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**“SUCCESSFUL CASES OF
EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES IN
THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR
FISHERIES RESOURCES IN
TERRITORIES OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN”**

FOTO: LINA MARIA SAAVEDRA - UNIVERSIDAD MAGDALENA





This initiative was born in the framework of the Third World Congress of Artisanal Fisheries carried out in Thailand in 2018, as part of the reflections obtained at the discussion table for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), where mainly negative aspects associated with the development of the fishing activity were highlighted. For this reason, the participants of the Universidad del Magdalena (University of Magdalena) were motivated to propose to the table, the need to make visible the other side of artisanal fishing from a positive perspective, in a book that exalts the ability of artisanal fishers to influence the fishing management of their territories through collective efforts (internal to the community or in alliance with actors external to the community) for adequate management that allows them to maintain their well-being and the quality of the natural environment they use.

Therefore, the Cooperation Agreement No.

6005544 signed between Conservation International Foundation and the Universidad del Magdalena was established, for the preparation of the book entitled “Successful Cases of Empowered Communities in the Management of their Fishing Resources in Latin American and Caribbean Territories”. The purpose is to make visible positive experiences of local empowerment in coastal marine and continental artisanal fishing communities in LAC countries, by showing processes of fisheries management that have been the product of collective decision-making for the conservation and sustainable management of the fishing resources in their territories in coastal marine and continental zones.

In most Latin American countries, fisheries management has been carried out from a centralist approach (top-down), in which state controls are applied over fishing resources (Agüero, 2007; Salas et al., 2007). However,

top-down management regimes have rarely been associated with successful resource management (Feeny et al., 1990; Ostrom, 2005; Trimble and Berkes, 2015). This has led to a worldwide trend of managing the fishing sector from adaptive co-management, based on the theory of the commons, which has been proposed as a solution to resource crises and has led to more successes than failures (Evans et al., 2011; Cinner et al., 2012; Saavedra-Díaz, 2014; Trimble and Berkes, 2015). All this is based on traditional, local or indigenous ecological knowledge (TEK / LEK / IEK for its acronym in English) (FAO, 1995; COFI, 2007; Fischer et al., 2015).



Therefore, this book seeks to cases of studies evidencing fisheries management processes (adaptive co-management, co-management and/or participatory management) in collaboration with other territorial actors who have supported or facilitated the empowerment of fishing communities.

The cases should be framed in strengthening one or more of the eight principles, for a successful co-management of resources in socio-ecological systems proposed by Ostrom (1990) and validated by Cox et al. (2010) and Botto and Saavedra-Díaz (2020): 1. Defined biophysical and resource limits; 2. Monitoring; 3. Collective decisions; 4 and 5. Systems of sanctions and rules, 6. Mechanisms for conflict resolution; 7. Minimum recognition of rights; and 8. Nested institutions. These principles seek to avoid the tragedy of the commons, related to free access to a common resource that can be overexploited, such as the fishing resource, through community self-organization and the sustainable management of fisheries by the community.

The main aspect sought by a community organization around the management of the fishing resource is to give voice and the right to the users of the resource to intervene in the control regulations and better adapt them to local conditions and realities, as well as to the objectives of maintenance of the sustainability of the fishing resource in their territories, thus breaking with the centralized management of the resource and opening spaces for a more participatory way of making decisions (Agüero, 2007). This form of organization and governance allows the identification of opportunities and barriers in an adaptive co-management process, by creating rules of use that are established from the interaction between the attributes of the natural system related to the fishing resource and the social system; which includes community actors in the territory and in particular the fishers in the management process (Ostrom, 2005; Saavedra-Díaz, 2014; Trimble and Berkes, 2015).



Although, adaptive co-management is established as a way of granting the fishers greater responsibility and authority over the management of fishery resources, and greater participation in decision-making (Wilson et al., 2003; Pomeroy and Rivera-Guieb, 2006), is also a way to establish and strengthen collaborative alliances between the fishing community and other actors external to the community, which through joint work can achieve successful management of the fishing resource.

Artisanal or subsistence fishing will be understood in the context of LAC as a small-scale productive activity of tradition or descent, carried out individually by men and women, ethnic groups (indigenous, Afro-descendant, mestizo, among others) or an organized community (cooperatives or other associations made up of fishers) (OLDEPESCA 2011; FAO 2013, 2016).

This activity is developed for domestic consumption and in other cases for trade or barter; through the use of traditional fishing gear, with or without a boat (Chuenpagdee et al., 2006; OSPESCA 2012; Chaves et al., 2016; Rousseau et al., 2019), depending on the environment where it is practiced, so it can be marine or continental. Artisanal marine fishing in Latin America and the Caribbean is carried out within the waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Caribbean Oceans. Continental artisanal fishing, also known as inland fishing, is carried out in all bodies of water within the continent, such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs, among others (FAO, 2016).

Aimed at

Actors external to the communities (independent researchers, associates, or linked to any public, private or mixed entity) who have been or are witnesses, through a personal experience of a change in the community that favors the sustainable management of the fishing resource and the well-being of the community, and that due to its positive impact the community wants it to be made visible. Also to external actors who, through collaborative work with the community, have advanced in the

search for joint solutions that contribute to fisheries management in their territories. It is recommended that each case study be led by an external actor and an internal community actor (e.g. fishermen, fisherwomen, or leaders of organizations, associations, unions, reservations and territorial councils), bearing in mind that the format will be written by both actors.

Financing and publication

The book will be financed by Conservation International Foundation with resources

contributed by NORAD for the project "Sustainable fishing practices: reducing poverty in Colombia" (COL-2036 COL-18/0018) and published through the Editorial UniMagdalena (UniMagdalena Editorial) of the Universidad del Magdalena, Magdalena department, Santa Marta, Colombia.

Requirements and procedure

To access the registration form please go to the following link:



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_oleINYNoovX-Zcd9nZgR_ptT433zdJH9cE5SPmSiPVvJ9A/viewform



CALENDAR

- Publication of the terms of reference of the call: November 05, 2020.
- Application of the case studies through the online registration form: December 09, 2020.
- Evaluation of the registration forms by case studies and selection of the case studies: December 10 - 20, 2020.
- Publication of the list of the selected cases: December 21, 2020.
- Period for claims and clarifications to the e-mail jcortessu@unimagdalena.edu.co: January 01 - 20, 2021.
- Writing of case studies by chapter: January 20 to March 20, 2021.
- Editing process: March 21 to May 15, 2021.
- Publication of the book: May 16 to June 15, 2021.

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