

# Keep on Engaging

As negotiations continue within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) process, it is important for the small-scale fisheries subsector to remain continuously engaged – and noticed

Living up to its theme, the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Cali, Colombia from 16 October to 2 November 2024, “the People’s COP” highlighted the role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in conserving biological diversity through small-scale fisheries stewardship. In the lead-up to COP16, the Subsidiary

positions during a press conference, and they participated in various side events. A press conference, titled “Fisher Peoples in Action: A Human Rights-Based Approach to achieve Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Targets in Coastal and Marine Conservation” was held on 23 of October, coinciding with the first week of the COP16 negotiations. SSF and IPLC’s leaders from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama and Thailand made their statements, including Zoila Bustamante from Chile representing World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) and Latin American Union of Artisanal Fishers (ULAPA). The press conference was covered by the COP16 media through the UN Web TV.

In discussions moderated by Vivienne Solis-Rivera of CoopeSoliDar R.L./ICSF, the key role of artisanal/small-scale fishers in the context of IPLC was emphasized. The SSF leaders highlighted how conservation of aquatic biodiversity is a consequence of the sustainable resource management practices employed by IPLC, with SSF contributing to such conservation through their traditional practices. The importance of recognizing the rights of these communities in conservation efforts was stressed, with calls made to include fishers in decision-making processes and to prevent limiting their access to resources.

The link between conservation and food security was underscored, with the understanding that conservation cannot be achieved without addressing the basic needs of people. SSF was presented as essential for the food security of fishing communities and beyond. Concerns were raised about the negative impacts of large-scale projects and infrastructure on fishing communities and the environment.

**The meeting also introduced informal and more inclusive sessions for sharing of the experiences and key strategies adopted by the Parties in developing their national targets**

Body on Implementation (SBI-5) held its fifth meeting from 16 to 18 October to review the progress of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of the Parties. The meeting also introduced informal and more inclusive sessions for sharing of the experiences and key strategies adopted by the Parties in developing their national targets.

The proposals from the SBI-4, SBI-5 and the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-26) were then taken up by COP16 from 21 October to 2 November 2024. Due to the large number of decision texts that was left bracketed and requiring further negotiation, the work of COP16 is yet to be completed.

During the proceedings of COP16, small-scale fisheries (SSF) of IPLC were made known at the Blue Zone where the COP16 negotiations took place. Fifteen indigenous and artisanal fishers issued statements and shared their

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Plenary photo from Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16), 21 October–1 November 2024 - Cali, Colombia. Many of the decisions do not explicitly mention SSF or artisanal fisheries

The fishers argued for prioritizing local management practices as other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) over the establishment of protected areas to ensure a balance between conservation and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity.

Informed by the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) and decades of community-led conservation efforts, the SSF community called for recognition of their rights and role in managing inland, marine and coastal biodiversity.

Although there were limited opportunities for direct engagement in the closed negotiation sessions, the presence of SSF community members served as a reminder of the need to address gaps in targets concerning aquatic biodiversity. Target 3 or the 30x30 target, for example, represents a convergence point for SSF delegates.

The caucus of the IPLC recognized the current gaps in the inland, coastal and marine components of

the KMGBF targets. As the primary implementation mechanism of the CBD, the KMGBF is meant to guide the development of the NBSAPs of Parties to the Convention. Therefore, gaps in Target 1 on Spatial Planning, Target 2 on Restoration, Target 3 on Protected Areas and OECMs, and Target 5 on Sustainable Use, present opportunities for SSF community representation. These targets require the participation of coastal communities as both field experts and partners in local implementation and supported by Target 22 on balanced representation. This is especially true for most of the developing countries where governments have limited capacity and resources. Community-based resource management experiences in Southeast Asia (e.g. Indonesia and the Philippines), for instance, can be leveraged and replicated in the implementation of these targets.

While many of the decisions do not explicitly mention SSF or artisanal fisheries, key decisions adopted by the Parties have created more opportunities for SSF participation.

