



PHOTO: © ROSHNI LODHI/A

## FRESHWATER FISHERIES IN FOCUS

Freshwater ecosystems cover less than one percent of the Earth's surface, yet are home to 10 percent of the world's known plant and animal species. Billions of people rely on freshwater fisheries for their livelihoods and way of life. Unfortunately, around the world, degradation, overuse and unsustainable fisheries management have contributed to an 84 percent decline in freshwater plants and animals since 1970, pushing fisheries and entire freshwater ecosystems to the brink.

### COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS FOR LASTING CHANGE

Addressing threats to freshwater ecosystems and fisheries management are pressing challenges, but ones we can solve. The Indigenous Peoples and local communities who have long stewarded these fragile and life-giving ecosystems are at the heart of the solution. Consider this: Although Indigenous Peoples and local communities comprise less than five percent of the world's population, they govern, through formal or customary rights, 25 percent of the Earth's freshwater and terrestrial resources.

The Nature Conservancy partners with communities to strengthen equitable co-management models (between communities and government) in freshwater ecosystems that support food-critical, freshwater fisheries. We use evidenced-based conservation strategies to enhance freshwater biodiversity and human well-being.

### SUPPORT OUR VISION

By 2030, TNC and our on-the-ground partners are committed to achieving the following goals in three African lake and river basins: Lake Tanganyika, Upper Okavango and Gabon's Bas Ogooué, and in the Tapajós and Lower Amazon, Caquetá and Napo river basins of the Amazon in Latin America.



## 2.5 M

Hectares of Lakes and Wetlands  
with Improved Management



## 366,000

People with Improved Security  
of Rights or Decision-Making  
over Lands, Waters or Resources



## 64,000

Kilometers of River  
Systems Conserved



## 366,000

People with Improved  
Sustainable, Place-Based  
Economic Opportunity

# A GLOBAL STRATEGY WITH LOCAL IMPACT

Around the world, we partner with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to expand capacity to conduct equitable and responsible freshwater fisheries management planning and implementation. Through this collaborative approach, communities exercise their own authority to protect freshwater ecosystems and fisheries and address existing and future threats to the rivers, lakes and streams they depend on. Our Strategy touches down in key geographies across Africa and Latin America and is already yielding transformative results.

## AFRICA

In Africa, TNC's freshwater fisheries work focuses on the Bas Ogooué wetland region in Gabon, the upper catchment of the Okavango Basin in Angola and Lake Tanganyika, which is bordered by Tanzania, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. TNC is co-creating solutions with on-the-ground partners—including implementing sustainable fisheries management practices and supporting development of new financing mechanisms to diversify community income streams.

### >>IMPACT

**Lake Tanganyika**—As of 2023, we've helped 23 lakeshore villages in western Tanzania establish fisheries co-management models (between communities and the government) to enforce sustainable fishing regulations, like outlawing destructive small-mesh nets.



### CONTACT

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## LATIN AMERICA

The Amazon River Basin is home to roughly 15 percent of the world's fish species and more aquatic megafauna than any place on Earth. It also provides life and livelihood to over 45 million people, including nearly 2.2 million Indigenous Peoples and 400 ethnic groups. TNC is working directly with Indigenous Peoples and local communities who play a critical role in maintaining freshwater ecosystems in the Amazonian headwaters in the Andean mountains (Colombia and Ecuador) and the lower Amazon (Brazil). Together, we build capacity for communities to manage their freshwater resources and support agreements that bolster human well-being and freshwater biodiversity, including community-led monitoring of fisheries habitat and community-government agreements that promote sustainable fishing practices.

### >>IMPACT

**Amazon (Tapajós)**—Working closely with the fisher's association MOPEBAM, we helped create a standard policy instrument with the Government of Pará for developing local fisheries agreements. As of 2023, at least three such agreements have since been adopted by the State of Pará.



## PLEASE JOIN US

TNC envisions a world where local communities have the rights, capacity and resources to effectively and equitably manage food-critical, freshwater fisheries for their own well-being and the benefit of the planet's declining biodiversity. We build genuine, long-term trust with partners on the ground and co-create tools to bring local solutions to scale. But we can't do it alone. Join us.