

- c) To recognize, support and enhance the role of women in the social, economic, political and cultural life of the fishing community.
- d) To create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation, and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations.
- e) To protect fishing communities, fish resources and fish habitats, such as coastal zones, watersheds and mangroves. These include displacement by tourism, pollution, destructive industrial aquaculture, over-fishing and destructive fishing practices.
- f) To establish and assert the rights of fishing communities to their customary territories in the coastal zone under their national jurisdiction for fishing and habitation.
- g) To promote a legal regime that will ensure the traditional and customary rights of fishing communities.
- h) To promote the primary role of fisher-peoples' organizations in managing fisheries and oceans, nationally and internationally.
- i) To protect food security, both locally and worldwide, by sustaining fish stocks for the future, and by preserving fish for human consumption.
- j) To play an active role to ensure that states and transnational corporations comply with relevant international agreements and to oppose any trade agreements that threaten the livelihood of fishers.
- k) To promote the right of Fisher Peoples to social security, safe working conditions, fair income and safety at sea.
- l) To restore our access to the rights and powers originally granted to us in the charter of the United Nations.

ACTIVITIES/CAMPAIGNS

The WFFP is engaged in a range of lobbying and advocacy work. WFFP has played a critical role in the development of a set of International Guidelines on Small-scale Fishing by the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Committee on Fisheries. It has made substantive submissions to FAO based on the individual and collective experience of member organisations from different countries.

WFFP is also campaigning vigorously against Ocean Grabbing, a process whereby private companies and individuals are taking control of natural resources.

Ocean Grabbing has already led to a mass exodus of fisher people who have either lost access to their coastal lands or fishing grounds or in many cases their fish have been caught by the massive presence of foreign fishing vessels.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to organizations of subsistence fishers; artisanal fishers, aboriginal or indigenous peoples who are customary fish harvesters, traditional coastal and inland fishers; independent small-scale owner-operators; crew members in this sector. Member organisations must comply with the objectives set out in the Constitution. Currently the WFFP is made up of members from 35 different countries.



STRUCTURE

The WFFP consists of: A General Assembly; A Coordination Committee; Five Continental Fora.

The General Assembly constitutes the highest authority of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). The General Assembly is composed of all of the delegates representing member organizations who attend that meeting. The Coordination Committee may permit organizations that are not members to send observers to the General Assembly. The General Assembly takes place at least once every 3 years.

The Coordination Committee is composed of two Coordinators, a male and female, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and Continental representatives.

The Continental representatives of the Coordination Committee shall be designated in the following manner: Two representatives (one female and one male) from each of the following Continents: Africa, America, Asia, Europe and South Pacific.

The Coordination Committee acts under the authority of the General Assembly and represents the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). It takes forward the work of the WFFP between General Assemblies.



Delegates at the WFFP General Assembly in Sri Lanka in 2007

LOCATION

The office is located in the location where the General Secretary is based. Currently it is in Karachi, Pakistan.

CONTACT DETAILS

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WFFP

WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES

Forum mondial des populations de pêcheurs



The WFFP General Assembly in Sri Lanka in 2007

World Forum of Fisher Peoples

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) was launched in October 2000, at a conference in France. The preamble of the WFFP constitution summarizes its mission. It reads:

We, the Fisher Peoples of the world, united under WFFP, aim to protect our livelihood, uphold our fishing rights, our fundamental human rights, pursue social justice, preserve and promote our culture, affirm water as the source of all life and commit ourselves to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for present and future generations.

SOME KEY WFFP OBJECTIVES

- To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood.
- To assist member organizations to secure and improve upon the economic viability and quality of life of Fisher Peoples and their communities.