



ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Story



PERU

Reducing Vulnerability of Artisanal Fishing Families

Ar artisanal fishers in vulnerable coastal areas of Peru are striving to adapt to warming waters and rising seas, as well as potential changes to currents and species migrations due to climate change and overfishing offshore.

Due to its nutrient-rich waters, Peru has one of the most productive fisheries in the world. A large portion of the sector is composed of local artisanal fishermen, a majority of who live in poverty despite providing the main source of food for many coastal residents.

But change is happening.

Through an innovative project funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (Profonanpe environmental fund of Peru) and the Peruvian government (Ocean Institute and Ministry of Production), small fishing communities on the northern and southern coasts are building resilience to climate threats by adopting sustainable fishing practices, diversifying livelihoods, enhancing food security and seafood quality while restoring the natural marine ecosystems that they depend on -- and raising their incomes in the process.

The US\$ 7 million project, which began in May 2018, focuses on directly reducing the vulnerabilities of 500 fishers in the coves of Máncora-Piura, El Ñuro, Los Órganos and Cabo Blanco in the north, and 200 in the Vegueta and Carquin coves and Huacho-Lima fishing harbor of the south. Thousands more will benefit indirectly.

"With effort, dedication, and care, you achieve what you set out to do. And, having this project at the helm, it will be much better. I would say that it is working well and that we must continue," said

Marcelino Gonzales, a fisher of the Artisanal Fishermen's Guild of El Ñuro Cove in Máncora – which has been able to sell products directly and participate in fish fairs thanks to the project. They had previously marketed their products through multiple intermediaries for several years.

Other project actions are enhancing employment in processing fish products, access to international markets through sustainable fishery certifications, resource management and recovery of depleted species, use of sustainable fishing gear like long lines that reduce by-catch and fuel costs, and aquaculture diversification such as scallop and clam cultivation in fishing cooperatives.

The project also aims to address gender equality, with many women benefiting through development of alternative livelihoods in ecotourism and fishery biofertilizer production, as well as achieving better prices through trade.

Luz María and **Josefa Ruiz**, who sell fresh fish in Máncora, acquired greater experience commercializing their products through the project. *"We are gaining more experience, knowing more. We feel like family, because we already have a friendship, more trust. We are almost like sisters, because we support each other,"* said **Josefa**.



"This program has helped us put fish on the table and have good funds to have good groceries for the family."

– Luz María Jacinto, fresh fish saleswoman



Marcelino Gonzales, artisanal fisherman from El Ñuro.



Josefa Ruiz, fresh fish seller in Máncora.



A fish fair held during the pandemic.



Local fishermen in Huacho, Peru. (Photos/Profonanpe)

All photos by Profonanpe



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BY THE NUMBERS

700 PERSONS IN ARTISANAL FISHERIES PROJECT AREAS ADOPTING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES THAT IMPROVE THEIR LIVELIHOODS AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

20% OF WOMEN OF TARGETED ARTISANAL FISHING FAMILIES ADOPTING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES

AT LEAST **4** REGULATIONS OR INSTRUMENTS PROPOSED TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

30% OF TARGET POPULATION TRAINED IN ADAPTATION

20% OF ARTISANAL FISHERS INCREASING REVENUE PER TON SOLD

AT LEAST **30** VESSELS IN PROJECT AREAS ADOPTING SELECTIVE FISHING GEAR



Left: Middle World Artisan Women's Association in Huaura. Right: Fisherman in Huacho.

Adapting to the Covid-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted many project activities including execution of some local actions on the ground, but efforts were increased to support fishing families affected by the situation.

A women's association in Lima has been able to generate new channels for spreading their crafts more widely, which has led to higher incomes. "We have had the support of the project to continue promoting our activity despite these difficult moments. The project has supported us with all the sanitary equipment to continue making reed fabric," said **Yolanda Osorio**, a member of the Middle World Artisan Women Association in Huaura, which promotes women's empowerment through crafts. "Through the project we are having a virtual store. It is the only way, for the moment, to be able to offer our products. This has allowed us to be better known at the national level."



"There is a concern on our part that artisanal fishermen need to improve their quality of life. The project has been very supportive. For example, they have supported us in the disinfection of boats, biosecurity implements and formalizing the association."

– Wilfredo Suarez, Artisan Association of Entrepreneurs and Conservationists of the Artisanal Fishing Activity in Huacho

Before the pandemic began, studies were carried out to prepare climate vulnerability assessments on marine ecosystems and fishing resources, and workshops conducted with artisanal fishermen at the pilot sites in Máncora and Huacho. When the health emergency began in March 2020, fishing communities in these areas were significantly affected, being among the most vulnerable socioeconomic sectors due to environmental variability, climate change and negative economic impacts caused by pandemic restrictions.

The project continues to work for its beneficiaries, complying with all sanitary rules and protocols. "2021 represents the beginning of the final stretch of the project with the consolidation of the implementation of interventions in the pilot

sites to improve the resilience of coastal communities, and that will contribute to the economic reactivation of artisanal fishing communities impacted by COVID 19," said **Jose Zavala**, project coordinator.

It is expected fishers from other areas of Peru will also benefit from the project through knowledge sharing. Project components with potential to be scaled up include improvements in commercialization and traceability in fishing and aquaculture, managing natural fishing banks, fishery bioproducts, tourism, participatory environmental monitoring, and early warning systems.



Huacho Harbor in outskirts of Lima, Peru. (Photos/Profonanpe)

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