



World Forum of Fisher Peoples' [WFFP]
FORO MUNDIAL DE PUEBLOS PESCADORES
FORUM MONDIAL DES POPULATIONAS DE PEC'HEURS
International Secretariat,
No.10, Malwatta Road, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

Manifesto of the Fishing and Harvesting Peoples of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples

Towards the People's Summit and COP30 - Belém do Pará, Brazil (2025)

*We, the fishing peoples, gatherers, and guardians of the world's rivers, lakes, lagoons, mangroves, seas, and oceans, gathered in the spirit of the World Forum of Fishing Peoples (WFFP), raise our voices from the living waters of the planet to say: **No more false climate solutions!***

We come from the coastlines, shores, islands, and riverbanks where life is sustained in balance with nature, to demand respect, justice, and recognition at the People's Summit and COP30 in Belém do Pará, Brazil. We stand with all indigenous fishing communities from the greatest lakes to the smallest rivers to the vast oceans who face the disappearance of their waters and livelihoods today.

1. We are living with the consequences of a crisis that we did not cause:

- Climate change is drying up our rivers, warming our seas, destroying mangroves and reefs, and displacing entire communities.
- While governments and corporations negotiate with the life of the planet, our peoples suffer the loss of their territories, pollution, and violence.
- We are the ones who feed millions of people, yet we face hunger, exclusion, and criminalization.
- We will not accept being blamed or silenced.

2. We denounce false solutions:

- In the name of the a so-called 'green' or 'blue' transition," projects that expel us from our waters and destroy our ways of life are multiplying: mining, oil drilling, imposed Marine Protected Areas, blue carbon, privatized fishing quotas, industrial aquaculture, and mega wind farms promoted under the discourse of the so-called blue economy.
- While carbon finance mechanisms aim for sustainability, they can widen gender and social equity gaps, displace local governance, and threaten biodiversity if they don't integrate rights-based, gender-responsive, and community-led approaches.
- Corporate led climate solutions promoted by International Conservation agencies, uproot vulnerable fishing Communities and push them out of their fishing grounds and into further vulnerability.

- The monetization of marine ecosystems through carbon markets undermine customary rights, livelihoods, and food security and shifts control from communities to external investors, marginalizing women who traditionally manage and conserve community resources. Women who are small scale fishers are disproportionately affected, with their ecological knowledge and unpaid care roles unrecognized.
- False solutions reproduce colonialism under a new guise, concentrating power, destroying biodiversity, and further marginalizing and risking the loss of knowledge keepers.
- We strongly reject false solutions that come out of corporate agendas. We stand for genuine solutions coming from the traditional customary systems of frontline communities.
- There can be no climate justice without justice for the peoples of the sea, the mangroves, the rivers, the lakes, and the lagoons. A just transition must prioritize small-scale fishers' customary rights, inclusive benefit-sharing, and gender equality for climate and biodiversity justice.

3. We affirm our solutions and our ways of life:

- For centuries, we have cared for Mother Earth, the marine-territories, and the waters, without destroying them.
Artisanal fishing, community harvesting, and ancestral management are real alternatives in the face of the climate crisis. Our practices **guarantee** food sovereignty, decent employment, and ecological balance.
- Women and young fishers and gatherers sustain our communities and pass on the living memory of marine and river ecosystems. They are the heart of our resistance.

4. We demand real commitments from governments and international organizations. Ahead of COP30, we demand:

- Recognition and respect for our customary and territorial rights over waters, oceans, seas, mangroves, reefs, coasts, and coastal lands.
- Full implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries.
- That negotiations on subsidies and fisheries trade remain outside the WTO and be conducted under the mandate of the FAO and COFI.
- Compliance with the moratorium on the aquaculture industry approved by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- Prohibition of the expansion of aquaculture and destructive industrial fishing, as well as extractive projects that threaten aquatic life.
- Direct participation of fishing and gathering peoples in decision-making spaces on climate, biodiversity, and food sovereignty.

5. We call for unity and solidarity among peoples:

- In the face of the climate crisis, empty promises and rhetoric are not enough.
- We call on peasant, indigenous, Afro-descendant, women's, youth, and sea and mangrove workers' movements to build together a tide of resistance and hope.
- We stand in solidarity with peoples suffering from war, occupation, and dispossession, especially with the people of Palestine and with all communities and peoples defending their right to live in peace and dignity.

6. For life, water, and climate justice.

- The future of the planet is in our hands and in our networks.
- From our communities, we continue to care for the oceans, seas, rivers, mangroves, and reefs as a sacred heritage.
- Our struggle is not only for fish and shellfish: it is for life itself.
- From the waters, we raise the voice of the planet:

We are the oceans,
We are the seas,
We are the rivers,
We are the lakes,
We are the lagoons,
We are the mangroves,
We are the reefs,
We are the waters,
We are the people who defend life.
When the water breathes, we breathe.
Its life is our life.