

*Through their eyes:
Fishing communities voice their stories through photos*

*By Emi Koch (Beyond the Surface, Peru)
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1) Kenya (by E. Koch)



*Homa Bay
L. Age: 61*

This old man has no retirement but he could always go to the lake and find food or sell fish for money. But now, fish is harder to find. It is not as reliable as before. The storms are also stronger so, we stay closer to shore.

*Homa Bay
J. Age: 24*

We move in the same direction as our lake. If the lake is healthy, we are healthy. We have the same fate as the lake. We wish the government gave us more tools and trusted us more to take care of the lake and our fish.





Homa Bay
N. Age: 61

The lake is like our bank and the fish like money. We take out only what we need to live each day. Without the lake and our fish, we wouldn't survive. It is our savings.

2) Peru (by E. Koch)

Lobitos
N. Age: 14

Artisanal fishing is very important because it is an economic activity that allows us to harvest marine species that are full of vitamins that support our health and wellbeing, like during a pandemic. Also, in other times, it simply allows us to live our lives happily.



3) Vietnam (by E. Koch)

Mũi Né

N. Age: 11

My mom sells fish at the market. She saves some to bring home. I like when she makes bbq squid.



Homa Bay

L. Age: 12

Every morning, you can see the men in our village returning from a night spent fishing. Sometimes, they fish from the shore in the mornings. We had more fish in the past but people still fish because it is what we know.



Homa Bay
P. Age: 10

Everyone is happy when you can contribute to society. He is not a fisherman but he helps the fishermen make propellers for the small boats.

4) Indonesia (by E. Koch)

Morotai
K. Age: 12

We are a fishing village. We live together with the ocean. Everyone knows.



5) India (by E. Koch)



Trivandrum

S. Age: 19

Travancore Titanium Products (TTP) is a titanium dioxide factory that produces TiO_2 at a very large scale for whitening purposes, for example, in paints, adhesives, and Colgate toothpaste.



Continuation...

Since the factory was established and the titanium waste water runs through the village, all the fish in our village have left.



Continuation...

The fishing village has no income. The fish are either dead or swam away, further out to sea where the trawlers catch them.



Continuation...

Now, there are only jellyfish. We used to go out along the shore and try to fish only to catch jellyfish... so many, they would break out nets. We tried to fish at night using lights to catch the bottom feeders on the ocean floor. They are strange fish. We never used to eat them.



Continuation...

But the lights attract the dredging boats. The trawlers see us as a nuance and a threat. Maybe we could report their illegal fishing methods. So, they harass us. Since, we've given up on the lights too.

6) Malawi, Lake Chilwa (by F. Simmance)

Supporting family with rice for food and bicycles

Without fishing I would not have been able to buy clothes for my family and food to support them.





Clothes for children

Out of my business I have been able to buy some clothes for my child.

House

To build a house it is a very big thing that's why I took a picture because it is the very first thing that came from the first profits we made from fishing.



Diversifying livelihood

Having two businesses is good because at times it may happen that there is no fish to buy at the port because it was windy on that day, so I use the money which I earn from the samosa selling business



Participant showing her fish processing work

A woman should not take herself as a failure. It is possible for a woman to go to the lake, buy fish, process it and from then be able to sustain herself....I am advising as well as encouraging women.

Fish scarcity

Lake Chilwa nowadays is no longer able to give us a considerable large amount of fish, particularly matemba, when compared to the past. Because in the past, it was the case that fishermen could just throw away matemba because there was too many, but these days one cannot do that,



Diversification

A word of advice to my colleagues, sometimes relying on Lake Chilwa for business is risky, as sometimes it becomes hard, sometimes you cannot find matemba or the fish species we were expecting, but they should think of having a variety of selling items for them to be safe.



Equipment challenges

As a fish processor, I encounter a number of problems, one of them is that sometimes I am not able to rent a tin for smoking the fish, so I end up creating a hole on the ground so that I smoke the fish instead of letting the fish get rotten