



The Fish for All Initiative

The Fish for All initiative is designed to be a credible, global science and policy dialogue capable of instilling urgency into the issues at hand through the active participation of senior policy makers, opinion leaders and researchers at various levels of the community. Information dissemination will play a key role and wide ownership will be sought.

Over a 10-year period, we aim to achieve an inclusive and informed public dialogue on issues such as fish and development, fish and nutrition, health, livelihood, environment, gender, water, river basins and coasts, trade and economic growth, through the following means:

- By establishing the highest profile steering committee possible to direct and connect with the highest level policy makers from various parts of the world;
- Through events such as policy-science-stakeholder workshops and fora; conferences and dialogues;
- Through studies, policy analyses, opinion pieces, newsletters, and a website on the issues and solutions.

Fish for All was launched at an international summit in Penang, Malaysia on 3 November 2002. It is an event that will bring together policy makers, scientists and non-governmental organizations from developing and developed countries with a role in reversing the declines in living aquatic resources and finding ways to restore the livelihood, food and income of those who use and depend on fish.

GLOBAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The Global Steering Committee comprises prominent leaders from around the world, who are concerned with the various issues of fish in the context of development, nutrition, health, livelihood, water scarcity, environment, gender, water, river basins and coasts, trade and economic growth.

Chair

Prof M. S. Swaminathan

UNESCO Cousteau Chair in Ecotechnology
Chair M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

Members

Mrs Francine Cousteau

President, The Cousteau Society

Prof Peter Doherty

Nobel Prize winner in Medicine

Prof Kenji Hotta

Chair PACON International and Professor of Nihon University, Japan

Ambassador Eric T.J.T. Kwint (Retired), L.L.M., B.Sc.

Former Netherlands Ambassador to Nigeria and the Philippines

Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad

Prime Minister, Malaysia

Hon Chief Olusegun Obasanjo

President of Republic of Nigeria

Dr Raymond C. Offenheiser

President, Oxfam America

Dr Ismail Serageldin

Former Chair of the CGIAR and head of the Library of Alexandria

Hon Leticia Ramos Shahani

Presidential Advisor for Culture, Office of the President of the Philippines, Malacanang

Dr Klaus Töpfer

Executive-Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi

H.E. Dr Youssuf Wally

Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt

Dr Robert T. Watson

Co-chair of the Board of the Millennium Assessment, and Chief Scientist and Director, ESSD - The World Bank

Prof Muhammad Yunus

Managing Director, Grameen Bank

Prof A. H. Zakri

Co-chair of the Board of the Millennium Assessment and Director, Institute of Advanced Studies, The United Nations University

Note: Members listed are sorted alphabetically according to their surname or last name and are not ranked in any particular order.



Source:
WorldFish Center Library
Collection

The Fish for All Summit was supported by:



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



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Fish for All Summit

November 3, 2002, Penang, Malaysia

Sustainable practices dominate discussion as global ‘Fish for All’ Initiative is launched in Malaysia

3 November, 2002 – Many poor coastal, lake and river-based communities and even the urban poor are losing their access to fish as prices rise with increasing demand, delegates heard at the first-ever Fish for All Summit on 3 November in Penang, Malaysia.

Nearly 300 participants from over 40 countries—including fisheries specialists, development assistance experts, fishers organizations, civil society representatives, and several government fisheries ministers from Asia and Africa took part in the day-long Summit.



Dr. Ian Johnson

With opening ceremonies at the Equatorial Hotel highlighted by the remarks of **Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon**, Chief Minister of Penang, the conference affirmed that, given the many benefits of wholesome food, livelihoods and environments that are based on fish and other aquatic life, all people should embrace the vision of ‘Fish for All—forever’.

The Summit served to launch a decade-long Fish for All Initiative, coordinated by the WorldFish Center. Other interested agencies will develop and refine an action agenda to build on the Summit outcomes.

Major international interest was shown in a new analysis by the WorldFish Center and the International Food Policy Research Institute warning that global fish production may not keep pace with population growth, a shortfall that could have disastrous consequences for more than 1 billion people in developing countries (for details: <http://www.fishforall.org/media/releases.asp>).

In his keynote address, **Dr. Ian Johnson**, World Bank VP for Ecologically and Socially Sustainable Development and Chair of the CGIAR, said the Fish for All Summit “was the first meeting to take WSSD seriously.” He highlighted the Bank’s own long term forecasts to 2050 including a tripling of GDP, the addition of another 2 billion people on Earth, most in developing countries, soaring water demands and climate change.