# Here to Stay!

## An account of a press conference organized at the meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Colombia, to discuss fisherfolk in action

The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP16) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 1, 2024. On the third day of COP16, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) held a press conference. It was titled 'Fisher Peoples in Action: A Human Rights-Based Approach to Achieve the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets in Coastal and Marine Conservation'. Its hosts were representatives of small-scale fishers and their organizations. The conference was moderated by Vivienne Solis. The following fifteen representatives spoke at the conference: Jesus Chaves, Costa Rica; Minfer Perez, Colombia; Alfonso Simon, Panama; Marta Machazek, Panama; Zoila Bustamante, Chile; German Hernandez, Honduras; Eduardo Mercado, Panama; Aaron Chacon, Costa Rica; Lazaro Mecha, Panama; Libia Arcinieges, Colombia; Luis Perea, Colombia; Julian Medina, Colombia; Albert Chang, TICCAS, Flavio Lontro, Brazil and Rungrueang Rahmanyah, Thailand.

The following text is the edited transcript of the press conference:

[Vivienne Solis (VS) speaks]: We are very happy to be here because we are going to talk about small-scale fishermen and women around the world. These people represent 40 per cent of the marine and continental fishing carried out in the world. Up to 45 million women depend on small-scale fishing and 50 million depend, at least partially, on small-scale fishing.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognizes, for the first time in history, the human rights—the fundamental principles for life—of a sector that has long been absent from most discussions regarding the sea. We count on you so that your message of peace, your message of life, your message oriented towards participation in the decisions and decision-making regarding the oceans, also counts among the huge discussions that are taking place here for the conservation of the sea. Let's listen.

**[VS]: What is the opinion of small-scale fishers on conservation?**

My name is Jesus Chavez. I am a small-scale fisher and a co-ordinator of the Responsible Fishing and Marine Territories Network in Costa Rica. Within the framework of biodiversity, we are not against conservation because we are part of it. But we have a message: we cannot do conservation without people. And we are there. We are the people who are there. We do not accept to be displaced from our marine spaces. We have acquired rights through time.

I am Rungrueang Rahmanyah from Thailand. I am very pleased to meet and get to know fishers from many countries.

*The transcript of the video (<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k15/k15icg47f5>) prepared by Mythili DK ([mythilidk@ramdk.com](mailto:mythilidk@ramdk.com)), Independence Researcher based in Chennai, India; with inputs from **Ronald Rodriguez** ([rrodriguez.icsf@gmail.com](mailto:rrodriguez.icsf@gmail.com)), Programme Officer, ICSF*

And I would like to support what we are doing. And I think that our fishers are the food producers of this world.

My name is Minfer Perez. I am a representative of small-scale fishing in Colombia. Small-scale fishing in the world is facing great threats today. Among them is displacement and the loss of our fishing territories. The violation of rights, such as the right to decent work, lack of access to health and social security, and the lack of access to economic funds to strengthen the small-scale fishing sector, these are some of the other problems we face. Also, contamination resulting from exploitation of hydrocarbons in the sea. Today we make only one demand at a global level for small-scale fishing. And that is that governments give us participation in decision making. That they listen to us. That we are recognized...as small-scale fishers, as the main actors in the conservation of marine biodiversity, of which we are a part.

My name is Julian Medina. I am a legal representative of the Colombian ethnic fishing network. The main threats that we as fishers face are expansion of the commercial fishing industry, destruction of mangrove forests, sedimentation of swamps, and bleaching of corals due to climate change and pollution. Each of these contributes to the degradation of coastal marine ecosystems. The productivity of fishers is being threatened. Therefore, we have a food insecurity in the territories. Governance must be given back to the fishing communities.

**Let's take an example. What is happening in the territory? Alfonso, could you tell us what is happening?**

My name is Alfonso Simon. I come from Panama, from the indigenous region called Ngabe-Bugle. I want to make public to this crowd that is present today at COP16 that in 2010, we, the indigenous people of Ngabe-Bugle, were excluded without any consent, consultation or warnings. We have been excluded until now. There has been no support in favour of the fishers of that region. And this happens frequently in our territory, as much as it happens also in other territories of the world, where there are small-scale fishers.

