

# FUNDACIÓN LONXANET

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A sustainable sea and world are still possible if we work very closely with traditional fishermen for the sake of their social, economic and environmental sustainability

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The Lonxanet Foundation for Sustainable Fishing was set up in 2002 with the dream of creating a fairer society. Work started with the traditional fishing community of Lira in Galicia, although the Foundation's vision today is global and its field of action extends to South America and Africa, where it co-ordinates and accompanies traditional fishing projects. Through joint work with fishermen's associations, the Lonxanet Foundation promotes knowledge of the sea, its products and traditional fishermen. To this end, it implements innovative proposals in the social, environmental, economic and community involvement fields, to enable the transformation of the traditional fisherman into an entrepreneur and active citizen.

## Vision

Lonxanet Foundation's vision is a world where traditional fishermen and women are valued by society as a whole because they feel pride in their profession and culture, and participate with honour and dignity in building a more sustainable world.

## Mission

The Lonxanet Foundation's mission is to contribute to the empowerment of traditional fishing communities by establishing links with the fishing sector, thereby bringing about a common approach to proposals, projects and actions based on criteria of sustainability and community involvement. The purpose is to solve or minimize problems and advance the process of positioning traditional fishermen as guardians (managers or joint managers) of the ecosystems in which they perform their productive activities.

## Operating Principles

**Direct participation** of fishermen: the Lonxanet Foundation works *with* fishermen and not *for* them.

**Common interest:** The Foundation gives priority to work with representatives of fishermen's associations, thus promoting the common rather than the individual interest.

**Autonomy:** The Foundation acts as a catalyst, transmitting and facilitating processes, promoting a progressive evolution towards the complete autonomy of fishermen.

**Sustainability:** The Foundation works and promotes environmental, economic and social sustainability.

**Collaboration:** The Foundation promotes networking and alliances.

## The Lonxanet Foundation's major initiatives

Mainstay of community involvement	Participation in international fishing networks
Social mainstay	Social monitoring and education for people, in the environment and sustainability
Economic mainstay	Direct marketing and promotion of fishing tourism
Environmental mainstay	Protected Marine Areas of jointly managed fishing interest



## General methodology

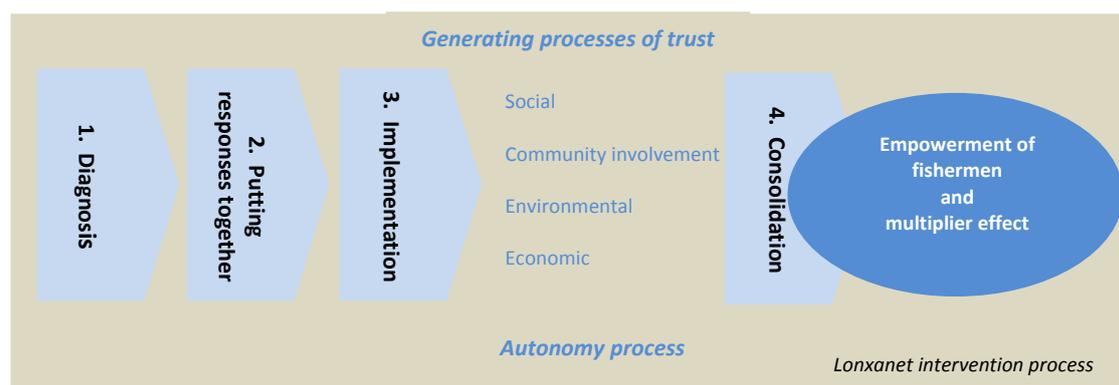
The Lonxanet Foundation aims to create a comprehensive intervention system:

Lonxanet Foundation initiatives are stimuli for a profound change in society, where all players are jointly responsible for building a fairer world.

The Lonxanet Foundation methodology is inclusive, open, modular and multi-dimensional:

- It is **inclusive** because it integrates and promotes interaction with fishermen.
- It is **open** because it advances and adapts depending on the context.
- It is **modular** because its components can be implemented partially or fully and at different times, depending on the priorities of the community where it operates.
- It is **multi-dimensional** as it acts by integrating individual people, groups and society in general, while serving in the social, environmental, economic and community involvement fields.

*The chart below illustrates the key steps in the intervention process. There is a connection between the parties that provides the methodology with a fluid and dynamic character. These steps should be adjusted to local conditions.*



*The Lonxanet Foundation combines actions which report short and long-term benefits for the players involved*

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## A mainstay of community involvement

Traditional fishermen's participation in the public sphere is vital for the appreciation of fishing in society. In addition, their participation contributes to changing perceptions in all sectors, which start to consider it as a legitimate element in building a more sustainable world.