He stressed that all these will have present environmental, social and economic challenges for the supply of the world’s fish needs—challenges that the world must prepare to meet now. The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized this by agreeing a plethora of key issues, such as a target to restore fish stocks to maximum sustainability by 2015, supporting small scale aquaculture, stopping illegal fishing, protecting the marine environment from land based degradation and bolstering the science and technology capacity to do all this.

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, chair of the Fish for All Steering Committee, said that in the context of the Initiative, the term ‘fish’ means all living aquatic resources, or ‘aquatic-based food sources’. Likewise, ‘Fish for All’ is concerned with aquatic food sources whether in coastal, marine, freshwater or brackish water.

“In all that we do, we should be mindful of whether our actions support the 4 pillars of sustainable fish production,” he said, explaining that they should be pro-environment, pro-poor, pro-women and pro-livelihood opportunities (job-led).

Governments have produced a large number of treaties and conventions and coordination is needed among them, he said. Often these treaties and conventions are negotiated and managed by officials from ministries without direct experience and knowledge of fisheries (e.g. development assistance, agriculture, health, trade, etc.) and so their implications for fish are not directly included.



Prof. M.S. Swaminathan

As well, the great importance of the media in getting messages across needs to be emphasized, he noted. The Internet has also opened up many opportunities for fishers. In India, for example, at local knowledge centers, semi-literate women download information about sea conditions from NOAA satellites, and broadcast it through loudspeakers to the fishers preparing to put out to sea in their small craft.

Unfortunately, conflicts already abound over the use of natural resources such as fish, land and water, conflicts over access to fishing grounds, conflicts between fishers and environmentalists, and trade conflicts. Good mechanisms for conflict resolution will become increasingly important, Prof. Swaminathan said.



Dr. John Kurien

‘Aquarian reform, involving participatory democracy for the small scale operators, and devolved power from above are key to wholesome livelihoods and to preventing ‘sealordism’, said **Dr. John Kurien**, Professor at the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, India, when analyzing the harmonization of fishing patterns and tropical coastal resources.

Speakers **Dr. Mahfuz Ahmed** of the WorldFish Center and **Dr. Chris Delgado** of IFPRI described the world’s first major attempt to put fish into the world food models, concluding that, on average, fish will become more expensive as growth in demand outstrips most supplies.



Dr. Mahfuz Ahmed

Fish is a major player in the world food marketplace. The value of international annual trade in fish is now greater than that of sugar, tea, coffee and cocoa combined and an important factor in many developing country balances of payments. “The best way for the poor to benefit from fish production is to participate in the fish production chain, including in small scale aquaculture where new technologies could make a real difference,” said Dr Ahmed.

Food and Livelihoods

Summarizing panel discussions on Food and Livelihoods, **Dr. Doris Capistrano** of the Ford Foundation said fisheries provide significant employment in developing countries, but often fishers are marginalized, lack a voice and thus have little say in their futures. New perspectives on sustainable livelihoods are required to change this.



Dr. Chris Delgado



Fish and other living aquatic resources are frequently overlooked in environmental and development assessments, she added. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for example, should address the impacts of different scenarios on fish. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment should also ensure that the status of fish and other aquatic resources are well incorporated.

The Summit found that data available to assess access to fish were too aggregated to be useful for designing interventions (e.g. per capita consumption patterns were usually only available at the national level and gender, household, and local distinctions were seldom made).

Prof. Robert Kearney, Chair of the WorldFish Centre Board of Directors, summarized panel discussions on the Environment, saying coordination between international conventions is badly needed, as are implementation and compliance measures.

The sustainability of aquaculture is contentious, involving issues of scale and its interaction with the environment and other sectors such as agriculture.

To achieve Fish for All forever, education needs to be emphasized – both the generation of knowledge and its dissemination, he added. Creative solutions will have to make use of knowledge (the facts), research (to find more facts) and stories with good human interest to help disseminate the message. Identifying problems is key but efforts must go well beyond this to start finding solutions.

Centralize or decentralize resource management

Many Summit participants identified the critical issue of property rights in better fisheries management but caution was also expressed that great care and responsibility should be taken in assignment of rights. Empowering stronger groups could disenfranchise those for whom fishing rights were most critical and lead to much worse poverty, not less.

Panelist **Dr. Raymond Offenheiser** of Oxfam USA said the poor need to be clearly linked to the Fish for All Initiative's goals despite problems of barriers and exclusion, and even of definitions of poverty. He stressed the power of a compelling vision that initiatives such as Fish for All can create.

