous knowledge relating to the natural landscapes in which they are situated. Nevertheless, they are often excluded from processes of resource management and related decision making, as well as from underlying data collection, analysis and interpretation. The activities suggested here aim to reverse this trend and bring greater attention to and the involvement of small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers into the intra and intersectoral governance and management of biodiversity.



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OUTCOME: BIODIVERSITY IS SUSTAINABLY AND RESPONSIBLY GOVERNED AND USED THROUGH SECURED ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND PRODUCTIVE ASSETS BY SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE STAKEHOLDERS, IN PARTICULAR OF YOUTH, WOMEN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

INDICATIVE OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES
<p>Raised awareness: The role of small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers in the conservation, development and sustainable use of natural resources is widely shared through communication products, awareness events, and other mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key message: “As custodians of shared resources fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers have a fundamental role in ensuring the responsible management and sustainable use of living aquatic resources and their supporting ecosystems” is shared through appropriate communication platforms. • Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture organizations and other stakeholders organize events to highlight their role and contribution to activities in the sustainable use of natural resources. • Natural ecosystems of particular importance to small-scale artisanal fishing and/or aquaculture communities are identified, and communication of the need to sustainably use, protect and/or restore them is shared through appropriate communication platforms. • Case studies and public interest stories are developed and promoted that highlight the efforts small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture make to sustainable production practices, which are shared through the IYafa 2022 website and other channels of communications. • Awareness among financial institutions on the ecosystem services that small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture contribute to is raised.
<p>Strengthened science-policy interface: Evidence of the positive impacts that small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers have on the environment as well as livelihoods, food security and nutrition, in the form of case studies and interdisciplinary data collection, is collected and shared to inform political action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cooperation with research and academic institutions, traditional, local and indigenous fisheries management practices are documented and incorporated into responsive legal and policy frameworks that represent global best practices and internationally agreed instruments. • Policy and regulatory frameworks are analyzed and improved based on participation of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders to improve access to and tenure of the natural resources on which they depend, in line with relevant agreed instruments. • Case studies and information is made available at municipal/village level, including climate and production data to contribute as inputs to natural resource management plans.

<p>Empowered stakeholders: Small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers and their organizations are enabled to engage in participatory management schemes and other decision-making processes related to responsible and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale artisanal fishery and aquaculture organizations, including those specific to women, participate in the development and implementation of fishery and aquaculture strategies, management decisions and conservation plans. • Small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are consulted and engaged in monitoring habitats, ecosystems and environmental conditions, as well as activities that may impact on these and changes over time.
<p>Partnerships: Effective partnerships among stakeholders with shared goals of sustainable use of biodiversity are established and strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory consultation processes are established or strengthened, in relation to existing relevant political processes where they are currently underrepresented. • Representatives of small-scale artisanal fisheries or aquaculture organizations, including those specific to women, are directly involved in the development and implementation of projects or other collaboration with research and academic institutions, NGOs, United Nations agencies, bilateral donors or other bodies on fishery management or conservation, for example, at the sub-national/national level. • Platforms for education or communications activities supporting conservation and/or stewardship are established and publicly available for transparent, open, and free access for all stakeholders including sub-national and local level civil society organizations and municipal government.

Pillar 2



Economic sustainability: Support inclusive value chains for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture

Access to markets, appropriate infrastructure, inclusive value chains and the just and equitable distribution of benefits enable fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to better provide affordable, high-quality fish products, generate employment and foster sustainable economies. The small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture post-harvest sectors and their actors play a central role in aquatic foods and products value chains, but they are not always included in relevant decision-making processes. In particular, women are frequently excluded from such processes despite their considerable contribution to the post-harvest sector.

Sustainable practices along the value chain can help avoid losses and waste by combining traditional and innovative, cost-efficient methods with appropriate technologies. Value addition, alongside robust management systems, can sustain livelihoods and maintain sufficient production of aquatic foods and products, whilst reducing the extraction of natural resources. Market access and leverage present particular opportunities and challenges for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. However, complex frameworks of rules and regulations govern fisheries and aquaculture value chains, specifically the wide variety of trade policies implemented by countries, including tariffs, subsidies and non-tariff measures, which can have a significant influence on small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers.



