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World Oceans Day Webinar: Gender and Resilience in Coastal Communities
June 8 2.00-3.00pm, Manila
Ingrid van Wees, Vice President for Finance and Risk Management, ADB
Suggested Talking Points

Introduction

- Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to be with you today to celebrate World Oceans Day together and provide the opening remarks for this important webinar in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.
- The theme of World Oceans Day is *Life and Livelihoods*- and we take this opportunity to highlight the need for creating sustainable ocean livelihoods, particularly for women, whose contributions have not yet been fully recognized nor counted in the past as key actors in fisheries and related livelihoods.

I would like to emphasize that Coastal Communities are critical to the ocean economy

- About 40% of the world's population currently lives in coastal zones, which are defined as the area within 100 km off the coast. Excluding Papua New Guinea, 90% of Pacific Islanders live within 5 km off the coast.¹ and the proportion of population living in coastal zones is expanding.
- Coastal communities
 - play a key role in supporting the ocean economy, including all forms of coastal and marine management, its governance, as well as a range of social and cultural values.
 - are vital contributors to conservation, to marine risk responses and climate mitigation and adaptation.

“While coastal communities are key to healthy blue economies, gender equality is key to healthy coastal communities”

¹ Coastal proximity of populations in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories
Neil L. Andrew, Phil Bright , Luis de la Rúa, Shwu Jiau Teoh, Mathew Vickers
Published: September 30, 2019<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223249>

- All over the globe, women participate in small-scale fishing activities mostly along the shoreline either on foot, or from small vessels in coastal waters. Their participation in fishing activities is estimated to be the highest in the Pacific region followed by East Asia. ²

The relevance of the blue economy for women and their coastal communities is underlined by

- by women harvesting for home consumption, which is considered part of the subsistence sub-sector.
- by women selling a portion of their catch and sharing the incomes with their families.
- Furthermore, sustainable ocean livelihoods can support women coping with and recover from stresses and shocks whilst valuing and working within the limits of natural resources

Despite growing attention for women and gender in fisheries, gender considerations continue to be under-emphasized in fisheries policies and management worldwide.

- Women are still largely invisible by a lack of proper representation despite being a major part of the workforce.
- At ADB, we are committed to support gender equality through gender-inclusive project designs in at least 75% of sovereign and non-sovereign operations by 2030, and this makes supporting women's participation in ocean livelihoods and coastal management a priority for us.

To create an enabling ecosystem for sustainable livelihoods and development, we need to enhance financial literacy and provide access to affordable finance for women and their coastal communities

- At ADB we assist by developing technical assistance that builds capacity around business planning and raises awareness on innovative technology solutions for women and communities.
- We are also working with sub-regions and countries to establish multi-stakeholder funds that include local and national governments, MDBs and the private sector to provide technical assistance and finance in the form of concessional loans, grants and equity.

²Valuing invisible catches: Estimating the global contribution by women to small-scale marine capture fisheries production Sarah Harper , Marina Adshade, Vicky W. Y. Lam, Daniel Pauly, U. Rashid Sumaila
Published: March 4, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228912>

The means are used to support and build capacity at a community level, through an inclusive approach that includes women community leaders, and government decision makers.

To conclude:

- Today we will hear about community efforts to build “sustainable and resilient livelihood”- from the International union for conservation of nature (the IUCN,), The Nature Conservancy and ADB that are working for women- by creating jobs, supporting local economies, and protecting the environment.
- I believe that the success of our “post-COVID-19 future” is dependent on the quality of cooperation amongst all partners to develop, implement and finance the right solutions for a green, blue and inclusive recovery.
- With this in mind, I look forward to supporting ADB and TNC as we move forward in this exciting partnership to develop nature positive investments, technical assistance and knowledge sharing activities.
- Thank you.