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WHO WE ARE

Fundación Lonxanet for Sustainable Fishing (Fundación Lonxanet) was founded in September 2002 with the aim of creating a fairer society, supporting artisanal fishers' involvement in human, business and environ-

mental projects in order to resolve or minimise their problems in a joint approach, framed on sustainable development. With a global vocation, our experience has spread to Europe, Latin America and Africa.

WHAT WE DEFEND AND HOW

Our vision

A world in which artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen are valued by the whole of society because they feel proud of their profession and culture and participate with dignity in the construction of a fairer and more sustainable world.

Our mission

Contribute to the strengthening of artisanal fishing and the communities involved, establishing links with the fisheries sector that favour a joint approach to proposals, projects and actions based on sustainability and social participation criteria. All of this with the aim of resolving, or at least minimising, the problems of artisanal fishers, and positioning them as the guardians of aquatic ecosystems in which they carry out their productive activities.

Principles of action

The initiatives we defend are incentives for a profound change in society, where all the actors are co-responsible for the construction of a fairer world which also helps to reduce poverty.

From this perspective, Fundación Lonxanet:

- **works with the fishermen** and not for them.
- favours working with the representatives of fishermen's **associations**, promoting the collective interest.
- acts as a **driver, transmitter and facilitator of processes**, promoting progressive change towards greater autonomy for fishermen.
- fosters and **promotes environmental, economic and social sustainability**.
- promotes **networking** through mediation and the creation of alliances.

OUR PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES

At Fundación Lonxanet we implement social change projects towards a more sustainable and fairer social model. To analyse and develop the projects, we employ a systemic and holistic approach based on the socio-cultural, environmental, economic and institutional dimensions of the situation and also on civic participation.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC dimension

We launch projects that promote the participation of fishermen and their communities with the aim of increasing their human, social and economic capital, providing them with the tools to address the challenges of sustainable development and so consolidate the artisanal fisherman's role as an **active player in the processes of change**. For this reason, the initiatives that we set in motion are closely related to the serious socio-economic problems facing the artisanal fisheries sector: **training and capability building in the management** of their organisations and projects; **the commercialisation** of fisheries products; **the development of inclusive businesses** based on local culture and heritage; the creation and **strengthening of networks**, among others.

ENVIRONMENTAL dimension

Increasing scarcity of resources poses a problem for the future of fishing communities reliant on aquatic ecosystems. Projects and initiatives which have environmental sustainability as a priority for action seek to promote

greater involvement of the artisanal fisher through **shared responsibility in the management of fishery resources**. The **creation of Co-managed Protected Areas of Fishing Interest** is one of the successful tools implemented by Fundación Lonxanet as an instrument to promote greater awareness among its stakeholders in the sustainable management of fishery resources.

Citizen participation dimension. GOVERNANCE

Our aim is for **artisanal fishermen to become active citizens and be an essential part of the political discussions related to environmental problems in the marine environment**. With their participation, the fishermen contribute to the generation of proposals and solutions to marine environment planning, benefiting themselves and society in general. The fisherman's integration and partnership into the decision-making bodies opens an opportunity for dialogue –with the public authorities– where both parties work together.



WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE

Reliable procedures that empower the fisherman

As a working basis we have developed a **specific methodology** –of an inclusive and open nature– with the aim of **creating reliable procedures that empower the fisherman** with a multiplier effect on their communities and society.

These mediation processes have driven, from a **bottom-up approach**, the following initiatives:

- The design and creation of **Co-managed Protected Areas of Fishing Interest** through a Management Body composed equally of fishermen and public administration representatives. This process has been systematised and evaluated to facilitate its replication and adaptation to other communities.
- **Fishermen's participation** in local, national and international fora:
 - Fundación Lonxanet has been chosen by the **Galician Regional Government** to establish and energise the launching of the Coastal Action Groups in Galicia¹.
 - The **Latin American Fisheries Development Organisation, OLDEPESCA**², made up of fisheries ministers from thirteen Latin American countries (Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela) unanimously approved in May 2012 the project Holistic Management of Artisanal Fisheries, presented by Fundación Lonxanet.
 - We promote artisanal fishermen's participation in national and international fora, facilitating, for example, artisanal fishing sector representative's assistance in different debates and meetings in the **European Parliament** and the DG MARE Fisheries Commission (Brussels).
 - Participation in **movements** (Slow Food) and **organisations** and international networks (RECOPADES³, UICN⁴, ICSF⁵, OCEAN2012⁶)
 - **Raising society's awareness** about the importance of artisanal fishing for socio-economic and environmental sustainability⁷.
 - The creation of a direct marketing company for fishery products, **Lonxanet Directo S.L.**⁸, to improve artisanal fishermen's profits in the sale of their products, thus contributing in the creation of exclusive sales channels of artisanal fishing products.
 - **Fishing Tourism projects**⁹ to increase and diversify fishermen's income.

