

ARTISANAL FISHERS EXCHANGE BRAZIL 2024

Overview and Key Insights

Event Dates: May 30 - June 2, 2024

Location: Itacuruçá, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



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Acronyms

1. **APESCORDEL** - *Asociación de Pescadores del Corregimiento de La Loma* [Fishers Association of the La Loma District] - Colombia
2. **AWFBEK** - African Women in Fisheries Blue Economy Kenya
3. **AWFISHNET** - African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network - Africa (Continental Network)
4. **CASK** - Commercial Aquaculture Society of Kenya
5. **CBRM** - Community-Based Resource Management
6. **CONFREM** - *Comissão Nacional para o Fortalecimento das Reservas Extrativistas e dos Povos Extrativistas Costeiros Marinhos* [National Commission for Strengthening Extractive Reserves and Traditional Extractive Coastal and Marine Peoples and Communities] - Brazil
7. **CONAPACH** - *Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile* [National Confederation of Artisanal Fishers of Chile]
8. **CONMECOOP** - *Confederación Mexicana de Cooperativas Pesqueras y Acuícolas* [Mexican Confederation of Fishing and Aquaculture Cooperatives] - Mexico
9. **ICMBio** - *Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade* [Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation] - Brazil
10. **KNTI** - *Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia* [Indonesian Traditional Fisherfolk Union] - Indonesia
11. **LMMA Network** - Locally Managed Marine Area Network - Fiji
12. **Meseta Films** - Media production company involved in documenting the event
13. **MPA** - Marine Protected Area
14. **NPSSF** - National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers - India
15. **OPP72** - *Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Conil* [Producers' Fishery organisation of Conil] – Spain
16. **RAFEP** - *Réseau des Femmes Africaines Pour la Promotion de la Pêche* [Network of African Women for the Promotion of Fisheries] - Benin
17. **RENAFEP** - *Réseau National des femmes de la pêche* [National Network of Women in Fishing] - Benin
18. **RIPAPE** - *Red Iberoamericana de Pesca Artesanal Pequeña Escala* [Iberoamerican Network of Small-Scale Artisanal Fishers] - Spain
19. **SANWFA** - South African National Women in Fisheries Association
20. **SFWA** - Southern Fisherwomen's Association - Thailand
21. **SSF** - Small-Scale Fishers
22. **TINTA** - The Invisible Thread
23. **UAPA** - *Unión Argentina de Pescadores Artesanales* [Union of Artisanal Fishers of Argentina]
24. **ULAPA** - *Unión Latinoamericana de Pescadores Artesanales* [Latin American Union of Small-Scale Fishers]

1. Executive Summary

The Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 brought together small-scale fisher leaders from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe to discuss shared challenges and explore solutions for sustainable fisheries. The event, held in Itacuruçá, Rio de Janeiro from May 30 to June 2, 2024, was organised by a Steering Committee composed of ULAPA, KNTI, AWFISHNET, and CONFREM, with support from TINTA.

The exchange centred on three key themes: sustainable value chains, livelihoods, and climate change adaptation. To improve market access, forming cooperatives and utilising digital platforms were identified as crucial strategies for fishers to increase profits and reduce dependency on middlemen. The adoption of eco-friendly fishing gear and the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were highlighted as necessary for safeguarding marine ecosystems and sustaining fish stocks for future generations.

A key example came from the partnership between CONFREM and ICMBio, which demonstrated how integrating climate adaptation into fisheries management can benefit small-scale fishers. This includes implementing disaster preparedness plans, restoring key habitats like mangroves, and promoting climate-resilient practices to protect fishing communities from the effects of climate change.

Economic diversification was another priority, with discussions on how fishers can develop alternative income sources such as ecotourism and aquaculture to reduce their reliance on fishing alone. The exchange also emphasised the importance of ensuring gender equality in fisheries, with recommendations for policies that support women's roles in leadership. Youth engagement was also seen as critical to the future of fisheries, with targeted initiatives to involve young people in governance and decision-making processes.

Partnerships played a central role throughout the event. CONFREM's workshop on sustainable boat building showcased how modern materials can be integrated with traditional methods to create more efficient and environmentally responsible fishing vessels. RIPAPE and Movilizadorio contributed valuable insights into commercialisation strategies and the role of storytelling in advocacy and fisheries management.

This report summarises the key takeaways from the exchange and offers practical strategies for fishers, communities, and organisations. Building on these collaborations and continuing to implement these strategies will help ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of small-scale fisheries.



2. Introduction

Small-scale fisheries are a cornerstone of global food security and livelihoods, employing approximately 160.2 million people worldwide—nearly 90% of the total workforce in the fishing sector.¹ Beyond their economic significance, small-scale fisheries are deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of coastal communities and are critical to the sustainable management of marine resources. Small-scale fishers, who often serve as stewards of the ocean, use traditional knowledge and sustainable practices passed down through generations. However, they face numerous challenges, including limited market access, competition from industrial fishing, exclusion from policy-making processes, and the growing impacts of climate change.

Small-scale fishers (SSF) often come together in community organisations to defend their local rights and promote community well-being. These organisations typically form national networks, which sometimes establish regional networks—larger, cross-national bodies that unite fishers across multiple countries within a geographic region. Both national organisations and regional networks work to advocate for SSF rights on broader scales. For this exchange, the Fisher Steering Committee was composed of key organisations, including AWFISHNET from Africa, ULAPA from Latin America, CONFREM from Brazil, and KNTI from Indonesia. These organisations played a pivotal role in shaping the event, advocating for fair access to resources, promoting sustainable fishing practices, and pushing for policy reforms to protect SSF from industrial fishing and climate change.

The Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024, guided by this Steering Committee and supported by TINTA, aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among small-scale fisher leaders globally. The Steering Committee selected three main themes—sustainable value chains, livelihoods, and climate change adaptation—based on their immediacy, importance, and the opportunities they provided for knowledge exchange.

The event, held in Itacuruçá, Rio de Janeiro, from May 30 to June 2, 2024, brought together 15 small-scale fisher leaders from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Spain, offering a unique opportunity for cross-regional collaboration and shared learning.



Artisanal fisher leaders visit ICMBio to discuss climate adaptation in fisheries management, disaster preparedness, and habitat restoration.

¹ FAO, Duke University and WorldFish. 2022. "Small-scale fisheries and sustainable development: Key findings from the Illuminating Hidden Harvests report." Rome, FAO; Durham, USA, Duke University; Penang, Malaysia, WorldFish.

The objectives of the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 were:

1. Solidify Global SSF Community Bonds:

Strengthen connections and solidarity within the global small-scale fisher community to enable collective action on shared challenges.

