

International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYafa)

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
ARTISANAL FISHERIES
AND AQUACULTURE
2022



What is IYafa 2022? IYafa is the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, which was declared by the UN General Assembly with the FAO as the lead agency for celebrating the year. The main goals of IYafa are: To enhance global awareness about, understanding of, and action to support the contribution of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development, and more specifically in relation to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and the use of natural resources; and to promote collaboration among small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers, fishworkers, governments and other key partners along the value chain, as well as to strengthen their capacity to enhance sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture and to enhance their social development and well-being. IYafa 2022 intends to seek opportunities to support the implementation of and amplify existing activities like:

- Supporting action around the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, in particular **SDG14**, aiming to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. IYafa 2022 is also critical for the achievement of SDG goals related to zero hunger;
- Adhering to the **Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries**, issued by the FAO in 1995, setting the international principles and standards of behaviour to ensure effective conservation, management and development of both marine and freshwater living aquatic resources;
- Implementing the **Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)**, which is considered the first international instrument that is dedicated to the development of SSF emphasizing its role as a source of nutrition, income and economic growth.

Recent progress: At FAO's 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, the [2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) was adopted which recognized SSF's important role in poverty eradication and ensuring food security, as well as critical levers for achieving other SDGs, like SDG14. IYafa 2022 officially was launched in November 2021 accordingly and will continue to build its narrative across multiple global milestones and events throughout 2022.

Why is IYafa 2022 relevant to the Coastal 500 Network?

IYafa is a platform to underscore the importance of local governments in recognizing the role of artisanal fishers in food security and coastal resources management and in supporting the development and prosperity of the sector. It provides opportunities to learn from and among local governments and key stakeholders from all over the world through fora, discussions and training, which members of the Coastal 500 can access through the network. Integrating IYafa messaging into ocean and SDG14 related fora, allows Coastal 500 members to better articulate and share how they are integrating SSF in national and local policies on fisheries management, development, biodiversity, and climate change, elevating members as examples of best practices. Further, linking to IYafa milestones and messaging will support Coastal 500 members in the articulation of how their communities are contributing to achieving the SDG14 goals further demonstrating how SSF is a critical stakeholder in local and global issues.

Coming Up:

- 16 – 17 February 2022, Palau. Our Oceans Conference (IYafa milestone and celebrating local voices)
- 27 June – 1 July 2022, Lisbon. UN Oceans Conference (celebrating SDG14 and IYafa milestones)
- 5 – 9 September 2022, Rome, Italy. FAO's 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)