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OUTCOME: INCLUSIVE VALUE CHAINS FOR SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ARE SUPPORTED TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND ADEQUATE REMUNERATION AND INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN.

INDICATIVE OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES
<p>Raised awareness: Value chains are analyzed through participatory consultation, and resulting key messages are shared among relevant stakeholders regarding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and options for improvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness is raised through appropriate communication platforms of the key message: “Access to markets, appropriate infrastructure, inclusive value chains enable fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to better provide affordable high-quality fish products, foster economic development and generate employment.” through appropriate communication platforms. • Case studies and public interest stories are developed and promoted that highlight the opportunities and advantages small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture provide to local economies • The concept and consequences of food loss and waste in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are broadcasted widely.
<p>Strengthened science-policy interface: Value chain analysis methods, public policies and regulatory framework reviews on market access and leverage for fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are developed in coherence with circular economy principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy reviews through participatory approaches to identify gaps and opportunities to improve market access and profit share for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are conducted. • A study examining the relationship between small-scale artisanal fisheries and the concept of sustainable and inclusive ocean economies, with a view to understanding how small-scale fisheries can be protected and included in future regional and national policy plans for aquatic resources. • Traditional and innovative value addition practices, including to reduce food loss and waste, and improve food safety, are incorporated into guidelines or policy, based on scientific evidence and aligned with circular economy principles. • Collaboration with financial institutions strengthened to develop the criteria and procedures necessary for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to access the financial support they require to establish and formalize their position in value chains. • The development and implementation of policy frameworks and institutional arrangements supporting fair, stable and transparent prices to ensure adequate remuneration for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture work and investments by the progressive implementation and use of relevant international instruments and guidelines is promoted. • Existing international standards on food loss and waste are implemented in collaboration with small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers.

Empowered stakeholders: Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are empowered to enhance their access to and leverage in markets, thereby increasing decision making power and developing income-generating opportunities in particularly for youth and women.

- Learning exchanges and participatory workshops are organized to share ideas and practices for alternative employment, product diversification, value addition and market development, including education for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers on trade policies, regulations and standards.
- Opportunities for value addition activities or other options for increasing the total share of profit for small scale fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers of both genders are identified
- Value chains for key small-scale artisanal fishery and aquaculture products are analyzed through participatory methods, with training and capacity development based on these analyses and provided to target stakeholders to facilitate and better prepare them to engage with and compete in formal markets.
- Appropriate, place-specific, capacity building frameworks are developed to reduce food loss and waste in the small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture sectors, specifically targeting safety and quality standards, fish processing techniques, distribution, consumption and value addition.
- The formation of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture associations for economic purposes such as small and medium-sized companies or cooperatives that allow improving the profitability of the activity are promoted.

Partnerships: Representatives of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture - in particular of youth and women, indigenous peoples - are afforded the capacity to address pertinent issues (e.g. IUU, access to market, post-harvest operations, infrastructure) through new or pre-existing processes.

- Representatives and/or cooperative organizational structures for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers, including those specific to women, receive capacity development support to improve the institutional capacity to advocate for equal access to usable assets, technology, finance, education and services.
- Relevant policy forums are targeted to bring about greater awareness and action on ensuring a rule based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable trade of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture products that is consistent with internationally agreed rules and standards and does not result in non-tariff barriers or undermine conservation measures.
- Partnerships to guarantee the development of pre-existing skills or the apprenticeship of new skills and/or alternative employment opportunities are facilitated.

Pillar 3



Social sustainability: Secure social inclusion and well-being of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture

Decent working and living conditions are essential for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to secure livelihoods and maintain their social, physical and cultural well-being. Social protection systems, grounded in a human rights-based approach, have proven to be highly effective in securing social sustainability, as recognized by the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

The transformative power of culture for social inclusion and resilience is a key enabler for sustainable development, representing a source of identity, innovation and creativity. Consideration of culture effectively enables cooperation when stakeholders acknowledge the local context and the particularities of a place and community, including traditional, local and indigenous knowledges. Ensuring that small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers' cultures are being prioritized, in accordance with human rights, restores the agency for change to those whom the development efforts are intended to impact, which is crucial to sustainable and long-term progress. Such an approach facilitates dialogue, prevents conflicts and protects the rights of marginalized groups, thus creating optimal conditions for achieving sustainability.