2. Foster Knowledge Exchange:

Facilitate a rich exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices to promote sustainable fishing methods and improve the economic viability of small-scale fisheries.

3. Disseminate Insights: Expand the impact of the exchange by sharing key takeaways with the broader small-scale fisher community and relevant stakeholders, ensuring the benefits extend beyond event participants.

3. Methodology

The success of the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 was the result of a well-coordinated effort that combined strategic planning, effective collaboration, and the dedicated contributions of several partner organisations. Key components included the formation of a Steering Committee, participant selection, engagement and dissemination strategies, and comprehensive logistics and coordination.

This section outlines the planning and organisational efforts that made the event possible, highlighting the roles and contributions of those involved.

3.1 Planning and Organisation

The Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 was conceived and led by fishers for fishers, ensuring that the event was deeply rooted in the needs and experiences of small-scale fishers around the world. The exchange was shaped by the Steering Committee, which included leaders from ULAPA, KNTI, AWFISHNET, and CONFREM, who worked together to ensure the agenda directly addressed the challenges and opportunities relevant to their communities. TINTA provided facilitation, coordination, and logistical support for the event, guided by the Steering Committee and particularly informed by CONFREM's recommendations.



The Steering Committee for the Artisanal Fisher Exchange. (From left-to-right: Zoila Bustamante Cardenas from CONAPACH and ULAPA, Suzanne Njeri from AWFBEK and AWFISHNET, Flavio Diniz Gaspar Lontro from CONFREM and ULAPA, Dani Setiawan from KNTI).

CONFREM played a vital role in coordinating the on-ground logistics, particularly for the field visits, ensuring that participants experienced seamless and informative excursions. ICMBio delivered a detailed presentation on climate change adaptation, offering critical insights into the environmental challenges impacting small-scale fisheries. RIPAPE facilitated a pivotal discussion on the commercialization of small-scale fisheries, exploring the potential for establishing an international alliance and fostering dialogue on global collaboration. Movilizatorio led a communications workshop, focusing on the power of storytelling in advocacy.

3.2 Learning Questions

Central to the event's structure were the learning questions that guided the thematic discussions and breakout sessions. These questions were designed by the Steering Committee to address some of the most relevant and practical issues faced by small-scale fishers globally:

1. Market Access:

- What challenges have you faced accessing markets, and how did you overcome them?

2. Trade Terms:

- What strategies have proven effective in securing fair trade terms and pricing in your area?

3. Market Dynamics:

- How do artisanal fishers in your region deal with less demand and lower prices for your products?
- What steps or changes have you made to handle these challenges?

4. Income Diversification:

- What activities supplement artisanal fishing income during off-seasons or low stock periods in your region?

5. Social Protection:

- What social protection measures support artisanal fishers in your region?

These questions were integral to structuring the event's agenda and ensuring that discussions were focused on actionable outcomes.

3.3 Selection of Participants

Participants were chosen by regional networks to ensure broad and representative participation. AWFISHNET (African Women's Network) and ULAPA (Latin American Network) selected participants based on their active involvement and leadership in the SSF community. KNTI proposed participants from the Asia-Pacific region, where, to the best of the Steering Committee's knowledge, no organised continental network currently exists. This approach aimed for a diverse representation, considering geographic diversity, gender balance, and various fishing practices.

These participants included:

1. **Ananaiasa Rokovatunawa**, Mau Village Fishermen Cluster Group, LMMA Network - Fiji
2. **Betty Mondon**, Bars and Tones Production Organisation, AWFISHNET - Seychelles
3. **Dani Setiawan**, KNTI - Indonesia
4. **Flávio Diniz Gaspar Lontro**, CONFREM, ULAPA - Brazil
5. **José Carrillo Galaz**, CONMECOOP, ULAPA - Mexico
6. **Julián Medina Salgado**, APESCORDEL, ULAPA - Colombia
7. **Mashebane Thosago**, SANWFA, Food Energy Water Cooperative, AWFISHNET - South Africa
8. **Srta. Duangrat Khunart**, SFWA, Thailand
9. **Nandakumar Pawar**, NPSSFW - India
10. **Néstor Roche**, UAPA, ULAPA - Argentina
11. **Nicolás Fernández Muñoz**, OPP72, RIPAPE - Spain
12. **Nina Minguie Ep Moutendy**, Gabon Aqua Service Cooperative, AWFISHNET - Gabon
13. **Suzanne Njeri**, AWFBEK, AWFBEK, CASK, AWFISHNET - Kenya
14. **Victoire Gomez Aliou**, RAFEP, RENAFEP, AWFISHNET - Benin
15. **Zoila Bustamante Cardenas**, CONAPACH, ULAPA - Chile

3.4 Engagement and Dissemination

The Steering Committee met virtually once per week for seven weeks leading up to the event to decide on themes, facilitation styles, and the structure of the discussions. The event itself was designed to encourage active participation through in-person discussions, workshops, and site visits. Dissemination of the event's insights will be achieved through this report, which captures the key outcomes and reflections from participants.

3.5 Logistics and Coordination

Logistics for the event were managed collaboratively by TINTA and CONFREM, focusing on organising field visits and ensuring seamless coordination of activities. Pre-visits to the field sites were conducted by both organisations to ensure smooth and effective experiences for the large group of participants. This included planning and coordinating transportation, meals, and accommodations for participants. Key field visits included a guided tour of the São Pedro Fish Market and a visit to ICMBio — APA de Guapi-Mirim. The event took place from May 30 to June 2, 2024, in Itacuruçá, Rio de Janeiro, with participants staying at the Hotel Porto Marina Rede Mont Blanc, selected for its accessibility and proximity to the field visit locations.



3.6 Overview of Daily Activities

The event featured a mix of structured activities over four days, designed to facilitate knowledge sharing, discussions, and practical learning among fisher leaders.

Day 1: organisational and Regional Presentations and Market Discussion

- **Welcome and Opening Session:** The event began with a welcome by CONFREM and TINTA representatives. Flavio Lontro (CONFREM) delivered an opening speech underlining the significance of unity among small-scale fishers, particularly in Brazil.
- **Icebreaker Activity:** Participants engaged in an icebreaker activity, followed by presentations from fisher leaders, who shared insights into their organisations and cultural contexts.
- **Regional Case Study Presentations:** Artisanal fisheries case studies from Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America were presented, highlighting regional challenges and strategies.
- **Group Discussion on Market Strategies:** Participants engaged in group discussions on strategies for establishing the best price and value for fish products in local and national markets, with an emphasis on fair trade terms and pricing.