1 www.accioncosteira.es

2 www.oldepesca.com

3 www.recopades.org

4 www.uicn.org

5 www.icsf.net

6 www.ocean2012.eu

7 www.fundacionlonxanet.org/assets/PDF/manual-cinco-dias.pdf

8 www.tvlink.org/mediadetails.php?key=437f191ff41c267623bc&title=A+new+vision+for+Europe%27s+seas&titleleft=Environment

9 www.margalaica.net/noticias/mar-de-lira-presenta-coci

Advocacy Processes and Participation in International Fora

At the end of 2010 we initiated **Advocacy Processes and Participation in International Fora** with the aim of offering a new approach to governance, because we firmly believe that if states create the conditions and spaces where civil society can be a partner and co-manager of the Commons, such as fishery resources, there is a greater probability of sustainability becoming a real commitment. Therefore, in October 2010 we took part in the **10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity** in Nagoya (Japan), convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Posters displaying co-managed marine reserves were on show: methodology of implementation and co-management models.

The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy also brought about meetings at international level. Specifically, in June 2011, the President of Fundación Lonxanet, Antonio García Allut, was invited to speak at the **Globe World Oceans Day Forum**, under the title **Reforming Europe's Common Fisheries Policy**, in London (UK) in the presence of members of the European Parliament, the Fisheries Commission and other NGOs and fisheries sector stakeholders.

In Fundación Lonxanet we also took the opportunity offered by the United Nations **Conference on Sustainable Development** in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012, better known as **Rio+20**¹⁰, to strengthen our advocacy work. Joining the process began in early 2011 through cooperation in the main *Farmers*¹¹ group, one of the nine groups established by Agenda 21 in 1992¹² to channel civil society participation in international processes.

The following *results* were obtained:

- The incorporation of **artisanal fishing** and artisanal fishers' **rights of access** to the resource in the outcome document¹³, paragraph 175, signed by Heads of member States.
- Participation in a **high-level round table meeting** as representative of the Farmers group, alongside heads of State and Government, making effective implementation proposals into the final Summit Declaration with reference to sustainable artisanal fishing and providing working models of protected marine areas in Galicia as examples to replicate¹⁴.
- Contribution of the **third most voted recommendation in the Oceans theme during the Sustainability Dialogues**, an initiative organised by the Brazilian Government within the framework of the conference¹⁵.

10 www.uncsd2012.org

11 The term "Farmers" includes fishing and the exploitation of forestry resources.

12 www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21_spanish/

13 www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html

14 webtv.un.org/search/institutional-framework-for-sustainable-development-high-level-round-table-rio20/1701123205001?

15 webtv.un.org/search/oceans-sustainable-development-dialogues-rio20/1697291323001?term=oceans

- Participation, at the request of the UN, in the **Voluntary Commitments** programme, related to the establishment of co-managed Protected Marine Areas¹⁶.

16 www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=482

WHO ENDORSES US

- Recognition by the **Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation** in its *Fisheries in Transition Report*¹ (February 2012) where the Lira fishing community was selected as one of five examples of good practices and sustainable development identified in Europe.
- Recognition by the London consultant Chris Grieve in her article *Towards global sustainable fisheries. The opportunity for transition*² (February 2012) which includes the case study *Lira Coastal Community Fishery*.
- Recognition by **DG MARE**, which selected the social enterprise Lonxanet Directo S.L. as a model of good

1 pcfisu.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/TPC1224-Princes-Charities-case-studies-report_WEB-02.02.pdf
2 www.ocean2012.eu/publications/2-environmental-and-social-criteria-for-allocating

practices in favour of responsible consumption (public awareness video *"European consumers can encourage good fishing practices"*³).

- Recognition by the **European Commission-Industry and Enterprise**, which selected the social entrepreneurial business model pairing of Fundación Lonxanet for Sustainable Fishing-Lonxanet Directo as an inspirational Spanish example in its *European SME Week 2010*⁴.