**Marga, when you talk about a focus on human rights in marine conservation, what are we talking about for small-scale fishers?**

[Marga Machazek from Panama]: When we talk about our rights being violated, it means decisions are made without prior consultation with the citizens. Our rights are violated when we are evicted from our areas. Our rights are violated when our families have to leave our fishing areas. Not only are we evicted but we also lose a physical space, we lose part of our identity, we lose our culture, we lose our future, since they send us to other places where our families are not used to living. They violate our rights when they do not give us free access to the sea. And we lose the right to fishing, which is an ancestral right that guarantees food security, not only of the fishing communities but also of the communities of our people who are not directly involved in fishing. We feel vulnerable every time decisions are made in regard to public spaces like this and no voice of a fisher is heard. Fishers must be present when decisions are made.



### Can we say that women fishers in the society are sufficiently supported in their socioeconomic development?

My name is Zoila Bustamante Cardenas. I am from Chile. I am the president of WFF/ULAPA. We are here like a small speck on earth. When we arrived for this event, we were not considered in any way. So for us it is very important that you are here today listening to us because, in this way, we can make visible what the world of artisanal fishing really is like. All of us here are artisanal fishers who represent the world of fishing, not just ourselves. We represent millions of artisanal fishers in this world who also feed you and your communities. Therefore, it is very important that you listen to us, that you know where we come from. There are many countries represented here. We are fighting so that the goals of artisanal fishing are reflected like this message I have on my T-shirt, which is KMGBF Target 23. And today, at 7.15 p.m., if God wills, we will be able to include the concerns of artisanal fishing. So, we want to be heard. We do not want anyone to make decisions in our name. That is why we are here, so that we are recognized as a sector that feeds all the peoples in this world.

### We are seeing here a sector of artisanal fishing being organized. German, how does this work?

My name is German Hernandez. I am from Honduras. I represent two million fishers in Honduras. I am also representing fishers worldwide, since we have organized them. We are organizing a voice to be heard at the United Nations, asking them to invite fishers from all over the world so that we can participate, so that no one speaks for us, but we speak for ourselves, because we are the ones who know our sectors and our way of life. And we want to tell the whole world that the fishers are organized and deserve to be part of all events worldwide. Yet we do not know what is going on, and small-scale fishers have been in this situation for a long time.

### Eduardo, can you tell us how you do this?

My name is Eduardo Mercado, an Afro-Caribbean fisher from Panama. Today I am representing fishers in Latin America and also the world. We, the artisanal fishers, use ancestral methods of fishing, in which we use the right fishing gear so as not to destroy our marine species. We do not capture species that are in the process of reproduction. We only capture species that we are going to consume and that the people need for food.

[A young SSF activist]: Hello and good morning, everyone. My name is Aaron Chacon. I am a small-scale artisanal fisher from the Central Pacific region of Costa Rica. Precisely because of this, we want to say that here we are looking for inter-generational equity and telling the new generations, yes, there is a future in fishing. And this is where we want to say that it is a great opportunity for us young people, where we can preserve our culture and our territories, not only for us but also for the next generations.

### Small-scale fishing has been going on at sea, but what we are defending is a territory of life. And there, in that territory of life, there is the sea, there are the lagoons, there are the rivers. Libia, why don't you tell us more?

[Libia Arcinieges, artisanal fisher, represents the small-scale fishers of Colombia and is from the National Women's Network Confederation]: As fishers, we ask our governments to respect us and give us back our fishing areas and the governance of our waters, so that our ecosystems including rivers, swamps and sea will be sustainable and will continue to provide us with food. The communities of fishers around the world call for action to support small-scale artisanal fishing.