Day 2: São Pedro Fish Market and Climate Change Presentations

- **Guided Tour of São Pedro Fish Market:** Participants toured the São Pedro Fish Market, interacted with local vendors, and observed regional fish species.
- **ICMBio Visit:** The group visited ICMBio — APA de Guapi-Mirim [Guapi-Mirim Environmental Protection Area], where Maurício Muniz and Mário Soares delivered presentations on conservation and socio-environmental resilience. A question and answer session followed with ICMBio representatives and a professor from the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro [State University of Rio de Janeiro], discussing climate change adaptation in small-scale fisheries.



Flavio Diniz Gaspar Lontro from CONFREM giving the welcome speech.

Day 3: CONFREM's Warehouse Visit and Discussions on Marine Protection

- **Warehouse Visit:** Participants visited CONFREM's warehouse to learn about the "Naval Construction" project, focusing on building fibreglass canoes for sustainable fishing.
- **Schooner Trip and Lunch:** A schooner trip to Jaguanum Island followed, where participants had lunch at a local restaurant featuring traditional Brazilian dishes. Discussions centred on marine protection, challenges facing artisanal fishing, and the importance of political representation.

Day 4: Commercialization Presentation, Communication Workshop, and Final Discussions

- **RIPAPE Presentation:** Nicolás Fernández from RIPAPE led a session on "Fishers as the First Link in the Commercial Chain: New Opportunities for Marketing/Commercialization."
- **Communication and Storytelling Workshop:** Movilizadorio conducted an interactive workshop on the power of communication and storytelling for strategic advocacy.
- **Final Group Discussions:** Participants held regional discussions (Africa, Asia, and South America) on alternative income sources during low seasons, social protections, and reflections on the event.
- **Closing Reflections and Feedback:** The event concluded with closing reflections and feedback from participants, followed by remarks from TINTA representatives.

4. Regional Challenges and Opportunities

The Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 included presentations from different regions, providing a comprehensive look at the challenges and opportunities faced by small-scale fishers globally. This section summarises the key points from these presentations and discussions.²



4.1 Small-Scale Fishing in Latin America (ULAPA)

Representatives from the Unión Latinoamericana de Pescadores Artesanales (ULAPA) provided an overview of the organisation, which comprises 14 entities across the continent. These groups are focused on advocating for the rights and interests of small-scale fishers, emphasising the need for sustainable practices and food security. Key challenges in the region include overfishing, climate change, and limited market access, further exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure and fragmented market strategies.

One initiative highlighted was a collaboration in Argentina involving a one-year trial with researchers to utilise fishing by-products for fertiliser production. This project aims to foster sustainable marine resource use while improving economic outcomes for fishers. The discussion also underscored the importance of developing common markets and enhancing integration into value chains to create better economic opportunities.

ULAPA's efforts are directed toward addressing ecological and climatic challenges, such as pollution, invasive species, and coral diseases. The organisation advocates for stronger governmental involvement to bring about significant changes in the small-scale fishing sector, underscoring that small-scale fishing is not merely an economic activity but a cultural tradition that requires preservation.

4.2 Small-Scale Fishing in Africa (AWFISHNET)

The African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) represents 44 countries in Africa, focusing on empowering women in the fishing industry. The network advocates for safe working conditions, sustainability, and political participation. African fishers face significant challenges, including limited access to financing, inadequate market infrastructure, and intense competition from industrial fishing operations.

AWFISHNET's strategy includes environmental conservation, improving working conditions, and ensuring a sustainable supply of safe fish for nutrition. A noteworthy project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supports women in sub-Saharan Africa, concentrating on capacity building and nutrition. The importance of policy advocacy and regional economic cooperation was also highlighted as critical to supporting small-scale fishers.

² To note, this section reflects the regional presentations from Day 1 which are not representative or exhaustive of all the countries and organisations participating.



Presentation on case studies of small-scale fisheries in Africa by Suzanne Njeri from AWFISHNET.

4.3 Sustainable Small-Scale Fishing in Southeast Asia (KNTI)

In Southeast Asia, small-scale fishers contribute 22% to global fisheries, employing over 10 million people. Despite their economic significance, they face challenges such as the impacts of climate change, destructive fishing practices, and poverty, especially in Indonesia, where only 7% of fishers reach the high school level. The Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia (KNTI) emphasised the importance of government policies that genuinely support small-scale fishers, rather than favouring industrial practices that harm both the environment and livelihoods. Learning from other regions was highlighted as key to improving socioeconomic conditions and exploring new market opportunities.

4.4 Local Fishing Situation in Thailand (SFWA)

The Southern Fisherwomen's Association (SFWA) in Thailand represents a network of 500 fisherwomen across 11 provinces in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman regions. Overfishing, habitat degradation, and limited influence in policymaking are key challenges faced by Thai fishers. SFWA promotes sustainable practices, focusing on the development of chemical-free products, and introduced a blue seal certification to assure consumers of product origins. The association is also actively involved in campaigning for policy changes, promoting ecotourism, and supporting fisherwomen to participate in decision-making processes related to marine resource management.

5. Key Thematic Discussions

This section captures the insights from breakout discussions where fisher participants were divided into smaller groups to address specific learning questions. These discussions provided a platform for in-depth exploration of the challenges and solutions relevant to small-scale fisheries. The following subsections highlight the key themes that emerged from these focused conversations, offering practical strategies for supporting small-scale fishers.³



5.1 Market Access and Economic Viability

Market access and economic viability emerged as significant themes during the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024. Participants from various regions shared the challenges they faced and offered practical solutions, providing valuable insights into how small-scale fishers can improve their market presence and economic stability.

5.1.1 Challenges Faced by Small-Scale Fishers

Small-scale fishers often encounter numerous barriers in accessing markets and maintaining economic viability. Key challenges include reliance on intermediaries, which reduces fishers' profits and limits their control over pricing. Inadequate infrastructure for storage and transportation hampers the ability to maintain product quality and reach broader markets. Additionally, complex and exclusionary regulations frequently prevent small-scale fishers from participating in formal markets, while industrial fishing operations dominate markets, making it difficult for small-scale fishers to compete on price and volume.

5.1.2 Solutions and Strategies

1. Formation of Cooperatives: Forming cooperatives emerged as a key strategy for strengthening the bargaining power of small-scale fishers. Cooperatives enable fishers to negotiate better prices and market conditions by leveraging collective power. They also facilitate collective marketing efforts, reducing reliance on intermediaries and improving access to markets. Beyond market access, cooperatives play a crucial role in economic diversification, supporting community-based enterprises and creating sustainable economic activities within fishing communities.

In Mexico, CONMECOOP has successfully established cooperatives that negotiate collectively for better market terms. These cooperatives have enhanced the economic viability of fishers by reducing dependency on intermediaries and allowing direct access to markets.