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OUTCOME: SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ARE MORE SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE AND THE WELL-BEING, WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERS, FISHFARMERS AND FISHWORKERS IS SECURED THROUGH ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION, PUBLIC SERVICES AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.

INDICATIVE OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES
<p>Raised awareness: The cultural heritage and social rights of small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers, especially youth, women and indigenous peoples is communicated widely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the key message: “Decent working and living conditions are essential for small-scale fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to secure livelihoods and maintain their social, physical and cultural wellbeing.” raised through appropriate communication platforms. • A mobile exhibition showcasing important cultural traditions and artefacts from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture from around the world is exhibited in multiple locations throughout IYafa 2022 and is accessible by other small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers, including women. • National art contests for local artists to submit pieces relating to small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture for a national and/or regional exhibition are organized.
<p>Strengthened science-policy interface: Evidence on working conditions and access to social protection for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers is generated and presented at relevant political forums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy reviews through participatory approaches to identify gaps and opportunities to social inclusion and protection for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are conducted with a human-rights based approach. • The development and implementation of policy frameworks and institutional arrangements supporting fair, stable and decent working conditions for all workers and both genders in aquatic foods and products value chain are promoted. • Access to social protection programs for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers and their communities, drawing on pre-existing and ongoing efforts to ensure social protection for informal and/or small-scale economic sectors are facilitated.
<p>Empowered stakeholders: All stakeholder groups are empowered to participate in dialogue on and take a leading role in decisive actions on the social sustainability of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional caretakers of cultural heritage of both genders are provided the opportunity to document and share their culturally relevant experience of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture (e.g., traditional boat design, aquaculture practices, community and co-management practices) with the younger generation.
<p>Partnerships: Representatives of small-scale artisanal fisheries and/or aquaculture engage with market actors on issues of social sustainability, such as decent work, social protection, cultural traditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with relevant agencies (i.e., the ILO and IMO) promote the attainment of safe, healthy and fair working conditions for all in the sector, and support efforts to prevent and halt forced labour, including child labour. • Representatives and/or cooperative organizational structures for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers work with national and international partners throughout the value chain to promote better enforcement of existing international and national legislation (e.g., ILO Convention 188) as well as for stronger commitments by actors of both genders in the seafood supply chains to ensure decent working conditions.

Pillar 4



Governance: Ensure effective participation of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in building and strengthening enabling policy environments

Effective and meaningful participation of fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers in decision-making processes ensures the progressive coordination in the formulation, implementation and management of policies and laws relating to small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. An enabling policy environment to support the diverse and traditional contributions of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture should also receive strong political commitment. This political commitment must translate into adequate resourcing and capacity development along with inclusive and effective governance and institutional arrangements. Significantly, effective interventions to support small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture cannot be approached unilaterally through sectoral policies, but require a complex set of integrated, multisectoral policies, strategies and programs that address all dimensions of sustainable governance.

Importantly, as part of holistic governance frameworks, integrating small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture organizations into the heart of all decision-making processes, at all stages - including their design, implementation and monitoring - will bring about effective and expedient change. Any and all shifts in governance frameworks must be grounded in reliable, timely, and locally relevant data and evidence on the multidimensional aspects of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture and simultaneously look at interconnected objectives for the whole food system.



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OUTCOME: SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERS, FISHFARMERS AND FISHWORKERS ACTIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING OF ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENTS

INDICATIVE OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES
<p>Raised awareness: Enhanced political awareness about the diverse and multi-layered contributions of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the key message: “Effective participation, supported by comprehensive data and information, in decision-making processes ensures that traditional knowledge and voices of fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers and their organizations shape laws and policies relating to small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.” raised through appropriate communication platforms. • Experiences documented and publicised that show that when fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers of either gender organize or strengthen their collaboration, they achieve better results, while reducing inequalities through longer-lasting solutions.
<p>Strengthened science-policy interface: Reliable, timely, locally relevant data and evidence about the multidimensional performance of family farming is available to inform policymaking, monitoring and evaluation at all levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity enhancement of already existing information and data sources on factors influencing and relating to small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture (e.g., gender disaggregated labour, natural resource management, yield, stock, socioeconomic services, ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation), as well as enhanced capacity of small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to gather and use the existing data is identified and promoted. • The implementation of integrated and coordinated multi-sectoral, evidence and ecosystem-based management approaches is supported through policies and laws pertaining to small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