Empowerment - promoting a culture of community involvement for traditional fishermen is one of the Lonxanet Foundation's goals.

This mainstay is transversal to all Lonxanet Foundation's actions. The idea is for traditional fishermen to become active citizens and an essential part of political discussions related to environmental issues in the sea. With their participation, fishermen contribute, among other things, to the integration of traditional knowledge in proposals for land and sea zoning, in favour of sustainable development.

Specific actions depend on each individual context, on opportunities available for participation, on power structures and on opportunities existing for each community of traditional fishermen.

Some examples of fishermen catalyzing actions as active citizens to promote their inclusion in the area of political construction and public management are:

- Their involvement in discussions and national and international forums.
- Their participation in environmental management systems.
- Their participation in international networks, such as RECOPADES – the Traditional Fishing Communities Network for Sustainable Development.
- The active participation of the public authorities in the processes promoted by the Lonxanet Foundation.

Some initiatives underway in the particular context of Galicia:

### Coastal Action Groups

The Lonxanet Foundation encouraged the participation of fishermen in the CAG's, which promote the participation of fishermen in local political arenas.

### The Slow Food Movement

The Foundation works in partnership with the global Slow Food movement, which promotes the pleasure of traditional cuisine. Participation in this movement represents a new space for community involvement for traditional fishermen.

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## Social mainstay

Fishermen's actions are influenced by the groups they interact with. The success of each action depends on a positive attitude from all players involved in the projects. It is therefore important to promote empathy between traditional fishermen and other players, such as politicians, scholars and consumers, with the aim of creating a fairer and more responsible society.

### Enhancing the role of fishermen in society is one of the Lonxanet Foundation's goals

The Lonxanet Foundation encourages projects that promote the interaction of fishermen among themselves and with society. Its purpose is to increase communities' social capital by giving them tools to implement or comply with possible changes and consolidate their role as joint managers of the sea.

This process is part of the social mainstay of the Foundation's action and is transversally linked to the others. This translates into:

- Drawing up social monitoring studies to evaluate the perception of local people about projects implemented by the Lonxanet Foundation in co-operation with representatives of fishermen's associations. The knowledge gained is used to assess existing initiatives and put together appropriate responses.
- The promotion of awareness campaigns on the conservation and sustainable management of marine ecosystems and enhancing the role of fishermen.

### Awareness projects in schools

There has been a project directly managed by the fishing community in Lira since 2003. Through this initiative, about 1000 children per year take part in training courses on awareness of the marine environment, with theoretical classes and field visits ([www.mardelira.com](http://www.mardelira.com)). Workshops for social and environmental awareness have been held in Galician high schools located in coastal areas since 2008. About 680 children aged between 13 and 15 reflect and write a Letter to the Earth - Letter to the Future, which is read in plenary meetings of their local town councils.

### RECOPADES - Traditional Fishing Communities Network

Set up in 2004, the Network promotes mutual co-operation among traditional fishing communities from different countries all round the world with the aim of promoting environmental sustainability actions, such as the exchange of best practices and innovative ideas to adopt and adjust in their respective situations.

RECOPADES is at the same time an internal training tool for fishing communities to preserve the marine environment and traditional sustainable fishing.

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## Economic mainstay

Conditioned by an economic system that fosters social inequality, traditional fishermen are in a situation of economic fragility. Solving the problem of a lack of income is therefore in the first place a fundamental step in the Lonxanet Foundation's action.

The goal of the Lonxanet Foundation's economic mainstay is to help improve the economic situation of traditional fishing communities.

The Foundation therefore proposes to:

- Bring traditional fishing and fishermen closer to society,
- Create more value for fishermen from the product of their catch,
- Promote responsible fishing,
- Promote responsible consumption.

More specifically, the Lonxanet Foundation is involved in:

- Promoting the direct sale of products from sustainable traditional fishing. This allows fishermen to receive a greater part of the product value by eliminating intermediaries.
- Developing activities to provide alternative or supplementary income for fishing communities.

In addition to their economic function, these activities also have a social purpose, as they represent an opportunity for fishermen to pass on their knowledge to other people, thereby contributing to the recognition of their role in society.

Productive activities were the first to be promoted by the Lonxanet Foundation.

### Lonxanet Direct

Set up in 2001, Lonxanet Direct is a social enterprise, jointly owned by the Lonxanet Foundation, the fishing sector and the private sector. Its goal is the direct sale of fresh quality products with a recognizable origin, socially and environmentally responsible. In addition to direct sales via Internet, the company sells traditional fishing products from Galicia to restaurants all over Spain. Up to 2011 it sold its products and at the same time explained its philosophy to tourists and customers at the San Miguel Market, located next to the Plaza Mayor in Madrid. The model is based on players' participation in the capital of the company, fluent communication between the company and the fishermen's association and 50% of company profits going to the Lonxanet Foundation for further projects in participating communities.