Similarly, RIPAPE (Red Iberoamericana de Pesca Artesanal Pequeña Escala) is a cross-continental network formed in 2022, connecting Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries in Latin America and Europe. This network facilitates knowledge exchange and addresses market access, commercialization, and representation challenges faced by artisanal fishers. By forming direct relationships with restaurants and local markets in Spain, RIPAPE enables fishers to sell their products at premium prices, improving income and economic sustainability.

2. Niche Marketing and Certification: Positioning products as niche and sustainable has emerged as another effective strategy for small-scale fishers to enhance market access and improve economic viability.

In Thailand, the Southern Fisherwomen's Association (SFWA) has successfully positioned their products as niche, sustainable, and chemical-free, meeting the rising consumer demand for eco-friendly seafood.

SFWA's introduction of a blue seal certification assures consumers of the sustainability and origin of their products, helping fishers access premium markets and achieve higher prices. This strategy has not only opened new market opportunities but also reinforced sustainable practices among small-scale fishers.

³ The case studies and examples in this section capture only a select few of the solutions and strategies presented at the exchange.



Nicolás Fernández from RIPAPE gives a presentation on commercialization.

3. Direct Sales and Digital Platforms: Leveraging online marketplaces and social media allows small-scale fishers to connect directly with consumers, bypassing intermediaries and retaining more profits. This approach increases transparency, builds trust with consumers, and ensures that fishers receive fair prices for their products.

In Brazil, fisher communities have begun utilising digital platforms to sell directly to consumers, ensuring that they can capture a larger share of the value chain while also building direct relationships with buyers.

4. Infrastructure Improvements: Investments in cold storage facilities and better transportation options are critical for maintaining the quality of fish products, extending their shelf life, and enhancing marketability. These improvements enable fishers to access broader markets and ensure that their products meet quality standards required by high-value markets.

In Argentina, local initiatives have focused on improving storage and transportation infrastructure, ensuring that fish products remain fresh and can be transported efficiently to markets further afield.

5. Policy Advocacy: Securing government support through subsidies for infrastructure development, favourable regulations, and initiatives to level the playing field with industrial competitors is essential for enhancing the market access and economic viability of small-scale fishers. Advocacy efforts aimed at influencing policy are crucial for creating an enabling environment that supports small-scale fisheries.

In Brazil, CONFREM has been actively involved in advocating for policies that support small-scale fishers, including subsidies for infrastructure development and regulations that protect their access to markets.

5.1.3 Key Takeaways

The discussions highlighted the critical need for small-scale fishers to engage in collective action, utilise digital platforms, and advocate for supportive policies to improve market access and economic viability.

By organising into cooperatives, investing in infrastructure, and leveraging direct sales channels, fishers can enhance their economic stability and reduce reliance on intermediaries. Additionally, developing niche marketing strategies and certifications for sustainable, high-quality products can open access to premium markets, providing new opportunities for small-scale fishers. The experiences shared during the exchange emphasised the importance of combining traditional practices with modern strategies to secure better market conditions and ensure the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries.



Breakout group discussion during the Exchange.

5.2 Sustainable Fishing Practices

Sustainable fishing practices are crucial for maintaining the health of marine ecosystems and ensuring the long-term viability of small-scale fisheries. Participants at the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 shared insights into various practices that promote sustainability, reduce environmental impact, and enhance the resilience of fishing communities.

5.2.1 Challenges

Small-scale fishers face numerous challenges related to unsustainable fishing practices, many of which are exacerbated by commercial fishing operations. The use of harmful fishing gear, bycatch, and the depletion of fish stocks are often driven by large-scale industrial fishing, which directly impacts marine habitats and reduces the availability of resources for small-scale fishers. Additionally, small-scale fishers often lack access to the resources and training needed to implement more sustainable practices, further hindering their ability to compete with industrial counterparts.

5.2.2 Solutions and Strategies

1. Eco-Friendly Fishing Gear: Small-scale fishers have traditionally relied on sustainable gear types that minimise environmental impact and allow for selective fishing. Practices such as using hook-and-line systems, traps, and handlines are common among artisanal fishers because they target specific species and sizes, reducing bycatch and ensuring that non-target species are preserved. This approach not only helps maintain healthy fish populations but also supports the overall sustainability of the marine ecosystem.

During the exchange, participants emphasised the need to expand and modernise these practices by introducing more advanced, eco-friendly gear. For example, in Chile, CONAPACH has been proactive in introducing selective fishing gear that further reduces bycatch and is better suited to the needs of local fishers. These efforts have helped restore fish populations and ensure the sustainability of local fisheries.

2. Sustainable Boat Building: Sustainable boat-building practices involve using materials and designs that reduce environmental impact while improving the safety and efficiency of fishing operations. Fibreglass boats, for instance, are more durable and require less maintenance than traditional wooden boats, reducing the need for deforestation and lowering long-term costs for fishers.

In Brazil, the Naval Construction Project led by CONFREM has focused on constructing fibreglass canoes, which are more sustainable and efficient. These canoes allow fishers to navigate deeper waters and reduce pressure on overfished coastal areas. The project has been instrumental in modernising the fleet of small-scale fishers while maintaining their commitment to environmental stewardship.

3. Education and Awareness: Raising awareness about sustainable practices and providing training on the use of eco-friendly gear and sustainable boat-building techniques are essential for encouraging widespread adoption. These educational efforts help fishers understand the long-term benefits of sustainability for both the environment and their livelihoods.

In Indonesia, KNTI has actively advocated for the rights of traditional fishers and the sustainable governance of marine resources. Through its efforts, KNTI has raised awareness about the importance of sustainable fishing practices and the need for government policies that genuinely support small-scale fishers. Their advocacy includes resisting harmful industrial practices and promoting the use of more environmentally sustainable methods.



Workshop on sustainable fibreglass boat building hosted by CONFREM.

5.2.3 Key Takeaways

The discussions highlighted the importance of adopting sustainable fishing practices, such as the use of eco-friendly gear, sustainable boat-building techniques, and community-led monitoring. These approaches not only help protect marine ecosystems by reducing bycatch and habitat destruction but also improve the economic sustainability and safety of fishing operations. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern innovations, fishers can significantly enhance the ecological and economic outcomes of their activities.

5.3 Resource Management

Effective resource management is essential for maintaining healthy marine ecosystems and ensuring the sustainability of small-scale fisheries. Participants at the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 shared strategies focusing on co-management, community-based initiatives, and partnerships that actively involve local communities in managing their natural resources.

5.3.1 Challenges

Small-scale fishers often face challenges like resource overexploitation, habitat degradation, and the impacts of climate change, largely driven by commercial fishing and other extractive industries. These challenges are worsened by weak governance, inadequate enforcement mechanisms, and limited resources for monitoring and managing marine environments. Additionally, many communities struggle to gain sufficient support from policymakers for sustainable resource management practices.