### We have with us Chief Lazaro Mecha of Maje Embera Drua in Panama.

[Lazaro Mecha]: In relation to the indigenous peoples of the entire continent, we are committed to discuss the issues of the continental territories, territories that include rivers and lakes, that are part of the food security systems of the world. In all countries, there are lakes and rivers that form part of these territories. Therefore, it is also important to take into account this issue within the framework of COP16. This is very important when more than 500 million people of the world feed off the continental territories.

I am Luis Alberto Perea of the Colombian Pacific, of the Choco Department. We must also thank the organizers of this event and the UN for allowing us to raise our voices in this space. And what we have to say is that humanity and governments must be re-educated in the decision-making processes that have been made so far. Conservation starts from rural territories. Genuine conservation is carried out by the people who are both the users and beneficiaries of their ecosystems and marine species. We contribute in guaranteeing food security. There are important territories that have helped to reach the goals based on the real experience of species management, creating their own dynamics and governance that help to reach the goal of 30x30. And what we want to say is that governments are in debt to all the rural fishers whom we represent here, fishermen and fisherwomen. We have, in most of these territories, contributed towards this goal. And even as we are helping to reach these goals, we do real work. Yet we are not taken into account. We ask to be given the same treatment, the same considerations that we give to the national government. Our territories are the ones that help reach these big goals. Conservation without food security does not exist, not without satisfying the basic needs of the people.

My name is Albert Chan. I come from Mexico, from a Mayan community. I currently work with the ICCA Consortium and we are promoting an initiative in Mesoamerica on coastal marine territories of life. It is important to see that conservation is the result of the use and management of nature that we indigenous peoples and local communities do. In this particular case, we are talking about small-scale fishing as a practice that allows conservation, not as an objective but as a result of the management that indigenous peoples and local communities are engaged in. It must be very clear that in the face of the problems and threats from mega-projects and mega-infrastructure, there is so much evidence to show that the best conservation in these territories revolves around recognizing that management is carried out locally first, and, that conservation cannot be guaranteed through the establishment of more protected areas, as is currently being discussed. What is being sought is not a limitation of access to rights but rather recognition of the free determination and autonomy of indigenous peoples and local communities.

And finally, we must not be afraid to discuss this relationship between indigenous peoples and local communities because we are not talking about just any local community, we are talking about communities that have a strong relationship with their territory and a capacity to govern in their territory. And that as a result of good governance and good relationships, conservation is achieved.

I would like to thank CoopeSolidar, the University of Magdalena and ICSF for being here and for helping us. I just want to say that small-scale fishers is here to stay and from now on we will be present at all events in one way or another. 

Source: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k15/k15icg47f5>

RONALD RODRIGUEZ/ICSF



Press Conference: Fisher Peoples in Action – United Nations Biodiversity Conference 2024, 23 October 2024. We are organizing a voice to be heard at the United Nations, asking them to invite fishers from all over the world so that we can participate, so that no one speaks for us, but we speak for ourselves, because we are the ones who know our sectors and our way of life

Notably, a decision was made at COP16 to establish a more permanent body for IPLC, reflecting the growing recognition of their crucial role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The establishment of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8j institutionalizes the participation of IPLC within the Convention and in its implementation. This opens up an opportunity for the SSF subsector to be better represented in the CBD process as it transitions to its implementation phase. The call for better inclusion of coastal communities within the Convention was further supported by the adoption of a decision on formally recognizing the role of people of African descent, and the inclusion of the text “embodying traditional lifestyles.” Sustainable traditional fishing practices of inland and coastal communities can be promoted and supported within this body.

The fisheries sector was only included in discussions under Target 18 on Harmful Subsidies. Discussions and development of actions cannot be separated from the fisheries subsidies decisions and negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Nonetheless, COP16 agreed to move all references to fisheries under this Target and in related decisions to a footnote or

an Annex. In previous and current CBD decisions, fisheries, however, is directly referenced only to draw attention to negative impacts of human activities on biodiversity. The discussion on repurposing incentives can be guided towards supporting community-based resources management initiatives. Financial transfers in the form of direct support to community-based resource management activities and social protection are to be explored as both a means to repurpose harmful subsidies and to enhance positive incentives. The traditional knowledge and traditional fishing practices of inland and coastal communities can serve as guide to ensuring that incentives contribute to biodiversity protection and restoration. The current financing mechanism does not specify how the SSF can access funding and resources within the CBD. Therefore, the representation and membership of the SSF within the IPLC caucus is needed.

