

Title/Heading: *Fishing for Climate Resilience: Empowering vulnerable, fisheries dependent communities adopt ecosystem-based-adaptation measures to secure food and livelihoods*

Context and rationale: Nowhere in the world is as dependent on healthy fisheries as the Asian Pacific. More than eight in ten of the world's families reliant on fishing for livelihoods live here. The coral reefs, mangrove forests, and other coastal ecosystems provide food and economic security for coastal communities across the region. Recognizing how dependent their populations are on healthy coastal ecosystems, and the risks climate change poses, these nations have made adaptation to climate change and a resilient coastal fisheries sector a top priority (e.g. within their NDCs, NAPAs etc).

An overview of the contribution: The project will empower vulnerable, fisheries dependent communities across Indonesia, the Philippines and Micronesia to identify and adopt ecosystem-based-adaptation (EbA) measures to restore and sustain small-scale fisheries, conserve critical ecosystems and sustain the ecosystem services needed to enhance adaptive capacity, coastal protection, food security and livelihoods. Proven behaviour adoption measures and trainings will strengthen human, technical and institutional capacity needed to build a robust capacity on local and national level to reduce risks to the small-scale fisheries sector, to build resilience, as well as secure livelihoods. The project will incorporate EbA and disaster risk into coastal fisheries management and thus mainstream EbA into community practice and relevant national strategies. Trainings will facilitate access to existing climate financing mechanisms. Lessons learnt will be shared regionally and through international forums. Pls. see more under: <https://medium.com/in-rare-form/fishing-for-climate-resilience-in-asia-pacific-fc4fb1fa4d7c>

How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change: The project will deliberately include natural systems and their ecosystem services into the management of small-scale fisheries to build ecological, social and economic resilience of the coastal communities.

How might the contribution support both climate mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years: The focus of the project is on adaptation measures and building ecological, economic and social resilience. However, we will also explore mitigation co-benefits through mangroves conservation and management.

Which countries and organizations are involved in the contribution? The Philippines, Indonesia, Palau, Micronesia, Marshall Islands as well as UNFAO, Global Island Partnership and the Micronesia Trust Fund.

How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples, where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution? Yes.

Where can the contribution be put into action? Project duration is between September 2018 until January 2022.

How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts? The project will contribute to demonstrate the value of enhancing social resilience as a measure to build adaptive capacity to climate change. All target countries highlighted their vulnerability to climate impacts and shocks in their NDCs, and the pivotal relevance of protecting marine and coastal ecosystems including through EbA measures; however, it appears that national governments have not yet completely articulated the link between ecosystem protection/restoration. The project will provide relevant

metrics and impact indicators to make the case to national decision-adaptation goals when paired with effective behaviour change and empowered, knowledgeable communities that are prepared to face climate shocks and disaster risk. Scaling up and replicating these measures and approaches is a critical step to achieve a paradigm shift towards resilient development. Ideally, successful progress will create demand for these measures from national and local governments. However, effective scaling up requires mainstreaming EbA and social resilience for small fisheries-dependent communities into key environmental and development policies at both the national and the local level. The relevance of embedding EbA + social resilience action into local policies and instruments is, in through this securing specific budget allocation for project relevant action. Demonstrated impact on increased readiness to access climate finance, markets and formal economy are other elements essential to secure scalability.

Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit workstreams (industry transition; energy transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; infrastructure, cities and local action; resilience and adaptation; youth and citizen mobilization; social and political drivers; mitigation strategy)? Yes, particularly local action, resilience and adaptation as well as social and political drivers.

How does this contribution build upon examples of experience to date? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives? This is built upon Rare's 5 or more years of experience in empowering local communities to more sustainably manage their small-scale fisheries and conserve their natural ecosystem. Rare has been working in this region for the last 20 years, empowering local leaders in shifting management practice for more sustainable natural resource management through behavioural insights. Learn more under: <https://www.rare.org/program/fish-forever/>

What are the mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)? This project is funded by the International Climate Initiative of the Germany Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) with co-funding of other institutional and individual funders. We enable local communities to access directly climate funding through this project and look forward to collaboration on linking these efforts to other climate finance related initiatives.

What are the means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring? Different metrics are being used to determine changes in levels of capacity of stakeholders to manage their part of the managed access areas network, level of integration of EbA and CCA into community-led fisheries management, and degree of policy support and knowledge sharing on project outcomes.

What is the communication strategy?

(i) Training: Rare has focused on making its know-how on social marketing methodologies and social behaviour change available to stakeholders. Rare prepares binders and thorough guides such as Fish Forever Flex to help share its methodologies and approaches. Training stakeholders, whether it be local level decision-makers or community leaders known as conservation fellows, is in the core of Rare's operations.

(ii) Peer-to peer learning through alumni networks that benefit communities that are a part of the project throughout the globe (including former Fish, as well as working groups when relevant.

(iii) Policy inputs (data/metrics): Rare will target policy makers with especially customized policy briefs incorporating metrics, data, and inputs that can be used in policy design. Policy inputs will also be provided through advisory roles Rare will aim to secure

in the design of policy instruments. Target group is the public sector, specifically environmental and development agencies at the national and local level.

(iv) Dissemination at relevant fora: Rare will participate in international negotiations such as the UNFCCC to promote EbA measures for small- scale fisheries as an effective adaptation measure. Relevant instruments include (i) official and nonofficial side events, ideally held jointly with partners (FAO and TNC) and national governments. Target group include donors, policy-makers, the private sector, partner NGOs, and the public.

(v) Bright Spots: Bright Spots World Café events will be held to promote connection and empathy. Rare will disseminate project progress and outcomes in the form of success stories presented through brochures, annual reports, and media outlets to public and donors.

What are the details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named). All countries as well as local constituencies as well as implementing partners have been involved in the project development phase and now are key implementers responsible for specific outputs under the project.