5.3.2 Solutions and Strategies

1. Co-Management Approaches: Co-management involves shared responsibility between local fishers, government agencies, and NGOs. Establishing a collaborative framework with clear roles and regular meetings helps ensure that management objectives are met.

In Fiji, the LMMA Network has pioneered co-management, where communities manage their marine resources in collaboration with government agencies. A community liaison facilitates communication and ensures monitoring, surveillance, and enforcement between the two managing bodies. This approach has resulted in significant improvements in fish stocks and marine biodiversity.

In India, NPSSFW has worked extensively on co-management efforts, advocating for policies that ensure small-scale fishers are represented in governance and decision-making processes related to marine resource management. Their efforts focus on protecting artisanal fishing areas from urban encroachment and industrial development.

2. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Establishing MPAs is a key strategy for conserving critical habitats and protecting fish stocks. These areas restrict or regulate human activities to preserve biodiversity and allow ecosystems to recover from overexploitation.

In Thailand, SFWA has played an instrumental role in advocating for and establishing MPAs, particularly in areas critical for fish breeding. The active participation of local communities in monitoring these areas has led to improved compliance and recovery of fish populations.

3. Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM): CBRM engages the community in managing and conserving their resources, integrating traditional practices with modern conservation methods. This approach enables local communities to take ownership of their natural resources and ensure their long-term sustainability.

In Brazil, CONFREM has led initiatives that involve fishers in managing mangrove ecosystems crucial for the survival of various fish species. These efforts include protecting breeding areas, replanting mangroves, and enforcing no-take zones during critical periods to allow ecosystems to regenerate.

4. Restoration Initiatives: Restoration projects are most effective when they involve the community in every stage, from assessment to implementation. These initiatives are crucial for rebuilding ecosystems and enhancing the resilience of coastal areas to climate change.

In Ghana, AWFISHNET led mangrove restoration projects where local women were trained to plant and care for mangroves. These efforts have not only restored the environment but also improved coastal protection and increased fish stocks, providing economic benefits to the community.

In India, community-led efforts in Kerala have focused on the restoration of mangrove forests, which are vital for coastal protection and fish breeding. These initiatives have been supported by local NGOs and government agencies, leading to significant improvements in the health of coastal ecosystems.



Brazilian coastline during our schooner trip.

5. Collaborative Networks and Partnerships: Building strong networks among local communities, NGOs, and government agencies facilitates the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices. These collaborations enhance the capacity of small-scale fishers to manage resources sustainably and respond to environmental challenges.

In Indonesia, KNTI has developed a network that shares data on fish stocks across different regions. This collaboration has led to joint management initiatives that have improved resource sustainability and strengthened the resilience of local fisheries.

In Fiji, the LMMA Network connects various communities across the country, allowing them to share best practices in marine resource management. This network has been instrumental in scaling up successful initiatives and ensuring the sustainability of local fisheries.

In Gabon, the Gaser Scoops cooperative provides a model for sustainable freshwater shrimp fishing, blending traditional techniques with modern co-management strategies, ensuring resource sustainability and improving the economic opportunities of local communities.

5.3.3 Key Takeaways

The exchange highlighted that co-management, involving local fishers in decision-making with government and NGOs, is crucial for improving resource management and biodiversity, as seen in Fiji and India. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), when locally monitored, help restore critical habitats, demonstrated by Thailand's recovery of fish populations. Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) enables fishers to take ownership of their ecosystems, as illustrated by Brazil's mangrove restoration efforts. Lastly, collaborative networks across regions like Indonesia and Gabon strengthen sustainable practices through knowledge sharing and joint initiatives.

5.4 Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change poses a significant threat to small-scale fisheries, impacting fish stocks, habitats, and fishing communities. Adaptive strategies are crucial for mitigating these effects and ensuring the resilience of small-scale fisheries. During the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024, participants shared insights and practical approaches to addressing these challenges.

5.4.1 Challenges

Participants discussed several challenges that small-scale fishers face due to climate change. These challenges include the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as storms, floods, and droughts, which disrupt fishing activities and damage infrastructure. Changes in ocean temperature affect fish migration patterns, breeding cycles, and the availability of fish stocks. Rising sea levels threaten coastal habitats and communities, leading to habitat loss and increased salinity in freshwater systems. Additionally, ocean acidification affects the health of marine organisms, particularly those with calcium carbonate shells or skeletons, impacting fish stocks and biodiversity.

5.4.2 Solutions and Strategies

1. Disaster Preparedness: Developing early warning systems and disaster response plans is essential for protecting fishers and communities from extreme weather events. Participants underscored the importance of local training and education to ensure that fishers are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to respond effectively to these challenges.

The ICMBio in Brazil has been involved in resilience-building efforts particularly focused on mangrove ecosystems. These initiatives emphasise preparing local communities for extreme weather events, such as storms or floods, by improving community preparedness through education and local training. The goal is to minimise the impact of such events on fishers and their infrastructure.

In Kenya, AWFBEK has introduced aquaculture species like trout and shrimp as part of a broader effort to create climate-resilient practices, ensuring sustainable income sources and food security for local fishers.



Presentation on CONFREM and ICMBio's research partnership on climate change adaptation.

2. Habitat Restoration: Restoring critical habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs, and wetlands can enhance coastal resilience and provide natural buffers against the impacts of climate change. Participants highlighted the importance of involving local communities in these restoration efforts to ensure their sustainability.

In Brazil, ICMBio leads community-based mangrove restoration programs in Guanabara Bay. These efforts involve the active participation of local fishers, aiming to restore critical habitats that are vital for maintaining fish stocks and coastal resilience. Mangrove restoration not only provides natural buffers against sea-level rise and storm surges but also supports the ecosystem by enhancing biodiversity and improving the availability of fish for small-scale fishers.

3. Research and Monitoring: Conducting research to understand climate impacts on fisheries and developing monitoring systems to track changes are essential for informing adaptive management strategies. Participants discussed the importance of continuous data collection and the involvement of local communities in these processes.

In Brazil, as part of ICMBio's broader efforts in partnership with CONFREM, research on the impacts of climate change on mangrove ecosystems has been integrated with traditional knowledge to guide conservation strategies. This approach ensures that local communities are actively involved in monitoring and managing their natural resources.

5.4.3 Key Takeaways

The exchange emphasised the importance of proactive climate change adaptation for small-scale fisheries. Effective disaster preparedness, including early warning systems and local training, is essential for mitigating the impact of extreme weather events. Habitat restoration, such as mangrove and coral reef restoration, enhances coastal resilience and provides critical buffers against climate change. Engaging local communities in these efforts is important for their success and sustainability. Continuous research and monitoring, integrating both scientific data and traditional knowledge, are vital for adapting to climate impacts and managing resources effectively. These strategies collectively help small-scale fisheries build resilience and sustain their livelihoods amidst changing environmental conditions.