When moving from fishing to aquaculture, little is understood about how the change affects access to local, small fish that are important in the peoples' diets, the conference heard. These small fish and other aquatic organisms can be lost altogether or even go to feeding aquaculture species.

Rebecca Goldberg, senior scientist with the Washington-based Environmental Defence Fund, said there are no economic incentives for fishers to conserve fish resources, advocating the reduction of fisheries subsidies, marine protected areas, an end to illegal fishing, and individual fishing quotas. She said the rapid rise in aquaculture, which now supplies one-third of the fish consumed by humans, had caused wetland destruction, the spread of non-native species and fish diseases, and water pollution.



Among other comments and observations aired at the Summit:

The Initiative should stress the importance of communications, providing a depth of analysis and fostering understanding, outlining the background problems and educating people.

Many members of the public had a fundamental mistrust of science and technology and science often lacked credibility, particularly among the poor who ask: what is it for, how is it used?

The urgency of the problems faced demands much faster turnaround between the identification of the problem and the drafting of solutions. Peer to peer learning on the ground also has a major role in capacity building. Local knowledge has its limitations, however, and has to be supplemented by scientific approaches.

The importance and power of the fisheries sector

WorldFish Center Director **Dr. Meryl J. Williams** said the Summit, the first, scene-setting event of the Fish for All Initiative, introduced participants to some of the challenges faced in putting fish on the global, and indeed on some national, agendas.



The WorldFish Center will develop Fish for All plans and actions with collaborators from the scientific world and more broadly among stakeholder groups, she said. A 10-year investment is envisioned.

“We are adamant that Fish for All is about having impacts and changing the way business is done,” she said.

She noted several of the concrete steps taken to date, including the establishment of:

- A Global Steering Committee, the members of which were selected not only for their experience and achievements but also for their knowledge of how to influence opinion and get things done;
- Website and e-forum (www.fishforall.org)
- Fish for All background concept paper
- A guide to the Fish-Related Paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD

Next steps include:

- Identification of priority themes from the Summit discussions
- Promotion of the outcomes and finalization of Summit reports
- Exploration new ways of reaching policy and decision makers and involvement of stakeholders on the themes, consideration of all possible channels from use of the Internet to targeted meetings with decision makers.
- Formation of high-level strategic alliances on priority themes and on the overall Initiative. These alliances will be of a different level again to the 259 program-based formal partnerships that WorldFish Center already has in place.

An analysis of expert opinion –

Find out the latest thinking by people ‘on-the-job’ at <http://www.fishforall.org/outcomes/analysis.asp>

A select group of 137 senior scientists, policy makers, resources managers, community workers and academics worldwide completed a detailed questionnaire. They prioritized the most important issues and solutions related to external pressures which affect the sustainability of fish in the future.



Source:
M. Prein

A Call for Action to the “Fish World”:

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

In Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August-4 September 2002, world environment leaders negotiated the final stages of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on sustainable Development. In the negotiations, the first major breakthrough was on fisheries—a commitment to an historic target of restoring fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield urgently or at least by 2015. More commitments relevant to the sustainable use, management and conservation of fish and other living aquatic resources were to follow. We have summarized the major goals relevant to fish in Table 1 below. In addition to the stock restoration goal, other goals include those on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, control of marine pollution from land based sources, ecosystem approaches, protected areas and food security.

To assist readers find relevant items, we provide two tables. The first is a table of the major goals and targets in the Plan that are relevant to fish. The second is a table of the chapters of the Plan of Implementation, and the relevant paragraphs and sub-paragraphs. We have extracted all of the relevant paragraphs and sub-paragraphs from the second table on our Fish for All website <www.fishforall.org>. This website also gives a semi-graphic guide to the main themes of the paragraphs, namely fish, biodiversity, water, environment, science and technology, policy, partners, regions and people.

For the complete text of the Plan, readers should refer to the official website (http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/2309_planfinal.htm).

The WSSD Plan of Implementation indicates how fish issues are widely and intricately linked to almost every aspect of sustainable development. Few other themes in

the Plan would have such a large number of linkages. And, although the WSSD Plan of Implementation is a very comprehensive document, fish and other living aquatic resources are very important in other human dimensions outside the current sustainable development agenda, such as human cultures, gastronomy, ornamentation and recreation to name a few.