To maximize engagement with the CBD as a Party-driven process, a deeper understanding of its negotiation context is needed. Balancing a Party-driven process with a whole-of-society approach requires considering the positions and motivations of the Parties to the Convention. The negotiations are not simply driven by the issues or

decisions being considered by the COP. Rather, Parties come to the meeting under certain conditions that limit or motivate their positions.

### **Commitment with Flexibility**

Parties are given the flexibility to make commitments and retain the option to interpret these commitments consistent with their national sovereignty. Although the negotiated language restricts the ability of the agreements to bind the Parties to specific actions, the continued participation of Parties creates opportunities for other actors to engage them in other venues for collaboration. After all, countries tend to maintain a sense of consistency in their positions and previous agreements.

### **Contribution to Current Workload and Burden on Resources**

Parties are motivated to limit any additional burden or workload associated with complying with new biodiversity commitments. They seek to balance their international obligations with domestic priorities and resource constraints. The provision and allocation of financial and other resources is an ongoing point of discussion, reflecting the underlying equity concerns within the biodiversity framework. Parties must navigate the tensions between “providing” and “receiving” resources.

Russia and Indonesia initially opposed the proposal for a Subsidiary Body on Article 8j due to concerns about its potential implications for their respective countries, including increased representation at CBD meetings and the need for more resources. Furthermore, this could have increased the financial burden on the CBD. However, after extensive negotiations, the Parties reached a compromise that will establish the body and define its mandate and scope.

### **Geopolitical Context and Resource Mobilization**

The nuances of Target 19 of the KMGBF on financial mechanism and resource mobilization reflect these dynamics in the negotiation. Parties from the developing world are generally willing

to commit to additional or increased actions on current biodiversity commitments in exchange for financial, technical and technological support.

Within the context of extraction of benefits from biodiversity resources, Parties from Africa and Asia-Pacific region would argue that equity requires greater financial commitment from the developed world that has benefited and continues to benefit from extraction of natural resources from the developing world. This stance guided the arguments of Parties during the negotiations on financial mechanisms and resource mobilizations. It also allowed the least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries and small island developing States (SIDS) to leverage their incomplete National Targets and NBSAPs to gaining greater financial support from the developed world. Parties called for

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provisions for an enhanced support and implementation mechanism that would encourage developed countries to comply with their commitments on achieving the target funding for implementation.

Parties from the developed world aim to maintain current policy instruments and mechanisms, developed over the course of the negotiations. However, they are open to committing to changes, provided they can retain a significant level of control over the process that could affect their levels of resource commitments. Commitments under Target 19 would limit access to natural resources and would put pressure not only on the Parties’ governments but also on their local economies and the private sector. Both Parties and non-Party actors need to take these into consideration in developing proposals towards increasing recognition, participation and direct involvement in implementation.

To maximize the negotiation process and to achieve meaningful outcomes, it is crucial to:

- Develop a deep understanding of the key positions and priorities of each Party on the various agenda items under negotiation. This requires thorough analysis of its national interests, domestic constraints and historical positions.
- Engage in extensive country-level dialogues and build strategic coalitions among different caucuses, such as developing countries, developed countries and regional groups. These alliances can help amplify shared concerns and increase leverage during negotiations.
- Identify and leverage regional alignments on specific issues, as Parties often align themselves with their geopolitical counterparts. Tapping into these regional dynamics can be a powerful negotiation strategy.
- Engage proactively with human rights-based-approach (HRBA) champions from civil society and other non-State actors. Their participation can help ensure that the negotiated outcomes reflect the needs and perspectives of all stakeholders.
- Adjust engagement strategies to account for the underlying “min-max” approach of the Parties, where they seek to maintain sovereignty and minimize additional burdens or obligations. This requires flexibility, creativity and a willingness to find mutually acceptable compromises.
- Acknowledge the constraints of the COP meetings, which often restrict observer interventions during critical contact group negotiations. This underscores the critical role of preparatory meetings in introducing language and conducting consultations with key Parties that can influence the negotiation process. The consistently active Parties include the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Brazil, Russia and the African Union (AU) and the Pacific while some Parties from Asia are generally less active.