5.5 Economic Diversification and Livelihoods

Economic diversification is crucial for ensuring the stability and resilience of small-scale fishing communities. By developing alternative income sources, fishing communities can achieve greater financial stability and resilience. Participants at the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 discussed various strategies to diversify income sources, the challenges faced, and successful case studies that illustrate the benefits of diversification.

5.5.1 Challenges

Small-scale fishers encounter several challenges in diversifying their livelihoods. The seasonal nature of fishing can lead to periods of low income and economic instability. Many fishing communities have limited access to alternative income-generating activities, making diversification difficult. Additionally, skill gaps exist as fishers often lack training and experience in non-fishing activities, which can hinder their efforts to diversify livelihoods. The lack of financial resources and support for initiating new ventures further complicates these efforts.

5.5.2 Solutions and Strategies

1. Alternative Income Sources: Developing non-fishing income sources, such as ecotourism, handicrafts, and aquaculture, can provide additional revenue streams for fishing communities. These activities offer economic benefits while also reducing pressure on marine resources, contributing to environmental sustainability.

In Fiji, the LMMA Network successfully implemented mariculture and ecotourism projects involving over 400 villages. These initiatives have provided alternative income sources while promoting the conservation of marine resources.

2. Skills Development: Offering training programs to equip fishers with new skills for alternative livelihoods is essential for enhancing their economic opportunities. Such programs can focus on areas like sustainable agriculture, artisanal crafts, and tourism services, enabling fishers to diversify their income sources.

In Argentina, UAPA has been involved in providing training and capacity-building programs aimed at equipping fishers with the skills needed for alternative livelihoods. These efforts have helped fishers reduce their dependence on fishing and explore new economic activities.



Breakout group discussion during the Exchange.

3. Community Enterprises: Establishing community-based enterprises, such as cooperatives and small businesses, can help create sustainable economic activities within fishing communities. These enterprises not only support local economies but also promote collective ownership and decision-making, which are crucial for long-term success.

As discussed in Section 5.1 on Market Access and Economic Viability, CONMECOOP's fisher cooperatives in Mexico have successfully engaged in collective negotiation. Building on this, they have also diversified into sustainable aquaculture and fish processing, enhancing income and providing fishers with alternative revenue streams during off-seasons.

4. Advocacy and Governance: Advocating for policies that support diversified livelihoods and ensuring participatory governance are critical for enabling small-scale fishers to pursue alternative income-generating activities. Effective governance structures ensure that fishers have a say in the decisions that affect their communities and livelihoods.

In Indonesia, KNTI has supported the formation of separate groups for coastal women and youth, underscoring the importance of participatory governance and advocacy. These groups have promoted diversified livelihoods and empowered fishing communities to adapt to economic and environmental changes, with women and youth taking on more active roles in decision-making.

5.5.3 Key Takeaways

The exchange highlighted the importance of economic diversification for increasing the resilience and financial security of small-scale fishing communities. Developing alternative income sources, such as ecotourism, handicrafts, and aquaculture, helps reduce reliance on fishing and provides stability during off-seasons. Training programs are essential for building new skills in areas like sustainable agriculture and tourism, enabling fishers to pursue different livelihoods. Community-based enterprises, including cooperatives, support local economies and foster collective decision-making. Advocacy and participatory governance ensure that policies enable fishers to explore diverse income-generating activities. By integrating these strategies, fishers can better manage economic challenges and ensure more sustainable livelihoods.

5.6 Women's Leadership in Fisheries

Recognizing and enhancing the roles of women in fisheries is essential for promoting gender equality and improving the overall productivity and sustainability of fishing communities. Participants at the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 discussed various challenges, strategies, and success stories related to increasing women's participation and influence in the fisheries sector.

5.6.1 Challenges

Women in fisheries often face specific barriers and socio-economic challenges. These include gender-specific barriers, such as limited access to resources, lack of representation in decision-making bodies, and socio-cultural constraints, which restrict women's participation and influence in the fisheries sector. These barriers contribute to socio-economic issues, including income inequality, limited economic opportunities, and inadequate support networks for women in fisheries.

5.6.2 Strategies to Enhance Women's Roles

1. Capacity Building: Implementing training programs to develop women's skills in fisheries management, sustainable practices, and related sectors is crucial. These programs help women gain the knowledge and skills necessary to take on leadership roles and actively contribute to fisheries management.

In Thailand, SFWA has been instrumental in promoting the roles of fisherwomen in coastal areas along the Gulf of Thailand, Andaman, and Lake Songkhla. The organisation focuses on enhancing women's participation in decision-making processes and advocating for policies that support their involvement in sustainable fisheries management.

2. Gender-Inclusive Policies: Advocating for policies that promote gender equality and ensure women's participation in decision-making processes is essential. These policies should aim to remove barriers to women's involvement and recognize their contributions to the fisheries sector.

In Indonesia, KNTI has established the Kesatuan Perempuan Pesisir Indonesia [Indonesian Coastal Women's Union Union](KPPI), which focuses on the rights, justice, and well-being of fisherwomen. This initiative has successfully mobilised women to participate in marine and fisheries governance and management, increasing their influence in a traditionally male-dominated sector.

3. Support Networks: Establishing networks and organisations to support women in fisheries provides platforms for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and advocacy. These networks help women share experiences, access resources, and strengthen their collective voice in the fisheries sector.

In Africa, AWFISHNET has developed a strategic plan centred on creating a safe and healthy working environment, promoting sustainability, and ensuring the viability and competitiveness of women-led businesses. They have been actively engaged in environmental conservation efforts, such as the restoration of coral reefs, mangroves, and beaches, while advocating for women's voices in political and regulatory processes across multiple African countries.



Integrantes de AWFISHNET participando en el Intercambio.

In Chile, ULAPA has emphasised the inclusion of women in leadership roles within fisheries cooperatives. Their efforts have focused on ensuring that women have a voice in the management and governance of fisheries, recognizing their critical role in the sustainability of the sector.

5.6.3 Key Takeaways

The exchange highlighted the importance of strengthening women's roles in fisheries to promote gender equality and enhance the sustainability of fishing communities. Capacity-building programs that equip women with the skills to participate in fisheries management, advocacy for gender-inclusive policies, and the development of support networks were key strategies discussed. These efforts ensure that women can overcome barriers to their participation, influence decision-making, and contribute to the sector's productivity. By increasing women's leadership and visibility, fishing communities can achieve more equitable and sustainable outcomes, benefiting both the economy and the environment.