<p>Empowered stakeholders: Increased capacity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture and their organizations on technical, advocacy and leadership skills enhancing their participation within policy-making processes is achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-to-peer learning exchanges and networks and participatory workshops with a variety of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders are organized at multiple levels and within and outside of the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors to develop the skills required to ensure effective engagement with national and regional political bodies. • The role that fisheries and aquaculture organizations, including shared Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) regimes for protected areas, have in governance is publicly recognized, new organizations are stimulated, and existing ones strengthened. • Special attention to barriers resulting from social inequality of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable groups is promoted. This would also include the formulation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects to support the small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture sectors, as well as policymaking in other sectors that have a direct or indirect bearing in their livelihoods, such as environmental clearance major infrastructure projects, sectoral policies (e.g., tourism, industrial aquaculture, etc), and coastal and marine spatial planning.
<p>Partnerships: Inclusive and effective governance for comprehensive, family farming-focused policy design, implementation and monitoring is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of both genders and/or cooperative organizational structures for small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers receive capacity development support to improve dialogue and relationships with relevant institutions. • Key messages and outputs from IYAF 2022 are discussed and included in international governance processes.

Pillar 5



Gender equality and equity: Acknowledge that women and men in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are equals

Women account for about half the labour force in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, playing a central role in food production, processing and marketing. In addition, women combine income-generating work with unpaid household responsibilities, such as ensuring food security, nutrition and well-being for their families and communities, caring for children and the elderly. Despite these huge contributions, many female fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers remain socially excluded and are more likely not to see their basic human rights respected. As producers, women face even greater constraints than their male counterparts in accessing essential productive resources and services, technology, market information, financial assets, financial services, technology and job opportunities. This “gender gap” limits women’s ability to take advantage of new opportunities and prevents them from reaching their full potential, both for themselves and their communities.

Acknowledging the role women play in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, and the deep-rooted challenges they face is essential to constructing gender-based approaches to management, allowing and incentivizing women to engage in responsibilities all along the value chains. Through the progressive implementation and use of relevant international instruments and guidance, such as [‘Towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development: A handbook’](#), policies should aim to secure women’s access to, use of and tenure over land and other resources.



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OUTCOME: OUTCOME: GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY ARE ACHIEVED THROUGH GENDER-BASED APPROACHES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

INDICATIVE OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES
<p>Raised awareness: Public recognition of women’s role and potential in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the key message: “Centralizing the role women play in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture is essential to women’s empowerment and sustainable development.” is raised through appropriate communication platforms. • Case studies and public interest stories are developed and promoted that highlight successful experiences of women achieving affirmative political, social, economic and cultural change towards gender equality, and shared through the IYafa 2022 website and other channels of communications. • Awareness is raised among men as to the importance of the role women play in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, and the rights women have to be integrated into decision-making processes.
<p>Strengthened science-policy interface: Gender disaggregated data on women in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors are collected, analyzed and used to inform policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The analysis, improvement and participatory implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks to secure gender equality and equity across small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture governance and management is promoted through the progressive implementation and use of relevant international instruments and guidelines. • Training frameworks for collecting gender-disaggregated data for researchers and policymakers are developed. • Based on gender-relevant data, the development and implementation of policy frameworks and institutional arrangements supporting full access to and equal opportunities in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are promoted.