Engaging through IPLC serves as a primary avenue for SSF communities

to directly and effectively participate in the biodiversity negotiations. However, it is important not to overlook the potential for conflicts due to the diversity of interests, knowledge systems and power dynamics within this stakeholder group. While it is crucial for the SSF to create a space for recognition of the subsector’s concerns and interests, it should not introduce or encourage division amongst the IPLC. This issue became apparent during the negotiation on Conference Room Paper #9, where the AU spoke against the recommendation of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples and introduced the possibility of separating the Indigenous peoples from local communities. With support from Asia and the Pacific, the Parties highlighted the need to maintain the recognized collective identity and to avoid further fragmentation.

#### **Opportunities to Further the Engagement of SSF within the CBD**

Engaging in planning, implementation, monitoring and review, as well as accessing resources need to be guided by the CBD process and current areas of interest. Inclusion of areas that overlap with the territories of SSF is crucial (for example, mangrove areas and seagrass beds in the context of biodiversity and climate change), as it ensures the recognition and integration of this important subsector into the broader biodiversity conservation and management efforts. The participation of SSF communities in key platforms such as SBI, SBSTTA, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG), Advisory Committees and the new Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions will provide a valuable opportunity for their voices, knowledge and perspectives to be heard and incorporated into decision-making processes. Their meetings occur in between the COPs and, therefore, set the initial language to guide decision making and adoption of agreements by the Parties. Within these processes, the SSF need to convince Parties and the major groups that its traditional inland, coastal and marine fishing practices can offer ways to sustainably use inland, coastal and marine resources





Participants of the Capacity Strengthening Session of SSF delegation to CBD-COP16, Cali, Colombia. The future merits of SSF engagement with the CBD process will depend on whether the Convention will be able to secure the financial resources required to implement its targets

while promoting the conservation of aquatic biodiversity. There is a need to balance its demand for support within the Convention with a commitment to serve as local partners to protect and restore biological diversity.

Furthermore, the recognition of the role of regional, subnational and local entities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is essential, as these entities often have a more intimate understanding of the local contexts and can facilitate the effective implementation of biodiversity policies and programmes. The exploration of alternative financing mechanisms can also help unlock additional resources to support the participation and inclusion of SSF communities in the CBD processes.

To ensure meaningful representation and engagement, it is important to secure membership for SSF communities in the IPLC, women, and youth groups, as well as ensure their active participation in SBI and SBSTTA. Fishworker organizations are to be supported to send representatives to meetings, with a particular emphasis on ensuring regional representation from Latin America, Africa and Asia. This approach can help bring the SSF Guidelines and the Call to Action for consideration, while also contributing

to the development of complementary indicators. Where the Parties are not too keen on making changes to the established language, it is important to work within this practice by ensuring links to adopted languages such as “embodying traditional lifestyles”, which is seen inclusive of SSF communities’ relationship with inland, coastal or marine biodiversity.