5.7 Collaborative Networks and Partnerships

Collaborative networks and partnerships are vital for enhancing the impact of small-scale fisheries and promoting sustainable practices. Participants at the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 highlighted the importance of building strong networks and partnerships to facilitate knowledge sharing, advocacy, and mutual support.

5.7.1 Challenges

Small-scale fishers often face significant challenges in building effective networks and partnerships. These challenges include geographical isolation, limited access to communication technologies, and insufficient resources for participating in regional or international collaborations. Additionally, varying interests among stakeholders such as government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector can complicate efforts to form cohesive and effective networks.

5.7.2 Strategies for Building Collaborative Networks

1. Regional Networks:

Establishing regional networks connects fishers and organisations across different countries to share knowledge, resources, and address common challenges.

Before the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024, ULAPA hosted an in-person meeting in Colombia, which brought together representatives from various Latin American countries. This meeting was instrumental in strengthening the network's ability to advocate for policies that support sustainable fisheries and enhance the socio-economic conditions of small-scale fishers in the region.



Members of ULAPA participating in the Exchange.

2. Cross-Sector Partnerships:

Forming partnerships between fishers, NGOs, government agencies, and private sector stakeholders leverages diverse expertise and resources to tackle common challenges and promote sustainable practices.

The Fiji LMMA Network exemplifies effective collaboration between local communities, government agencies, and NGOs. Their approach integrates traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices, which supports both community livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

In Seychelles, the Barra and Tons Production organisation, led by Betty Mondon, partnered with Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) to equip artisanal fishing boats with 'SOS' sending devices to improve fisher safety. They are also exploring the use of georeferencing technology to understand fishing areas better and address artisanal fishers' needs. These partnerships have improved safety standards and enabled better resource management, demonstrating how collaboration and technology integration can enhance small-scale fishers' livelihoods and resilience.

3. Workshops and Conferences:

Organising regular workshops and conferences facilitates face-to-face interactions, knowledge exchange, and collaborative planning, strengthening relationships among stakeholders.

In Brazil, CONFREM facilitated discussions and field visits during the Artisanal Fishers Exchange, providing a platform for small-scale fishers to engage with experts and local leaders on resource management and socio-environmental resilience.

4. Online Platforms:

Utilising digital platforms and social media to maintain communication, share updates, and coordinate efforts across geographical boundaries ensures that information flows freely among members of the network.

AWFISHNET in Africa has successfully used online platforms to advocate for women's involvement in fisheries, share resources, and ensure ongoing collaboration across countries. This digital engagement has enabled remote communities to remain connected and informed.

5.7.3 Key Takeaways

The discussions highlighted the significance of collaborative networks and partnerships in promoting sustainable fisheries and enhancing the resilience of fishing communities. Building strong networks enhances the collective capacity of fishers to address challenges and advocate for their rights. Collaborative efforts enable the sharing of resources, knowledge, and expertise, leading to more effective and sustainable practices. Moreover, networks and partnerships amplify the voice of small-scale fishers in policy dialogues, promoting the development of supportive policies and regulations.

A photograph of two men, one on the left wearing a green beanie and one on the right wearing glasses, both smiling and holding up large shrimp. They are wearing blue t-shirts with a logo. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or event setting.

6. Field Experiences and Workshops

The Field Experiences and Workshops during the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 provided participants with practical, hands-on learning opportunities that directly connected to the challenges and solutions discussed throughout the event. These activities were designed to be both educational and experiential, allowing fisher leaders to engage deeply with the local practices, explore new techniques, and discuss challenges and solutions in real-time.

6.1 São Pedro Fish Market

Participants visited the São Pedro Fish Market in Niterói, a vital hub for local fish sales, where they engaged directly with vendors and explored the various species available, including snook, flounder, octopus, and mullet. This visit provided an in-depth understanding of the market's operations, pricing strategies, and the importance of maintaining product quality.



Small scale fisher leaders at the São Pedro Fish Market in Niterói, Brazil.

In reflecting on the experience, participants recognized the complexities of market dynamics and the necessity of improving bargaining power to ensure fair pricing for their products. The visit highlighted the importance of maintaining high-quality standards to access better markets and compete effectively with larger fisheries. Additionally, the market visit underscored the potential benefits of organising fishers into cooperatives or associations to strengthen their market presence and improve negotiation outcomes.

6.2 ICMBio – Guapi-Mirim Environmental Protection Area

During the Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024, participants toured the Guapi-Mirim Environmental Protection Area, managed by ICMBio, where they explored the role of mangrove ecosystems in supporting fisheries and mitigating climate change. Mangroves are vital for maintaining fish populations, protecting coastlines, and sustaining the livelihoods of small-scale fishers. Discussions highlighted the integration of traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices, emphasising the value of partnerships between fishers, environmental agencies, and research institutions.

Participants learned that fishers can actively engage in mangrove conservation by participating in restoration projects, collaborating with research institutes to monitor ecosystem health, and working alongside environmental agencies like ICMBio to advocate for the preservation of vital habitats. These partnerships allow fishers to access scientific data and resources that enhance their ability to adapt to environmental changes, strengthen their role in policy advocacy, and secure support for long-term conservation efforts. Fishers can use these collaborations to ensure that their knowledge and needs are incorporated into research and decision-making processes.

6.3 Fiberglass Canoe Construction at CONFREM's Warehouse

At CONFREM's warehouse in Itacuruçá, participants were introduced to the Naval Construction Project, focusing on building fiberglass canoes tailored to small-scale fishers. The workshop demonstrated the economic and environmental benefits of using these locally constructed vessels, which blend traditional boat-building knowledge with modern materials.

The workshop highlighted how integrating traditional craftsmanship with new materials can enhance the efficiency and safety of fishing practices. Participants observed the advantages of using locally constructed vessels, which support the local economy and reduce dependency on external sources. The experience underscored the importance of adapting traditional practices to meet contemporary challenges while maintaining a commitment to environmental sustainability.

6.4 Schooner Trip to Jaguanum Island

The schooner trip to Jaguanum Island provided a unique setting for participants to discuss marine area protection, artisanal fishing challenges, and the importance of political representation. The visit offered a firsthand look at the environmental issues facing the island, including pollution and industrial development, and facilitated in-depth discussions on these topics.

The discussions highlighted the critical connection between environmental conservation and the livelihoods of small-scale fishers. Participants recognized the necessity of being actively involved in policy-making processes to ensure that their interests are represented. The experience encouraged fishers to engage more effectively in advocacy efforts and to build alliances that can influence policy decisions.



Group photo of small-scale fisher leaders at Jaguanum Island.