<p>Empowered stakeholders: Increased access for women in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to governance, natural resources, information, infrastructure, financial services and to markets, as well as appropriate guidance and training for men on gender equality and equity is supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in technology, credit services, entrepreneurship opportunities, and capacity development is promoted as it is paramount to ensuring women's and their organizations' agency to participate in decision-making processes. To catalyse these changes the promotion of specific services such as care services for children and dedicated extension services should complement policies, as well as implicit bias training for men to recognize inequities. • Strengthening women's organizations to effectively participate in all forms of decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods, achieve autonomy and secure leadership roles in society should be promoted as central objective of all gender-based policies. • The implementation and adaptation of infrastructures for the use of women in the production chain of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture is promoted, including in facilities and methods to alleviate the workload of women and increase their efficiency. • Effective action against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, as well as systemic gender discrimination is taken. • Advocate governments to develop national emergency fund for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture adaption and mitigation strategies in case of environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change.
<p>Partnerships: Platforms and space for dialogue among women and men on gender related issues are promoted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships and networks between women's groups and other small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture groups that may be dominated by men to foster understanding and collaboration on achieving gender equity and equality are developed

Pillar 6



Food security and nutrition: Promote the contribution to healthy diets from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in sustainable food systems

Food from the aquatic environment has a particular role as a source of nutrients, such as omega3- fatty acids. Omega3- fatty acids are a major building block of our neural system, and therefore particularly important for optimal brain and neurodevelopment in children. Fish consumption is also known to have health benefits among the adult population. Strong evidence underlines how consumption of fish, and in particular oily fish, lowers the risk of coronary heart disease: it is estimated that fish consumption reduces the risk of dying of coronary heart diseases by up to 36 percent due to the long-chain omega3- fatty acids found in aquatic foods and products.

Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture produce about half of the world's aquatic foods and products in developing countries, and therefore have a vital role in delivering the benefits of healthy and sustainable food systems. Hence, efforts must ensure that fish from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are fully considered in national, regional and global food security and nutrition strategies, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of food systems to eliminate hunger and address the triple burden of malnutrition and reducing diet-related diseases.



OUTCOME: THE CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FROM SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IS ACKNOWLEDGED, STRENGTHENED AND PROMOTED.

INDICATIVE OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES
<p>Raised awareness: The nutritional and food security benefits that small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture produce are disseminated widely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the key message: “Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture have a fundamental role in contributing healthy, safe, affordable, and nutritious aquatic foods and products as part of global and local food systems” raised through appropriate communication platforms. • All consumers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the socioeconomic, environmental and nutritional benefits of sourcing and consuming non-target aquatic foods and products from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. • Case studies and public interest stories are developed and promoted that highlight the contribution that small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers make to healthy diets, and shared through the IYAFA 2022 website and other channels of communications. • Food and beverage outlets (e.g., restaurants, cafes, canteens, bars) are educated on the benefits of sourcing aquatic foods and products from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
<p>Strengthened science-policy interface: Research on the nutritional and food security benefits of aquatic foods and produce is promoted and fostered, with results being presented at relevant political forums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on best available science, government dietary guidelines recognize the importance of aquatic foods and products, and the contribution small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers make towards enabling food security and nutrition and eliminating the triple burden of malnutrition. • The analysis, improvement and participatory implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks to ensure that fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers of both genders are secured a central role in the decision-making processes affecting food systems are promoted through the progressive implementation and use of relevant international instruments and guidelines. • Fishery management systems incorporate scientific information about nutrient values of aquatic species in determining management priorities so that higher-nutritional-value species (and those reaching most-vulnerable consumers) are made management priorities and are, where appropriate, retained for local market use.

<p>Empowered stakeholders: Fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers, are empowered to discuss the governance and management of food systems affecting local small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in innovative technologies and capacity development is promoted so that small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers of both genders can provide the highest quality food with the least amount of loss along the value chain. • Learning exchanges and participatory workshops are organized to share skills required to ensure effective engagement with food systems. • The role that small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture organizations have in the provision of food security in local and global food systems is publicly recognized.
<p>Partnerships: Small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are matched with public procurement authorities (e.g., hospital, school, military) to increase the consumption of aquatic foods and products in the public sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketplaces are established or strengthened for locally sourced aquatic foods and products that connect producers, processors, customers and consumers. • Partnerships and platforms with other small-scale food producers are developed in order to empower and strengthen the small-scale artisanal sector globally.