Addressing Target 18 of the KMGBF, which focuses on eliminating or reforming incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity and to scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### Crucial aspect

The HRBA is another crucial aspect, and the guidance provided by AHTEG on Section c on monitoring can be a valuable resource for ensuring the needs and rights of SSF. However, the subsector must also recognize that Parties are currently very restrictive on proposals that could bind them to this commitment. Further work is needed to identify key allies among the Parties. At present, the Parties have limited the use of “human rights-based approach” and only maintains the references to Section C to highlight the whole-of-society approach in the current decision



## For more

**Statement at COP16: Call for Inclusion of Small-scale Fishers as Partners in the Implementation and Monitoring of the Biodiversity Targets**

<https://icsf.net/resources/icsfs-statement-at-press-conference-fisher-peoples-in-action-23-october-2024/>

**Summary of Proceeding: Subsidiary Body on Implementation, SBI-05 Meeting (Day-1), COP16, Cali, Colombia, 16 October 2024 by Ronald Rodriguez, ICSF**

<https://icsf.net/resources/summary-of-proceeding-subsidiary-body-on-implementation-sbi-05-meeting-day-1-cop16-cali-colombia-16-october-2024-by-ronald-rodriguez-icsf/>

**Press Conference: Fisher Peoples in Action – United Nations Biodiversity Conference 2024, 23 October 2024**

<https://icsf.net/resources/press-conference-fisher-peoples-in-action-united-nations-biodiversity-conference-2024-23-october-2024/>

**Summary of the 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference: 21 October – 1 November 2024 by IISD, ENB, 2024**

<https://icsf.net/resources/summary-of-the-2024-un-biodiversity-conference-21-october-1-november-2024-by-iisd-enb-2024/>

**Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16), 21 October–1 November 2024 - Cali, Colombia**

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024>

texts. Nonetheless, the SSF Guidelines, as an instrument promoting the HRBA, and the National Plan of Action-SSF (NPOA-SSF) as developed by several countries, provide an opportunity to showcase the subsector's efforts in both promoting the HRBA and contributing to the targets on biodiversity and climate change.

Within the biodiversity and climate-change nexus, the direct reference to mangroves and seagrass beds as critical areas that contribute to climate-change mitigation and adaptation provides an additional opportunity to highlight the role of coastal communities that are present and actively contribute to the protection and restoration of these areas. This will also require increased representation and participation of SSF in the climate change Convention.

However, the future merits of SSF engagement with the CBD process will depend on whether the Convention will be able to secure the financial resources required to implement its targets. According to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a total of USD383 million has been pledged under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) as of 2024. Although the COP16 was able to secure USD163 million during its pledging conference, the current total GBFF at USD383 million' and 'well below' and the USD200 billion target per year by 2030, as set by the Convention. According to the GEF, the 2024 selection round of GBFF targets aims at having a portfolio with 26% allocation to small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) and 35% allocation to support actions by IPLC. As of September 2024, the GBFF has allocated a total of USD110 million for projects in 24 countries, 13 of which are SIDS/LDCs. Consistent with the targets of the KMGBF, the Fund will support projects that focus on a range of key action areas, including biodiversity conservation and restoration, land and sea-use planning, supporting the stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters by IPLC, policy alignment and development, resource mobilization, sustainable use of biodiversity, biodiversity mainstreaming in production sectors, addressing invasive alien species, and

capacity building and implementation support for the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols.

While the establishment of a dedicated biodiversity fund is considered by Parties from the developing world as necessary, Parties from the developed world prefer the conventional GEF funding mechanism. Parties and major groups within the Convention have called for political will and equity in establishing the fund. Parties express varying views, with some supporting the fund and others raising concerns about its potential impact on resource mobilization. Although implementation remains limited, further exclusion of SSF in the process is expected to lead to exclusion from access to the resources being generated by the CBD.

Recognizing that the fisheries sector is most often not under the environment ministry, it is likely that the SSF will also be excluded in the development and implementation of biodiversity programmes and projects. This calls for greater participation from the SSF within the CBD. The CBD's areas of concern overlap with the inland, coastal and marine territories where SSF are actively present. Therefore, decisions made by the Convention without the SSF will further limit their access to biodiversity resources in these areas. Continued engagement with the CBD processes will ensure that SSF are recognized as active participants in the negotiation and implementation of the agreements.

The COP16 negotiations have not concluded, and these issues remain open. For the SSF subsector, participation through IPLC will help secure access to these resources and technical and technological support when they become available. Therefore, it is important to continuously engage with the ongoing CBD process. 