3 ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=1070434

4 ec.europa.eu/enterprise/flipbook/sme-week/brochure_2010_en/index.html



Institutional support and backing from like-minded organisations for our work

"ICSF is very pleased to be associated with the work of Fundación Lonxanet, with whom it has had a close collaboration over the last five years. This has been particularly important in promoting artisanal fisheries both in the reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, and in the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference. Of fundamental importance for ICSF is the approach adopted by the Fundación Lonxanet to its work, which places the human rights of fishing communities at the centre of its conservation initiatives - an ecosystems approach with a human face"

Brian O'Riordan, Secretary ICSF Belgium Office at International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), 5 de marzo de 2013.

"THE EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND which will be approved for the period 2014-2020 and will promote measures relative to the VIGILANCE AND CONTROL OF PROTECTED AREAS created by Fishermen's Associations. These measures aim to foment the participation of fishermen in the protection of marine ecosystems"

Lowri Evans, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), 30 October 2012, in a letter addressed to the Cedeira Fishermen's Association's Secretary of Organs of Government.

"The project OBTAINMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF THE HAKE AND MACKEREL SUSTAINABILITY INDICES IN THE NORTH-WEST CANTABRIAN FISHING GROUNDS is very interesting in relation to the objectives and ends that this General Secretary of fisheries is pursuing"

Carlos Domínguez, General-Secretary of Fisheries of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA), 2 July 2012.

"Above all, I would like to congratulate you on the achievements accomplished in such a short time since the creation of both natural reserves. The fact that artisanal fishing is maintaining optimum catches thanks to the sustainable management of fishing activity, in harmony with the ecosystem, and at the same time other sectors are also being put to good use and promoted, like leisure and tourism, clearly fits into Common Fisheries Policy goals. These two marine reserves are, without doubt, an example of best practices that need to be maintained"

Maria Damanaki, DG MARE Commissioner to the European Commission, 29 June 2012, in a letter addressed to the Cedeira Fishermen's Association's Secretary of Organs of Government.

"You can be sure that your active and effective participation definitively contributed to the achievement of the proposed goals, we hope to continue working together in the future in favour of Latin American fisheries and aquaculture development (...). Allow me to congratulate you on your brilliant exhibition on 'Holistic Management of Artisanal Fisheries in OLDEPESCA countries'"

Ángel Rivera Benavides, Executive Director, Latin American Fisheries Development Organization OLDEPESCA, May 2012, in a letter addressed to the President of Fundación Lonxanet, Antonio García Allut.

"WWF Spain considers Fundación Lonxanet a strategic partner in advancing progress in sustainability in the artisanal fishing and coastal fishing sector in Spain, that's why we've been working with them since 2002, given their totally ground-breaking character, comprehensive approach, enormous experience and great prestige in Spain and abroad"

J. Carlos del Olmo, General Secretary, WWF Spain, February 2011.

"GREENPEACE greatly appreciates and supports Fundación Lonxanet's work and initiatives in boosting artisanal and coastal fishing marketing conditions and for raising consumers' awareness of the need to adequately value these products. We are aware of the role played by commercial aspects in the fisheries sector and the importance of these when promoting responsible fishing and consumption. That is why Greenpeace supports Lonxanet S.L.'s direct marketing project as a marketing model for artisanal fishing products, unique in Spain and Europe"

Miren Gutiérrez, Executive Director, Greenpeace Spain, February 2011.

"OCEANA would like to join Lonxanet's initiative, believing it to be the only proposal of its kind in Europe (or practically in the world) in promoting sustainable fishing from the coastal communities themselves, the main beneficiaries of healthy and abundant oceans"

Xavier Pastor, Executive Director of Oceana in Europe, February 2011.

"The Lira marine reserve would by no means be the first in the world, of course, or even the first in Spain; though it is a Spanish first in the sense that the fishermen themselves are demanding the restrictions. And with global stocks in such stark decline that there may be no commercially viable marine fisheries within half a century, the logic behind them appears irrefutable"

Richard Black, environment correspondent for BBC News in his article *Fishermen ride sustainability wave*, 31 de octubre del 2007.

"Fundación Lonxanet has focused on and strongly backed the fishing sector, inviting its stakeholders to change their perceptions and reflect on the powerful image of culture, history, lifestyles and as food suppliers to the world"

José Luis Ascorti, President of Network of Fishing Communities for Sustainable Development (RECOPADES), February 2010.

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*A sustainable world with sustainable seas is
still possible if we work closely with artisanal
fishermen towards social, economic and
environmental sustainability*

