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Resilient nations

Ministry of Sustainable Development



Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco
 تحت الرعاية السامية لصاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس، نصره الله
 Sous le Haut Patronage de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI

SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL WATERS COOPERATION

How can my fisheries project help deliver more fish, more food, and more prosperity? Sustainable Fisheries Clinic

November 7, 2018 Marrakech, Morocco

Tim Fitzgerald and Alexis Rife, Environmental Defense Fund

Clinic Summary:

Fifty attendees from almost 30 countries attended the Sustainable Fisheries Clinic, hosted by Tim Fitzgerald and Alexis Rife of Environmental Defense Fund at the GEF International Waters Conference on November 7, 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco.

Through a series of interactive exercises, participants witnessed first-hand how the different styles of management can have a profound impact on the sustainability, profitability, and social outcomes of fisheries.

Through experiential learning we saw how well intentioned policies can often have unintended consequences when it comes to issues like overfishing, bycatch, habitat damage, and conflicts between user groups. And that different fishing gears can have variable impacts depending on how each sector is regulated.

After several simulations of a declining fishery, attendees quickly pointed out that stakeholder engagement and private sector cooperation is critical to designing successful management systems.

Some gaps identified during the clinic included:

- The need to apply diverse and robust scientific methods for stock evaluations that match the local context of the fishery;
- Inclusion of the fishing industry in data collection and decision-making;
- Consideration of supply chain actors and end markets in fishery management; and
- The importance of compliance and enforcement to ensure accountability.

Most importantly, attendees stressed the importance of upfront goal-setting, especially when it comes to socioeconomic outcomes like the number and quality of fishing jobs. Many also pointed out the unique needs of small scale and artisanal fisheries. The [Sustainable Fisheries Toolkit](#) components consider many of these needs, and we look forward to receiving input from our participants over the coming weeks and months to continue to refine and improve them.

Results of the in-clinic survey:

Has the clinic session helped increase your understanding of the pre-identified challenges and your subsequent capacity to implement appropriate tools and solutions?

42/50 attendees (across both sessions) answered yes