



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

AT A GLANCE

BLUE  
TRANSFORMATION

## Promoting sustainable coastal fisheries

Coastal fisheries are vital to millions of people, providing healthy food and supporting livelihoods. Ensuring sustainable practices is, however, essential to minimize pressures on marine ecosystems and their underlying biodiversity, thus securing the benefits for current and future generations.

The Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) was launched to forge a global partnership aimed at making coastal fisheries more sustainable and inclusive. It has worked to conserve marine resources and ensure that coastal fisheries can continue to play their crucial role in society, contributing to food security, as well as economic and social development.

By focusing on policies, people, and partnerships, the CFI has enhanced legal and policy frameworks, strengthened the capacity of fishing nations, regional fisheries bodies, and local communities to manage their fisheries, and fostered partnerships to boost investment in aquatic value chains.

The Global Environment Facility funded the CFI's activities, which have provided hands-on support in several countries, including Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Ecuador.



### CABO VERDE

Supported **526** fisherfolk in seven associations.

Supported the development of a National Gender Strategy for Fisheries.

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Restored **350** hectares of mangroves.

Trained **394** people in mangrove restoration and fish smoking with FTT ovens.

### ECUADOR

Installed cameras and electronic logbooks on fishing boats for mahi-mahi fishery traceability.

## CABO VERDE

CFI West Africa supported Cabo Verde to develop its first National Gender Strategy for the Fisheries Sector 2022-2025 through a participatory and evidence-based process. CFI worked closely with national authorities and stakeholders, notably fishing community members, to define a core set of gender indicators from existing official statistics. It also collected information on the inclusion of women's needs in fisheries policies and programmes in Cabo Verde.

Government ministers approved the Gender Strategy in 2022. It is designed to include women's voices at all levels of decision-making and is accompanied by a plan of action with measures to promote women's organizations, strengthen their leadership capacities, and foster their representation in national and professional associations.

In parallel, the CFI supported fisher associations by helping them register as a public utility and access the benefits available to them under local law. It also collaborated with local NGOs and the School of the Sea (EMAR) to build women's capacities in leadership, association building, finance and credit as well as seafood processing and hygiene standards.

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In collaboration with the NGO Afrique Verte Environnement, the CFI developed and implemented restoration plans for mangrove sites in Fresco and Sassandra. These new protection measures, supported by participatory research, were implemented on a pilot site covering 350 hectares of mangroves.

Local community members, especially women, engaged in conservation and replanting efforts. The CFI trained them in mangrove planting techniques. Additionally, awareness raising campaigns highlighted the significance of mangroves as nurseries and breeding grounds of key species for local livelihoods and promoted their sustainable use. In total, 394 beneficiaries from the Sassandra cooperatives were trained in mangrove restoration and improved seafood processing techniques.



## ECUADOR

In partnership with a cooperative consisting of 65 artisanal mahi-mahi fishers, CFI Latin America supported local communities to collect the necessary data to qualify for traceability labels.

Mahi-mahi stocks are under pressure from overfishing and ecosystem degradation and one way to combat these trends is by supporting sustainable fishing.

The community, including women and youth, participated in the installation of cameras and electronic logbooks on fishing boats to monitor the mahi-mahi. This monitoring system not only offers insights into mahi-mahi stocks but also enhances understanding of ecosystems by gathering crucial data on the interactions of the species with other marine life. It continuously updates a digital database, accessible through QR codes, ensuring traceability from fishers to consumers.

Using the new traceability technology and forging alliances with local restaurants empowered community members to obtain higher prices for their products.

Find out more about the Coastal Fisheries Initiative.

[www.fao.org/in-action/coastal-fisheries-initiative/en/](http://www.fao.org/in-action/coastal-fisheries-initiative/en/)



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