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## Fishing tourism projects

The Lira community has been organizing complementary income generating initiatives since 2002 to help increase and diversify sources of income for local fishermen. In this regard, fishing tourism activities are organized, such as accompanying fishermen on fishing trips and organizing tours on the mainland, practicing traditional fishing (keeping the fish or letting them go again) and promoting the cuisine of the sea ("Sea of Flavours").

## Environmental mainstay

The sea is the main source of income for fishermen and its balance is vital for fishing. Because of their proximity and knowledge, fishermen are key players in leading the process of protecting marine resources, acting as joint managers of the sea.

The goal of the environmental mainstay is to work social and ecological awareness, promote collective interest and uphold the sustainable development of marine areas and resources.

To meet this goal, the Lonxanet Foundation implemented an innovative methodology for the creation and management of Protected and Jointly Managed Marine Areas of Fishing Interest (AMPdIPC in Spanish). The main innovation of the Lonxanet Foundation AMPdIPC model is its participatory approach, applied in all the phases of design, creation and management. In this regard, it is the fishermen themselves who promote the setting up of AMP's - once they have been formalized they are jointly managed on a 50-50 basis by the public authorities and traditional fishermen.

The Lonxanet Foundation considers the participation of *traditional fishermen in the management of AMPdIPC* essential *because*:

- They contribute to the design of the solution with their traditional ecological knowledge,
- Their active collaboration ensures respect for the AMPdIPC, once it is implemented.

To create a successful AMPdIPC it is important to:

- Adapt the process to the socio-political and cultural characteristics of each region and place;
- Develop a logic of alliances, which begins with a detailed analysis of all the players that may affect or be affected by the project either directly or indirectly, and to ensure the participation of players in the different phases of design, creation and joint management.

## Protected and Jointly Managed Marine Areas of Fishing Interest (AMPdIPC) in Galicia

*The Foundation initially worked with the term Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest (RmdIP in Spanish), accepted by legislation. The term Protected Marine Area, which is used internationally as a more global concept in marine protection offers a more flexible and receptive framework to incorporate rules and restrictions set forth in these areas, so the Lonxanet Foundation currently uses this term. The Foundation promotes this form of protection by giving priority to Fishing Interest and also adds Joint Management as a vital requisite (AMPdIPC).*

The first RmdIP was set up in Galicia in 2007 - Os Miñarzos, off the town of Lira. The process began in 2003 with a proposal from the Lira Fishermen's Association, supported by the Lonxanet Foundation.

One year after the effective implementation of the reserve, social monitoring carried out showed that 71.56% of people taking part in a survey reacted positively to the setting up of this form of protection.

The success of the Os Miñarzos reserve led to the implementation of similar processes at other places along the Galician coastline and opened up the way to the approval of the Cedeira Estuary Reserve in 2009.

To facilitate replication and the adjustment of the Lira experience in other communities, the Lonxanet Foundation has drawn up a methodology for creating jointly managed AMPdIP, which includes the following phases:



These stages are not necessarily static and sequential, and some may even be simultaneous, or carried out partially and then taken up again when the community considers it most appropriate, depending on its needs and priorities.

This methodology is used to support similar processes in Spain and elsewhere.

*“A methodology implies a particular view of the world and how to tackle and solve problems. Success in implementing the methodology depends not so much on the techniques and mechanisms used as on the attitude and commitments taken by facilitators to potential beneficiaries”. Antonio García Allut, Chairman of the Lonxanet Foundation*

*“We promote a model of society in which everyone, including fishermen, can discuss and enhance their knowledge in building decision-making processes and the management of public resources”. The Lonxanet Foundation Team*

*“The Lonxanet Foundation has set its gaze on the fishing sector and is firmly committed thereto. The Foundation invites its users to change their previous perception for one that reflects a powerful image of culture, history, lifestyle and food suppliers for the world”. José Luis Ascorti, Chairman of RECOPADES*

*“Sustainable traditional fishing and fair trade: this is the philosophy that should guide each day of activity at Lonxanet Direct. With our action in the productive sector, we would like to communicate the power of Lonxanet values at every moment, but not getting out of breath or losing strength, until the Lonxanet philosophy becomes a brand and a creed”. Lonxanet Direct sl Team.*

*“Given the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems and fishing resources, traditional fishermen are considering initiatives to ensure the future of their fishing communities. Lonxanet Foundation is becoming a necessary companion so that one day traditional fishermen will be the real stars in the management of fishing resources. We have to protect the coastal ecosystem in order to preserve fishermen”. Emilio Louro, General Manager of the Lonxanet Foundation*