Pillar 7



Resilience: Increase the preparedness and adaptive capacity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change

Over the last few decades, natural and human-induced disasters have become more frequent and increasingly destructive, and since the onset of the Covid19- pandemic the discourse on resilience has taken on increasingly significant role in sustainable food systems. Small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are among the world's most vulnerable to environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change, with such scenarios often affecting loss of life, social stability and property. Even before disaster strikes, small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture face a multitude of stressors that increase their vulnerability to hazards, such as aquatic and industrial pollution, environmental degradation, overexploitation of natural resources, conflicts with other aquatic sectors and precarious economic situations as a result of poverty and food insecurity.

By acknowledging the importance of building strategies of resilience into sustainable food systems, small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers, along with their organizations and communities, will more likely be able to resist, adapt and respond to environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change, while maintaining a decent level of functionality without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development. Nevertheless, for this to be realised it is imperative that that they are supported before disaster strikes, and this can be achieved by following political guidance and recommendations.



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OUTCOME: THE PREPAREDNESS AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERS, FISHFARMERS AND FISHWORKERS IS INCREASED

INDICATIVE OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES
<p>Raised awareness: Small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are aware of risks, risk mitigation options and disaster risk reduction methods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the key message: “Fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are among the world’s most vulnerable to environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change. Policies and actions should support building resilience to these threats for the long-term continuity of the sectors.” raised through appropriate communication platforms. • Case studies and public interest stories are developed and promoted that highlight the options to prepare, reduce or otherwise adapt to shocks, disasters and climate change, and shared through the IYAFA 2022 website and other channels of communications.
<p>Strengthened science-policy interface: Policies and protocols are in place based on best-available science to provide adequate disaster response in emergency situations and to help communities to be better prepared and warned of potential threats through preventive disaster risk management (DRM).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and planning frameworks are developed or revised in a participatory manner that support building resilience to threats for the long-term continuity of the sectors, through informed, evidence-based research inclusive of local knowledge. • Planning activities that support increased research on the effect climate change will have on social, economic and environmental policies governing small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, and where possible integrated in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture policy and resilience strategies. • Increased research on the impact of climate change on small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in order to facilitate their response to political, social and economic changes.
<p>Empowered stakeholders: Strengthened capacity of fishers and fishfarmers (in business skills, insurance schemes, aquaculture practices, coping with loss, rapid response and boat hauling) and associated equipment is delivered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative practices (e.g., forecasting apps, insurance schemes, climate smart aquaculture practices) are adopted by small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to be aware of impending risks and how best to respond and adapt. • Safety-at-sea-training is provided to fishers of both genders, and life-saving equipment is procured. • Advocate for governments to develop national emergency fund for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture adaption and mitigation strategies in case of environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change.
<p>Partnerships: Relationships with relevant authorities are created or strengthened to develop more coordinated response plans in the event of disasters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced coordination among fisher and fish farmer organization with relevant authorities (e.g., security services, forecasting services) is promoted.



Appendices

ANNEX1 | International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture key messages

	PILLAR	KEY MESSAGE
1	ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: Use biodiversity sustainably for the longevity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture	As custodians of shared resources fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers have a fundamental role in ensuring the responsible management and sustainable use of living aquatic resources and their supporting ecosystems.
2	ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY: Support inclusive value chains for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture	Access to markets, appropriate infrastructure, inclusive value chains enable fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to better provide affordable high-quality fish products, foster economic development and generate employment.
3	SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: Secure social inclusion and well-being of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture	Decent working and living conditions are essential for small-scale fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers to secure livelihoods and maintain their social, physical and cultural wellbeing.
4	GOVERNANCE: Ensure effective participation of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in building and strengthening enabling policy environment	Effective participation, supported by comprehensive data and information, in decision-making processes ensures that traditional knowledge and voices of fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers and their organizations shape laws and policies relating to small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
5	GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY: Acknowledge that women and men in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are equals	Centralising the role women play in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture is essential to women's empowerment and sustainable development.
6	FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: Promote the contribution to healthy diets from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in sustainable food systems	Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture have a fundamental role in contributing healthy, safe, affordable, and nutritious aquatic foods and products as part of global and local food systems.
7	RESILIENCE: Increase the preparedness and adaptive capacity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change	Fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers are among the world's most vulnerable to environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change. Policies and actions should support building resilience to these threats for the long-term continuity of the sectors.

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