

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

National/Global
(Australia)



Vision

We envision a future where global fisheries are sustainable, worker rights are respected and coastal communities thrive.

2030 Goal:

Eliminate overfishing and promote sustainable, responsible fishing practices globally.

Theory of Change

Overfishing will end when we align the political and economic interests of national leaders and local communities with sustainability outcomes. Our theory of change (Figure 1) recognises the relationships and interdependencies between the parts of fisheries systems.

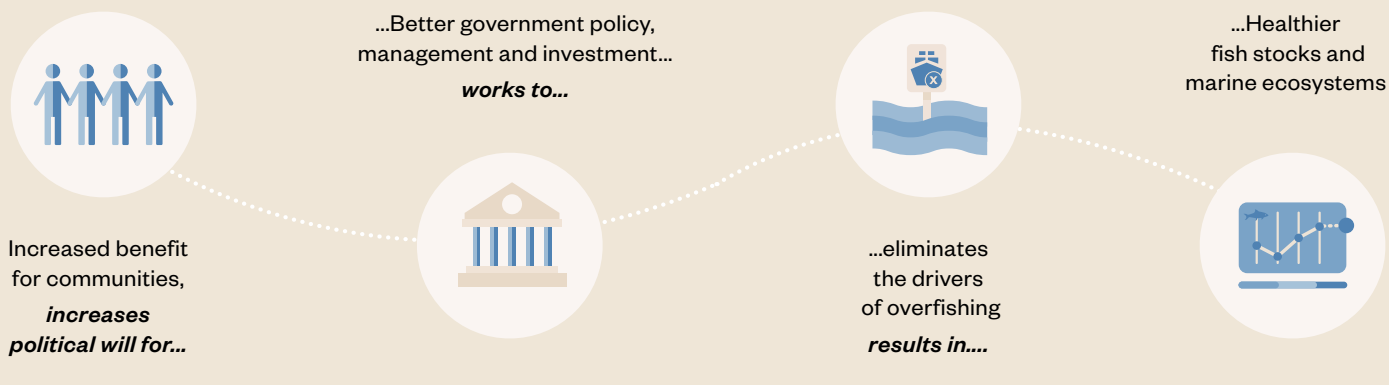


Figure 1: Theory of change

Outcomes

We will advance our theory of change by working to secure four end-of-program outcomes (EoPOs) that have an outsized impact on fisheries.

These outcomes are:

1. Small-scale fishing (SSF) sector is protected and sustainably developed

We will:

- Improve knowledge of and promote the importance of sustainable coastal fisheries for food, nutrition, jobs and income.
- Secure exclusive fishing access zones and rights for coastal SSF.
- Advocate for better regulation, and where needed, exclusion of industrial fishing vessels with emphasis on foreign bottom trawling fleets.
- Work with government and partner organisations to improve the governance and co-management of coastal fisheries.

2. Distant water fishing fleets operate legally, sustainably and responsibly

We will:

- Promote increased transparency of distant water fishing operations.
- Identify where distant water fishing is destructive, indiscriminate or unsustainable and hold those responsible to account.
- Ensure distant water fishers operate in accordance with international labour and human rights laws.
- Promote reform of harmful subsidies that facilitate unsustainable and illicit fishing practices.

3. Monitoring, compliance, surveillance and enforcement (MCSE) is improved

We will:

- Identify policy gaps, advocate for reforms to the fisheries governance system, and focus on 'game changers' - the systemic issues that drive overfishing.

- Invest in the central elements of effective MCSE: national policy and regulation, capacity development of institutions and systems, licensing, port controls and inspections, and tracking of IUU fishing through electronic monitoring regimes.
- Initiate strategic litigation against companies and states that fail to comply with fishing, modern slavery and human rights regulations.

4. Seafood that is illegally caught and processed, and/or uses modern slavery, has no market access

We will:

- Leverage the power of market-based approaches to hold governments and industry accountable for their fleets.
- Expand the system of market-based approaches and thereby establish a comprehensive legal and economic barrier to the sale of illegal seafood.
- Target reforms of import policies and regulation in select major and emerging markets.

Cross-cutting themes

Combating modern slavery, conservation of marine biodiversity and the impacts of climate change are critical issues that affect and cut across all our EoPOs. Research, knowledge and evidence are fundamental aspects of our program and will be undertaken where needed to achieve our EoPOs.

Our flagship research output, the Global Fishing Index, will be comprehensively reviewed, updated and published every three years. Findings will be used to monitor, assess and report on fisheries sustainability and governance performance at global, regional and national levels.

Where

Our geographic priorities are:

- **The Indo-Pacific Region:** Target countries include Indonesia, Timor-Leste, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Western and Central Pacific, Western Indian Ocean. These countries and regions are assessed as being the most suitable for our engagement and advocacy, and represent the best opportunities for Minderoo Foundation to have an impact at scale.
- **Developed and emerging markets:** Australia, European Union, Hong Kong, South Korea. These jurisdictions have a strong influence on the fishing practices of other countries and are prominent in global, regional and/or national-level fisheries matters.

How

The Minderoo Foundation is a funder and grant giver. We work in partnership with other funders and seek to leverage our support to the maximum extent possible. We provide targeted grants to partner organisations to implement our projects and programs.

Who

The Minderoo Foundation does not have the resources to accomplish our goal alone. Success depends on cultivating the right partners and political coalitions.

We work with:

- Governments of target countries
- Fishers and SSF
- Seafood industry
- Civil society and other funders
- Regional organisations.