

## SUCCESS STORIES PUBLISHED BY FAO ON PRODUCTIVE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS IN ASIA RESTORED BY SMALL SCALE COMMUNITIES

In 2022 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO published the Report [Restoration of productive aquatic ecosystems by small-scale fisheries and aquaculture communities in Asia. Good practices, innovations, and success stories](#). This work was developed by FAO in collaboration with the James Cook University from Australia.

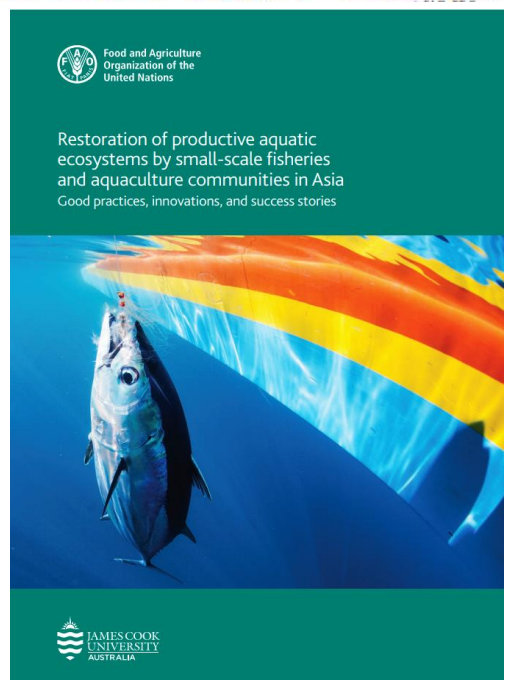


[In Chapter 3 the Report showcases examples of actions taken by small-scale fishers and aquaculture farmers](#) in Asia to restore the productivity of aquatic ecosystems. In particular these case studies present practices on fish farmer led restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, mangrove ecosystems, river and inland freshwater ecosystems ongoing in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Japan, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia. Each case study gives access to the websites of the organizations promoting the practices, allowing to deepen the knowledge of contexts, strategies and results achieved.

The Report underlines that “artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in Asia dominates global seafood production and underpins much of the region’s economy, health and culture. Globally, small-scale fisheries contribute more than half of the world’s annual fisheries and aquaculture production and in developing countries around 100 million small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers produce about two-thirds of the fish consumed by humans, globally. Much of this production and employment is from Asia and half of the world’s wild capture fisheries and 90 percent of all aquaculture products derives from Asia.”

This Report represents an important contribution to the ongoing [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#), declared by United Nations General Assembly in recognition of the urgent need to conserve and sustain food system productivity, the climate crisis, and the degraded state of ecosystems globally. The primary aim of the Decade is to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.

The Report also contributes to the [2022 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (IYAFA 2022) which vision is a world in which small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish workers are fully recognized and empowered to continue their contributions to human well-being, healthy food systems and poverty eradication through the responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources.



In the conclusion Chapter, the Report underlines that “Small-scale fishers and fish farmers are actively restoring aquatic ecosystems. Their efforts are reverting degraded unproductive systems back into functional, connected and expanding systems that provide nutrition, income, and physical security for their stewards. Practices range from reducing fishing pressure through area closures and increased gear selectivity, stopping destructive practices, cleaning up pollution and village waste facilities, reducing aquaculture effluents and farming chemicals, restocking ecosystems with native species, and active restoration through replanting benthic habitats. The environmental outcomes have included increased biodiversity, renewed ecological connectivity, increased fisheries recruitment and spawning activity, improved water quality, and improved biophysical function of waterways. Fisherfolk livelihoods can be improved with ecosystem restoration initiatives when such initiatives provide direct economic benefits and enable long-term sustainability of practice. Livelihood impacts on fisherfolk have included increased and diversified income, improved nutrition, improved water and food security, knowledge and technical capacity, financial literacy, community cohesion (social stability), and leadership development. Emerging initiatives to improve livelihoods for women are particularly notable and are resulting in increased community wide agency for restorative activities. Small scale fisher and fish farmer communities in Asia are characteristically innovative and adaptive. With the help of authentic and long-term partnerships they are empowered to take the lead in restoring the productivity of the aquatic ecosystems their lives and cultures depend upon.”

By sharing some practices from different ecosystems, fisheries and geographies, the Report seeks to enable more communities and their partners to draw on each other's experiences to make faster progress in restoring the productivity of aquatic ecosystems and enabling sustainable fisheries.

### **To know more**

[Restoration of productive aquatic ecosystems by small-scale fisheries and aquaculture communities in Asia in FAO website](#)

[Informe PDF in FAO website](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#)

[International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture IYAF 2022](#)

[Fisheries and Aquaculture in FAO website](#)

[Fisheries and aquaculture stories in FAO website](#)