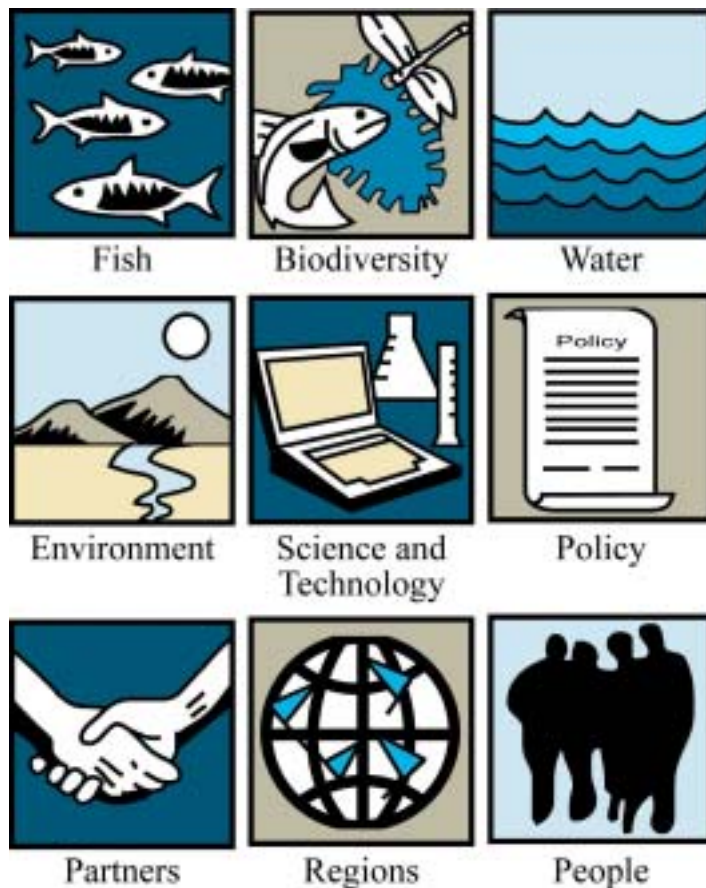




Table 1. Major Goals Relevant to Fish.

Year	Goals	Reference
2004	Deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2004. Establish effective monitoring, reporting and enforcement, and control of fishing vessels, including by flag States, to further the international plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	30 (d)
	Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments	34 (b)
	Effectively reduce, prevent and control waste and pollution and their health-related impacts by undertaking by 2004 initiatives aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in small island developing States	52 (e)
2005	Urgently develop and implement national and, where appropriate, regional plans of action, to put into effect the FAO international plans of action, in particular the international plan of action for the management of fishing capacity by 2005	30 (d)
	Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries	25
2006	Make every effort to achieve substantial progress by the next Global Programme of Action conference in 2006 to protect the marine environment from land-based activities	32 (d)
2010	A more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries.	42
2012	Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012 and time/area closures for the protection of nursery grounds and periods, proper coastal land use; and watershed planning and the integration of marine and coastal areas management into key sectors	31 (c)
2015	Achieve the Millennium Declaration target to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of the world's people who suffer from hunger and realize the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including food, including by promoting food security and fighting hunger in combination with measures which address poverty, consistent with the outcome of the World Food Summit and , for States Parties, with their obligations under article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	38 (a)
Not later than 2015 if possible	Maintain or restore (fisheries) stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015	30 (a)

Source:
M. Prein



Table 2. WSSD draft of Implementation with paragraphs relevant to fish and other living aquatic resources.

Paras	Chapters	Paras and sub-paras most relevant to fish
1 - 5.bis	I. Introduction	1,2,3,
6 - 12	II. Poverty eradication	6(a,c,d,e,h,j,k,l), 9 (f)
23 - 44	IV. Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development:	
23	Reverse natural resource degradation	23
24 - 28	Water and water resources management	24(d,e), 25(a,b,c,d), 27
29	Oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas	29
	Sustainable fisheries	
	Maritime safety	
30 - 32	Improvement in scientific understanding	30-32
33		33
34	Integrated, multi-hazard inclusive approach	34
35	Agriculture	35 (c,d,f,g,h,i,j)
	Biodiversity	
38		38
42		42
45	V. Sustainable development in a globalizing world	45 (a,b,c,d,e)
52 - 55	VII. Sustainable development of small island developing States	52 (a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,k), 54 (c,d)
56 - 65	VIII. Sustainable development for Africa	56(c,d,f,i), 60(b,d), 61(a,b,c), 64 (b,c,e)
66		
	VIII.bis Other regional initiatives:	
67 - 68	Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean	67
69 - 70		69-70
71 - 72	Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	71-72
75 - 119. undeciens	IX. Means of Implementation:	91, 92, 95, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104,105,108
120 -153	X. Institutional framework for sustainable development	
120	Effective institutional framework for sustainable development	120



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