



FISH FOR THE FUTURE

Fish and fisheries are central to the lives and livelihoods of more than 4.5 million people living along India's coastline. Marine fish also provide a less expensive source of nutrition to millions of marginalised communities in India, thereby playing a key role in the nation's overall development. These critical fish stocks have been undergoing significant decline and going through unsustainable transitions, threatening the livelihood security of the coastal fishers and nutritional security of many local communities.

Dakshin's Fish for the Future (FFF) initiative focuses on empowering fisher communities, particularly the Small Scale Fishing (SSF) communities of India, to contribute to sustainable and equitable fisheries management. Leveraging the vast knowledge and experiences of local fisher communities, we aim to enable the agency they need to bring in sustainable transformations in India's fishing sector.

Some of our key interventions include community-based monitoring and management of the tuna fisheries in Lakshadweep, strengthening co-management for the blue swimmer crab fisheries in Palk Bay and the grouper fishery in the Andamans, addressing the diversion of cheap and nutritious fish away from the poor marginalised communities into the fish meal sector, and strengthening fisherwomen livelihoods by supporting the dry fish sector in Odisha.

#KhaneKeLiyeBachao (KKLB)

The FFF initiative unabashedly supports fishers' rights to sustainably harvest fisheries resources and recognises them as the real stewards of coastal and marine resources. Our work emphasises that the sustainability of India's fisheries is not just an ecological concern but an important developmental concern. We deeply value our most fundamental connection with fish: as food! This is captured in our philosophy: #KhaneKeLiyeBachao (KKLB).

KKLB stresses on the need for collaboration with communities reliant on ocean resources for their livelihoods. It underscores our unwavering belief that communities should have the ability to secure their right to food, nutrition, and livelihoods. Contemporary exclusionary conservation models focus on the aesthetic and biological value of natural resources, thereby alienating and vilifying resource users. KKLb focuses on promoting the utilitarian value of natural resources along with their aesthetic and biological values, thereby placing resource use communities (the SSF) at the forefront of conservation. Such an inclusive and holistic approach is more pragmatic and equitable and ensures the wellbeing of oceans and coastal ecosystems for current and future generations.



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