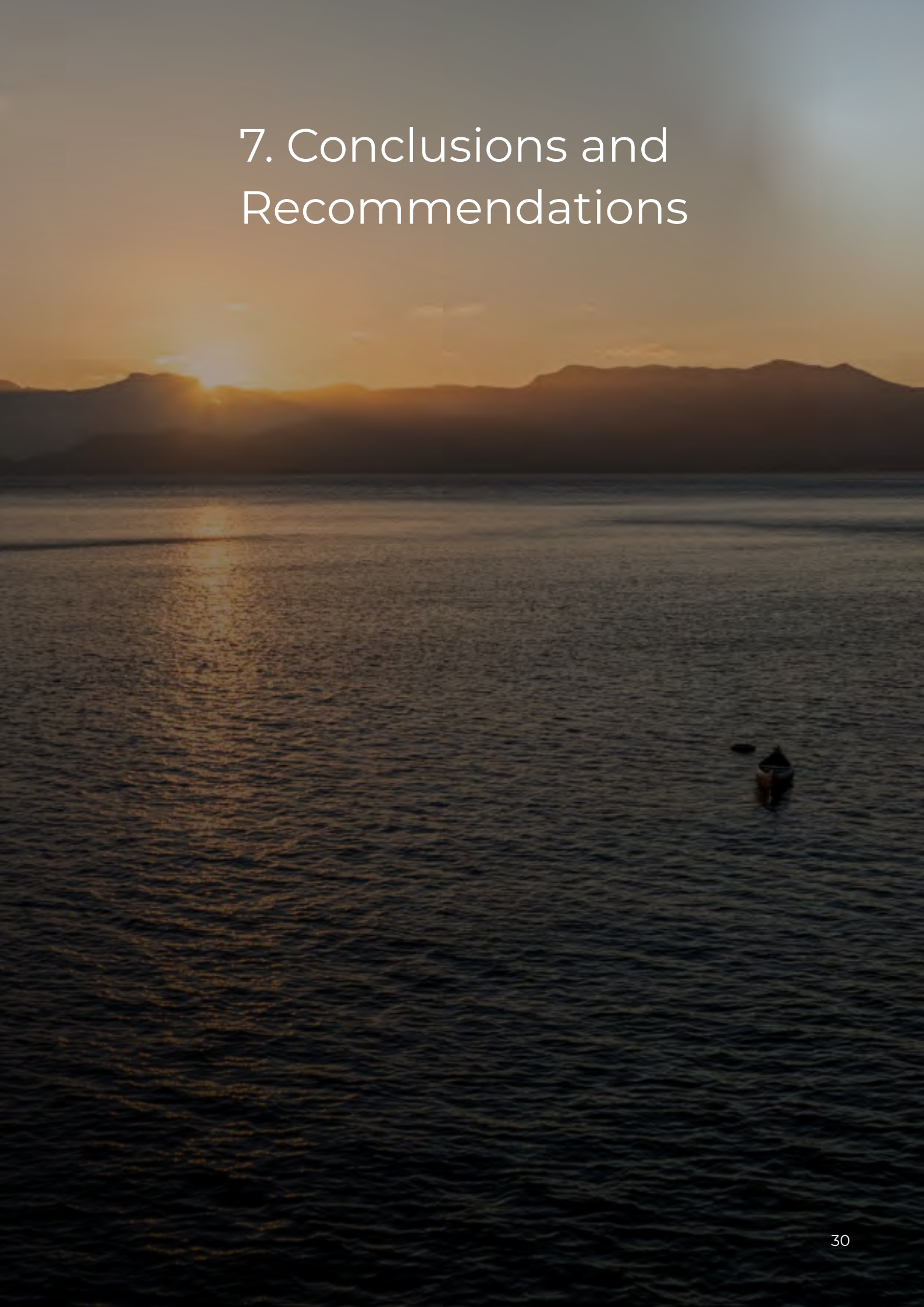
6.5 Storytelling for Strategic Advocacy Workshop

The Storytelling for Strategic Advocacy workshop, facilitated by Movilizadorio, provided fishers with practical tools to use storytelling in their advocacy efforts. Participants learned how to turn their everyday experiences into narratives that can capture the attention of policymakers and the public. By focusing on real-life struggles and successes, they practised shaping their stories to make them more relatable and impactful.

The workshop emphasised the power of emotion in storytelling, showing how personal stories can create stronger connections with an audience. This emotional connection helps others understand the importance of small-scale fishers' work and why it deserves support. Fishers also learned how to use digital platforms, such as Facebook or WhatsApp, to share their stories widely, making it easier to raise awareness and build broader support for their advocacy goals.

Additionally, the workshop helped fishers see how storytelling can fit into larger advocacy campaigns, giving them a practical approach to influence decision-makers and the public. By using these skills, fishers can strengthen their voice in critical discussions about their livelihoods and the sustainability of their work.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations



The Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by small-scale fishers.

The following recommendations highlight key actions needed to strengthen sustainability and resilience:

1. Strengthen market access through cooperatives and digital platforms. Train fishers in marketing, negotiation, and digital literacy to enable direct sales and reduce dependence on intermediaries.

2. Promote sustainable fishing practices by expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and eco-friendly harvesting. Equip fishers with technical knowledge on sustainable gear use and resource monitoring to enhance both environmental stewardship and economic returns.

3. Enhance climate change adaptation by developing localised disaster preparedness plans and restoring key habitats like mangroves. Fishers should be trained in habitat restoration techniques and climate-resilient practices to mitigate environmental impacts.

4. Support inclusive governance by increasing fishers' representation in decision-making processes. Provide leadership training and policy advocacy tools to ensure their active participation in governance structures.

5. Diversify incomes by developing alternative livelihoods such as ecotourism and aquaculture. Train fishers in small business management and new trades to build financial stability outside fishing seasons.

6. Increase women's roles in fisheries through capacity-building in leadership and resource management, and advocate for policies that ensure equal participation in decision-making roles.

7. Engage youth by providing targeted training in innovation and sustainable practices, and encouraging their involvement in governance to secure the future of fisheries.

8. Strengthen community-based resource management (CBRM) by involving local communities in co-management and conservation efforts. Equip them with skills in monitoring and enforcement to ensure sustainability.

9. Build partnerships with NGOs and research institutes to share best practices and access resources. Train fishers in networking and collaboration to enhance their influence in policy and conservation efforts.

The Artisanal Fishers Exchange Brazil 2024 demonstrated the power of collaboration and shared learning in addressing challenges. Moving forward, continuing these discussions and deepening partnerships will be key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries.

With gratitude to the Steering Committee for leading this event:



And to our partners for their contributions to its success:



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