



COMMUNIQUÉ
from

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Climate Change Discussions in Bonn—June 2009

The challenges and threats of climate change must be a top priority for world leaders. Part of that priority is ensuring healthy aquatic ecosystems.

About 520 million people – around 8 percent of the world's population – depend on fisheries and aquaculture as a source of protein, income or family stability with many subsisting in precarious and vulnerable conditions because of poverty, marginalization and degraded ecosystems.

Climate change is likely to drastically worsen their situation if immediate and effective adaptation and mitigation measures are not put in place. Likely impacts that must be considered include rising sea levels, increased frequency of severe weather events, greater ocean acidification, changing fish lifecycles and distribution patterns.

States need to include aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture issues when formulating action to combat climate change. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bonn (1-12 June 2009) is the opportunity to do this.

But to do so, the full value and global importance of aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture needs to be recognized. It will be crucial to acknowledge and emphasize the multiple benefits of well-managed aquatic ecosystems - food security, livelihoods and disaster risk preparedness and risk reduction - in your statements to the meetings.

Oceans also play a key role in transmitting, regulating and influencing climate change. Investing in protecting and building resilient marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems alongside restoring fisheries and finding better ways to fish and fish-farm, could reduce greenhouse gas levels.

The attached policy brief illustrates the immeasurable contributions that healthy aquatic ecosystems have on all aspects of our planet.

We count on your commitment to seal a scientifically-credible, decisive and equitable climate deal at COP15 in Copenhagen.

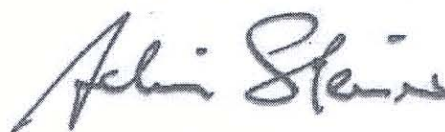
The 30th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, meeting at the next round of the Climate Change Talks in Bonn from 1 to 12 June, is the moment for governments to start ensuring that fisheries and aquaculture become part of that crucial Copenhagen deal.

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